

Jesus Is...

SON OF MAN

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

12-18-22

Sermon Notes

"Jesus Is...Son of Man"

This Advent, we are looking at some of the many names identified with Jesus. In this week's gospel reading, we have Jesus asking his disciples what other people are "naming" him. Then he asks them the very important question all of us must face: "Who do YOU say that I am?" Jesus had taken his disciples to a special place to ask this question. They had journeyed into Caesarea Philippi (Gentile territory) about 120 miles from Jerusalem in the northern part of Palestine. This was a region known for other religions – Baal worship, worship of Pan (the Greek god)...and it was the site of a temple built to honor Augustus Caesar. This is the setting – surrounded by shrines, and statues of gods, within sight of Caesar's temple. It's almost like there is a question hanging in the air: "Will the true God please stand up?" So, Jesus asked the question this way in Matthew 16: 13-28:

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **20** Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. **21** From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." **23** But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." **24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. **28** Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Some said Jesus was John the Baptist, others Elijah. Malachi prophesied that Elijah would come again, and some thought that Jesus fulfilled that. But – Jesus did not minister as Elijah. John the Baptist was the one who came "in the spirit and power of Elijah." (Luke 1: 13-17). Some said Jesus was Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet," who had a broken heart over the state of Israel. Jesus did weep over Jerusalem, but he was not Jeremiah reincarnate. Of course Peter had the correct response. "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." God had given Peter that revelation – it wasn't something he investigated on his own.

Often missed in this discussion was what Jesus named *himself*. In verse 13, Jesus said "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Jesus called himself "the Son of Man." What's up with that?

Join us Sunday and find out!
Pastor Sam

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule
Page 2—Advent and Christmas
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; UMW; Poinsettias
Page 6—Generosity 2023; End of Year Giving
Page 7—Cookies and Carols; Christmas Eve; Honorariums and Memorials
Page 8—Calendar; Prayer Concerns; New Members; 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

December 18: Marit Norris & Hadley Hedgspeth
December 25: Acolytes that attend the service that day.

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes prior to the start of the service)

December 18

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mike Self, Sheila Freeman
December 25

One Service at 10:00 am: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Jesus Is...

"Get Ready"	Sun. 11/27	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Emmanuel"	Sun. 12/4	9 am & 11 am
Choir Christmas Music	Sun. 12/11	11 am-One Service
"Jesus is...Son of Man"	Sun. 12/18	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Lord"	Sat. 12/24	4 pm & 6 pm
"Jesus is...Savior"	Sun. 12/25	10 am-One Service

P A S T O R S A M H A Y E S

SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Christmas in Gadsden

Sunday, Dec. 11- One Worship Service, 11 am, Chancel Choir Christmas Music
10 am *Dedication of the Children's Worship Room*
in memory of Joanne Hightower

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Worship at 9 am and 11 am
Sunday School at 10 am

Thursday, Dec. 22- "Christmas in Gadsden-Cookies and Carols", 5:30 pm
In the Chestnut, Street Lobby and the Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve
4 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion
5 pm, *Live Nativity presented by UMYF*
6 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25-Christmas Day Worship, One Service, 10 am
Sunday, January 1- New Year's Day Worship, One Service, 10 am

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal

Will resume in January!

We will see you in the New Year!

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

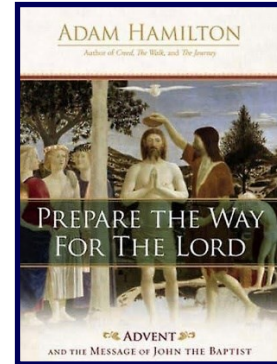
11 am In Person Bible Study

Room 208, Prepare the Way for the Lord

**Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via
the FUMC APP or website**

Small Groups at Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm

Will resume in January!



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.

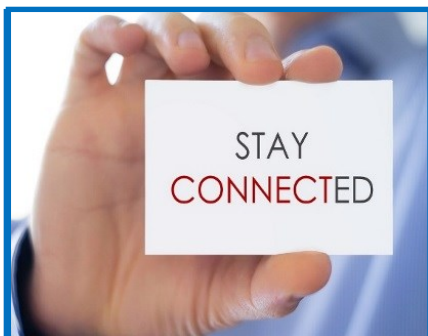
Study for Advent:

The Journey by Adam Hamilton.

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

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, The “Angels of Christmas-Hearing God’s Voice in Advent” by Susan Robb, **Room 112, In person and online.** **Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!**
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, **Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Why Christmas Matters **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

**Friday, December 9th through
Wednesday, January 3rd: Christmas
Break!!** Prepare for the birth of Jesus
and ring in the New Year!!!

**Wednesday, January 4th: Welcome to
Spring Semester 2023!!!** Normal times
and activities resume at the ELC.

—*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.**

December 24 The youth will participate in the "Live Nativity"
at 5:00 pm between the Candlelight services.

December 31st-New Year's Eve- Lock-in at the church.

—*Pastor Andy*

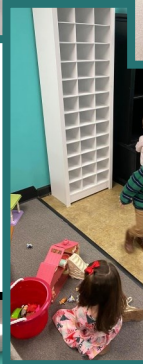
**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner—Will Resume in January
See you in the New Year!**

Children's Ministry

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



**The Children's Worship
Room was dedicated and
consecrated on Dec. 11
in loving memory of
Joanne Hightower**



December Mission Focus

Embrace Alabama Kids ...Formerly "UMCH "White Christmas"

Embrace Alabama Kids began over 130 years ago as an orphanage. Today, as a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home, they are one of the state's most comprehensive and vital resources serving babies, children, youth, teen mothers, college students, and families. Your donation will provide them with homes for the holidays—and every day—embracing them in the powerful and unconditional love of God. Donations may be made payable to GFUMC and Marked "EmbraceALKids"

GFUMC Backpack Jail Ministry

Donations of the following items are being received in the Chestnut Street Foyer to fill backpacks for those who have recently been released from Jail with little or nothing. Needed items include: **TRAVEL SIZE Body Wash, Toothpaste, Tooth Brush, Deodorant, Lotion, Bibles (small in size), and disposable rain ponchos.** Backpacks are packed by the GFUMC Mission Team and distributed through The Freedom Center.

