

# Beyond THE GRAVE

GFUMC  
EASTER 2021  
PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

4-4-21 Sermon Notes "Beyond the Grave" Easter Sunday!

There are powerful lessons that "the grave" teaches us...lessons that seems final. These lessons are defeat, death, and despair. We feel like, "Well, that's it. It's over now. What can we do? It's too late!" But the great good news of Easter is that (as Frederick Buechner wrote) "the worst thing isn't the last thing." God gets the last word...and it's a good word! Remember the Easter story?

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

*<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 1-18 NRSV)*

The grave seems final. But thanks to our resurrected Lord, there IS something beyond the grave!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Sam

## Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, online and in person
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

## Sunday Worship

### Easter Sunday

**Sunrise Service at 6:30 am**  
(Facebook Live-Virtual only)

**Celebration Service 9:00 am**  
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

**Traditions Service 11:00 am**  
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or  
on facebook live: @fumcgadsden



## MARCH MISSIONS UPDATE



### GFUMC "Show Love" to the Love Center Kitchen Shower

*Thank you to all who donated items or monetary donations for The Love Center to stock their new kitchen!*

The Love Center is a nonprofit shelter for homeless women and families. The Love Center provides food, clothing and necessities for residents as well as assistance with securing employment and housing. Counseling is provided by qualified volunteers. #gfumcreconnect2021



## GFUMC



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



**"Show Love"- The Mission Team served lunch for over 150 Tornado Relief Volunteers in Ohatchee on Monday, March 29. #gfumcreconnect2021**

### Clothes Closet

#### Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

#### Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

### Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the portico entrance

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

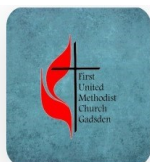
RECONNECT

Online Worship:  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)



or on facebook live:  
@fumcGadsden

Church App:  
FUMCGadsden  
(Available in the  
App Stores for  
Android or iPhone/)



#### Generosity-Ways to Give

- [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)
- Text to Give:  
256-344-8464
- Mail your tithe or gift:  
115 S. 5th Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901

#### Church Phone

256-543-8200

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2021



Consider your gift to this special offering that will expand the missions and ministries of Gadsden First UMC in new and exciting ways in 2021.

- ♦ **New Children's Worship Space** created in room 108 and 106, including a stage, state of the art sound system, monitors and more *and named in memory of Joanne Hightower!*
- ♦ **Technology Upgrades**—Including Permanent Wiring for Our Online Worship Services
- ♦ **Missions— "Showing Love"** through our Clothes Closet and "Ladle of Love" Soup Kitchen and to Healthcare Workers, Our Adopted School, Striplin Elementary, as well as, Special Mission Projects like Ohatchee Tornado Relief
- ♦ **Capital Improvements** for the Building and Grounds



**The Alleluia Offering 2021** will be received on **Easter Sunday, April 4**. Your Alleluia Offering may be given in the offering plates in the sanctuary or returned to the church office or through eGiving/ marked **"Alleluia Offering"**.



Maundy Thursday, 6 PM, Pastor Sam Hayes



Friday. 12:05 pm - Dee Dowdy, Rainbow City UMC

# Easter Sunday, April 4

## Sunrise Service

6:30 am

Special Guest  
Speaker

Bishop Wallace-Padgett

Facebook Live  
(virtual only)

## Easter Worship

9 am and 11 am

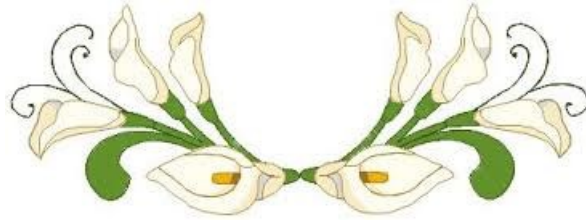
In the Sanctuary

In Person and Live Stream

Masks and  
Social Distancing Required.



Bring Flowers for the Cross on Easter Sunday in both worship services.



