

## An Advent Sermon Series

9 am and 11 am  
Nov. 28 & Dec 5, 12, 19 & 26

4 pm and 6 pm Dec. 24

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

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



*A Manger Tapestry*  
*11:00 am, Sunday,*  
*December 12*

**Presented by the  
Chancel Choir and  
Orchestra**

**J.T. Harrell, MCM,  
Conductor**

### Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**,  
(In person @ Back Forty Beer  
Company)
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm

### Sunday Worship

**One United Worship Service**  
**11:00 am**  
**In person, Sanctuary**  
**& online**

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or on  
Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

**We hope that you will join us for...**

**A Child of Love**

Presented by GFUMC Kids

**5 PM, Sunday, December 12**

In the Sanctuary

**Followed by the Happy Birthday, Jesus Party**

In the Gym

**Worship with Gadsden First UMC this Christmas Eve!**

**4 PM Candlelight Service, Holy Communion**

**5 PM Live Nativity, Corner of 5th and Chestnut Street  
hosted by the GFUMC Youth Ministry!**

**6 PM Candlelight Service, Holy Communion**

### Tech Team Schedule

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

**December 12**

**One Service, 11 am**

Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

**December 19**

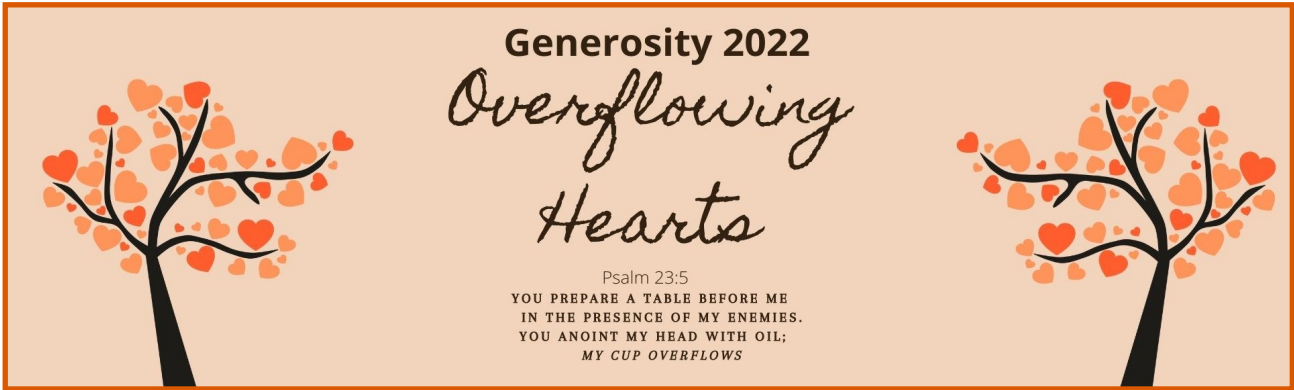
**Celebration:** Will Brookshire, Sheila  
Freeman, Mark Condra

**Traditions:** Sheila Freeman,  
Tammy Hayes

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**4:00 pm,** Will Brookshire, Bill Haller,  
Sheila Freeman

**6:00 pm,** Eric Wright,  
Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes



If your heart is also thankful, would you please prayerfully consider expressing your overflowing gratitude by giving your *service*, and by *praying* for your church, and by *supporting* its ministries financially in 2022? A card is enclosed for you to estimate your giving for 2022 and for you to say how you'd like to serve. This helps our church plan for the coming year! Cards are available in the worship services and in the Chestnut Street Lobby. Please return your Estimate of Giving as soon as possible.

*Pastor Sam*

Pastor Sam Hayes

*Jay*

Jay Hedgspeth, Generosity Chairman



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at 256-543-8200 or email [giving@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:giving@fumcgadsden.org).**

