

December 24

4 pm, Candlelight Worship

5 pm, Live Nativity, 5th and Chestnut St.

6 pm, Candlelight Worship

December 26

10 am, One Worship Service

In Person or Watch Online @[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

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

12-26-21

Sermon Notes

"The Gifts We Forgot To Unwrap"

One of our favorite Christmas traditions is giving and receiving gifts. I don't know about you, but I really enjoy both giving and receiving! It doesn't have to be big, or fancy...just to know that someone thought of you – or to pick out just the right thing for someone you love – is a blessing, and reflects the best gift of all. (See John 3:16)

In addition to a Savior, Christ the Lord, God has bestowed other gifts. In the book of Romans and then again in Ephesians we read how each believer has gifts bestowed by God. I'm talking about spiritual gifts – gifts that come through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. What is the purpose of these gifts? The purpose is that the local Body (the church) can function and grow and serve in a balanced way for the glory of God. Not every person has every gift; however, we all have some gift. Each gift is important. For instance, the gift of "exhortation" (encouragement) is just as much a spiritual ministry as preaching or teaching. The gifts of "giving" or "compassion" are just as important as the gift of "leader." Here are a couple of places in the Bible that describe spiritual gifts:

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Rom. 12: 3-8)

<sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4: 11-12)

Think about this with me: Wouldn't it be tragic if this time next year, you visited a family member and found that a special gift that you had gotten just for them this year had yet to be unwrapped and used?! How much more tragic it is when any gift that God has given goes unrecognized and unused!

See you Sunday at 10:00 for one combined Celebration Service!

Pastor Sam



## Worship Opportunities

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

## Sunday Worship

One Service At 10 am on  
December 26

One Service at 11 am on  
January 2

\*In-Person and Online

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

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, in person

5:00 pm, Live Nativity, outside  
on corner of 5th & Chestnut St.

## Tech Team Schedule

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

## Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm, Will Brookshire, Bill Haller,  
Sheila Freeman

6:00 pm, Eric Wright,  
Brad Barnes, Tammy Hayes

## December 26

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller,  
Brynn Crain



### Did you know that generosity can be a blessing?

Generosity makes you happy. Acts 20:35 says, “Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (NLT). The world will tell you that you will be happiest when you receive. But Jesus turned that idea around and said that you will be happier when you give than when you receive.

**Key point:** It's ironic, is it? Selfishly, your generosity will benefit you the most.

**Ask yourself?** When were you happier to give something rather than to receive? On the other hand, when did someone else's generosity bless you?

Mark Condra

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

### Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2021 giving record, they must meet one of these requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31st.
2. The contribution is put into the offering plate or delivered to the office on or before December 31st.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.
4. An online E-Giving transaction is dated on or before December 31st. (Find link at [fumcgadsden.org/giving](http://fumcgadsden.org/giving))
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 31st. Please inform the financial Office at the church about a stock transfer.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at [giving@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:giving@fumcgadsden.org) or 256-543-8200, no later than December 30th. **(Church office is closed 12/31)**

### DOES AN IRA ROLLOVER MAKES SENSE THIS YEAR?

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA rollover is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help Gadsden First United Methodist Church fulfill its mission.

By transferring some of your IRA required distribution to the church, you may be able to lower your taxable income and capital gains taxes this year. Check with your advisor to see how an IRA rollover gift could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.

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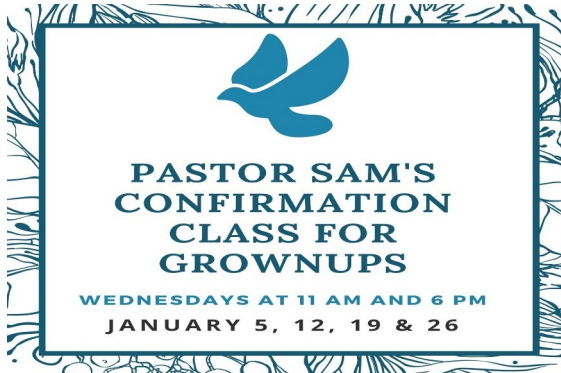
**2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.**

- You can also fill out a 2022 Estimate of Giving Card online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org](http://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 as soon as possible.



