

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Don't Forget the Donkey

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

3-28-21 Sermon Notes "Don't Forget the Donkey" Palm Sunday

If you think about it, The Triumphal Entry should have been the happiest day in Jesus' life. The crowds were waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" In John's Gospel, we see the Pharisees saying, "Look! The whole world has gone after him!" (John 12: 19) All of Jesus' preaching, teaching and healing seems to be finally be crowned with success! But Jesus knew how fickle a crowd can be. "Hosanna!" can quickly turn to "Crucify him!" Here is the story from Matthew's Gospel:

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd ^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matt. 21: 1-11 NRSV)

We always remember Jesus on Palm Sunday... and the crowds. **But this Sunday, as we gather for one combined worship service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary,** we will remember an important but overlooked character: the donkey!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, online and in person
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Worship

March 28 Palm Sunday

One United Service at

10:00 am

In the Sanctuary

MARCH 28

10:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY

**ONE UNITED WORSHIP SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY**

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
Fellowship on the Portico following Worship:
Food Trucks, Petting Zoo, Photo Booth



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.

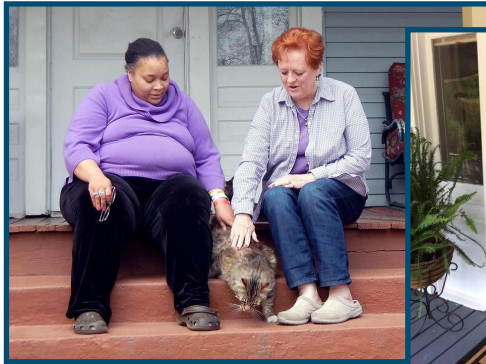
Please Join Us For a

Kitchen Shower

Palm Sunday, March 28th
10:A.M.

**Bring Items to the Narthex & Chestnut Street Lobby when you come to church.
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



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

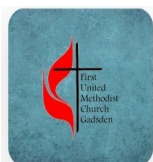
RECONNECT

Online Worship:
www.fumcgadsden.org/media



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

Church App:
FUMCGadsden
(Available in the
App Stores for
Android or iPhone!)



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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

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"**.



Gadsden First UMC will celebrate Palm Sunday in the Sanctuary:

- One United Worship: Sunday Sermon
- Praise Band & Children Singing
- Bring donations for The Love Center
- Activities for All Ages
- Photo Booth, Petting Zoo
- Food Trucks @ the Portico
- **Bring Cash for the Donut Truck!**

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

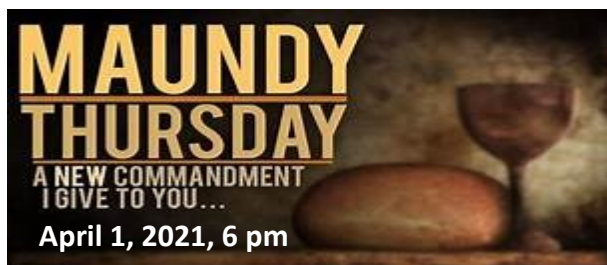
Wednesday- Billy York, Christ Central UMC

Thursday- Matt Smith, Southside UMC

Maundy Thursday, 6 PM

Friday- Dee Dowdy, Rainbow City UMC

***Masks and Social Distancing Required.**



Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service

Facebook Live
(virtual only)

Worship

9 am and 11 am

In the Sanctuary

In Person and Live Stream

*Masks and
Social Distancing Required.*



Bring Flowers for the Cross on Easter Sunday in both worship services.

Don't forget to order your Easter Lilies in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One. (Orders are due by Monday, March 29.)

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

Lilies are \$20.00 Each



GIVEN
____ **IN MEMORY** **OR** ____ **IN HONOR**

OF _____

BY _____

_____ Celebration _____ Traditions

Number of Lilies ____ X \$20.00 = _____ Total

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 We pray that picking up this spiritual practice for 40 days will help you on your Lenten Journey!

--Pastor Sam



Thursdays, Men at the Well

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



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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MARCH 28, 2021 DUE TO ONE UNITED SERVICE AT 10:00 AM

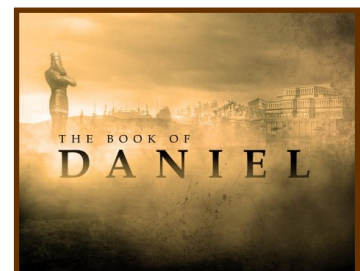
Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting with Ken Casey, George Varner & Grover Kitchens (will not meet on Sunday, March 28 or April 4) Will continue to be online for April 11, 18, and 25.

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

Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, @ 9:55 am in the Gathering Room (#201).

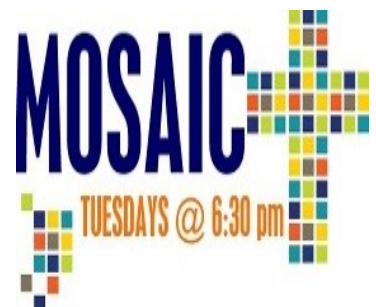
The Book of Daniel Bible Study with Pastor Sam

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



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.