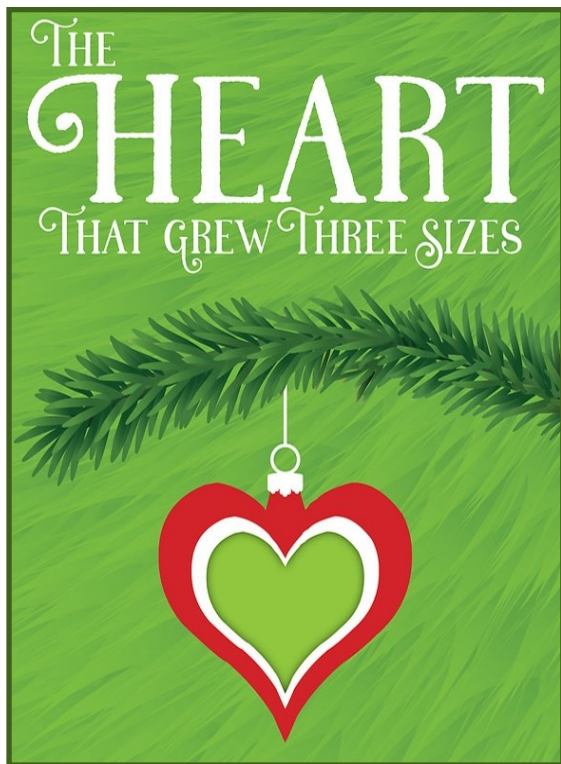
### Generosity-Ways to Give

- [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
- **Offering Plates** are located at the entrances the sanctuary.

Monthly Income						
Giving Percent	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
12%	180	300	600	900	1,200	1,500
10% The Tithe	150	250	500	750	1,000	1,250
8%	120	200	400	600	800	1,000
6%	90	150	300	450	600	750
4%	60	100	200	300	400	500
2%	30	50	100	150	200	250

2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.

- You can also fill out a 2022 Estimate of Giving Card online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org).
- Your estimate of giving card is confidential and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord.
- Please call the financial secretary anytime to discuss your giving plan.
- Please return your completed card to the church as soon as possible.



## Advent Sermon Series

**Nov. 28, First Sunday of Advent** — *“When Everything Is Wrong”*,  
9 am and 11 am, Hanging of the Greens in Both Services

**Dec. 5, Second Sunday of Advent** — *“When Christmas Isn’t Christmas”*,  
Celebration, 9 am and Traditions, 11 am

**Thurs. Dec. 9** — *Special GSCC A Capella Choir Concert in place of Thursday Worship. Everyone invited to come at 6 pm.*

**Dec 12, Third Sunday of Advent** —

One United Worship Service at 11:00 AM

Christmas Choir Cantata with Orchestra

**Special Worship: 5:00 pm – Children’s Christmas Musical in Sanctuary**

**Dec 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent** — *“When Joy Is Our Song”*  
Celebration, 9 am and Traditions, 11 am.

**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve** — *“You’d Better Watch Out”*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, In the Sanctuary

At 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm **(Live Nativity at 5 pm!)**

**Dec. 26, 1st Sun. after Christmas** — *“The Gifts We Forgot to Unwrap”*  
10:00 am, One United Worship Service

– Led by Celebration Praise Band

CELEBRATE WITH  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

# Christmas Cantata 11 AM December 12

*Choir &  
Orchestra*

1115 S. 5th Street  
Gadsden, Alabama 35904

DECEMBER 12, 2021 | 11 AM

GFUMC KIDS PRESENT

# A CHILD OF LOVE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH AT 5PM

*“I AM A CHILD OF GOD.” ~ JOHN 1:12*



## The Heart that Grew Three Sizes, Wednesdays in December!

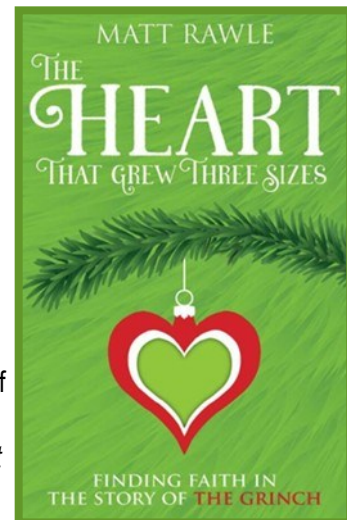


Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save

the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Join Pastor Sam on Wednesday mornings at 11 am in person or on Wednesday Nights at 6 pm, December 1, 8, 15, & 22, in the Gathering Room.



**Wednesday Bible Study w/ Pastor Sam at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm.  
12/8 Dinner at 5:15 PM: Chick-fil-a, \$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & Under**

## Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom—A Study of Genesis

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Tammy Jackson is leading the current study of Genesis 1-11, pre-history and what it means to us.

