

# WHY JESUS?

Pastor Sam Hayes  
Sunday, March 14, 2021

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

## 3-14-21

## Sermon Notes

## "Why Jesus?"

I'll bet that almost everyone (even those who don't claim to be Christian) can tell you what John 3: 16 says. But what led up to that famous verse? What does Jesus say right before John 3: 16, and what does Jesus say after it? Jesus was talking to a guy named Nicodemus. Who was he?

Nicodemus was "a leader of the Jews," which means that he was a member of the Jewish ruling council known as the Sanhedrin. He came to Jesus at night. Why? Some have claimed that Nicodemus was a spy, trying to somehow trick Jesus. I don't think so. I think Nicodemus was someone actually seeking the truth. The main reason I think this, is that Nicodemus is later revealed as a believer. He comes with Joseph of Arimathea to prepare Jesus' body for a proper Jewish burial (John 19: 39).

And what about the other things surrounding John 3:16? Sunday we will look at this passage:

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

(John 3: 14-21)

Join us Sunday as we look at some of the things Jesus says in this famous passage and ask, "Why Jesus?"

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Sam

## Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, online and in person
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,** 9:00 am, Sanctuary online and in person
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,** 11:00 am, Sanctuary online and in person

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)  
or on facebook live:  
[@fumcGadsden](https://www.facebook.com/fumcGadsden)



# Show Love to Sumatanga

**Who:** All Ages

**What:** GFUMC Camp Sumatanga Service Day

Camp Sumatanga Rd, Gallant, AL 35972

**When:** The new date for the "Show Love to Sumatanga" Day of Service is this Saturday, March 13 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm!

*Everyone welcome! Come and join the Day of Service at Camp Sumatanga. Bring gloves, rakes, clippers, trimmers, saws and other tools. Remember to wear enclosed shoes (no slides or sandals), sunscreen and bug spray. The projects will be mostly outdoors!*

**GFUMC**



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

## MARCH MISSIONS UPDATE

### GFUMC "Show Love" to the Love Center



The Love Center is a nonprofit shelter for homeless women and families. The Love Center provides food, clothing and necessities for residents as well as assistance with securing employment and housing. Counseling is provided by qualified volunteers.

Please Join Us For a

### Kitchen Shower

Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

10:A.M.

at the Gadsden Amphitheater

### Let's shower them with:

**Dawn soap, paper towels, toilet paper, dishwasher pods, hand sanitizer bottles.**

There will be Red Buckets positioned around at the amphitheater for collecting items. If you are unable to come on Palm Sunday, please drop your items at the church. Red Buckets will be in the Lobby, Narthex and Portico. We hope to fill their cabinets with these much needed items. —The Mission Team

## 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

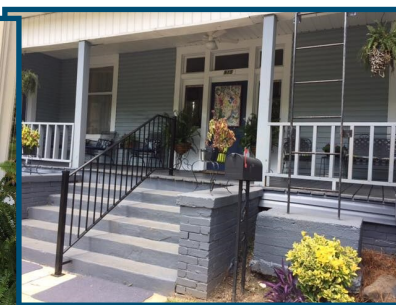
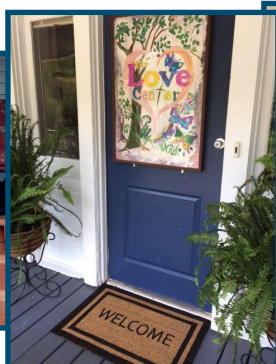
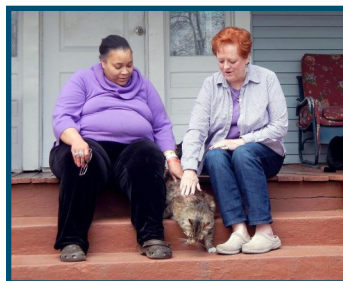
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

**Church Phone**

256-543-8200

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

**#gfumcreconnect2021**





## The Alleluia Offering 2021

will be received on **Easter Sunday, April 4**. Consider your gift to this special offering that will help **expand the mission and ministries of Gadsden First UMC in new and exciting ways!** Your Alleluia Offering may be given in the offering plates in the sanctuary or returned to the church office or through eGiving marked **"Alleluia Offering"**.



