

Get Ready!

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

11/27/22

Sermon Notes

"Get Ready"

The First Sunday of Advent always includes a passage about the "Second Advent" (The Second Coming) of Christ. Why is that? Aren't we just talking about preparing for Christmas (the *first* advent)? Of course, we are getting ready for Christmas; at the same time, the message of advent (which means "coming") is bigger and deeper than just Christmas. It also includes being prepared for something that we all await – and yet that nobody knows the time it will occur. Matthew's gospel for this Sunday includes this passage:

³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (Matt. 24: 36-44 NRSV)

What makes Matthew chapter 24 a little confusing is that it weaves together a prophecy of two separate things – one event that will happen within the lifetime of Jesus' hearers (the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD), and something that will not (The Second Coming). They should look for signs of one event...the Fall of Jerusalem. For example, in vv. 32-35, Jesus tells his hearers to learn the lesson of the fig tree. They can tell by looking at the tree (its leaves, etc....) what season it is and what is about to happen. What about the Second Coming? Does that mean that they can see the "signs of the times" and predict the Second Coming? No (see v. 36). No one knows the day or the hour for that.

So, if two things are being talked about in this passage (the Fall of Jerusalem, and The Second Coming), do they have anything in common? Yes! The common thread here is preparation – the necessity for "watchful waiting." We *know* some things are coming (Christmas in about 4 weeks). Other things are beyond our knowledge (The Second Coming). What to do? Boiling it down to two words: "Get Ready!"

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule

Page 2—Advent and Christmas

Page 3—Small Groups and Sunday School

Page 4—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry; WW Dinner Menu

Page 5—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; UMW; Poinsettias

Page 6—Generosity 2023

Page 7—Choir Music; Dedication of Children's Worship Room; Brunch Club

Page 8—Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Financial & Attendance Report

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 27: Jack Brookshire & Sarah Kate Brookshire

December 4: Silas Holsey & Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

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

November 27

Celebration: Eric Wright, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Mike Self, Sheila Freeman

December 4

Celebration: Joe Pritchard, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

Jesus Is...

"Get Ready"	Sun. 11/27	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Emmanuel"	Sun. 12/4	9 am & 11 am
Choir Christmas Music	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

Christmas in Gadsden

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

Dec. 11- One Worship Service, 11 am, Chancel Choir Christmas Music
10 am Dedication of the Children's Worship Room
in memory of Joanne Hightower

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

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal

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

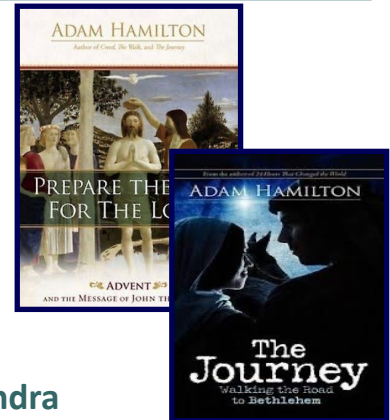
11 am In Person Bible Study

Room 208, Prepare the Way for the Lord

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

ELC News

The ELC will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving from Monday, November 21st through Friday, November 25th. Our 4th annual Christmas PJ Day will be Thursday, December 1st. We cannot wait to see everyone's cute Christmas PJ's. Our annual Christmas program will be Thursday, December 8th at 9:30 in the sanctuary. Parties will follow in each classroom. We invite the congregation to come and listen to the sound of the season.

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.**

December 24 The youth will participate in the "Live Nativity" at 5:00 pm between the Candlelight services.

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 orange glasses. He is peeking over a white sign. 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

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a mountain range at night or dusk, with some lights visible in the valleys.

GFUMC Children's Ministry presents
Go, Tell It On The Mountain!
Sunday
4th@3:00
December
Join us for a Christmas Sing-A-Long!

