



The Real Blind Man

Pastor Sam Hayes

Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

Sermon Notes: 3.19.23 “The Real Blind Man”

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, we are introduced to the theme of “light” and “darkness.” “...in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5). Time and time again we see that darkness/blindness happens on multiple levels.

A good example of this is our gospel text for this Sunday - John 9: 1-41. There is darkness/blindness on multiple levels.

(1) There is blindness to the needs of others. When the disciples noticed the blind man begging for money, they were more interested in the “why” of the man’s condition than they were in helping him - as evidenced in their question in 9: 2 - “Who sinned that this man was born blind?” Was it the man’s fault that he was born blind? As ridiculous as that sounds, writings during the first century show that an argument was made over whether embryos in the womb could sin. (Maybe kicking too hard?) Was it the man’s parents’ fault? In Exodus 20, we read that the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation.

The man in question didn’t need to be the subject of a theological discussion. He needed help...and the disciples were blind to that.

(2) There is emotional blindness. The blind man’s parents suffered from a kind of blindness that made them more concerned with their standing in the community than with the miracle their son had experienced. If they gave credit to Jesus (the man the Pharisees hated), then they would be kicked out of the temple. They had 20 - 20 vision, but they couldn’t see what was really important.

(3) There is spiritual blindness. The Pharisees in the story got angry because Jesus had healed the blind man on the Sabbath. To them, broken rules were more important than broken people. The nit-picky details of the law were what concerned them. The glory of God was being displayed right in front of them...but they were blind to it.

Is it possible for someone to have 2 perfectly good eyes, but still be blind? Yes. Sherlock Holmes said to Dr. Watson one time, “You see, but you do not observe.” Could that be said of us?

“See” you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

March 19 : Brooks Bone & Clementine Hilburn
 March 26: Quinn Darden & Sara Kate Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)
March 19

Celebration: Eric Wright, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven.

Traditions: Mark Condra Sheila Freeman
March 26

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Tammy Hayes

Sermons for Lent



Thurs. 3/16 & Sun. 3/19 "The Real Blind Man"

Thurs. 3/23 & Sun. 3/ 26 "The Resurrection and The Life"

Join us on Thursdays @ 5:30 pm or Sundays @ 9 am and 10:55 am.

Holy Week, 4/2-4/9, Noon Day Worship & Lunch

Monday– Tammy Jackson, Anniston First UMC

Tuesday– Ken Casey, First UMC Gadsden

Wednesday-Laura Satterfield, Mtn Lakes District Sec. & Ministry Candidate

Thursday– Belinda Rives, Discovery UMC

Friday– Davis Johnson, Southside UMC

Worship @ 12:05 pm, followed by lunch in the Gathering Room, \$5 pp



**We Want to See You @
Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal**

March 22: Pizza, Salad, Dessert

**\$ 7 Per Person Ages 11 & Under \$3
Family Max \$20
Text Your Reservation: 256-490-5018**

**Out of Town on the
Weekend?**

**Come to Thursday Worship!
5:30 to 6:00 pm each week
In the Sanctuary**

Wednesday Mornings, 11 am

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Room 208, In Person Bible Study, A Study of the Book of Romans
Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the FUMC APP or website

Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm

- ◆ A Study of the Book of Romans w/ Pastor Sam, Room 208
- ◆ Why Easter Matters w/Harriet Murray, Room 110

Men at the Well

Thursday Mornings

7:00 am

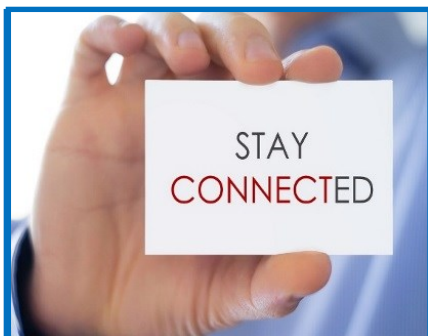
You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant.