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers. Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family.

**Wonderful Wednesday fellowship meal, Bible study and Youth & Children's Activities will resume on January 5. Happy New Year! See you in 2022!**



### 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. 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](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, no Sunday school, December 26 or January 2. Please join us on January 9.
- Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, No Sunday School December 26 or January 2. Please join us on January 9.

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

**Youth Live Nativity on Dec 24th 5pm-6pm**

**Save the Date: Youth Super Bowl Party,  
February 13, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm.**

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. Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.*

## ELC News

- ◇ ELC's Christmas break will run from Friday, December 10th through Monday, January 3rd. Doors open Tuesday, January 4th for our Spring 2022 semester.

—Helene Haller





**COAT DRIVE**

GFUMC Children's  
Ministry

Donate  
your gently  
used items to  
our Clothes  
Closet!

**January  
Service Project**

coats	girls and boys
clothing	all ages
blankets	
toboggans	
gloves	
socks	

**GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**Wonderful Wednesday's**

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

**Sunday Children's Church**

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




Children's  
Ministry

# Missions

## UMCOR and U.S. Disaster Relief

Give to UMCOR's [U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670](#).

Donations also can be made directly to the Kentucky Conference's [Disaster Response Advance 200902](#), Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference's [Disaster Response Fund](#), the [Missouri Conference Disaster Response](#), the [Arkansas Tornado Fund](#) and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference [Disaster Response Ministry](#).

*Donations may be made through GFUMC, simply mark your check for UMCOR in the memo line.*

## Angel Tree Ministry



"Thank You's" go out to ALL who shopped for our Angels from the Angel Tree in the Sanctuary. Twenty-five children will be happy to receive their Santa Claus list on Christmas morning because of your generosity! All your gifts have been delivered to the Salvation Army where they will be distributed to these families.

## 2021 Mission Update

2021 was a year full of many Missions that helped so many during a year of great needs. Our church has shared our blessings and shared Christ's light in our community!  
—Thank you, The Mission Team!

## UMW NEWS

### Welcome everyone to UMW January 2022!

This is a new year for the UMW executive board members. The past two years have been very challenging for everyone. Please support them with your time, pledges, and talents. As we enter 2022, we will continue our monthly luncheons unless/until the Covid-19 virus becomes more severe. If the UMW Circles would like to resume, please check with your circle leader, and make a decision based on your membership.



### UMW Luncheon, January 10, 2022

**10:30 am** Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am in the Seekers class (across from the Gathering room).

**12:00 Noon** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Gathering Room. The Fisherman Restaurant will be serving our lunch. The price now is \$15. This is due to the increase in food costs. Watch this newsletter for our program for our first UMW luncheon of 2022! This will be a very informative program and hope you will make plans to attend.

Thank you to the Early Learning Center (ELC) for their wonderful Christmas program. We always enjoy seeing the children and listening to them sing.

Thank you to all the UMW ladies who delivered the poinsettias to our at-home members.

**Please remember to make your reservations with your circle leaders or contact Delores Abney by Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, by phone or text/phone at 256-458-0376 or by email at [deloresdda53@gmail.com](mailto:deloresdda53@gmail.com). We hope to see you on January 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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.

There will be a sack lunch available on Friday, December 24, at 11:00 am to give out at the portico. There will not be a lunch on Friday, December 31.

