

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING

"Remembering Our Baptism"

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

1/8/2023

Sermon Notes

"Remembering Our Baptism"

Throughout the season of Advent, we looked at different titles given to Jesus. Jesus is Emmanuel, Son of Man, Lord, Savior... In the opening chapters of the Gospel of Matthew, we see several different titles. Jesus is "son of David/son of Abraham" (genealogically speaking - 1: 1); Jesus is "Savior" (angelically speaking - 1:20-21); He is "Emmanuel/Ruler/Nazorean" (prophetically speaking - 1:23, 2:6); Jesus is "king of the Jews" (according to the Magi - 2:2), and "the one more powerful who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire" (according to John the Baptist - 3:3). There is a declaration of title that comes from One whose authority is above all the ones I just mentioned...God. Listen to what God declares about Jesus in this week's gospel:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3: 13-17. NRSV)

God declares Jesus to be "My son, the Beloved...the one in whom I am well pleased." (3:17) While all those other names and titles are correct, it is God who completes the picture of who Jesus really is!

Maybe you have wondered why Jesus, son of David, Savior, Messiah, king of the Jews, son of God, etc... would come to John the Baptist to be baptized in the first place. Shouldn't it be the other way around? (that's what John asked). Maybe you have wondered how this baptism is connected to our own baptisms today. Join us this Sunday to learn more about this, and to remember your baptism.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Sam

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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

ACOLYTES

January 8: Silas Hosey and Luke Barnes

January 15: Anna Kate Casey and Hadley Hedgspeth

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

January 8

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

January 15

Celebration: Joe Pritchard, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, 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)
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

Have you downloaded the Church App?

Search: FUMCGadsden
Available in the App Stores



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

January 11 Italian Night

**Adults \$7 Ages 11 & Under \$3
Family Max \$20**

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings, 11 am

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

- ♦ Christianity and World Religions w/ Pastor Sam, Room 208
- ♦ Good Boundaries and Goodbyes w/Harriet Murray, Room 110

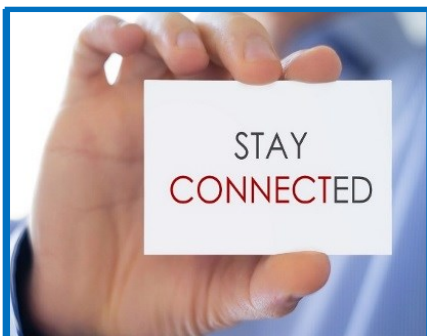
**Men at the Well
Thursday Mornings
7:00 am**

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.

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!
- 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

Welcome to Spring 2022. We welcomed some new friends and were so excited to see our old friends and teachers. Our spring fundraiser is starting. Support the ELC and purchase a Randazzo's King Cake for your Mardi Gras celebration.

—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.

Wednesday, January 18- Luau Night
(Let's pretend it's not winter)
Sunday, February 12-Super Bowl Party

—Pastor Andy

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— January 11
Italian Night! \$7 per person, 11 & Under-\$3, Family Max \$20

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	February
Jan 4 We can see God through Jesus.	Feb 1 Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.
Jan 11 We can hear God's voice if we listen.	Feb 8 Our enemies help us learn to love.
Jan 18 God is powerful!	Feb 15 Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.
Jan 25 Following God makes us stand out.	Feb 23 Ash Wednesday

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

Mission Focus

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.



GFUMC



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

You Rocked 2022-A Year in Review for Missions

January– Supported UMCOR US Disaster Relief Advance #901670.

February– Filled Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR Warehouse.

March– Shower of Love for *The Love Center*. Packed Backpacks for Jail Ministry and distributed through the *Freedom Center* on Meighan Blvd..

April– Provided volunteers for *Remote Area Medical*-RAM Clinic. Gadsden First UMC served lunch to 438 R.A.M. Volunteers on Sat, 4/23.

