

H O S A N N A !

Palm
Sunday**"How Do You Spell Success?"**
Pastor Sam Hayes

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

Sermon Notes: 4.2.23 "How Do You Spell Success?"

We have been on a journey with the Lord through Lent, and we have now reached Palm Sunday. This seems like such an exciting scene, as we read Matthew's account of it. It is the Passover, and so there are probably about 2 million people in and around Jerusalem. Jesus, for the first time in his ministry, has actually planned a very public demonstration. Up to this time, he had warned people NOT to tell who he was, and had deliberately avoided "public" scenes.

Palm Sunday is different, though. For one thing, Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy recorded in Zechariah 9:9 - a prophecy that could only apply to the Christ. Jesus was the one who was announcing that he was Israel's king, by riding in on a donkey. A donkey? Yes! Donkeys were the royal animal of Jewish monarchs (1 Kings 2:32). If a king came into town riding a donkey, they were coming in peace. If the king came into town riding a war horse...well....

This is the scene as Matthew describes it:

1When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." 6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" 10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 11The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matt. 21: 1-11 NRSV)

Fame...power...influence... Does that spell success? Does this mean that Palm Sunday was a "success?" And was Jesus as excited as the crowds that day about his successful public declaration of Kingship? Actually, we read in Luke 19:41, "And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it." Maybe we need to take a closer look at how we spell success.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

This Sunday, April 2 is Palm Sunday!**Table of Contents:**

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule

Page 2— Holy Week Noon Services; Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday & Easter Services

Page 3—Small Groups and Sunday School

Page 4—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry; WW Dinner Menu

Page 5—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 6— HeBrews; Alleluia Offering 2023

Page 7—UMW Bake Sale, April 2

Page 8— Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Birthdays; Weekly Financial & Attendance Report

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

April 2: Silas Hosey & Marit Norris

April 9: Anna Kate Casey & Hadley Hedgspeth

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

April 2

Celebration: Eric Wright, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

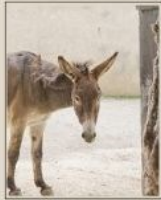
Traditions: Davis Varner, Brad Barnes

April 9

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

Palm Sunday, April 2 Easter Sunday, April 9
9 am & 10:55 am



Holy Week

O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?



Worship @ 12:05 pm, Monday-Friday, April 3- 7
followed by lunch @ 12:30 pm, \$5 per person

First UMC Gadsden 115 S. 5th Street

Holy Week Schedule

12:05 pm

Monday 4/3

Tammy Jackson

Anniston First UMC

Tuesday 4/4

Ken Casey

First UMC Gadsden

Wednesday 4/5

Laura Satterfield

Mtn Lakes District Sec.

& Ministry Candidate

Thursday 4/6

Belinda Rives

Discovery UMC

Friday 4/7

Davis Johnson

Southside UMC

Followed by Lunch \$5

HOSANNA!

Palm Sunday

April 2
 9:00 am and 10:55 am



9:00 am

&

10:55 am

Easter

Sunday,
April 9



Maundy

Thursday

"Do this in Memory of Me"

6:00 pm, April 6



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

April 5: Italian Night

**\$7 per person, \$3 under 11
Family Max: \$20**

Text: 256-490-5018 to make a reservation!

**Out of Town on the
Weekend?**

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings will NOT meet on April 5.

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
- ♦ New study to begin April 12 w/Harriet Murray

**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 but we are close to 100% occupancy for the 2023-2024 school year. We enjoyed our Papa John's pizza for our March lunchbox revolt. 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 have been posted on our Facebook page. Starting Monday, April 10th, the ELC will host its annual Mother's Day Roses Sale to support the Sara Rabun Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

—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!

**Youth will be helping with the Children's Easter
Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8.**

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— April 5 Italian Night
\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & under, Family Max \$20
Text 256-490-5018 for a reservation.

Children's Ministry

Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship
Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Every Wednesday at 6 pm



April Mission Focus

Donations for the Charlsie House (formerly The Love Center)

Donation buckets will be at the entrances to the sanctuary and the Chestnut Foyer!

Hygiene Products: shampoo, conditioner, soap (bar& body wash) hair brushes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes	Windex White Twin Sheet Sets White Twin Blankets
Feminine Products-tampons, pads	Underwear of all Sizes-Female and Male
Razors	Sports Bras
Liquid Detergent	Diapers
Clorox	Food: milk, meat, eggs, bread, cereal, canned food, condiments
Hand Soap	Over the Counter Medications: Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Tylenol, Aleve, Band Aids, Tums, nausea medicine, Melatonin, teeth glue-Fixodent
Sink Dishwashing Liquid	
White towels & wash cloths	
White Dish towels	
Clorox Cleaners	
Floor Cleaners-Fabuloso/Pinesol	

Spring Cleaning!



**THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
GOES TO THE
MISSION TEAM
AND ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED
CLEAN OUR
BUILDING!**



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



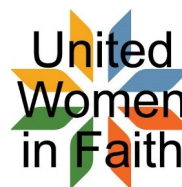
them to the church, call the church office and leave a message. The "Men at the Well" will set up a time to pick them up for you.

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 out more or serving on a team, contact the church office.