**MARCH 28 10:00 AM**

# **PALM SUNDAY**

**ONE UNITED WORSHIP SERVICE  
GADSDEN AMPHITHEATER**



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

90 Walnut Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901

**Gadsden First UMC will celebrate Palm Sunday at the Gadsden Amphitheater.**

- One United Worship
- Praise Band
- Sunday Sermon
- Activities for All Ages
- Photo Booth
- Petting Zoo
- Food Truck

*\*Masks Recommended.  
Social Distancing by  
Households required.*

## Holy Week Services

**Holy Week Noon Services** will be M-F, March 29 through April 2, from 12:05 PM to 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary—in person and live stream. *No lunch served.*

### **Guest Pastors:**

**Monday**– Kevin Asbury, Christ Central UMC  
**Tuesday**– Laura Satterfield, Christ Central UMC  
**Wednesday**– Billy York, Christ Central UMC  
**Thursday**– Matt Smith, Southside UMC  
**Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 pm**  
**Friday**– Dee Dowdy, Rainbow City UMC

## Easter Sunday, April 4

**Sonrise Service**  
Online Only

**Worship\* at 9 am  
and 11 am**  
**In the Sanctuary.**  
*In Person & Live Stream*

*\*Masks and Social  
Distancing Required.*



# GFUMC Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 3  
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

THE CASEY FARM  
108 CASEY DRIVE  
GADSDEN, AL 35903



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

## *Easter Lilies for the Altar*

Given in Honor or in Memory  
of a loved one.

Place your order by contacting the church office  
256.543.8200 or [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)

Lilies are \$20.00 Each



**GIVEN**  
\_\_\_\_ **IN MEMORY**   **OR**   \_\_\_\_ **IN HONOR**

**OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**BY** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Celebration   \_\_\_\_\_ Traditions

Number of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total



## ELC News

Registration for church member students who are not currently enrolled will begin Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are a church member and potentially interested in your child attending, please text or email Helene asap. Spring pictures will be Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our next lunchbox revolt will be Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have Papa John's Pizza and the cost is \$3. Scholastic Book Orders are due Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Easter parties and egg hunts. More details coming soon.

—Helene Haller

## Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Nights at 6:00 pm  
Sunday School at 10 am

### Upcoming Events:

**March 13th– Camp Sumatanga  
Service Day**

**March 20th-Hike @ Cherokee  
Rock Village**

**April 17th-Kayaking @ Big Wills  
Creek**

**May 8th-Max Cochran 5K run @  
Noccalula Falls**

**May 23rd-Senior Sunday**



Join Andy on Facebook Live  
or Instagram.  
Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

# Children's Ministry News

## Children's Church Family Night:

### Paint Party

Wednesday, March 24 @ 6:00 in the gym

Families will create works of art with  
step-by-step guidance!



\*A food truck will be available.

### "Celebrate Wonder"

Facebook Live in the Children's Ministry Group

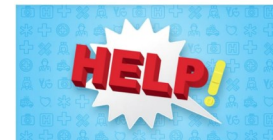
@ 10:00 am Sunday mornings!

May be viewed live or watched later.

Wednesday Night Children's Church

6:00 pm (in person)

Room 108 & gym



Children's Church, Wednesday's at 6:00

A 4-WEEK SERIES ON MOSES & THE EXODUS

WE CAN ALWAYS CALL ON GOD FOR THE THINGS WE NEED!

God helps us when we're helpless.

Exodus 1:22-2:10

God helps us when we're in trouble.

Exodus 7:14-10:29

God helps us in our weakness.

Exodus 3:1-14

God helps us to help others.

Exodus 15:22-25

## Easter Egg Hunt

April 3, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

@ 108 Casey Dr, Gadsden, AL 35903

## Palm Sunday, March 28

Children: please meet at 9:30 at the back/top  
of the amphitheater seating area.