May– *Striplin Adopt-a-School* —sponsored A/B Honor Roll Parties, End of the Year Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Gift Cards and Certificates.

June– Donated clothes for the *Clothes Closet* ALL Call!

July– *Christmas in July*-Stockings were filled for the Salvation Army to give to children at Christmas!

August– *Striplin Adopt-a-School*– Served "Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast" & received donations for Striplin projects.

September– Collected supplies for the *Etowah Free Clinic*.

October– Supported *Manna*-community meals for homebound.

November-- Provided cakes and volunteers for the *CommUnity Thanksgiving* and filled Thanksgiving Food Bags for the *Salvation Army*.

December– Provided gifts for 30 *Angel Tree* kids and celebrated with the kids at the A/B Honor Roll Party at Striplin Elementary. Collected items for the Backpack Jail Ministry.

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.

UMW News

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

The program will be presented by Samantha Frost, RN. She is with the Infection Prevention and Control Team for the Northeastern District of Alabama Department of Public Health. She 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



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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



As of 12.27.22
58 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$324,484.00 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.



The Friends of the ELC Present

AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA KING CAKES

 FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER 

Small Traditional \$20	Medium Traditional \$25
Small Filled* \$25	Medium Filled* \$30
*Cream Cheese or Strawberry	
Small Pecan Praline \$30	Medium Pecan Praline \$35

Deadline to order: January 23, 2023

Make checks payable to "Friends of the ELC".
Final order count and money is due January 23, 2023.
Cakes will be available for pickup at First UMC Gadsden on February 4, 2023.

Authentic Louisiana King Cakes Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Type of Cake	Quantity	Price	Total
Small Traditional 12" Circle, Feeds approx. 10		\$ 20.00	
Medium Traditional 12"x16" Oval, Feeds approx. 25		\$ 25.00	
Small Filled* 12"		\$ 25.00	
*Cream Cheese or Strawberry (Circle One)			
Medium Filled* 12"x16"		\$ 30.00	
*Cream Cheese or Strawberry (Circle One)			
Small Pecan Praline 12"		\$ 30.00	
Medium Pecan Praline 12"x16"		\$ 35.00	
Total Quantity and Total Amount Due			

Calendar for January 8-14, 2023

Jan 8 Sunday

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

Jan 9, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

Jan 10 Tuesday

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

Jan 11 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 11:00 am Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208

Jan 11 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 12 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 10:00 am Mission Team meeting, Gathering Room
 5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Jan 13 Friday

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

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Dr. Jess Hester Dorothy Robinson
 Jane Herb Scott Dobbins

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson
 Jill Vincent Ted Jones
 Michael Fortenberry
 Lisa Dobbins



In Memory of His Life
Dr. Jesse Drake Hester
December 28, 2022



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of James Rayburn given by Joseph & Angela Rayburn.

Benevolence Fund

In memory of Sara Ivey given by Louise Ferguson.
 In memory of Yvonne Bomar Phillips given by Louise Ferguson.

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Steve and Sherri Watson

Birthdays

Jan 9 Anna Mullin, Bob Oltman,
 Timothy Isbell
Jan 11 Tallie Reagan Beckett,
 Alli Gardner
Jan 13 Craig Marble, Heather New,
 Bay Brown
Jan 14 Alexis McCollum



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

Week of January 1, 2023

In Person Total *70 Online 188
 Worship Total 258 Thursday Worship *0
 One Worship Service *70/188
 Adult Sunday School *0 Children 0
 Bible Study Groups *0
 Children *3 Youth *19 Nursery 2
 Total Small Group Attendance *24
 *In Person

2023

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received \$4,599.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$4,599.00

As of January 1, 2023
58 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$323,284.00 Funds

As of December 31, 2022

General Offering Budget
 \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received
 \$16,059.33
 YTD General Offering Budget
 \$685,100.00
 YTD General Offering Received
 \$727,098.33