

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING

"Refreshing Our Hope"

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

1/1/2023

Sermon Notes

"Refreshing Our Hope"

How was your Christmas? Has anyone asked you that question this week? I want to ask you a different question: If Netflix was going to make a new reality show based on your Christmas this year, what would it be called? Would it be called, "The Manger Scene?" A manger scene at Christmas is so beautiful and peaceful. Everyone has a serene look on their faces – everything is in its place. Glowing haloes are over the babies and parents. It's quiet, except for the angelic choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace and goodwill to all." I really hope your Christmas was like that! But maybe instead of "The Manger Scene," your reality show would be called, "The Scary Dream." Maybe this was the first Christmas since your divorce. Maybe you lost a loved one this year, and all you could see was the empty chair at the table. Maybe you spent this Christmas without a job – without means to buy gifts for those you love. You might have gotten a scary diagnosis from your doctor. This Christmas might have felt like a nightmare for you – one from which you couldn't wake up. Our hope in the new year can be refreshed regardless of the "reality" of our current circumstances because of Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us; Son of Man, God identifying with us. With us? Identifying with us? Yes! The first Christmas family – Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus – knew what it was like to have a beautiful "manger scene" Christmas, filled with wonder and awe. But they also knew something about the "scary dreams" as well. We read about it in our gospel lesson for this Sunday.

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." 19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean." (Matt. 2: 13-23 NRSV)

Our hope is refreshed in the New Year because whatever life brings our way in 2023 – manger scenes or scary dreams – God is with us.

See you Sunday, Pastor Sam

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule
Page 2—January 2023 Sermon Series
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—Generosity 2023; End of Year Giving
Page 7—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

January 8 Silas Hosey and Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

January 1

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

January 8

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman,
 Brad Barnes

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING



Refreshing Our Hope 1/1/23



Remembering Our Baptism 1/8/23



Refreshing Our Commitment 1/15/23



Remembering Why We Are Here 1/22/23

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Thursday Worship 5:30 pm Sundays, 9 am and 11 am

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)

Have you downloaded the Church App?

Search: FUMCGadsden
Available in the App Stores
for Android or iPhone



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

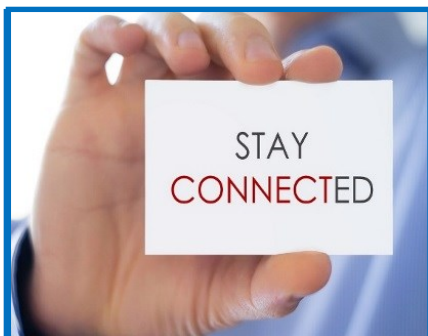
will not meet on

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

Happy New Year to all our ELC Faculty and Families.
Spring 2023 semester starts **Wednesday, January 4th**.
Regular hours will be observed.

—*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 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

GFUMC Kids
Spring Calendar

"Fort Night" Family Night
February 1 🏠📖

March Madness
March 22 🏀🏈

Easter Egg Hunt
April 1 ✝️

Wonderful Wednesdays Children's Church
Wednesday's Sunday's
@ 6:00 @ 9:00 and 11:00

www.fumcgadsden.org/children • Proverbs 22:6

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

January

Jan 4	Jan 11
We can see God through Jesus.	We can hear God's voice if we listen.

February

Feb 1	Feb 8
Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.	Our enemies help us learn to love.

Jan 18	Jan 25
God is powerful!	Following God makes us stand out.

Feb 15	Feb 23
Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.	Ash Wednesday

You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Mission Focus

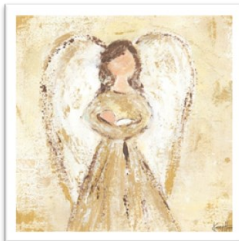
Embrace Alabama Kids ...Formerly "UMCH "White Christmas"

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. Closed
December 30.

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2022

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



As of December 25, 2022
57 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$322,084.00 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 January 1-7, 2023

Jan 1, Sunday

10:00 am One Service, Sanctuary
No Sunday School

Jan 2, Monday

ELC Closed

Office Closed

Jan 3, Tuesday

ELC Closed

9:00-11:00 am Clothes Closet Workday

Jan 4, Wednesday

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

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

11:00 am-12:00 pm Bible Study, Room 208,

Jan 4, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm Small Groups, Rooms 110 & 208

6:00 pm Children's Bible Group & activities, Room 108

6:00 pm Youth Group, Gym & Room 211

Jan 5, 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

Jan 6, Friday

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

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Dr. Stephen Blackstock and Karen in the death of his mother, Jane Blackstock on December 22, 2022.



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Randy & Edith James.

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by John & Glenda Argo

Ladle of Love

In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Mr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.

Music Fund

In Honor of J.T. Harrell, Benny McNair, & Rhonda Robinson, given by Jan Humphrey.

Benevolence Fund

In Honor of Pastor Sam Hayes, Pastor Andy Yarnell, & Church office staff, given by Jan Humphrey.

Clothes Closet Fund

In memory of Carolyn Humphrey, given by Jan Humphrey.

Library Fund

In memory of Allen Waldrup, given by Mr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Jane Blackstock
Rodney Thompson Jane Herb

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jill Vincent Ted Jones
Michael Fortenberry
Lisa Dobbins



Birthdays

Jan 3 Paula Wilson, Scott Adams, Molly Page

Jan 4 Steven Williams, Shelly Hester, Franklin Leach, Ethan Dennis, Luke Barnes

Jan 5 Christie Knowles, David McCoy

Jan 6 Nancy Whitt, Lowndes Harrison, Harry Hager, Robert Hager

Jan 7 Jenny Skelton, Ross Hudak



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

Week of December 25, 2022

In Person Total *355 Online 646
Worship Total 1,001 Thursday Worship *42
One Worship Service *66/154
Adult Sunday School *0 Children 0
Bible Study Groups *21/32
Children *18 Youth *20 Nursery 2
Total Small Group Attendance *61/32
Christmas Eve Services 4pm *165/256
6pm *82/236 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
General Offering Received \$24,974.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$685,100.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$711,139.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464



Generosity 2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

As of December 25, 2022

57 Estimate of Giving

Cards received for

\$322,084.00 Funds