**Easter Lilies in Honorarium and Memorial**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**April 4, 2021**

**In Honor of**

*Miss Beth Kimball*  
*Denise Floyd*  
*Charlotte Rutland*

**Given By**

*Mark and Barbara Condra*  
*Sheila Freeman*  
*Sheila Freeman*

**In Memory of**

*Jim Bennett*  
*Bill Hale*  
*Jean Holtsford*  
*DeLeath Rives*  
*Jim Bennett*  
*Wayne Nesbitt*  
*W.P. Nesbitt, Faye Powell,*  
*and L.Q. Heard (Our Parents)*

**Given By**

*Barbara Bennett*  
*Mary Tom, Jan & Steve, & Haley*  
*Alex Holtsford*  
*Carma Rayburn*  
*Carma Rayburn*  
*Sonya Nesbitt & Family*  
  
*Sonya Nesbitt & Family*



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers.



Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family.

Contact the church office to find out how you can connect! **#GFUMCreconnect2021**

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## Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am

### Online

GoToMeeting with Ken Casey, George Varner & Grover Kitchens (will not meet on Sunday, April 4) Will continue to be ONLINE for April 11, 18, and 25. Contact Ken Casey or Martha Gray on how to join!

### In-Person

- ♦ Martin Fellowship Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday @ 10 am, in room 116
- ♦ Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, @ 9:55 am in the Gathering Room (#201)  
Max Lucado: The God Who Knows your Name continues on April 4, April 11, and April 18.

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### *In-person*

**Pastor Sam**

**Wednesdays Mornings**

**@ 11 am,**

**Starts April 7**

**Meet in Room 116.**



### *Online*

**Pastor Sam**

**Wednesdays @ 6 pm,**  
**online, FACEBOOK Live**  
(Also, available on-demand on  
the GFUMC website or church  
app under the media tab.)

**In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray**  
**“Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley, Room 116**

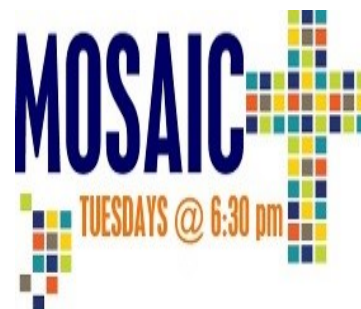
## Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, God's Word of Life, Daily Bible Readings. Contact the church office for more information.

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## Join Pastor Andy for Mosaic

—A unique worship experience that includes a homily, discussion, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is particularly designed for those who have felt hurt or rejected. Check out the Mosaic Facebook Page for weekly devotionals and for updates about in-person worship @ 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the gym or portico/courtyard, depending on the weather.





## ELC News

Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> was our annual Easter parties and egg hunts, along with a visit from the Easter Bunny. Spring Break is Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will begin our Mother's Day roses sale benefiting the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund in April. Watch for more details to come.

—Helene Haller



### Upcoming Events:

- April 17th-Kayaking @ Big Wills Creek
- May 8th-Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls
- May 23rd-Senior Sunday

## Youth Ministry News

**Wednesday Night Youth Group**  
6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

**Sunday School at 10 am, in-person**  
(beginning Easter Sunday, April 4th)

Join Andy on Facebook Live  
or Instagram.

Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

## Children's Ministry News

***"Celebrate Wonder"***

***Children's Sunday School Returns***  
***In-Person, April 4, 10:00 AM***

***Wednesday Night Children's***  
***Church, Room 108 & Gym***  
***6:00 pm (in person)***

# GFUMC Easter Egg Hunt

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3**  
**10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**

**THE CASEY FARM**  
**108 CASEY DRIVE**  
**GADSDEN, AL 35903**



**April 10, 2021-10 am-12 pm**  
**Virtual Event-Refresh & Retreat**  
**Featuring Artist: Krel Buckelew**

Join us as he creates art while he speaks with us Theme: Joy of Easter  
Celebrate our Risen Savior, Matthew 28: 1,2,5,6a, 7a, 8

