

# Let us P.R.A.Y.

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

## 3-6-22 Sermon Notes "Let us P.R.A.Y."

I'm not much of a fan of bumper stickers, but I saw one the other day that I really liked. I think it caught my attention because we are in our *40 Days of Prayer* for the season of Lent. The sticker read: "Life Is Fragile – Handle with Prayer." It's sort of corny, I know...but how true is it?! Life is not only fragile, but also stormy, difficult, painful, joyful... That is why I say that it is always time to pray. Always!

Psalms 25 gives us a good reminder of the difficult journey we call life. The word "way" is used four times in this Psalm (v. 4, 8, 9, 12) and "paths" once (v. 10). The psalmist cries out to God for: (a) wisdom to make decisions (b) protection from his enemies who hate him (c) forgiveness and mercy for his own sins. David's message is clear: "There's no way I will make it without God's help!" I think it is pretty cool that a message from David's time is so relevant to us today.

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*

<sup>2</sup> *O my God, in you I trust;*

*do not let me be put to shame;*

*do not let my enemies exult over me.*

<sup>3</sup> *Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;*

*let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

<sup>4</sup> *Make me to know your ways, O LORD;*

*teach me your paths.*

<sup>5</sup> *Lead me in your truth, and teach me,*

*for you are the God of my salvation;*

*for you I wait all day long.*

<sup>6</sup> *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,*

*for they have been from of old.*

<sup>7</sup> *Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;*

*according to your steadfast love remember me,*

*for your goodness' sake, O LORD!*

<sup>8</sup> *Good and upright is the LORD;*

*therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

<sup>9</sup> *He leads the humble in what is right,*

*and teaches the humble his way.*

<sup>10</sup> *All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,*

*for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.*

(Psalm 25: 1-10 NRSV)

Something else cool about Psalm 25 is that it is an "acrostic." Each line of Psalm 25 starts with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Acrostics can help us to remember things, so I will be sharing with you a prayer acrostic this Sunday that I find helpful. (I didn't invent it, but I like to use it) We will be praying our way through the season of Lent, and I hope that you will join us!

See you Sunday!

Pastor Sam

## Worship Opportunities

- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm  
In the Sanctuary
- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**,  
(In person @ Back Forty Beer Company)

## • Sunday Worship

**Celebration: 9 am\***

**Traditions 11 am\***

**\*In-Person (Sanctuary)  
and Online**

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or  
on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes  
prior to the start of the service.)

**March 6, 2022**

**Celebration:** Mark Casey, Brynn Crain,  
Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Tammy Hayes,  
Sheila Freeman

**March 13**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Zach Hilburn,  
Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Davis Varner,  
Sheila Freeman



## Why Easter Matters

By Andy Stanley

**Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!**

**Sunday, February 27-March 20**

**In the Gathering Room @ 10 am**

**All Ages are Welcome! Led by Pastor Andy**  
*(You will love the food!)*

### **Bible Study with Pastor Sam**

40 Days of Prayer

Wednesday Morning, 11 AM

& Wednesday Evening, 6 PM

In the Gathering Room

Everyone Welcome!

### **Small Group Study w/ Harriet Murray**

40 Days of Prayer

Wednesdays @ 6 pm

Room 110

## **Wonderful Wednesday, Fellowship Meal, March 9: Barbecue**

**7 per person, Kids 11 & Under-\$3 (Reservations: 256.490.5018)**

### **Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom**

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. If you are interested please see the contact information below to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Beginning March 3rd the study will be "40 Days of Prayer" by Rick Warren

Go to [www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell) for more details.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information and the Zoom link.

### **RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!**

- Living Water Sunday School Class, Virtual/Online —Contact the church office or a member of the class for the link to join! "No Wonder They Crucified Him", Discover why Jesus was a dangerous man, by Daniel Myer
- Martin Fellowship Class, Room 116, International Bible Studies
- Pathfinders Class, "Why Easter Matters", by Andy Stanley, Gathering Room, with Pastor Andy. Everyone is welcome to come to this class.

Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting.  
*Members are welcome to meet with another group until their class returns.*







## Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Nights Youth Group  
6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

### Confirmation Class schedule:

Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th.

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm each Sunday night.

Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.

## Wednesday Night Dinner—March 9 Barbecue

\$7 Per Person, Kids 11 and Under-\$3

## ELC News

Registration for the Summer 2022 and Fall 2022-2023 sessions continues for those currently enrolled.

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the ELC will host spring pictures including 4K cap and gown poses. Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be our next Lunchbox Revolt and Papa John's Pizza will be served. Registration Dates: Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>: Registration for currently enrolled non church members and their non-enrolled siblings, Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: For any openings: registration for church member students who are not currently enrolled. Priority given to those on the waitlist. Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>: Open enrollment for any remaining openings per class. Priority given to those on the waitlist.

