

Jesus Is...

SAVIOR

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

12/25/2022

Sermon Notes

"Jesus Is...Savior"

I hope that part of your Christmas tradition is to take the time to read the Christmas story from the Bible. I really like the story as told in the Gospel of Luke 2: 1-20. We will read those familiar words this coming Sunday, Christmas Day! Since our Advent focus has been on the *names* of Jesus, I want to highlight the announcement of the angel (maybe Gabriel?) to the shepherds.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Remember last week when I quoted Shakespeare: "What's in a name?" The answer? Quite a lot, actually! Mary is told in Luke 1: 31 that she will name her baby, "Jesus." The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew *Jehoshua*, which means "Jehovah saves." The good news of great joy is for all people! And the good news is that God is sending to all people what will meet our greatest need...not a hero...not a soldier...not a judge or a reformer... but a Savior.

Our greatest need is a Savior. That's the gift that God has in Jesus. The word "Savior" in Luke 2: 11 is the Greek word *soter*, which comes from the word *sozo* (to save). We usually think of Savior in terms of the spiritual and eternal salvation that God offers in Christ to those who believe. Digging deeper, we see that Savior also includes **salvation from danger** (Matt. 8:25 when the disciples were with Jesus in a boat in the storm – "Sozo us, Lord! We are perishing!"); **salvation from suffering** (Luke 23: 35 when the onlookers called for Jesus to "sozo" himself from the cross); **salvation from sickness** (Mark 5: 34 when Jesus told the woman who touched the hem of his garment that her faith had "sozo" her); **preservation** (to deliver safely out of – Jude 5)

God's salvation for us through Jesus is much deeper and fuller than just repeating a "sinner's prayer!" The Savior born to us in the City of David that first Christmas day is the gift that keeps on giving. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule
Page 2—Christmas Eve Worship; January 2023 Sermon Series 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
Page 6—Advent and Christmas
Page 7—Generosity 2023; End of Year Giving
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

Christmas Eve: All Acolytes are invited to assist with the candlelight service they are attending.

December 25: Any acolytes that attend the service that day.

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

December 24

4 pm, Mark Condra, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

6 pm, Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

December 25

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

January 1

One Service at 10:00 am Eric Wright,
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven



Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal**Will resume on January 4!****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, A Study of the Book of Romans****Will resume on January 4, 2023****Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the FUMC APP or website****Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm****Will resume on January 4, 2023**

- ♦ Christianity and World Religions w/ Pastor Sam
- ♦ Good Boundaries and Goodbyes 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.

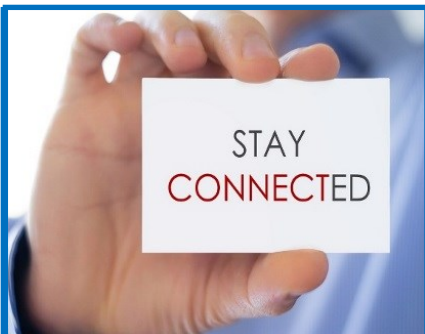
Study for Advent:**The Journey by Adam Hamilton.**

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

Sunday School Classes**will not meet on****Sunday, December 25, 2022****or Sunday, January 1, 2023**

There will be one worship service at 10 am on these Sundays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sunday School Classes will resume on January 8, 2023.

**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 on January 4
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**



**12/15/22
Children's
Ministry Fun
Ugly Christmas
Sweater Party**

- Hearing the Christmas Story
- Singing Carols
- Decorating Christmas Cookies



Wonderful Wednesdays

@6:00

January

Jan 4
We can see God through Jesus.

Jan 11
We can hear God's voice if we listen.

Jan 18
God is powerful!

Jan 25
Following God makes us stand out.

February

Feb 1
Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.

Feb 15
Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.

Feb 8
Our enemies help us learn to love.

Feb 23
Ash Wednesday

You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

December Mission Focus

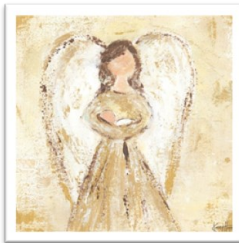
Embrace Alabama Kids ...Formerly "UMCH "White Christmas"

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.



Angel Tree Gifts

Thank you for your gifts for all the children on our Angel Tree! Your generosity is amazing! Many children and families will be blessed this Christmas by your gifts! —The Mission Team

In addition to these generous gifts for our Angel Tree, several families with special circumstances and needs were helped through Sunday School classes, individuals, as well as the church's Benevolence Fund, during the Advent and Christmas season. First UMC Gadsden continues to shine the Light of Jesus Christ and be a blessing to our community. Thank you for your generosity. Have a blessed new year!

—Your Church Staff

UMW News

UMW Luncheon Monday, January 9, 2023, 12:00 pm.

The program will be presented by Emily Webb, Nurse Coordinator of Northeast District for Alabama Department of Public Health and Deborah Gaither, Director, Gadsden-Etowah County Management Agency. They will bring an update on Current Covid Data. The executive board meeting will be at 10:30 am in Room 208. To reserve a lunch, please contact Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 by noon on January 6, 2023

—Barbara Bennett, President



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

January dates are

1/4 and 1/18

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.facebook.com/gfumcreconnect2022)

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



As of December 18, 2022
54 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$232,884.00 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.

Calendar for December 25-31, 2022

Dec 25, Sunday

10:00 am One Service, Sanctuary

Dec 26, Monday

ELC Closed

Office Closed

Dec 27, Tuesday

ELC Closed

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 2 Services

December 24, 4 pm & 6 pm

Live Nativity, 5 pm

Sunday, December 25, One Service, 10 am

Thurs., December 29, No Thursday Worship

Sunday, January 1, 2023, One Service, 10 am

No Sunday School on these Sundays.

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

Alex Thompson & Family (nephew of Debbie Leach)

Rodney Thompson Jane Herb Jill Vincent

Ted Jones

Continued Prayer Concerns

Michael Fortenberry

Lisa Dobbins



Dec 28, Wednesday

ELC Closed

No Bible Study at 11:00 am

No Wednesday night activities; No Choir

Dec 29, Thursday

ELC Closed

No Thursday Worship

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

Dec 30, Friday

Office Closed; No Ladle of Love

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

Thank You

to everyone who said a prayer, sent a card, brought delicious food or visited. A special thanks to my nephew, Tommy Lowe, Kim Watts, Gloria Rives, Barbara Condra, Harriet Murray, Diana Rampey and Gayle Spotnitz. Also thanks to the church staff and Eileen Graham and Caring Angels. I will be either healthy as a horse or fat as a pig.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jackie Herlong

Birthdays

Dec 25 Larry Hughes, Karen Crawford, Dawn Rains

Dec 26 Kaity Dorsett, Victoria Mills, Morris Gladden

Dec 27 Jon Hand, Belinda Tackaberry

Dec 28 Will Edwards, Frankie Leach

Dec 30 Sheila Freeman

Dec 31 Bill Leach



Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!

—Susan Swann

Week of December 18, 2022

In Person Total *121 Online 291
Worship Total 412 Thursday Worship *0
Celebration Service *48/150
Traditions Service *73/141
Adult Sunday School *33 Children 0
Bible Study Groups *16/34
Children *28 Youth *22 Nursery 0
Total Small Group Attendance *99/35
*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
General Offering Received \$18,268.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$671,925.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$686,165.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464



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