



Watchers, Mockers, Criminals, and the King

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

11/20/22 Sermon Notes "Watchers, Mockers, Criminals, and the King"
 When we say the Apostles' Creed, we get to the line where we say that Jesus was "crucified, dead, and buried..." but to we ever stop to think that what we are talking about is "capital punishment?" Jesus didn't just die. He was executed. The Romans had a particularly cruel form of capital punishment – one that was reserved for slaves and the lowest criminals. Crucifixion. It was so cruel and humiliating that it was not allowed to be used on a Roman citizen. You probably know something about crucifixion. Maybe you have heard a preacher (maybe me) talk about how painful the act was. The word "crucifixion" comes from the Latin word "excruciatu," which means to torment, to torture. We get our word "excruciating" from the same Latin root. When someone was crucified in Jesus' day, the torment and torture was not just physical. It was mental and emotional torture as well. It was public humiliation for the person being crucified, and for anyone related to that person. There was always a sign on the cross above the person being crucified listing that person's crime, so that everyone who was watching could see what happened to anyone who dared to violate Roman law. (Jesus' sign read "King of the Jews") Here is part of the story from Luke's gospel: *33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [34Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." 39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 33-43 NRSV)*
 Who was present the day Jesus was crucified? In Jesus' day, the general public would have been allowed (maybe even compelled) to be there. At Jesus' execution, his mother was there, John by her side. There were other watchers. There were mockers. On Jesus' left and right were criminals. And in the middle was the King.
 This Sunday is "Christ the King" Sunday. It is the last Sunday of the Christian Year – the Sunday before Advent. Before we *start* a New Christian Year (Advent) with the story of preparing the way, of the annunciation, or the nativity...we *finish* the Christian Year with a reminder that the King who was born in a manger, died on a cross for our redemption. We will look at the ones who were present the day the crucifixion happened...watchers, mockers, criminals, and the King.

I hope you will join us this Christ the King 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
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

November 20: Liam Humphries & Quinn Darden

November 27: Jack Brookshire & Sarah Kate Brookshire

Tech Team Schedule

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

November 20

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, Tammy Hayes

November 27

Celebration: Eric Wright, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Mike Self, Sheila Freeman

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal
will not meet on Wednesday, Nov. 23.**

November 30, 2022 Italian Night
RSVP by Tuesday at noon.

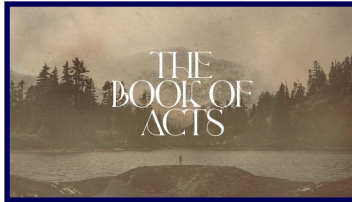
\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & Under
\$20 Max per family

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary



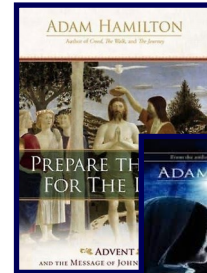
Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

11 am In Person Bible Study

Room 208, The Book of Acts

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via
the FUMC APP or website



Small Groups at Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm

Room 110 –Harriet Murray Room 208-Mark Condra

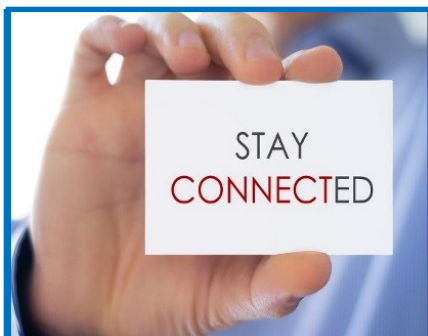
Men at the Well Thursday Mornings 7:00 am

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. "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God" by Norman Shawchuck and Rueben P. Job.

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

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, The "Angels of Christmas-Hearing God's Voice in Advent" by Susan Robb, **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, Why Christmas Matters **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

Jesus Is...

"Get Ready"	Sun. 11/27	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Emmanuel"	Sun. 12/4	9 am & 11 am
Choir Cantata	Sun. 12/11	11 am-One Service
"Jesus is...Son of Man"	Sun. 12/18	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Lord"	Sat. 12/24	4 pm & 6 pm
"Jesus is...Savior"	Sun. 12/25	10 am-One Service

P A S T O R S A M H A Y E S

SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Save the Dates

Dec. 4- Children's Christmas Musical, 3:00 pm, "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Dec. 11- One Worship Service, 11 am, Cantata

Dec. 22- "Christmas in Gadsden- Cookies and Carols", 5:30 pm
In the Chestnut, Street Lobby and the Sanctuary

Dec. 24- Christmas Eve
4 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion
5 pm, Live Nativity presented by UMYF
6 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion

December 25-Christmas Day Worship, One Service, 10 am
January 1- New Year's Day Worship, One Service, 10 am

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

ELC News

On Tuesday, November 15th, ELC students will participate in our November Lunchbox Revolt. This month we will have Chick-Fil-A and the cost is \$6.00. 4K students will also have Show and Tell on this day. Thursday, November 17th will be our annual Team Spirit Day at the ELC. Come dressed your favorite team colors. The ELC will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving from Monday, November 21st through Friday, November 25th.

—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.**

November 23 The youth and youth parents will be helping with the CommUnity Thanksgiving preparation from 10:00am -12:00pm .

December 31st-New Year's Eve- Lock-in at the church.

—**Pastor Andy**

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner—Don't forget to make a reservation by Tues. @ noon.