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)

## What's New for 2022



### “Integrity of the Heart” January Sermon Series

**January 2-** 11 am, **One Worship Service**

“Who We Are”, *Genesis 20:1-7*, Holy Communion

**January 9-** 9 am and 11 am

“What We Want to Become”, *Mark 1: 16-20, Matt 28:18-20*

**January 16-** 9 am and 11 am

“What We Want to Do”, *Matthew 22: 34-40*

**January 23-** 9 am and 11 am

“Where We Want to Go”, *John 15:1-5*

### Bible Study: Confirmation for Grownups

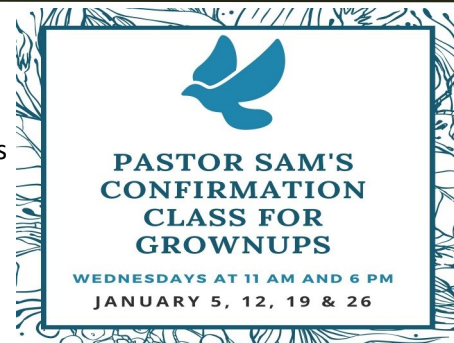
**January 5-** Knowing & Loving God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit

**January 12-** Knowing & Loving Self: Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts

**January 19-** Knowing & Loving Others: Who is My Neighbor?

**January 26-** Celebrating the Christian Year– Methodist Style

*In the Gathering Room*



### New Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

**Starts January 23, 2022**

**5 Week Study, In the Gathering Room**

**@ 10 am**

**All Ages are Welcome!**

**Dream Big by Bob Goff**

**Led by Pastor Andy**

**(He's Bringing Cinnamon Rolls!)**



### UMCNA Read Together

You are invited to join Bishop Wallace-Padgett and other North Alabama Conference United Methodist leaders in continuing this meaningful spiritual discipline. The 2022 plan will be based on writing genres. Each day of the week will include chapters from different types of Scripture. Sundays will be Gospel reading, Mondays will be law, Tuesdays history, Wednesdays we'll read Psalms, Thursdays poetry, Fridays prophets and Saturday will be epistles.

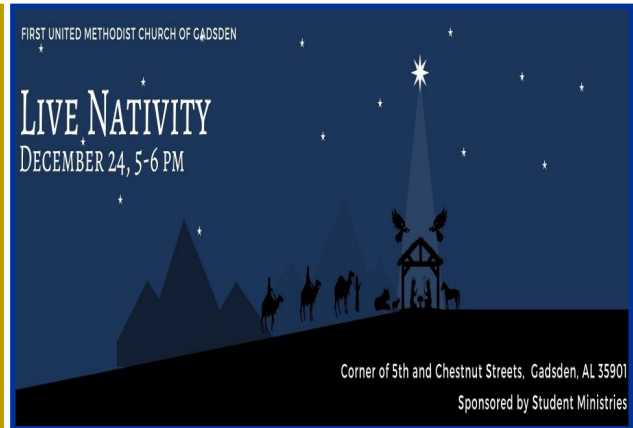
UMCNA will continue to maintain their [Facebook page](#) for comments and discussions on the daily reading and post weekly podcasts featuring meditations by North Alabama clergy and laity as they reflect on the readings for that week.

Please register your commitment to be a part of the Bishop's Bible Challenge. Through registration, UMCNA will be able to provide the materials you need. If you registered in a previous year, there is no need to register again.

The Read Together UMCNA podcast is listed on iTunes and will be posted weekly.

Go to <https://www.umcna.org/readtogether> to register and for links to the facebook page and UMCNA podcast.





**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve**  
**"You'd Better Watch Out"**

### **Worship Times for Christmas and New Year's**

**There will be two Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services with Holy Communion.**

**4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, in sanctuary**

**5:00 pm, Live Nativity, 5TH and Chestnut St**

**6:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, in sanctuary**

**Dec. 26, 1st Sun. after Christmas**

**"The Gifts We Forgot to Unwrap"**

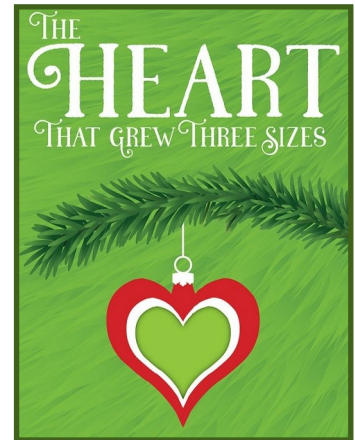
**10:00 am, One United Worship Service**

– Led by Celebration Praise Band

**Jan. 2, Epiphany Sunday, Integrity of the Heart (New Sermon Series Begins)**

**11 am, One Worship Service, Traditions**

**"Who We Are", Genesis 20:1-7, Holy Communion**



## **Honorariums and Memorials**

### **General Budget Fund**

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Evelyn & Glen Pierson.