### Friends of the ELC Consignment Sale:

**Spring 2022** Dates: Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Sign ups for consignors and volunteers opened Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We have plenty of space for Volunteers and consignors. Please go to [fumcgadsden.org/elc](http://fumcgadsden.org/elc) for more details or contact Helene.

—Helene Haller

## GFUMC Children's Spring Calendar

February	9 Valentine's Party 6:00	13 Valentine's Sunday!	23 National Dog Biscuit Day Let's make dog biscuits!
March	2 Ash Wednesday	23 Popcorn and Pajamas!	30 Happy Spring Break!
April	10 Palm Sunday 1st-5th play handbells	13 Nachos and Nerf War!	16 Easter Egg Hunt
May	4 Glow for Jesus! Party @6:00	11 CHURCH PICNIC	17 EASTER

## GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wonderful Wednesday's Sunday Children's Church

Wednesday's at 6:00  
in the Kid's Worship Room  
Room 108

Sunday's during each service  
9:00 and 11:00  
Room 108



CELEBRATE

## Gadsden First United Methodist Church

# EASTER EGG HUNT

April 16 : 11a-12p

CASEY FARM

108 CASEY DRIVE

GADSDEN, AL 35903

EGG HUNT REFRESHMENTS ARTS + CRAFTS

GADSDEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



# March Mission Focus

## The Love Center (TLC)

gives hope to the homeless of Etowah County, Alabama by providing temporary housing and food to those in dire need.

TLC was opened in 1982, and each year has been able to provide hundreds of people in need from Etowah County with food, shelter, basic necessities, help them find more permanent residence, and provide assistance with securing employment. Counseling is provided by qualified volunteers. The Love Center is a non-profit shelter and relies primarily on donations from the community, along with some grants for funding. First UMC Gadsden supports The Love Center through our Mission Budget, as well as with special projects. ***Look for more news to come for our March Mission Focus for The Love Center and find out how you can help.***



***Thank you to everyone who filled a tornado bucket for UMCOR during the month of March. They have been delivered to the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur.***

## UMW NEWS

**UMW Luncheon, March 14, at 12:00 noon in Gathering Room**

**Get Your Spring On!**

**UMW Program for March 14:**

**Suzanne Scharfenberg of Habitat for Humanity**

For a reservation for lunch, please contact Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 or deloresdda53@gmail.com by noon on Friday, March 11.



## 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

***Thank you to all our volunteers for their time and service to these missions!***

## Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,  
at the Portico entrance.

**Clients served in  
January 2022**

Ladle of Love	317
Clothes Closet	131

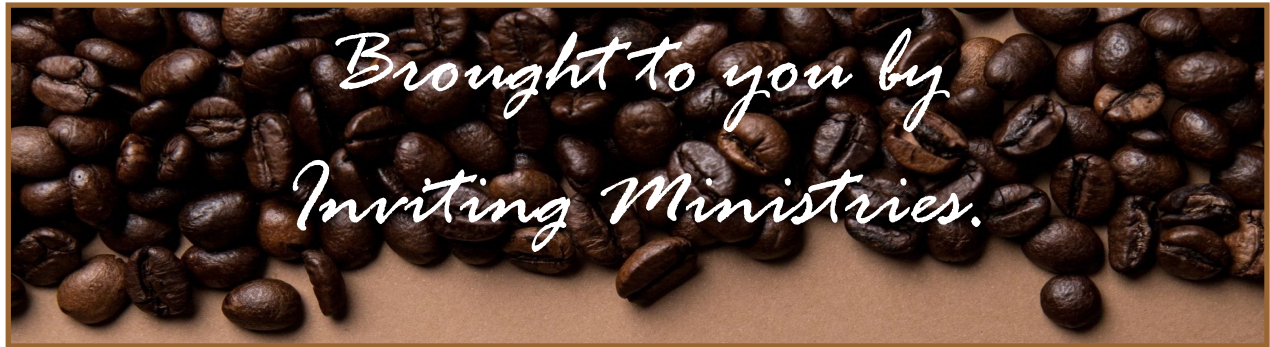


Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Church Phone 256-543-8200  
[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

**#gfumcreconnect2021**





Great appreciation goes out to the fifteen people who submitted such clever names for Our New Coffee Café. It was very hard to choose but the vote went to:



**Inviting Ministries  
welcomes you to our new  
Coffee Café!**

**We have your Sunday Cup of  
Coffee waiting for you  
between 10 am 11 am on Sunday  
mornings.**

**Starts Sunday, March 6!**

*Come visit with friends, old and new, in  
Christian Fellowship!  
After Celebration and before Traditions and  
on your way in or out of Sunday school!  
**We can't wait to see everyone back!***