November 30— Italian Night \$7 Per person, \$3 for Under 11 Max \$20 per Family

Children's Ministry

Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Wednesdays at 6 pm

A cartoon illustration of Santa Claus with a red hat, white beard, and red suit. He is peeking over a white banner. Above him are blue pine branches with red and gold ornaments.

Sunday, December 4
**LUNCH WITH SANTA
AND
CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG**
Lunch with Santa @12:00
Christmas Sing-A-Long @3:00
GFUMC Children's Ministry

GFUMC Children's Ministry presents

Go, Tell It On The Mountain!

Sunday
4th@3:00
December

Join us for a Christmas Sing-A-Long!

November Mission Focus

CommUnity Thanksgiving Meal

It is that time of year when we begin preparing for the **CommUnity Thanksgiving** event. As in the past, our church will provide the money to purchase the desserts for the meal. They are planning on feeding 8,000 people this year. We are going to have individually wrapped Cakes (Little Debbie) for the pick-up and delivered meals. Then, the usual pound cakes for those eating in the Venue. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or e-give and mark it for CommUnity Thanksgiving. Donations of approximately \$1200.00 are needed to provide these cakes. Thanks, as always, for your unending generosity! There will also be an opportunity for you to sign up to volunteer prior to Thanksgiving Day to slice cakes or help in other ways.



UMW News

UMW Bake Sale Sunday, November 20

It's back! We are going to have casseroles, cakes, pies and more for everyone to buy for Thanksgiving, etc. for sale in the Chestnut Street Lobby Look for us between the worship services until gone! All proceeds go to missions. All ladies need to bring 3 items to sell. **See page 6 for details.**

Decorate the Chrismon Tree Monday, November 21

Our beautiful Chrismon Tree will be put up on Monday, November 21. We will be fluffing our "new tree" beginning at 10:00 am. We will go to lunch at Gadsden Variety at noon, then we will come back to put the Chrismons on the tree at 1:00 pm. LuVerna Waid Circle members, we need you. The Peggy Casey Circle has been asked to help also. Thank you in advance for coming to help decorate our new tree so it can be ready on the **1st Sunday of Advent, November 27th.**

UMW Luncheon Monday, December 5

The ELC children will be singing for us. Mark your calendars! We will have poinsettias to take to our homebound members and friends.

—Barbara Bennett, President



Poinsettias Cost \$21.00 each*

Select the Date (It will be in both services)

___ November 27 ___ December 11 ___ December 18 ___ December 25

Donated by _____

___ In Honor of ___ In Memory of

Name _____

*subject to change

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

**November dates are
11/2 and 11/16**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

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

Clients served in October 2022

Ladle of Love 372

Clothes Closet 237

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

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2022



**The UMW
Bake Sale
is Back!**

**Calling all
Bakers and Buyers!**

BAKE SALE

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

**Sunday, November 20
Chestnut Street Lobby**



For
UMW
Missions

& SILENT AUCTION

**Some of our most Treasured Classic Old Time
Homemade Baked Goods will be available at our
Silent Auction Table for you to bid on!**

**Open Your Hearts
Open Your Pocket Books
for UMW Missions**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



Generosity 2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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.



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



**G FUMC
Brunch
Club**

MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH
AT 12:30 FOLLOWING
TRADITIONAL SERVICE.

**Sunday, December 11 at The Rail
All Young Adults and Families Welcome!**



Count Your Blessings

BLESS THE LORD,
O MY SOUL,
AND FORGET NOT
ALL HIS BENEFITS.

PSALM 103:2

Calendar for November 20-26, 2022

Nov 20, Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary
10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry
UMW Bake Sale, Chestnut St Foyer
11:00 am Traditional Service, Sanctuary

Nov 21, Monday

ELC Closed
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
5:00 pm-7:00 pm Basketball, Gym
6:00 pm-7:30 pm Choir Practice

Nov 22, Tuesday

ELC Closed
No Yoga
6:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Nov 23, Wednesday

ELC Closed
Office Closed at Noon
No Wednesday Night Meal
No Children or Youth activities

Nov 24, Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving
ELC Closed
Office Closed
No Thursday Worship

Nov 25, Friday

Office Closed
No Ladle of Love

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Lyle & Donna Shepler.
In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Howard & Lynne Trotter.
In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Clyde and Anne Hails.
In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by ALA Municipal Insurance Corp.
In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Juanita Hammons.

Altar Flower Fund

In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Barbara Bennett.

*The flowers in the sanctuary today
are in memory of James B. Condra
in celebration of his 85th birthday
on Saturday, November 19th. They
are given by his children, grand-
children, and great-grandchildren.*

Birthdays

Nov 21 Charles Cantrell, Tommy Lowe,
Jamie Kelley
Nov 23 Jane Norris, Lisa Thornburg
Nov 24 Dele Cannon, Lori Varner
Nov 25 Jerry McGinnis, Tim Staton
Nov 26 Butch Herb, Inga Livingston

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



Week of November 13, 2022

In Person Total *126 Online 349
Worship Total 475 Thursday Worship *4
Celebration Service *57/184
Traditional Worship *65/165
Adult Sunday School *37 Children *3
Bible Study Groups *25/29
Children *28 Youth *15 Nursery *3
Total Small Group Attendance *111/29
*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
General Offering Received \$6,451.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$606,050.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$588,020.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Beth Kelley
Chris Gunnels
(Gail McNair's nephew)
Jackie Herlong

Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin
Jerry Casey
June Longshore
John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)