December Mission Focus

AB Honor Roll Party at Striplin Elementary

It's Time for the AB Honor Roll Party at Striplin Elementary! Come and help us "Celebrate" our adopted students that are striving for "SUCCESS"! Meet at Striplin on Tuesday, November 29, at 12:45 pm to set up, then the fun begins! Call Susan @ 256-441-8600 if you have questions or would like to volunteer! —Mission Team

UMW News

Bake Sale The ladies of United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) wish to express appreciation to all who supported the Fall Bake Sale. Because of your generosity, we can continue to fund our local and global mission projects. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving.

UMW Luncheon Monday, December 5

Our program will be the ELC children singing for us. Mark your calendars! We will have poinsettias to take to our homebound members and friends. Make your reservation by noon on Friday, December 2. Call Delores Abney 256-458-0376.



—Barbara Bennett, President

A Big "Thank You" for a "WOW" UMW Bake Sale to

- All of you ladies and (gentlemen) that baked
- All of you that bought the delicious treats
- Many of you that made generous donations

Because of so many, the UMW will have \$2608.50 for Missions!

"WOW!" What an awesome and FUN way to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus"

Poinsettias Cost \$21.00 each*
Select the Date (It will be in both services)

___ December 11 ___ December 18 ___ December 25

Donated by _____

___ In Honor of ___ In Memory of

Name _____

*subject to change

Orders must be placed Monday at noon prior to the date you are requesting.

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

December dates are
12/7 and 12/21

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!*

The Ladle of Love will be
closed on November 25 and
December 23

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#gfumcreconnect2022](https://twitter.com/gfumcreconnect2022)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



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



Have you downloaded the Church App?

Search: FUMCGadsden
Available in the App Stores
for Android or iPhone





CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSIC
WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, CHOIR, AND SOLOISTS

Peace Will Come

Sunday
DEC | 11 | 11 AM

TRADITIONS WORSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5TH STREET
GADSDEN, AL 35901



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DEDICATION
OF THE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ROOM

In Memory of Joanne Hightower

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 11 | 10 AM

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
Room 108 and Portico Foyer
115 S. 5th Street

Reception to Follow
Portico Foyer



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!

Calendar for November 27-December 3, 2022

Nov 27, Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary
10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry
11:00 am Traditional Service, Sanctuary

Nov 28, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
5:00 pm Trustees Meeting, Parlor
5:00 pm-7:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Nov 29, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
Yoga 5:00pm-6:00pm, Gym
5:00 pm Finance Team Meeting, Parlor
6:00 pm Board of Stewards & Charge Conference, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Nov 30, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
11:00 am Bible Study, Room 208 (Facebook Live @ 6pm)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm Advent Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208
6:00 pm Children activities, Room 108
6:00 pm Youth activities, Gym & Room 211
6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

Dec 1, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
5:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Dec 2, Friday

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

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Patsy Blankenship in the death of her mother Mary Carraway Nichols November 17, 2022.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Mary Nichols Family
Jane Herb Lisa Dobbins Beth Kelley
Michael Fortenberry (Regina Holloway's brother)
Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Pat Martin
Jerry Casey
John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)

Honorariums and Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Leone Norris.
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Leone Norris.

Birthdays

Nov 27 Jane Jones
Nov 28 Sally Moss, Lucy Edwards, Kim Reed
Nov 29 Susan Hand, Sandra Hill, Karen Winters
Nov 30 Michelle Morgan, Kevin Thornburg, Jake Thornburg
Dec 2 Elizabeth Hyatt



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

Week of November 20, 2022

In Person Total *114 Online 344
Worship Total 458 Thursday Worship *3
Celebration Service *52/155
Traditional Worship *59/189
Adult Sunday School *35 Children *2
Bible Study Groups *20/29
Children *28 Youth *18 Nursery *6
Total Small Group Attendance *137/29
*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
General Offering Received \$10,157.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$619,225.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$598,177.00

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.

During the Holiday weeks the deadline for weekly announcements moves to Tuesday by noon.