***We want to say, "Thank You" and "Welcome" to our new Inviting Ministries Team! Come and meet: Katie and Tyler Darden, Sherri and Paul DeJong, Stacy and Zach Hilburn, Beth Dial, Greg Roberts, Barbara Condra, Eileen Graham, Sheila Freeman and Susan Copeland AND...all of you! Everyone in our church is a part of Inviting Ministries Team!! Join Us!***

# 40 Days of Prayer Sermon Series

March 6

Let us P.R.A.Y. Pastor Sam Hayes

March 13

Praying for a Breakthrough, Pastor Sam Hayes

March 20

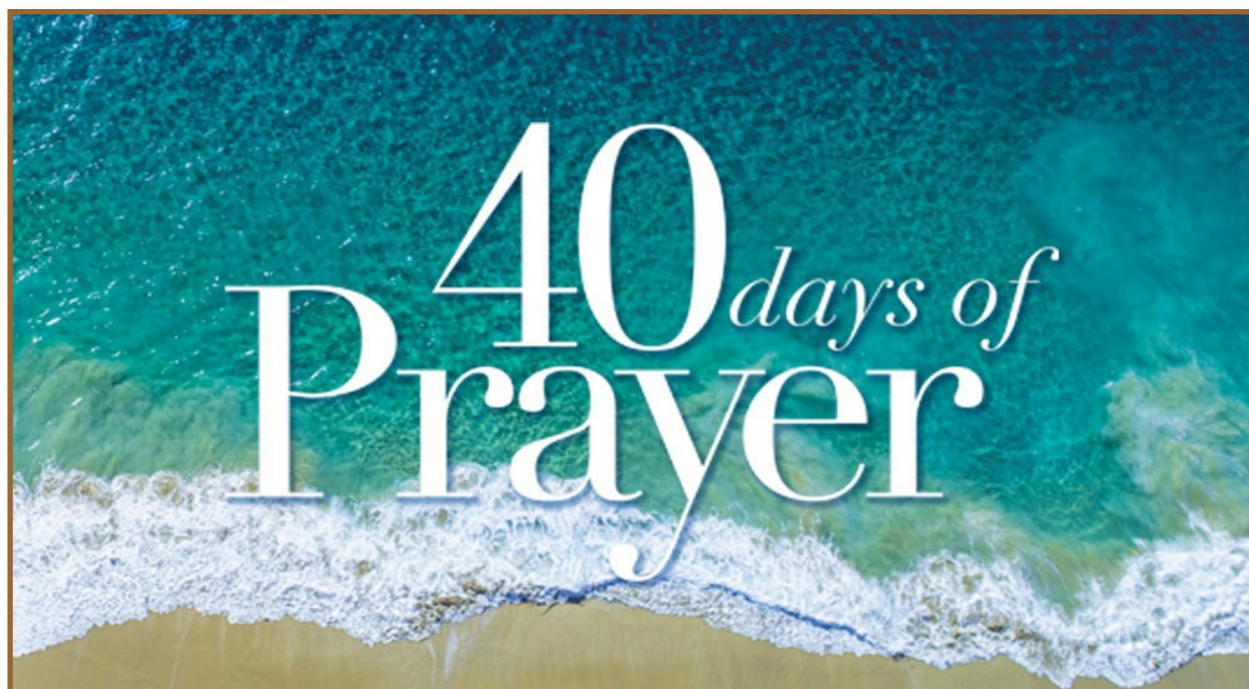
Confirmation Sunday, Pastor Andy Yarnell

March 27

The Pattern for Prayer (Part 1) Pastor Sam Hayes

April 3

The Pattern for Prayer (Part 2) Pastor Sam Hayes



## 40 Days of Prayer Challenge

Go to [www.fumcgadsden.org/pray40days](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/pray40days)

## Wednesday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

If you would like a Study guide/prayer journals please email [sheila@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:sheila@fumcgadsden.org)

*(If you are interested in starting a small group for 40 Days of Prayer, please contact Sheila Freeman in the church office for information on this opportunity and the materials.)*





