



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

1-3-21 Sermon Notes "The Epiphany of Change"

Merry...I mean, Happy... Epiphany! This is Epiphany Sunday, and although this Sunday does not get the attention that Christmas does, it is still an important part of the Christmas story. When we think of Epiphany, we usually picture Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. But what does it *mean*? The word, *epiphany*, actually means "appearance," or "manifestation." It's sort of like an "aha!" moment (think a light bulb coming on over a person's head). Now we can see something that was once hidden. The Scripture for this Sunday is from Matthew's Gospel:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men ^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah ^[a] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (Matt. 2: 1-12 NRSV)

This Sunday, we will explore what it means to follow the Magi's example by "seeing the light, seeking the light, and selling out to the light." I hope you will join us by livestream at 9:00 or at 11:00.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday,
Online only 12/29 & 1/5/21
- **Thursday Worship:**
will not meet 12/31 &
1/7/2021
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,**
9:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only 1/3 & 1/10/2021
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,**
11:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only 1/3 & 1/10/2021
- **Sunday, January 3, 2021**
5:00-6:00 pm, Drive Thru
Holy Communion, Portico

* All in person worship requires social distancing & masks.

Remember to return
your 2021 "Estimate of
Giving" Card to the
church office.



UMW News

Happy New Year!
From the UMW
Board Members and
Circle Leaders

Missions for December

White Christmas

Each year during the Christmas season, we are reminded there is no greater joy for us than giving to others. Since 1930, the White Christmas Offering has enabled Methodists to share their blessings with those whose circumstances in life just haven't been fair. These children and young adults certainly didn't sign up to be in the situation they're in, and with your support, they have the hope of a much brighter tomorrow. Mark your special offering for "UMCH White Christmas" and give comfort and joy this Christmas!



Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2020 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 on December 27th or delivered to the office on or before December 30th.*
- 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 31st.*
- 5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 31st. Please inform Jane at the office about a stock transfer.*

For questions or more info, please contact Jane at the church office at 543-8200 or Jane@fumcgadsden.org no later than December 30th.

We are here for you!

We are still taking precautions by keeping the church office closed to the public.

We ask that all business be conducted by email, phone or text whenever possible.

In-person visits are by appointment only. You may call for an appointment or if you or someone you know has a need that we can help with, please call us or email us between 8:00 am--4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If no answer, please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

A MASK is required If you are coming to the office for an appointment or attending any service or activity at the church. If you do not have one, we have masks available for you.

Stay Well. Stay Safe. —Your Church Staff!

Clothes Closet

Workday

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street

Gadsden, AL

*Clothes Closet Winter

Needs: Gloves, Scarves, and Coats. Please check your closets and bring any items that you are no longer wearing.

Ladle of Love

There will be no Ladle of Love on Friday, December 25 and January 1.

We will resume on January 8 at our usual time: Fridays, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, outside in the portico.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumconnect2020



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers.

Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family. All Journey Groups are currently meeting virtually. #GFUMCConnect2020

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am, Zoom
Contact the church office for more information.

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting with
Ken Casey, George Varner and Grover Kitchens

New Zoom Study for January

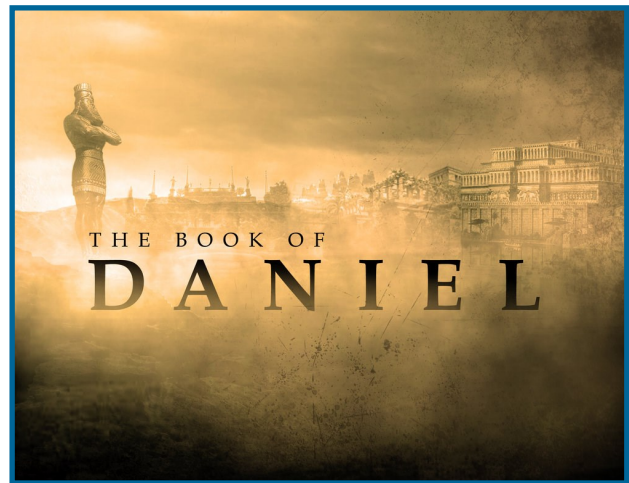
More information will be coming soon!

Text me (256) 328-3679 to find out how to join the study! —Barbara Condra

The Book of Daniel Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Starts January 6, 2021

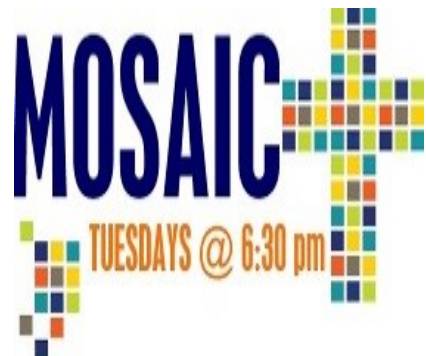
Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Online



Join Pastor Andy for Mosaic

—A unique worship experience that includes a homily, discussion, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is particularly designed for those who have felt hurt or rejected.

December 22 through January 5 the worship service will be *Live stream only*.