If you plan on attending the Virtual Refresh & Retreat Event, please send in your reservation by mail or email to the address below. If we can have 8 or more UMW ladies attend, we can have a Virtual Meeting in our Gathering Room. We can be together but still social distance with masks. Please let me know ASAP so we can make arrangements. **We have two reservations so far!**  
Call or text me 256-399-1932 or email me at [eileen@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:eileen@fumcgadsden.org) *Thanks, Eileen*

**North Alabama Conference**

**Virtual**

Refresh & Retreat April 10<sup>th</sup>  
2021, 10:00am

**Registration Form**

**Deadline for registration is April 8, 2021**

To register for the Retreat, please notify by mail or email: Theresa Richerson  
9023 Brookline Lane, Helena, AL 35080  
Phone: (205) 637-4760 or (205) 441-3467 or  
email: [theresaricherson@gmail.com](mailto:theresaricherson@gmail.com)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone # \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

District: Mountain Lakes District

**WELCOME BACK! UMW, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Luncheon at  
12:00 noon, Gym  
Board Meeting at 10:30am, Gathering Room**



United  
Methodist  
Women

The UMW Luncheon is April 12th beginning at noon in the gym. Our guest speaker will be our own **Dr. Grover Kitchens**. His topic will be "Women and the Formation of Snead Seminary and Snead Junior College". Our Catered lunch is \$10.

Make reservations with your circle leader or call or text:  
**Delores Abney at 256-458-8376 by Friday noon, April 9th.**

## Calendar for April 4-10, 2021

### April 4, Sunday

### Easter Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary and live streamed

10:00 am, Sunday School, Children & Youth

10:00 am, Pathfinders & Martin Sunday School Classes in person

10:00 am, online Bible Study, with Ken Casey, George Varner, and Grover Kitchens

11:00 am, Traditional Service, in Sanctuary and live streamed

### April 5, Monday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

### April 6, Tuesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday

### April 7, Wednesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open

11:00 am, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 116

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, online

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Harriet Murray, Room 116

6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108/gym

6:00 pm, Youth, Room 211/gym

### April 8, Thursday

7:00 am, Men at the Well Journey Group, Zoom

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

### April 9, Friday

11:00-12:00 pm, Ladle of Love, Portico

### Honorariums and Memorials

#### Howell Erwin Medical Fund:

In memory of Holly Arbery, given by Joyce Sington.

#### Alleluia Offering

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by Gloria Rives.

*The Bishop's Ring on the Altar Cross is  
Given in Memory of Bishop Lloyd Knox,  
by Julia Nolen Knox*

*The Flowers in the Sanctuary  
are Given in Memory of Dr. Thirwell Nolen,  
by Julia Nolen Knox*

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

June Longshore

Ruby Christine Poland

(granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin

George Fant

Wanda Hemby

Ina Davis

Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

### Birthdays.....



**Apr 4** Maddie Hall

**Apr 5** David Dean, Mark Casey,  
Merry Blevins, Jenny Sollie

**Apr 6** Dianne Rogerson

**Apr 7** Dr. Ben Carr

**Apr 8** Bentley Roberts, Thomas Gladden,  
Jan Rutheford

**Apr 9** Beverly McWhorter

**Apr 10** Kim Abel, Amy Gladden,  
Brooke Day, Claire Day, Katie Peavy,  
Charlie Cox, Leyton Hudak

### Week of March 28, 2021

\*In Person Total \*194 Overall Total 366

Online Viewer Total 172 Mosaic \*6

One Service Palm Sunday \*120/145

Thursday \*0 Bible Study Groups \*16/27

Youth \*15 Children \*37

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$24,170.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$197,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$159,253.00

**2021 Pledges: 72 for \$300,076.00**

### Tech Team Schedule

#### April 4 Easter Sunday

**Celebration:** Mark Casey,  
Parker Casey, Zach Hilburn,  
Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Matthew Vance,  
Sheila Freeman

#### April 11

**Celebration:** Davis Varner,  
Tammy Hayes, Jacob Kelley,  
Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Matthew Vance,  
Tammy Hayes