**CELEBRATE WITH MOSAIC**

**6 PM**

**IN THE GYM**

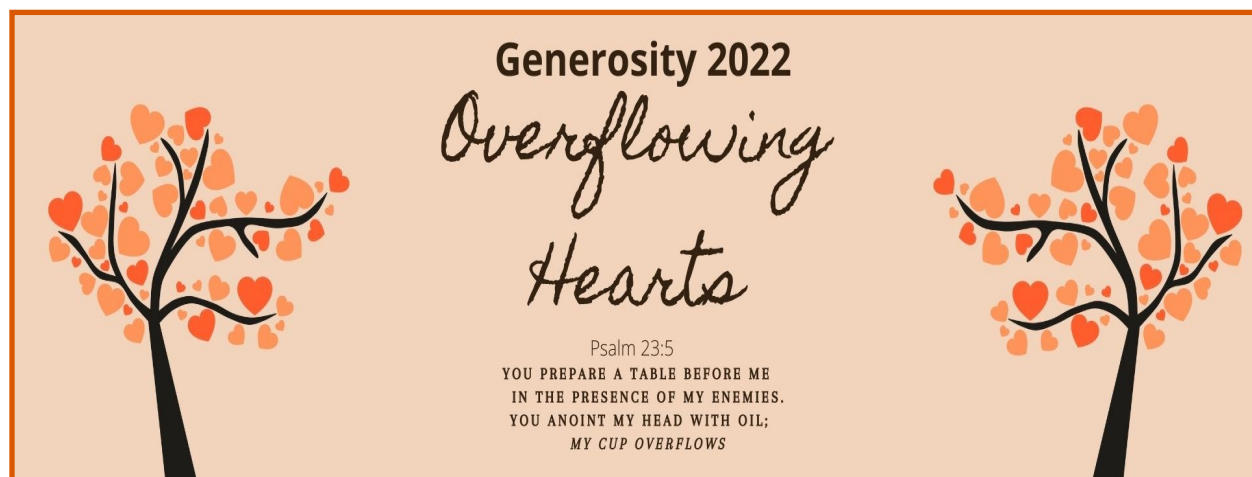
**BARBECUE AND MISSIONS**

**BRING A "GREEN" SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.**

*Everyone is Invited*

**We will pack hygiene bags for The Love Center and the new Jail Mission. Watch for more details!**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY, THURSDAY MARCH 17**



**Generosity 2022**

*Overflowing Hearts*

Psalm 23:5  
 YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME  
 IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.  
 YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;  
 MY CUP OVERFLOWS

***Thank you for your gifts that make possible, the ministries and missions of First UMC Gadsden.***



## 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 6-12, 2022

### March 6, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & livestream**

10:00 am, **Adult Sunday School Classes**

11:00 am, **Traditional Service, in Sanctuary & livestream**

### March 7, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

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

### March 8, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

5:00-6:00 pm, **Yoga, Gym**

### March 9, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

11:00 am, **Wednesday Bible Study, Gathering Room**

### March 9, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm, Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, **Bible Study, Gathering Room, in person & online.**

6:00 pm, **Childrens' activities, Room 108;**

Youth activities, Gym and Room 211

### March 10, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

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

5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship**

6:00 pm, **Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse**

### March 11, Friday

11:00 am, **Ladle of Love, Portico**

### **Honorariums and Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of George Langstaff, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mandell Tillman. In memory of Ellen Cummans, given by John & Ramona Hicks. In memory of Stan Walker, and in Honor of Pat Walker, given by Scott Walker.

#### Ladle of Love

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Judith McMahon. In memory of Ellen Cummans, given by Nancy Ellisor. In memory of Ellen Cummans, given by Kent Haney.

*The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of*

*Emilie Louise Cassidy*

*Born February 27, 2022*

*Parents: Daniel & Ashley*

*Grandparents: Craig & Linda Marble*

*Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC*

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Louie Loveman Leslie Johnson  
Anderson Lipscomb (ELC student)  
Anne Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Glen Thompson (father of Debbie Leach)  
Helen Wright (mother of Valerie Johnson)  
Alice Hayes (mother of Sam Hayes)  
Charlotte Eliza Poland (granddtr of Jeff & Cathea Poland)  
Anne-Marie Poland (dtr-in-law of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

### **Birthdays**

**Mar 6** Beth Kimball,  
Tristan Hocevar

**Mar 7** Nan MacFadyen,  
Mitchell Stewart, Barbara Smith,  
Madison Caldwell

**Mar 8** Rickey Young

**Mar 9** Scott Whitt, Madison Watkins

**Mar 10** Harry Vance, Paula Lang,  
Tamara Kirk

**Mar 11** Gail McNair,  
Augusta Waters,  
Kathryn McCollum,  
Dee Dee McLeod

**Mar 12** Clementine Hilburn

### **Week of February 27, 2022**

\*In Person Total \*233 Overall Total 615  
Online Viewer Total 382 Mosaic 9  
Thursday \*9 Children \*23 Youth \*15  
Celebration \*41/209 Traditions \*67/134  
Bible Study Groups \*10/28 Other \*8  
Adult Sunday School \*39/11  
Children's Sunday School \*12  
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00  
General Offering Received \$6,936.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$136,800.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$116,192.85

**2022 "Overflowing Hearts"**

**Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:**

**2022 80 for \$417,624.85**

**2021 72 for \$300,076.00**

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**

## **Important Deadlines**

**Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon.**

**Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.**

## **Subscribe to the Weekly Church News**

*You can submit your email to the church office to receive the weekly announcements on Friday.*