UMW Christmas Boutique

Christmas
Cards

Sunday Mornings

Chestnut Foyer

December 18



All Proceeds Benefit UMW Missions

UMW News

LuVerna Waid Circle Christmas party is Tuesday, December 20th at 5:30 pm. If you would like to ride the church bus, meet in the parking lot at 5:15 pm. Contact Eileen Graham or Susan Copeland for details. Remember to bring an ornament to swap!

**UMW Christmas Boutique, December 18th in the Chestnut Foyer.
UMW Luncheon Monday, January 9, 2023**

Barbara Bennett, President



Poinsettias Cost \$21.00 each*

___ December 25 One Service 10 am

Donated by _____

___ In Honor of ___ In Memory of

Name _____

***subject to change**

Orders must be placed **Monday at noon prior to the date** you are requesting.

GFUMC



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

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

December dates are

12/7 and 12/21

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

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

Clients served in
October 2022

Ladle of Love 372

Clothes Closet 237

*Thank you to all our
volunteers for their time and
service to these missions!*

The Ladle of Love will be
closed December 23 and
December 30

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#gfumcreconnect2022](https://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



As of December 11, 2022
48 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$216,844.00 Funds

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.

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 (at least by November 30th), so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget.

—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

Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2022 giving record, they must meet one of these requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31st.
2. The contribution is put into the offering plate or delivered to the office on or before December 29th.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.
4. An online E-Giving transaction is dated on or before December 30th. (Find link at fumcgadsden.org/giving)
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 30th. Please inform the financial Office at the church about a stock transfer.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at giving@fumcgadsden.org or 256-543-8200, no later than December 29th. **(Church office is closed 12/30)**

DOES AN IRA ROLLOVER MAKES SENSE THIS YEAR?

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA rollover is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help Gadsden First United Methodist Church fulfill its mission.

By transferring some of your IRA required distribution to the church, you may be able to lower your taxable income and capital gains taxes this year. Check with your advisor to see how an IRA rollover gift could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.



*Christmas
in Gadsden*

COOKIES & CAROLS

5:30 PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5TH STREET



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
4 PM AND 6 PM
LIVE NATIVITY 5 PM

*Christmas
in Gadsden*



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Jane & Robert Gardner.

In memory of Mary Nichols, given by Ruth Chandler.

Ladle of Love

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Louise Ferguson.

Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of Ellen Cummans and Marjorie Ross on their December birthdays, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

Building Fund

In memory of Gina Lynn Atkins, given by Gary Atkins.

Altar Flower Fund

In memory of Sue Kelley, given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Martha Garner, given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Judy Dressman given by Louise Ferguson.

Clothes Closet Fund

In memory of Patsy Powers given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Winnie Mae Beasley, given by Louise Ferguson.

In memory of Nancy Sansom, given by Louise Ferguson.

Calendar for December 18-24, 2022

Dec 18, Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary

10:00 am Sunday School and HeBrews

11:00 am Traditional Service, Sanctuary

Dec 19, Monday

ELC Closed

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

5:00 pm-7:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Dec 20, Tuesday

ELC Closed

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

6:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Saturday, December 24, 2022, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services @ 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Sanctuary —Don't miss the Live Nativity at 5 pm on the corner of 5th and Chestnut!

Dec 21, Wednesday

ELC Closed

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

11:00 am Bible Study, Room 208

(Facebook Live @ 6pm)

No Wednesday night activities; No Choir

Dec 22, Thursday

ELC Closed

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

5:30 pm Cookies and Carols

Dec 23, Friday

No Ladle of Love



The poinsettia on the altar is in memory of Darrell Yarnell given by Bonnie Yarnell.

Holiday Office Hours

Office closed 12/26 & 12/27

Office closed 12/30 & 1/2/23

No Ladle of Love 12/23 & 12/30

No Wednesday night activities until 1/4/23

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Wynell Welsh

Rodney Thompson Jane Herb



Jill Vincent

Michael Fortenberry (Regina Holloway's brother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in honor of Laura Condra in celebration of her birthday on Tuesday, December 20th. They are given by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In Memory of Her Life

Wynell Welsh

December 12, 2022



Birthdays

Dec 18 Mary Ann Watkins, Jim Moss,

Delores Abney, Brandy Berry,

Dylan Skipper

Dec 19 Grover Kitchens, Nancy Beane,

Jesse Norris, Drew McNair

Dec 20 Laura Condra, Cheryl Midgley,

Sara Kate Thornburg

Dec 21 Robert Branch, Mikeal Martin,

Matt Ross, Davis Varner, Dylan

Guthery

Dec 22 Jane Herb, Jane Gargus,

Caroline Long

Dec 23 Rodney Thompson,

Russell Hopper

Dec 24 Claire Wigley, Dr. Ross Isbell,

Mary Ragan Whisenant,

Matthew Stewart

Week of December 11, 2022

In Person Total *166 Online 191

Worship Total 357 Thursday Worship *6

One Service *160/191

Adult Sunday School 0 Children 0

Bible Study Groups *32/33

Children *16 Youth *13 Nursery *2

Dedication Service *60

Total Small Group Attendance *143/33

*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00

General Offering Received \$22,833.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$658,750.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$667,897.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Kirk & Jeanne
Mabeus

Olivia Kendrick

Cathy Bohannon