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Julia Nolen Knox..

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Jensen.

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Ann & Haskins Jones.

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Keith Rutledge.

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Joyce Sington.

### **Ladle of Love Fund**

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Ruth Chandler.

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Joyce Culp & Ralph Culp Family.

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wiggins.

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Pat Walker.

In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Peggy Burnett.

### **Howell Erwin Fund**

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Robin Wilson.

### **UMCOR**

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Dottie Ivey.

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Dottie Ivey

### **Benevolence Fund**

In memory of Sam Norris, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

## **Martin Fellowship Sunday School Class**

*A special thank to the ladies of the Martin Sunday School class for preparing desserts and helping with the reception for the family of Dr. Sam Norris following his Celebration of Life. We all were honored to serve this family.*

## **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.**

### **Special Holiday Schedule—**

Announcements and news for the Sunday, January 1 newsletter should be turned in to the church office by Tuesday, December 28 at noon.

**Thank you and Merry Christmas! — Church Staff**

## Calendar for December 26-January 1, 2022

### December 26, Sunday

10:00 am, One Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

### December 27, Monday

#### **ELC Christmas Break**

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

5:00 pm, Board of Stewards, Go To Meetings

### December 28, Tuesday

5:00 pm, Finance, 6:00 pm, Board of Stewards, Go To Meetings

### December 29, Wednesday

**Christmas Break-Wonderful Wednesday will resume Jan.5.**

No Wednesday night meal, No Bible Study or Activities

### December 30, Thursday

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

5:30 pm, No Thursday Worship

6:00 pm, Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse

### December 31, Friday

**Happy New Year!**

**Office Closed**

**No Ladle of Love**



## Embrace Alabama Kids ...Formerly "UMCH "White Christmas"

Embrace Alabama Kids began over 130 years ago as an orphanage. Today, as a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home, they are one of the state's most comprehensive and vital resources serving babies, children, youth, teen mothers, college students, and families. Your donation will provide them with homes for the holidays—and every day—embracing them in the powerful and unconditional love of God. **Donations may be made payable to GFUMC and Marked "EmbraceALKids"**

### *In Memory of Her Life*

*Marlyn Scruggs Bugg*

*December 13, 2021*



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, extend Christian sympathy to*

*Collins and Belinda Tackaberry*

*in the death of their son-in-law,*

*Mikey Tonagel December 18, 2021*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Marlyn Bugg  
Family of Mikey Tonagel  
Lisa Dobbins



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Nancy Smith Bryant Grizzell Carma Rayburn Jerry McGinnis  
Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)  
Family of Sam Norris Family of Sandy Self,  
Family of Stan Walker



**Dec 26** Kaity Dorsett, Victoria Mills

**Dec 27** Jon Hand,  
Belinda Tackaberry

**Dec 28** Will Edwards,  
Franklin Leach

**Dec 29** Ellen Cummans,

**Dec 30** Sheila Freeman

**Dec 31** Bill Leach

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

### **Week of December 19, 2021**

\*In Person Total \*270 Overall Total 691  
Online Viewer Total 421 Mosaic \*6  
Thursday \*10 Adult Sunday School \*31  
Celebration \*63/181 Traditions \*97/226  
Children \*33 Youth \*20 UMW \*0  
Bible Study Groups \*10/14 Other \*  
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00  
General Offering Received \$9,104.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$775,200.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$664,302.00

### **2022 "Overflowing Hearts"**

**Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:**

**73 for \$292,346.00**

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**

### 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

**Offering Plates are located in the front and rear of the sanctuary for Celebration and will be passed during Traditions worship.**