Something Happens Here by Stephen P. West will be the topic for Lent.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

**There's a Place for you
in Sunday School!**

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, **Room 112**, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!
Luke-Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, **Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, **Room 208**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, **Room 208** He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Ministry and Mission Notes, and Sermon Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>
Need Help: Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018

ELC News

Registration continues with tours and sign-ups. We expect a full house for the 2023-2024 school year. 4K enjoyed meeting with Dr. Amy Kelley and learning about healthy bodies. Papa John's is our March Lunchbox Revolt and will be held Wednesday, March 22. 4K will also have Show and Tell. The ELC will be closed for Spring Break March 27th through March 30th. Our annual Easter parties and egg hunts will be Wednesday, April 5th. Timing details will come home soon.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

Don't miss our Wednesday night series for Lent!

On Wednesday, March 22, the youth will stuff Easter eggs for the children's Easter egg Hunt.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— March 22 Pizza, Salad, Dessert

Menu: Text Reservation to 256-490-5018

\$7 per person \$3 for under 11 \$20 Family Max

Children's Ministry

Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Every Wednesday at 6 pm

GFUMC KID'S PRESENTS **MARCH 22**
MARCH MADNESS! 6:00
KID'S WORSHIP ROOM

GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 2023

BOUNCY HOUSE!
LUNCH!
PRIZES!
GAMES!
EGG HUNT!

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
11:00-12:00
GADSDEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GFUMC Kids Spring Calendar

March Madness! **FUN!** March 22
Children sing for Palm Sunday April 2
Easter Egg Hunt April 8
Church Picnic May 10
FAMILY!
FELLOWSHIP!

GFUMC Vacation Bible School
Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!
June 5-June 8

Wonderful Wednesdays Wednesday's @ 6:00
www.fumcgadsden.org/children

Children's Church Sunday's @ 9:00 and 11:00
Proverbs 22:6

Serve at Church!



**SPRING CLEANING
CHURCH
WORKDAYS**
**MARCH 24
12:30 PM**
&
**MARCH 25
9 AM**
**SIGN UP ON THE CHURCH
WEBSITE OR APP!
OR
JUST SHOW UP**
**(Even if you only have an
hour or so to serve!)**

Sign up @ <http://fumcgadsden.org/workday>

Clothes Closet News

We need clothes! It's time to clean out closets and bring your spring and summer clothes to the church. If you are unable to get



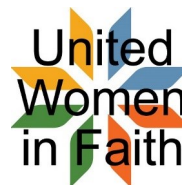
them to the church, call the church office and leave a message. The "Men at the Well" will set up a time to pick them up for you.

Thank you for remembering your Clothes Closet.

United Women in Faith

Bake Sale Sunday, April 2

We are going to have casseroles, cakes, pies and more for everyone to buy for Easter. They will be available in the Chestnut Street Lobby between the worship services until gone! All proceeds go to missions. All ladies need to bring 3 items to sell. **See page 7 for details**



April Luncheon is Monday, April 17. —Barbara Bennett, President

GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm, at the Portico entrance.

There are five teams that serve at the Ladle of Love. Teams 1, 2, 3 & 4 serve one Friday per month, and team 5 serves on fifth Fridays. Subs are also needed to serve occasionally. If you are interested in finding our more or serving on a team contact the church office.

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

March dates are

3/1 and 3/15

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Clients Served

	Jan	Feb
Ladle of Love	383	378
Clothes Closet	216	181

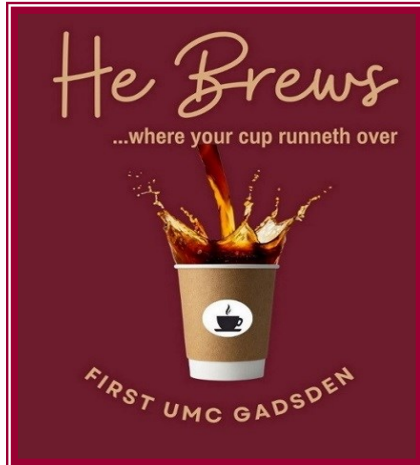
Thanks to our volunteers!