Go to [www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell) for more details.

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

## RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Water Sunday School Class, "Down to Earth" by Mike Slaughter, Chapel (118)
- Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, "Incarnation-Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton, Room 208

Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting.  
*Members are welcome to meet with another group until their class returns.*



## UMCNA Read Together

You are invited to join Bishop Wallace-Padgett and other North Alabama Conference United Methodist leaders in continuing this meaningful spiritual discipline. The 2022 plan will be based on writing genres. Each day of the week will include chapters from different types of Scripture. Sundays will be Gospel reading, Mondays will be law, Tuesdays history, Wednesdays we'll read Psalms, Thursdays poetry, Fridays prophets and Saturday will be epistles.

UMCNA will continue to maintain their [Facebook page](#) for comments and discussions on the daily reading and post weekly podcasts featuring meditations by North Alabama clergy and laity as they reflect on the readings for that week.

Please register your commitment to be a part of the Bishop's Bible Challenge. Through registration, UMCNA will be able to provide the materials you need. If you registered in a previous year, there is no need to register again.

The Read Together UMCNA podcast is listed on iTunes and will be posted weekly.

Go to <https://www.umcna.org/readtogether> to register and for links to the facebook page and UMCNA podcast.



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### *A Message from Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett*

Dear Friends,

II Corinthians 5:17 is one of my life verses. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."

The Greek word Paul chose for new in this verse is *kainos* referencing a new creation that has not existed previously. This has greater implications than if Paul had instead used *neos*, meaning new in an already established category.

The biblical concept of *kainos* new is a pillar of Christian doctrine. Since God is about the work of making us new every day, we are transformed throughout our lives into a new creation, continuously growing in our resemblance to the one we follow, Jesus Christ. Evidence of this transformation is seen in our words, attitudes, actions, and lifestyle.

One way that we open ourselves to experience *kainos* new is by practicing the spiritual discipline of reading Scripture. This is because we encounter God in the pages of Scripture. And each time we meet the living God, we are changed.

With that in mind, I invite you to join me in reading through the Bible together as a North Alabama Conference in 2022. This initiative which was first launched in North Alabama by our Adult Ministries Team is a way in which we open ourselves to experience God's presence and *kainos* new on an individual basis and as a conference.

While we will be reading the Bible through the year from cover-to-cover, each week participants will read from the Gospel, Law, History, Psalms, Poetry, Prophecy and the Epistles. A detailed reading list will be made available after registering for Read Together 2022.

I have discovered first-hand how formative it is for an individual to read the Bible cover-to-cover each year. This is multiplied many times more as we Read Together as a North Alabama community.

Many thanks to the Adult Ministries Team, chaired by Stephanie Sparks and staffed by Assistant Director of Communication Lyn Cosby, for their work across the years on the Read Together initiative. The team will be publicizing the details of Read Together 2022 in the near future. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider joining me in reading through the Bible in 2022 as we continue to become *kainos* new in Christ as individuals and as a North Alabama community.

As always, it is a privilege to serve as your bishop.

Blessings,

Debra Wallace-Padgett

Resident Bishop

Holston and North Alabama Conferences



## Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Nights Youth Group

6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

**Youth Christmas Party on Wed Dec 15th**

**Youth Live Nativity on Dec 24th 5pm-6pm**

**Save the Date: Youth Super Bowl Party, February 13, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm.**

Confirmation Classes will begin on January 9th. Time: 5:00-7:00 pm each Sunday night. *Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Jan 9th, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th. Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.*

## ELC News

- ◇ Our annual Christmas Program was Thursday, December 9th. The children did a great job of spreading Christmas Joy!! Afterwards, we all had fun at class parties.
- ◇ ELC's Christmas break will run from Friday, December 10th through Monday, January 3rd. Doors open Tuesday, January 4th for our Spring 2022 semester.

—Helene Haller

## Wednesday, December 15, Chick-fil-a

\$7 per person \$3 for Ages 11 and under

Please text your reservation to 256.490.5018 by noon on Mondays.

## Children's Ministry



## "Celebrate Wonder"

Children's Church

In-Person, Sundays

9 am and 11 am during Worship

Children's Worship Room (Room 108)







## Angel Tree Ministry

**Reminder: All Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church by this Friday, December 10!** Thank you for taking an Angel from the Angel Tree in the Sanctuary and for participating in this Special Project to bring **JOY** to a child at Christmas time!

