



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

11-29-20 Sermon Notes “Christ The King”

Ready for some “sticker shock?” \$14 billion... That is how much that was spent on the 2020 Presidential Election. It totally blew away the cost of the 2016 election, which was \$6.5 billion. And the voter turnout? 66.8% of the voting-eligible population voted, shattering a record going back to 1908. The stress and the drama? There is no real way to calculate that, but I’d be willing to guess that we broke all records in that area, too! Why am I talking about politics? I’m only talking about politics because we are going into the Season of Advent, and *politics* was part of the picture...a BIG part. In our Scripture for this week, the angel Gabriel comes to a young woman named Mary, and tells her she is going to give birth...to the Messiah...who will be given the *throne* of his ancestor David, and will *reign*... She will give birth to the *King*. How’s that for politics? Remember the story?

(Luke 1: 26-38 NRSV)



Politics is part of the Christmas story. We will talk about that this first Sunday of Advent, and we will talk about two other powerful words that begin with the letter “P”: Perspective, and Promise. I hope you will worship with us each Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas – and rediscover the significance of *Incarnation*. I’ll be preaching about the *Incarnation* theme each Sunday, and you can also join me for a more in-depth study on Wednesday nights at 6:00, starting on December 2. Copies of Adam Hamilton’s book, *Incarnation*, are available in the church office for \$15. I want to leave you with a quote from chapter one of *Incarnation*: “I don’t know your politics, but if you are a Christian, I know your King...our allegiance to Him comes above all other allegiances.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sam

Remember to return your 2021 “Estimate of Giving”
Card in either service or to the church office .

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Church Courtyard*
 - **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Thursday, Sanctuary*
 - **Sunday Celebration Worship,** 9:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
 - **Sunday Traditions Worship,** 11:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
- *All in person worship requires social distancing & masks.**

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Reservations* are required for Christmas Eve Worship.

(*limited to 100 per worship service.)

Sign up at www.fumcgadsden.org/worship

- ♦ Select worship time.
- ♦ Make a reservation for each person in your family.
- ♦ Social distancing and masks required.
- ♦ For sign-up assistance, call the church office: 256-543-8200.

Missions for December

White Christmas

Each year during the Christmas season, we are reminded there is no greater joy for us than giving to others. Since 1930, the White Christmas Offering has enabled Methodists to share their blessings with those whose circumstances in life just haven't been fair.

These children and young adults certainly didn't sign up to be in the situation they're in, and with your support, they have the hope of a much brighter tomorrow. Mark your special offering for "UMCH White Christmas" and give comfort and joy this Christmas!



Angel Tree

This year, the Angel Tree is located in the sanctuary. You can sponsor a child this Christmas by selecting an Angel from the tree during worship or by stopping by the church during the week. Follow these simple steps:



1. Select an Angel from the Angel Tree in the Sanctuary
2. Write your name on the back of the Angel and leave the Angel on the tree!
3. Tear list off at perforation and take with you to shop!
4. Label all gift items with code at bottom or list and return to the church! (No need to wrap!)
5. Other instructions can be found on the back of the list!

**If you would like to reserve an angel by phone, please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you in selecting an angel and sending you the shopping list.*

We are here for you!

We are still taking precautions so the church office is still closed to the public. We ask that all business be conducted by email, phone or text whenever possible. In-person visits are by appointment only. You may call for an appointment or if you or someone you know has a need that we can help with, please call us or email us between 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If no answer, please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

A MASK is required If you are coming to the office for an appointment or attending any service or activity at the church. If you do not have one, we have masks available for you.

Stay Well. Stay Safe —Your Church Staff!

Clothes Closet

Workday

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street

Gadsden, AL

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00 am to

12:00 pm

If you are interested in serving at the clothes closet or Ladle of Love, please contact the church office and we will connect you with a team leader.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas Party

Living Water, Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday school classes are hosting the annual Big Brother, Big Sister Christmas party. This year the event is scheduled for 12/10 and will be a drop in event with social distancing. If you would like to give or serve at this event, contact Mark Condra or Sheila Freeman. Sheila@fumcgadsden.org.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcconnect2020

ELC News

The ELC will be closed **Monday, November 23rd** through **Thursday, November 26th** for Thanksgiving break.

On **Thursday, December 3rd**, the ELC will host its 2nd Annual Christmas Pajama Day!! Please join us by wearing your favorite pair of Christmas PJ's.

Thursday, December 10th will be our annual Christmas Program and parties. Details will be sent home.

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

December 2

*Valuing Values
Christmas Games*

New planned activities for youth in person and on-line are being planned.

Virtual Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00 am

Former Youth- check out our college and career Instagram page to stay up to date with future social distancing gatherings.



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

Safe Sanctuary Policy: All children and youth volunteers must have Safe Sanctuary Training prior to beginning to work with children or youth and annually thereafter. A background check is required. In addition, volunteers must have been members of the church for 6 months or more, be 5 years older than the group they are working with and there must always be at least 2 unrelated adults present for all activities and events. Other rules apply for field trips or overnight trips. Contact the church office Sheila@fumcgadsden.org for more information.

Children's Ministry News

*Children meet on the Green Space and/or gym with Social Distancing on Wednesday nights at 6 pm.
The nursery is open during this time.*

Children's Break continues on Facebook on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children's Church meets Sundays during worship at 9 am or 11 am!

Children's Church December Events

★ Saturday, December 5
Polar Express at Premiere Cinemas, 5:00

★ Sunday, December 6
Virtual Christmas Caroling, 5:00

★ Sunday, December 13
Drive-thru Santa Visit, 12:00-1:30

★ Wednesday, December 16
Children's Christmas Party, 6:00

★ Saturday, December 19
Parent's Day Out, 11:00-2:00



Polar Express Movie Night



Saturday, December 5

Meet at Premiere Cinemas at 4:30,
movie begins at 5:00
Children are encouraged to wear
your pajamas!



Gadsden First United Methodist Church
invites you to

Parents' Day Out

Saturday, December 19
11:00-2:00
GFUMC gym
★★★★★

Your children will enjoy games and
snacks while you enjoy some last
minute Christmas shopping!



New Zoom Study for Advent

Beginning Monday November 30th @ 6:00 pm for four (4) sessions, we will be studying, Who Needs Christmas? by Andy Stanley. It will be a video/discussion group. The video will last around 20 minutes and we will try to keep sessions to 1 hour total. Please order your study guide. I got mine from Amazon, but you can google the title and it will give you several options. I am very excited about this in depth look at God's amazing plan! Text me (256) 328-3679 to find out how to join the study! —Barbara Condra

♦ Wednesday Nights 6:00 pm

(No Bible Study on November 25)

NEW STUDIES for Advent Begin on Dec. 2

Incarnation, Harriet Murray, Room 116, Week 2

Incarnation, Pastor Sam, Sanctuary & Online, Week 1

♦ **Thursdays, Men at the Well**, 7:00 am, Zoom
Contact the church office for more information.

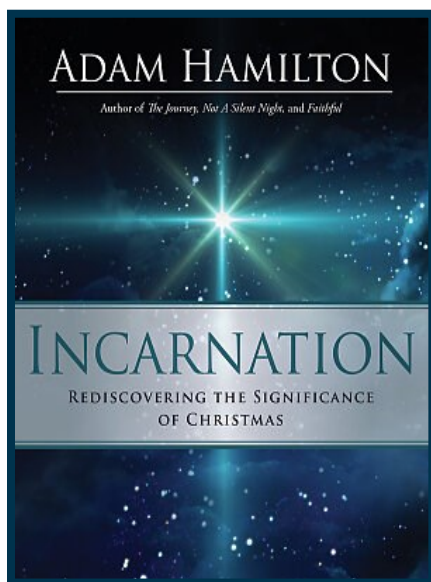
♦ **Sunday Mornings**, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting
Because of Bethlehem, Love is Born, Hope is Here
by Max Lucado **Begins November 29**

11/29 *God Has a Face* — George Varner

12/6 *Worship Works Wonders* — Jeff Poland

12/13 *God Guides the Wise* — Grover Kitchens

12/20 *Every Heart a Manger* — Nancy Smith



Advent Study: Incarnation by Adam Hamilton “Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas”

Starts Wednesday, December 2, 6 pm

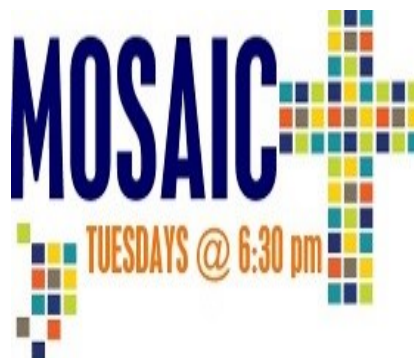
Adam Hamilton's book, Incarnation is available in the church office for \$15.00. If you would like to purchase a book and are unable to come by the church to make the purchase, please call the office @ 256-543-8200 or email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org for assistance.

You may participate In person (with social distancing and masks in the sanctuary) or you may participate virtually in this Advent study on FacebookLive or the church website or YouTube Channel.

Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Sanctuary or Online

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. Come meet with us outside the church in the Courtyard facing 5th Street near the sanctuary on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm! Social distancing is required. (In case of rain, Mosaic will meet in the gym.)





UMW NEWS

On **December 7th**, the UMW Board members will meet for a short business meeting beginning at 11:00 am.

It is the custom of our UMW ladies' to take a poinsettia to each of our homebound members. Each poinsettia will have a card with the names and addresses on them. We have 26 to deliver. **You may pick up a poinsettia between 8 am and 3 pm on December 7th and deliver it to a member.** (Call Eileen and let her know you are willing to deliver a poinsettia.)

Christmas Boutique

This year we will not have the boutique available due to COVID restrictions. However we will have a new Christmas Card available starting December 7. If you would like to purchase any, please contact any of the UMW officers or circle leaders.

Eileen Graham

Reminder: Don't forget to turn in your UMW pledge or World Thank Offering!

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. 1 John 4:11

#GFUMCConnect2020

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

Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

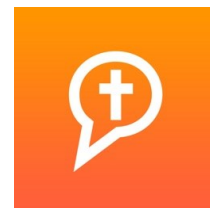
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: **FUMCGadsden**

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



follow GFUMC on Instagram:
first_umcgadsden

Use our hashtag to Tag and Share
your pictures of church activities:
#gfumconnect2020

Generosity

- Give online:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- Text to Give:
256-344-8464
- Mail your tithe or gift to the church:
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Calendar for week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 2020

Nov 29, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Sanctuary

10:00 am, Sunday School, Ken Casey &

George Varner, GoToMeeting

10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook

10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online

11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Sanctuary

6:00 pm, Youth, via Zoom or Instagram

Nov 30, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

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

6:00 pm-Advent Study, Barbara Condra, via Zoom

Dec 1, Tuesday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday

6:30 pm, Mosaic, Courtyard

Dec 1, Tuesday, cont'd

4:00 pm-Trustees, via gotomeeting

5:00 pm-Finance, via gotomeeting

6:00 pm-Board of Stewards, via gotomeeting

Dec 2, Wednesday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open

6:00 pm, Children Activities, Greenspace/Gym

6:00 pm, Youth Activities, Courtyard/Gym

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Harriet Condra, Room 116

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Pastor Sam,

Sanctuary and Live Streaming

Dec 3, Thursday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

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

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ron Garry Albert Gibson

Bill Hale Joanne Hightower Melba Amberson

Continued Prayer Concerns

Leda Taylor Ernest McBride

Judy Dressman

Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

The Family of Billy Jack Gray



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Donny & Janie Gray in the death of his brother, William (Billy) Jack Gray

November 18, 2020



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund: In memory of Mary Freeman and

Hanky MacFadyen, given by Kim & Cynthia Whitt.

Music Fund:

In memory of Marie Haygood, given by Bill & Donna Campbell.

Week of November 22, 2020

Online Viewer Total 290 *In Person Total *110

Total overall 400 Celebration *23/124

Traditions *44/132 Mosaic *8 Thursday *12

Youth *14 Children *9 Bible Study Groups *34

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00

General Offering Received \$21,700.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$725,680.00

YTD General Offering Received \$678,447.00

Birthdays.....

Nov 29 Susan Hand, Sandra Hill

Nov 30 Kevin Thornburg, Jake Thornburg

Dec 1 Marj Ross

Dec 2 Elizabeth Hyatt

Dec 3 Stan Walker

Dec 4 John McCord,

Bill Hale, Ginger Ross, Richard McCoy,

Victoria Ogletree

Dec 5 Shannon Campbell,

Matthew Vance, Savannah New



Poinsettias

Select the Worship Service and Date / Cost \$20.00 each

Service: ☐ Celebration ☐ Tradition

Date: ☐ December 13 ☐ December 20

Donated by _____

____ In Honor of ____ In Memory of

Name _____