Palm Sunday is March 28, and we will  
have one church service at the  
downtown Amphitheater at 10:00. The  
children will walk down the aisles  
waving palm branches as we have in the  
past. They will also sing two songs,  
Hosanna and Grow in the Grace. We  
have been singing and dancing to these  
songs on Sunday's and Wednesday's for  
a few weeks!— Mrs. Katharine

Gadsden First United Methodist Church invites you to

# Discovery on Adventure Island

REGISTER ON THE  
CHURCH WEBSITE  
OR FACEBOOK  
PAGE!



Vacation  
Bible School

June 7-June 10

**Have you thought about what you are “giving up” for Lent?** Not everyone does this, but it is an ancient practice of self-denial for 40 days, helping us to remember Jesus’ journey through the wilderness and the testing that came with it. It is meant to help prepare us for Good Friday and for Easter!

**Have you thought about what you are “picking up” for Lent?** In addition to giving up something, why not also pick up something? Pick up a few minutes of prayer during your lunch hour every day. Pick up your support of a charity that means a lot to you. Or... pick up an extra devotional for the 40 Days of Lent. Need help with that last one? Pastor Sam will be posting a devotional blog from Fat Tuesday (Feb. 16) and the 40 days following. The Lenten Devotional is entitled, **“Weird Is The New Normal,”** and will focus on 40 questions from the Book of Genesis. The devotional blog will be posted on the **“Home” tab of the GFUMC Church APP** and on the **church website blog page: [www.fumcgadsden.org/blog](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/blog)** We pray that picking up this spiritual practice for 40 days will help you on your Lenten Journey!

--Pastor Sam



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### Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, God’s Word of Life, Daily Bible Readings  
*Contact the church office for more information.*

**Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am,** GoToMeeting with Ken Case, George Varner & Grover Kitchens



### Zoom Study: Lenten Study w/Barbara Condra

**Mondays** at 6:00 pm: New study for Lent is beginning! Call or text Barbara Condra for codes 256-328-3679. Please join us!

**NEW! Wednesdays, 6:00 pm, Beginning March 3 w/ Harriet Murray:**  
**“Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley, Room 116**

**Martin Fellowship Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, March 7 @ 10 am, in room 116**

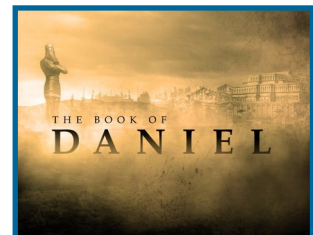
**Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, March, 7 @ 9:55 am in the Gathering Room (#201). Everyone is welcome. Masks and Social Distancing (by family group) guidelines will be followed. Study: “Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name” by Max Lucado. Leaders: Harriet Murray, Barbara & Mark Condra and George Day. We hope to see you there!**

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## The Book of Daniel

### Bible Study with Pastor Sam

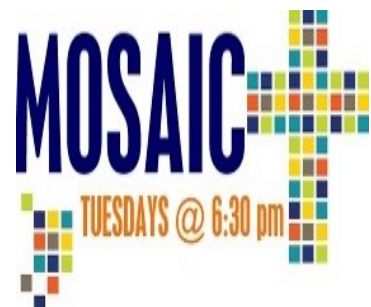
Wednesdays @ 6 pm, online, FACEBOOK Live  
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC church app under the media tab.)



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### 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. Check out the Mosaic Facebook Page for weekly devotionals and for updates about in-person worship @ 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the gym or courtyard, depending on the weather.



## United Methodist Women

**March 23 is set aside as "Day of Giving"** to honor our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund. This giving will endure that the United Methodist Women can continue serving women, children, and youth around the world for the next 150 years. Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received for the Day of Giving.



**Ways to Give:** Online at: [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) 150; **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (7am to 4pm CST, Monday-Friday); **Text:** 41444 and enter Legacy 150 in the message area; **By check to:** United Methodist Women, Attn: Development, Legacy Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115, Write "Day of Giving" in memo Section.

### April 10, 2021, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Virtual Event-Refresh & Retreat Featuring Artist Krel Buckelew

Join us as he creates art while he speaks with us. Theme: Joy of Easter, Celebrate Our Risen Savior, Matthew 28: 1,2,5,6a,7a, 8. To join the meeting via Zoom, please notify [woodmyra@yahoo.com](mailto:woodmyra@yahoo.com) or 205-790-2886. Registration deadline is April 8.