- Label all gift items with code at bottom of list and return to the church! (No need to wrap!)
- Other instructions can be found on the back of the list!
- If you need assistance or have a question, please call the church office and we will be glad to help!

## Missions for November

Thank you to everyone who shopped for a family and filled a bag with groceries to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated! Also a Big Thank you goes out to all who gave so generously to purchase the cakes for the CommUnity Thanksgiving Celebration. This kindness shown by our congregation shines Christ Love to all who receive it!

—Your Mission Team

## Striplin Elementary School

The A/B Honor Roll Bags were given to students recently and the \$50.00 Visa cards for the "Teacher's of the Month" will be given out soon. It takes \$600.00 to fulfill our commitment to all of the Teachers' cards. PLEASE give to support our adopted school so we can help make a difference in the lives of our children. Thank you for your continued generosity, —Your Mission Team

## UMW NEWS

### Welcome 2022 UMW Executive Board Members!

President, Barbara Bennett  
 Vice President, Delores Abney  
 Treasurer, Jamie Payton  
 Secretary, Dotty Ivey  
 Parliamentarian, Eileen Graham  
 Historian, Susan Copeland  
 Secretary of Howell Erwin Fund, Debbie Hiltz  
 Secretary of Program Resources, Debbie Leach.



*Following the December Luncheon and Christmas Program by the Early Learning Center Children, UMW ladies delivered poinsettias to our church members who are at home.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our entire church family from the United Methodist Women!*

## 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

**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)

### Church Phone

**256-543-8200**

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

**#gfumcreconnect2021**

## Calendar for December 12-December 18, 2021

### December 12, Sunday

11:00 am, One United Worship Service,  
Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream  
"A Manger Tapestry", Christmas Cantata, with Choir and  
Orchestra

### December 13, Monday

#### **ELC Christmas Break**

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym  
10:30 am, UMW Executive Board, Room 208  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

### December 14, Tuesday

5:00-6:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

### December 15, Wednesday

11:00 am, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208  
5:15 pm, Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room  
6:00 pm, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208  
6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108  
6:00 pm, Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

### December 16, Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym  
6:00 pm, Thursday Worship  
6:00 pm, Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse

### December 17, Friday

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

## Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon.

Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.

**Special Holiday Schedule**—Announcements and news for the Sunday, December 26 newsletter should be turned in to the church office by Tuesday, December 21 at noon. Announcements and news for the Sunday, January 1 newsletter should be turned in to the church office by Tuesday, December 28 at noon. *Thank you and Merry Christmas! —Church Staff*

### **Week of December 5, 2021**

\*In Person Total \*180 Overall Total 597  
Online Viewer Total 311 Mosaic \*20  
Thursday \*7 Adult Sunday School \*25  
Celebration \*60/136 Traditions \*93/175  
Children \*32 Youth \*19 UMW \*  
Bible Study Groups \*14/10 Other \*  
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00  
General Offering Received \$21,762.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$744,800.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$639,681.00

**2022 "Overflowing Hearts"**  
**Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:**  
**66 for \$271,586.00**



**Dec 12** Jessica Hopper,  
Sara Catheryne Freeman

**Dec 13** Dick Abel, Danny Jackson,  
Jon Ford, Jackson Skelton

**Dec 14** Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives,  
Mike Haney, Tommy Hiltz

**Dec 15** Danna Dean, Helene Haller,

**Dec 16** Cindy Norris, Jen Hester

**Dec 17** Leone Norris, Len Arnold,  
Genevieve Corley

**Dec 18** Mary Ann Watkins, Jim Moss,  
Delores Abney, Brandy Berry,  
Dylan Skipper

## Honorariums and Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Dave and Sissie Jensen

In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Mary McSpadden

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Stan Walker Lisa Dobbins Jan Humphrey  
Nancy Smith Bryant Grizzell Sandy Self

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Carma Rayburn Jerry McGinnis Susan Swann  
Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)  
Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)



## Poinsettias

**Cost \$20.00 each**

Service: ☐ Celebration ☐ Tradition

Date:  December 19

Donated by

In Honor of  In Memory of

Name