ELC News

Wednesday, March 24th was our annual Easter parties and egg hunts, along with a visit from the Easter Bunny. Spring Break is Monday March 29th through Friday, April 2nd. We will begin our Mother's Day roses sale benefiting the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund in April. Watch for more details to come.

—Helene Haller



Upcoming Events:

- April 17th-Kayaking @ Big Wills Creek
- May 8th-Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls

Youth Ministry News

No Wednesday Night Youth Group on March 31 due to Spring Break!

Sunday School at 10 am, in-person (beginning Easter Sunday, April 4th)

Palm Sunday Worship
@ 10 am in the Sanctuary

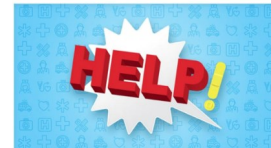
Join Andy on Facebook Live or Instagram.
Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

Children's Ministry News

"Celebrate Wonder"

Children's Sunday School Returns
In-Person, April 4, 10:00 AM

Wednesday Night Children's
Church, Room 108 & Gym
6:00 pm (in person)



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

Palm Sunday, March 28

Children: please meet at 9:30 in the Chapel to gather before worship. Palm Sunday is March 28, and we will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. 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 Grace. We have been singing and dancing to these songs on Sunday's and Wednesday's for a few weeks!— Mrs. Katharine

GFUMC Easter Egg Hunt

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

THE CASEY FARM
108 CASEY DRIVE
GADSDEN, AL 35903



INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING REFRESH & RETREAT VIRTUAL EVENT

April 10, 2021-10 am-12 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



North Alabama Conference

Virtual

Refresh & Retreat

April 10th, 2021

10:00 am

Please notify
woodmyra@yahoo.com
205-790-2886
To join Refresh &
Retreat Zoom Meeting

Registration Form

Deadline for registration is April 8, 2021

Name _____

Address _____

Cellphone # _____ Home Phone # _____

Email _____ Church _____

To Register for the event, please notify by mail or email.

Theresa Richerson 9023 Brookline Lane, Helena, AL 35080

Phone: (205) 637-4760 or (205) 441-3467 or Email: theresaricherson@gmail.com

UMW April 12th, UMW Luncheon-GYM Board Meeting at 10:30am, Gathering Room

The UMW Luncheon is April 12th beginning at noon. Our guest speaker will be our own **Dr. Grover Kitchens**. His topic will be "Women and the Formation of Snead Seminary and Snead Junior College". Our Catered lunch is \$10. Make reservations with your circle leader or call or text Delores Abney at 256-458-8376 by Friday noon, April 9th.



Deco/Clean-up is LuVerna Waid Circle.

A special "thank you" to Shelby Smith for her assistance with the UMW luncheon reservations for the past years. She helped keep us on track for all the UMW Circles and UMW members needing a reservation. **Delores Abney** will be following in Shelby's footsteps.

Calendar for March 28-April 3, 2021

March 28, Sunday Palm Sunday

10:00 am, One United Service in the Sanctuary

9:30 am-11:30 am- nursery at the church

March 29, Monday

ELC closed

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

12:05-12:30 pm, Holy Week Noon Day Service,

In sanctuary and live streamed

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

March 30, Tuesday

ELC closed

12:05-12:30 pm, Holy Week Noon Day Service,

In sanctuary and live streamed

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream

Palm Sunday Worship and All Activities are moved to the church due to the forecast for rain on Sunday!

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Joan Garry in the death of her husband, Ronald (Ron) Garry March 24, 2021



March 31, Wednesday

ELC closed

12:05-12:30 pm, Holy Week Noon Day Service,

In sanctuary and live streamed

No Wednesday Night Activities for Youth or Children (Spring Break)

April 1, Thursday

7:00 am, Men at the Well Bible Group, Zoom

ELC closed

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

12:05-12:30 pm, Holy Week Noon Day Service,

In sanctuary and live streamed

6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Worship, In person and live streamed

April 2, Friday

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

12:05-12:30 pm, Holy Week Noon Day Service,

In sanctuary and live streamed

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by Katie Grimes.

Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of John Bowman Greer, given by Alan and Ginger Ross.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Ronald Garry

June Longshore

Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin

George Fant

Wanda Hemby

Ina Davis

Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Birthdays.....

Mar 28 Cathy Lowe

Caroline Knowles

Mar 31 Jennifer Smith

Apr 1 Barbara Sheffield

Kylar Greer

Apr 2 Mike McCartney

Kathy Sisson

Lucca McNair

Apr 3 Dr. Cleve Estis

Desiree Hood



Week of March 21, 2021

*In Person Total *154 Overall Total 435

Online Viewer Total 281 Mosaic *16

Celebration *37/115 Traditions *42/127

Thursday *17 Bible Study Groups *18/39

Youth *13 Children *11

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$8,050.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$182,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$135,083.00

2021 "With a Thankful Heart"

Estimate of Giving Cards Returned

72 for \$300,076.00

Tech Team Schedule

March 28 Palm Sunday

Sound: Matthew Vance

Live Broadcast:

Brad Barnes,

Sheila Freeman

April 4 Easter Sunday

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Zach Hilburn, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman