

An Advent Sermon Series

9 am and 11 am
Nov. 28 & Dec 5, 12, 19 & 26

4 pm and 6 pm Dec. 24

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

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

11-28-21 Sermon Notes "When Everything is Wrong"

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent! I know that advertisers have been trying to get us to jump to Christmas since before Halloween, but Advent says, "Not so fast! We need time to prepare!" Where did Advent come from? The word comes from the Latin word *adventus*, and it means, "coming" or "visit." Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent marks the beginning of the church year for Christians, and during this season, we take time to prepare for – and anticipate – the coming of Christ. We take time to remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah, and our own longing for and need of forgiveness. This year, in addition to our usual Advent festivities, we will focus on the coming of Christmas through a very familiar figure... The Grinch! Do you remember the Grinch? Here's a refresher:

*Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot
But the Grinch who lived just North of Whoville did not!
The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!
Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.
It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.
It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.
But I think that the most likely reason of all
May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.*

Our Advent sermon series and Advent Bible Study will be about finding faith in the story of The Grinch. In addition to the usual Advent Scriptures, we will read Matt Rawle's book, *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*. (Copies are available in the church office – our Bible Study will begin Dec. 1)

We know the end of the story – that the Grinch has a transformation, and his heart grows three sizes! But...we don't need to rush to the end...like we don't need to rush to Christmas. Why is the Grinch so miserable in the beginning of the story? Why does he hate Christmas? Matt Rawle writes in the introduction of the book, "Sometimes we are melancholy during Christmas season and it's difficult to understand precisely why. Whether we appreciate it or not, it's easy to identify with the Grinch's aggravation." (p.7)

Sunday, we will kick off the season by hanging the greens, lighting a candle, and by hearing the words of the prophet in Isaiah 64: 1-2, 6-7. We will consider how we can be expected to be joyful when "everything is wrong."

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

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

Sunday Worship

Celebration Service 9:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

Traditions Service 11:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

www.fumcgadsden.org/media or on
Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

Tech Team Schedule

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

November 28

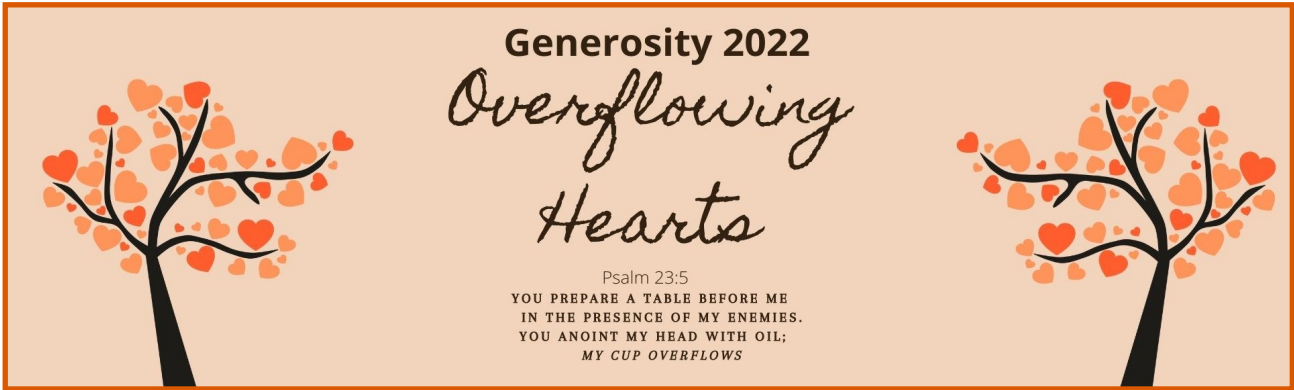
Celebration: Mark Condra,
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Tammy Hayes,
Sheila Freeman

December 5

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey,
Brynn Crain

Traditions: Sheila Freeman,
Tammy Hayes



If your heart is also thankful, would you please prayerfully consider expressing your overflowing gratitude by giving your *service*, and by *praying* for your church, and by *supporting* its ministries financially in 2022? A card is enclosed for you to estimate your giving for 2022 and for you to say how you'd like to serve. This helps our church plan for the coming year! We will collect these cards throughout November, and announce our total received on the first Sunday of December. Let's make it a celebration of our overflowing hearts!

Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam Hayes

Jay

Jay Hedgspeth, Generosity Chairman



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at 256-543-8200 or email giving@fumcgadsden.org.**

Generosity-Ways to Give

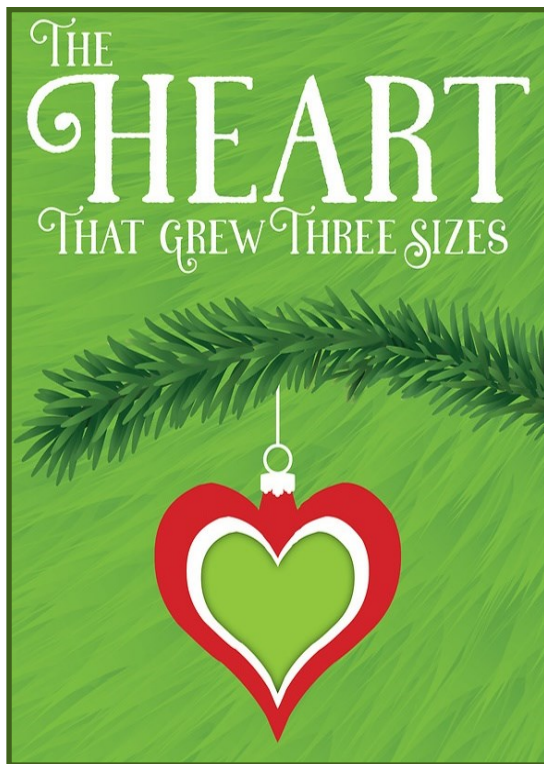
- www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- **Text to Give:**
256-344-8464
- **Mail your tithe or gift:**
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
- **Offering Plates** are located at the entrances the sanctuary.

Monthly Income

Giving Percent	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
12%	180	300	600	900	1,200	1,500
10% The Tithe	150	250	500	750	1,000	1,250
8%	120	200	400	600	800	1,000
6%	90	150	300	450	600	750
4%	60	100	200	300	400	500
2%	30	50	100	150	200	250

2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.

- You can also fill out a 2022 Estimate of Giving Card online @ www.fumcgadsden.org.
- Your estimate of giving card is confidential and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord.
- Please call the financial secretary anytime to discuss your giving plan.
- Please return your completed card to the church by December 5.



Advent Sermon Series

First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28— *“When Everything Is Wrong”*, 9 am and 11 am, Hanging of the Greens in Both Services

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 5— *“When Christmas Isn’t Christmas”*, Celebration, 9 am and Traditions, 11 am

Thurs. Dec. 9— *Special GSCC A Capella Choir Concert in place of Thursday Worship. Everyone invited to come at 6 pm.*

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 12 —

One United Worship Service at 11:00 AM

Christmas Choir Cantata with Orchestra

Special Worship: 5:00 pm – Children’s Christmas Musical in Sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 19 — *“When Joy Is Our Song”*

Celebration, 9 am and Traditions, 11 am.

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24— *“You’d Better Watch Out”*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, In the Sanctuary

At 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

1st Sun. after Christmas, Dec. 26— *“The Gifts We Forgot to Unwrap”*

10:00 am, One United Worship Service

— Led by Celebration Praise Band

CELEBRATE WITH
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Christmas Cantata 11 AM December 12

*Choir &
Orchestra*

1115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35904

DECEMBER 12, 2021 | 11 AM

GFUMC KIDS PRESENT

A CHILD OF LOVE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH AT 5PM

“I AM A CHILD OF GOD.” ~ JOHN 1:12

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes starts Wednesday, December 1

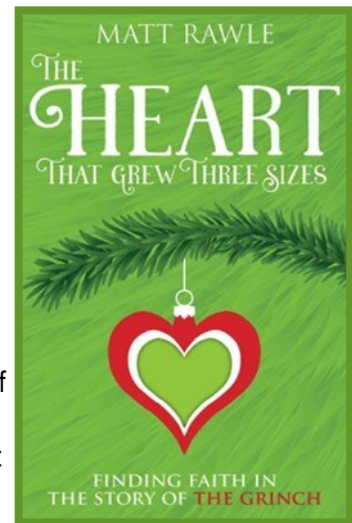


Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save

the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Join Pastor Sam on Wednesday mornings at 11 am in person or on Wednesday Nights at 6 pm, beginning Wednesday, December 1, in the Gathering Room.



**Wednesday Bible Study w/ Pastor Sam at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm.
12/1 Dinner at 5:15 PM: Italian Night, \$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & Under**

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom— A Study of Genesis

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Tammy Jackson is leading the current study of Genesis 1-11, pre-history and what it means to us.

Go to 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, "Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple" by Adam Hamilton, Chapel (118)
- Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, "Incarnation-Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" by Adam Hamilton, Room 208

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 Classes will begin on January 9th.