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

April dates are

4/5 and 4/19

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

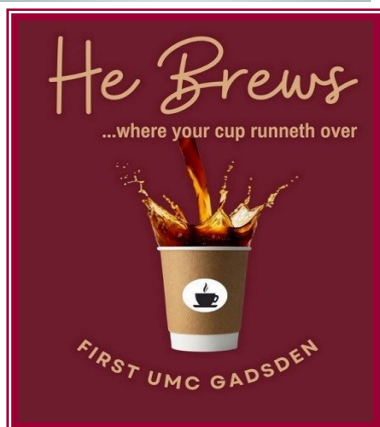
	Jan	Feb
Ladle of Love	383	378
Clothes Closet	216	181

Thanks to our volunteers!

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023



**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 there!!!**



In Psalm 135, we read these powerful words:

Hallelujah! Praise the name of God, praise the works of God. All you priests on duty in God's temple, serving in the sacred halls of our God, shout "Hallelujah!" because God's so good, sing anthems to his beautiful name... (Ps. 135:1-3 MSG)

Shout, "Hallelujah!" Why? Because God is so good. The works of God are awesome. God is so good that we sing anthems to God's beautiful name.

This is what I think about when I think of Gadsden First United Methodist Church. I think about singing praise to God for God's awesome works that are done through this church. I think about singing anthems to God's beautiful name. Easter draws a

hallelujah from my heart like no other time of the year!

Each year GFUMC has received an "Alleluia Offering" at Easter time because of hearts overflowing with praise and thanksgiving. An Alleluia Offering is over and above our regular giving and is always used for something special. For instance, a couple of years ago, our Alleluia Offering was used to create our new Children's Worship Space in memory of Joanne Hightower. Last year, we used 60% of the offering for our worship music, and 40% for Inviting Ministries and to enhance our online outreach. The goal was to grow our church family, and to make the worship experience something to remember.

This year, we plan to use 50% of our Alleluia Offering for our worship music again, and the other 50% for enhanced security and capital improvements. I don't need to explain about the music - you all know how awesome our music is, and we want it to remain that way. But let me say a word about security and capital improvements. We need to update our security cameras, and to be able to hire security for special events. We want our members and guests to feel safe and secure when they come to an event at GFUMC! Capital improvements would include things like replacing and updating the thermostats for our twenty-four HVAC Units. as well as starting the process of replacing our lighting with more efficient LED bulbs. (All of this will provide savings in the long run!)

Last year, we had the biggest Alleluia Offering our church has seen in a long time! Thank you so much! With your generosity, we hope that gifts to our Alleluia Offering will exceed \$35,000 again this year. You can help us reach that goal by giving at least 10% (or more) of your weekly income as a special offering. Pray about it, and then present your offering any Sunday during the month of April. We will announce the total each week, and then celebrate the grand total for our 2023 Alleluia Offering on Mothers' Day.

Shout, "Hallelujah!" because God is so good.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam
Senior Pastor

Pastor Andy

Pastor Andy
Associate Pastor

Jay

Jay Hedgspeth
Generosity Team Chair

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 April 2-April 8, 2023

April 2 Sunday **Palm Sunday**

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

April 3 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 12:05 pm-12:30 pm **Noon Day Service, Sanctuary**
 12:35 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch, Gathering Room**

April 4 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 12:05 pm-12:30 pm **Noon Day Service, Sanctuary**
 12:35 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch, Gathering Room**
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

April 5 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester-**Easter Parties**
 9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open
 12:05 pm-12:30 pm **Noon Day Service, Sanctuary**
 12:35 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch, Gathering Room**
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night meal
 6:00 pm Children and Youth Activities
 6:00 pm Bible Study
 6:00 pm Choir Practice

April 6 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 12:05 pm-12:30 pm **Noon Day Service, Sanctuary**
 12:35 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch, Gathering Room**
 6:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary**

April 7 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love
 12:05 pm-12:30 pm **Noon Day Service, Sanctuary**
 12:35 pm-1:00 pm **Lunch, Gathering Room**

April 8 Saturday

11:00 am **Easter Egg Hunt, Greenspace & Portico**

Immediate Prayer Concerns

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)



Birthdays

Apr 2 Kathy Sisson, Lucca McNair
Apr 3 Dr. Cleve Estis, Desiree Hood
Apr 4 Maddie Hall
Apr 5 Mark Casey, Merry Blevins,
 David Dean, Jenny Sollie
Apr 6 Dianne Rogerson Brewer
Apr 7 Claire Michaels
Apr 8 Bentley Roberts,
 Thomas Gladden, Jan Rutheford



Week of March 26, 2023

In Person Total *145 Online 446
 Worship Total 591 Thursday Worship *5
 Celebration *42/184 Traditions *98/262
 Adult Sunday School *34 Children *0
 Bible Study Groups *22/39
 Children *35 Youth *17 Nursery *4
 Total Small Groups *112/39
 *In Person

 Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00
 General Offering Received \$6,268.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$166,101.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$146,874.00

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Don Hiltz, given by Marian Ford.

Music Fund

In memory of Don Hiltz, given by Diana Rampey.

Order an Easter Lily by Monday, 4/3/23

Lilies will be placed on the altar, in honor or memory of a loved one, for Easter Sunday Worship in both services.

Cost: \$23.00

☐ **In Honor of**

☐ **In Memory of**

Name (s): _____

Given by: _____

