



## THE IMPOSSIBLE DAWN

Rev. Sam Hayes

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

### Sermon Notes: 4.9.23 "The Impossible Dawn"

Early on a Sunday morning, as the day was dawning, two women made their way to the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed. They were Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" (in chapter 27, Matthew tells us that the other Mary was the mother of James and Joseph). Do you wonder what was going through their minds? I do. Maybe they were thinking, "What are we going to do now...now that Jesus is gone?" Maybe they were wondering if they were going to be the next ones to be "silenced" by the powers that be. A practical question that might have been on their minds would be, "How in the world are we going to move that big stone out of the way so we can get into the tomb?" Impossible! But then... Let's remember the story as Matthew tells it:

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matt. 28: 1-10 NRSV)*

Turns out NOTHING is impossible with God!

See you Sunday!  
Pastor Sam

### Table of Contents:

**Page 1**—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule  
**Page 2**—Small Groups and Sunday School  
**Page 3**—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry; WW Dinner Menu  
**Page 4**—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith  
**Page 5**—HeBrews; Alleluia Offering 2023  
**Page 6**—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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or

on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

### Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

**April 9**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

**April 16**

**One Service:** Will Brookshire, Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

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

**April 12: Lasagna, Salad**

**\$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**

### **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
- ♦ "I Love Lucy" 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



## **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

ELC families and faculties enjoyed various spring break activities and are ready to finish our school year strong. Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is currently on hold. We have commitments for 100% capacity at this time. Easter parties and Egg Hunts were a success and many enjoyed a short visit with the Easter Bunny. Thank you to all our party moms and FUMC staff for making this time extra special. Starting Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

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

**A Kayaking Trip coming soon!**

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— April 12**  
**\$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)

In October of 2022, the Love Center was rebranded The Charlsie House and a new mission established to serve women only by providing financial support, shelter, food and other items until they can be an independent member of the community. Much has been done to freshen up and clean up the shelter with painting inside and out and the purchase of new furniture. Thank you to all who have donated and helped The Charlsie House to get this far!

*There are many items that need to be replenished on a continual basis and First UMC Gadsden's mission team will be collecting items during the month of April.* It is through community support for The Charlsie House that will help us to reach our mission of serving women who are in financial crisis!

**Red Buckets for donations are located @ the entrances of the church. Items needed:**

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

### 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

The April Luncheon is Monday, April 17.

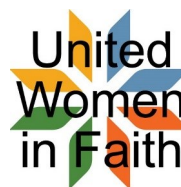
The speaker will be Christy Richards, Director of the Charlsie House (formerly The Love Center)

Make your reservation for lunch by noon on Friday,

April 14. Executive Board meeting will be 10:30 am in Room 208.

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 pm in the parlor.

—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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)**

### Clients Served

Mar

Ladle of Love

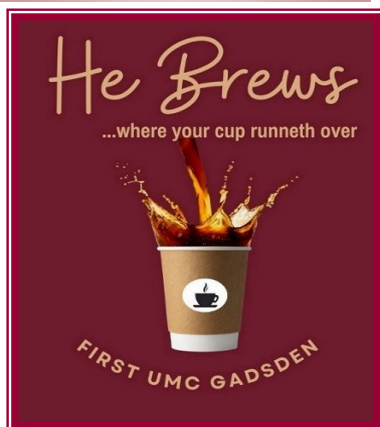
Clothes Closet 213

**Thanks to our volunteers!**

Phone: 256-543-8200

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

## Calendar for April 9-April 15, 2023

### April 9 Sunday

### **Easter Sunday**

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

### April 10 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester

**Church Office Closed**

### April 11 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester  
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

### April 12 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester  
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night meal  
 6:00 pm Children and Youth Activities  
 6:00 pm Bible Study  
 No Choir Practice

### April 13 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**

### April 14 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

*Easter Worship 9 am or 10:55 am*

### **Honorariums & Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of Don Hiltz, given by Evelyn Pearson

#### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Dawn Rains      Jane Herb      Nancy Smith

#### Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson  
 Chris Gunnells  
 (Gail McNair's nephew)



### **Save the Date**

**April 8 Easter Egg Hunt,**

**11:00 am-12:00 pm**

**April 9 Easter Sunday, 9:00am & 10:55 am**

**April 16 One Service at 10 am, Children Singing**

**April 30 One Service at 10 am**

**UMF Sunday (United Women of Faith)**

**May 7 Second Grade Bibles presented**

**Senior High Graduate Recognition**

**May 10 Church Picnic, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm**

**Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls**

**May 14 Mother's Day**



### **Birthdays**

**Apr 9** Beverly McWhorter,  
 Sam Masters  
**Apr 10** Kimberly Abel, Amy Gladden,  
 Katie Peavy, Charlie Cox,  
 Leyton Hudak  
**Apr 11** B.J. Crow, Sherri DeJong,  
 Pat McLeod, Sherry Hall, B.J. Miller  
**Apr 14** Jan Humphrey, Blake New,  
 Alexander Long  
**Apr 15** Charles Sizemore,  
 James Kelley



### **Week of April 2, 2023**

In Person Total \*155    Online 434  
 Worship Total 589    Thursday Worship \*6  
 Celebration \*42/177    Traditions \*104/157  
 Adult Sunday School \*28/1    Children \*1  
 Bible Study Groups \*19/34  
 Children \*10    Youth \*0    Nursery \*0  
 Total Small Groups \*58/35  
 \*In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00  
 General Offering Received \$15,985.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$178,878.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$162,859.00

### **Update Your Contact Information**

**Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.**

**Updates may be sent to [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.**