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

Inviting Ministries



Please join us for HeBrews
Coffee Café
between the Sunday morning
worship services, from
10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!

Your church needs more than just your financial giving in 2023...we need everyone to be “engaged” with church. We all promised to support our church with our PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, and WITNESS. In other words, we all promised to be plugged into every part of the church and to do it faithfully.



Generosity 2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

As of 2.26.23
62 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for a
total of \$346,684.00.

There is a line in the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, that is so appropriate for where we are right now: “Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow...” That is what our Faithful God provides to us. That’s what we want you to be a part of. Your giving of tithes, offerings, time, talents, and service will help strengthen FUMC Gadsden today, and will help ensure bright hope for tomorrow. Your church needs YOU at this critical time in its history!

Please pray about your contributions to your church for 2023, complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023, and return it to the church office as quickly as you can, so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget. It's not too late to complete your card. —The Generosity Team



Generosity: Ways to Give

www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street ,Gadsden, AL 35901

The UMW
Bake Sale
is Back!



*Calling all
Bakers and Buyers*

BAKE SALE

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Sunday, April 2

Chestnut St Lobby

for
Missions



& SILENT AUCTION

Some of our most Treasured Classic Old Time Homemade Baked Goods will be available at our Silent Auction Table for you to bid on!

Open Your Hearts
Open Your Pocket Books
for UMW Missions

Calendar for March 19-25, 2023

Mar 19 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School, HeBrews Coffee Shop
 11:00 am Traditions Service, Sanctuary

Mar 20 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 5:00 pm Trustees meeting, Parlor

Mar 21 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 5:00-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym
 5:00 pm Finance Team, Parlor
 6:00 pm Board of Stewards, Gathering Room

Mar 22 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 11:00 am Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208
 5:15 pm Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm Small Groups, Rooms 110 & 208
 6:00 pm Children's Bible Group & activities, Room 108
 6:00 pm Youth Group, Gym & Room 211
 6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

March 23 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

March 24 Friday


11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love
 12:00 pm-4:00 pm, Spring Cleaning

March 25 Saturday

9:00 am until ...Spring Cleaning

**Please note: Trustees, Finance &
 Board of Stewards will meet this
 week on March 20 & 21
 due to Spring Break!**

*In Memory of His Life
 William "Bart" Scott
 March 12, 2023*



Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Bart Scott Dawn Rains Jane Herb
 Heather Lincoln (Phillip & Leslie Johnson's daughter)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Mike McEwen
 June Longshore Martha Bullock Mary Tom Hale
 Chris Gunnells
 (Gail McNair's nephew)



Honorariums & Memorials

Altar Flower Fund

In memory of Don Hiltz, given by Barbara Bennett.

Birthdays

Mar 20 Barbara Bennett, Tricia Blount,
 Dr. Rex Wilson, John Floyd,
 Zach Hilburn, Rebecca Abel,
 Todd McKiven, Kennedy Jackson,
 Harrison Phillips
Mar 21 James Worthington,
 Rob Wilson, Trip Martin
Mar 22 Mary Hager, James Waid,
 Harrison Jones, Brooks Bone
Mar 23 Paige Dawson, Christian Rice
Mar 24 Lynn King, Jamie Payton



Week of March 12, 2023

In Person Total *130 Online 303
 Worship Total 433 Thursday Worship *5
 Celebration *50/154 Traditions *75/149
 Adult Sunday School *31/5 Children *2
 Bible Study Groups *31
 Children *29 Youth *18 Nursery *3
 Total Small Groups *113/5
 *In Person

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00
 General Offering Received \$14,043.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$140,547.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$129,188.00

Save the Date:

**April 2 Palm Sunday,
 Children Singing in
 both services**
**April 3-7 Holy Week Noon
 Day Services, 12:05-12:30 pm
 Lunch 12:35-1:00 pm**
**April 6 Maundy Thursday
 Service, 6:00 pm**
**April 8 Easter Egg Hunt
 11:00 am**
**April 9 Easter Sunday
 9:00am & 10:55 am
 services**