To register for the event, please notify by mail or email: Theresa Richerson, 9023 Brookline Lane, Helena, AL 35080. Phone 205-637-4750 or 205-441-3467 to leave message or email: [theresaon@gmail.com](mailto:theresaon@gmail.com). Registration form available in church office.

**Save the Date: April 12th at noon! Watch newsletter for return to UMW Luncheons!**

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

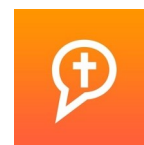
Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden



LIVE

Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

Sermon.net: First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)



### Watch on demand:

Church App: [FUMCGadsden](https://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

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



### "Counting Our Blessings" Estimate of Giving 2021

As of 3/7/21 we have received 72 "Estimate of Giving" Cards with a total of \$300,076.00.

**It's not too late to turn your card in.**

*Additional cards are available in the church office.*

Budget planning for 2021 has begun.



### 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



## Calendar for March 14-20, 2021

### March 14, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; In person/Online  
 10:00 am, Living Waters/Seekers SS Class, GoToMeeting  
 10:00 am, Martin SS Class, Room 116  
 10:00 am, Pathfinders SS Class, Gathering Room  
 10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook  
 10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online  
 11:00 am, Traditional Worship; In person/Online

### March 15, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym  
 6:00 pm, Zoom Study with Barbara Condra  
 6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

### March 16, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule  
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet Workday  
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream



### March 17, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule  
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet Open  
 6:00 pm, Youth, Room 211 & gym  
 6:00 pm, Children's activities, 108 & gym  
 6:00 pm, Bible Study, Sam, online, Facebook live  
 6:00 pm, Lent Study, "Why Easter Matters" with Harriet Murray, Room 116, in person

### March 18, Thursday

7:00 am, Men at the Well Bible Group, Zoom  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym  
 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

### March 19, Friday

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

### Honorariums and Memorials

#### General Budget Fund:

In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by John & Margie Freeman.  
 In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by David & Rose Schmuck.  
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

#### Music Fund & Choir:

In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by Mandell & Judy Tillman.  
 In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by Barbara Bennett.

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to*

*Jan Humphrey*

*in the death of her father,*

*Herman Humphrey*

*March 6, 2021*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Herman Humphrey  
 June Longshore  
 Ruby Christine Poland  
 (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)  
 Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin Ron Garry George Fant Wanda Hemby  
 Susan Keady (Debbie Hiltz's sister) Ina Davis  
 Allan Jones (Allison Casey's brother)  
 Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)  
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

### Birthdays.....

**Mar 14** Delilah Ogletree  
**Mar 15** Kelly Carr, Barbara Roberts, Parker Jarecki, G.W. Leach  
**Mar 16** Barry Loveman, Hannah Kennedy  
**Mar 17** Holly Whitt, Chuck Herb, Eli Hornik  
**Mar 18** Fred Feist, Adrian Leach, Mary Elizabeth Edmondson, Benjamin Cornett  
**Mar 19** Sam Norris  
**Mar 20** Barbara Bennett, Tricia Blount, Rex Wilson, John Floyd, Zach Hilburn, Rebecca Abel, Todd McKiven, Kennedy Jackson



### Week of March 7, 2021

\*In Person Total \*153 Overall Total 447  
 Online Viewer Total 294 Mosaic \*6/5  
 Celebration \*19/118 Traditions \*64/129  
 Thursday \*7 Bible Study Groups \*31/39  
 Youth \*10/3 Children \*16  
 General Offering Budget \$15,200.00  
 General Offering Received \$22,123.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$152,000.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$115,726.00

**2021 Pledges: 72 for \$300,076.00**  
**Camp Sumatanga offering: \$4,045.00**

### Tech Team Schedule

#### March 14

**Celebration**-Will Brookshire, Zach Hilburn, Brynn Crain, Jacob Kelley

**Traditions**-Matthew Vance, Carmen & Jacob McKiven

#### March 21

**Celebration**-Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes, Carmen & Jacob McKiven

**Traditions**-Matthew Vance, Tammy Hayes