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

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Jan 9th, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th. On February 13th the youth will have a Super Bowl Party from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th during each service.

ELC News

- ◇ We hope everyone will enjoy their Thanksgiving Break and look forward to our return to normal schedule on Monday, November 29th.
- ◇ Our Christmas Pajama Day will be Thursday, December 2nd and our annual Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 9th.

—Helene Haller

Wednesday, December 1, Italian Night

\$7 per person \$3 for Ages 11 and under

Please text your reservation to 256.490.5018 by noon on Mondays.

Children's Ministry



"Celebrate Wonder"

Children's Church

In-Person, Sundays

9 am and 11 am during Worship

Children's Worship Room (Room 108)





Angel Tree Ministry

The Angel Tree is in the sanctuary again this year. Thank you for participating in this Special Project to bring **JOY** to a child at Christmas time! When taking a name from the tree, please follow these instructions so we will be able to keep up with the child's name and your name to have everything turned in on time.

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!

The deadline is December 10th!

**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.*

Missions for November

Thank you to everyone who shopped for a family and filled a bag with groceries to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated! Also a Big Thank you goes out to all who gave so generously to purchase the cakes for the CommUnity Thanksgiving Celebration. This kindness shown by our congregation shines Christ Love to all who receive it!

Your Mission Team

UMW NEWS

December Calendar 2021

UMW Luncheon will be **Monday, December 6 at 12:00 (noon)** in the gathering room. We will have a delicious meal of a Greek Chicken salad from Little Bridge Marina along with tea, lemonade, water and a chocolate chip cookie.

The Early Learning Center (ELC) children will be our very special program.

We will also have the annual poinsettias to distribute to our at home members. Remember to make your reservations with your circle leaders or contact Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 or email to deloresdda53@gmail.com by noon on Friday, December 3.

The Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 208. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This will be the last board meeting of 2021. We have several items on our agenda. Come and greet our new UMW Executive Board Members.

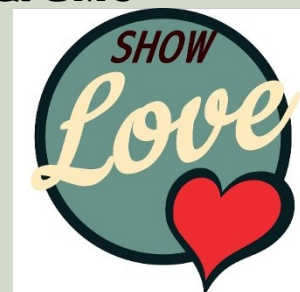
President, Barbara Bennett Vice President, Delores Abney Treasurer, Jamie Payton
Secretary, Dotty Ivey Parliamentarian, Eileen Graham Historian, Susan Copeland
Secretary of Howell Erwin Fund, Debbie Hiltz

Secretary of Program Resources, Debbie Leach.

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee for contacting all our new executive members. Thank you to UMW ladies for approval at the November meeting.



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.

Clients served in
October

Ladle of Love	403
Clothes Closet	210



Hats off to our Volunteers!

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021

Calendar for November 28-December 4, 2021

Nov 28, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

10:00 am, Adult Sunday School Classes

11:00 am, Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

Nov 29, Monday

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

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

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

Nov 30, Tuesday

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

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

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

Dec 1, Wednesday

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

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

11:00 am, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208

5:15 pm, Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Room 208

6:00 pm, Children's activities, Room 108

6:00 pm, Youth activities, Room 211 & Gym

Dec 2, 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

6:00 pm, Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse

Dec 3, Friday

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



*Hanging of the Greens in Both Services
First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28
"When Everything Is Wrong" 9 am and 11 am*

Week of November 21, 2021

*In Person Total *237 Overall Total 570

Online Viewer Total 333 Mosaic *7

Thursday *14 Adult Sunday School *30

Celebration *56/160 Traditions *72/148

Children *23 Youth *25 UMW *

Bible Study Groups *10/25 Other *

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$12,428.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$714,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$610,122.00

2022 pledges: 53 for \$218,106.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund:

In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Wes & Cherie Smith.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ken Davis Jan Humphrey Jerry McGinnis Nancy Smith

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Stan Walker Carma Rayburn
Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)
Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)



Birthdays.....

Nov 28 Sally Moss, Lucy Edwards,
Kim Reed

Nov 29 Susan Hand, Sandra Hill

Nov 30 Kevin Thornburg, Jake Thornburg

Dec 2 Elizabeth Hyatt

Dec 3 Stan Walker

Dec 4 John McCord, Ginger Ross,
Richard McCoy, Victoria Ogletree



Poinsettias

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

Service: ☐ Celebration ☐ Tradition

Date: ☐ December 12 ☐ December 19

Donated by

In Honor of In Memory of
Name