ELC News

Christmas Break is
**December 11th thru
January 3rd.** First day
back is **January 4th.**

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

December

*Youth will not meet December
23 and 30. We are making
plans for an awesome 2021!*

Youth will be meeting at 6 pm on
Wednesday nights in the gym, youth
room, & room 108 during December.

Virtual Sunday School
Sundays at 10:00 am



Former Youth- check out our college
and career Instagram page to stay up to
date with future social distancing
gatherings.

**Join Andy on Facebook Live
or Instagram.**

Safe Sanctuary Policy: All children and youth volunteers must have Safe Sanctuary Training prior to beginning to work with children or youth and annually thereafter. A background check is required. In addition, volunteers must have been members of the church for 6 months or more, be 5 years older than the group they are working with and there must always be at least 2 unrelated adults present for all activities and events. Other rules apply for field trips or overnight trips. Contact the church office Sheila@fumcgadsden.org for more information.

Children's Ministry News

***Children will not meet
Wednesday, December 30.***

***Children's Break continues on Facebook on Sundays
and Wednesdays!***

***Children's Church meets Sundays during worship at 9
am or 11 am!***



Hello everyone! I have a few important things to mention:

1. There will not be Wednesday activities on Wednesday, December 23 or December 30.
2. Starting Sunday, December 27, Gadsden First will return to virtual services. Each Sunday, I will post our children's church lesson at 10:00 on our children's facebook page.
3. We will continue in-person Wednesday night activities for the children and the youth. Depending on the weather and the youth schedule, the children's activities will either be in Room 108 or in the gym.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday! My phone number is 245-393-3051 if you need anything or have questions.

—Katharine

Prayer Service for Healthcare Professionals (Online)

Sunday, January 10, 2021 @ 5:00 pm

- Help us thank our friends and neighbors who are providing critical care during this global pandemic by placing a yard sign at your home or place of business!
- *Yard Signs will be available beginning, January 6 at the church office. (Donations of \$5 per sign are appreciated but not required.)*
- Join us online (church website and facebook live) at 5:00 pm on January 10, as we thank the healthcare professionals in our communities!

Thank You!

♥ **We love our ♥
Healthcare Workers**

**First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden**

Worship with GFUMC on Sunday Mornings Online LIVE

9:00 am Celebration and 11:00 am Traditions

Where to connect:

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

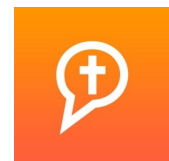
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: **FUMCGadsden**

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



"Counting Our Blessings" Estimate of Giving 2021

As of 12/21/20 we have received 67 "Estimate of Giving" Cards with a total of \$264,016.00.

If you haven't turned your card in, please return it to the church office. Additional cards are available in the church office. Budget planning for 2021 has begun.

Generosity

- **Give online:**
www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- **Text to Give:**
256-344-8464
- **Mail your tithe or gift to the church:**
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Calendar for week of January 3-9, 2021

Jan 3, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Online
 10:00 am, Sunday School, GoToMeeting
 10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook
 10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online
 11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Online
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm, Holy Communion, Portico

Jan 4, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

Jan 5, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Online

Jan 6, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open
 6:00 pm, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Online

Jan 7, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

No Thursday Worship

Jan 8, Friday

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

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of Sonya Cantrell, given by Evelyn Pierson.
 In memory of Jim Bennett, given by Neita Taylor.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Neita Taylor.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Tom & Sharon Quinn.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by the Garner Family: Lora Mae, Rickey, Miria, Betty, and Wayne Gore.

Ladle of Love Fund:

In memory of Bill Hale, given by Stan & Pat Walker.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Sam & Leone Norris.

Missions Fund:

In memory of Bill Hale, given by Charles & Barbara Hart.
 In memory of Robert Brownlee Centerfit, given by Charles & Barbara Hart.

In Memory of Her Life

Anne Byram



December 25, 2020

In Memory of Her Life

Redia Brooks



December 26, 2020

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Michael & Merry Blevins in the death of his mother,

Mamie Lou Blevins



December 16, 2020

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin Joanne Hightower Leda Taylor
 Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)
 The Family of Anne Byram
 The Family of Redia Brooks
 The Family of Mamie Lou Blevins

Continued Prayer Concerns

Leda Taylor Wayne Payton Ron Garry
 Wanda Hemby Ina Davis
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)



Birthdays.....

Jan 3 Paula Wilson, Scott Adams, Molly Page
Jan 4 Steven Williams, Shelly Hester, Franklin Leach, Luke Barnes
Jan 5 Christie Knowles, David McCoy
Jan 6 Nancy Whitt, Lowndes Harrison, Harry Hager, Robert Hager
Jan 7 Ina Davis, Katie Grimes, Jenny Skelton, Ross Hudak
Jan 9 Anna Mullin, Sue Roberts, Timothy Isbell



Week of December 27, 2020

Online Viewer Total 395 *In Person Total 156
 Total overall 551 Celebration *10/122
 Traditions *8/135 Mosaic 27 Thursday 0
 Youth 0 Children 0 Bible Study Groups 15
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm *75/123
Christmas Eve 6:00 pm *63/145 Online Total 268
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$16,858.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$802,880.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$745,868.00