

115 So. 5th Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901

October 4, 2020

# Gadsden First UMC

Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope  
#GFUMCConnect2020

10-4-20

Sermon Notes

"Suffering and Communion"

Several years ago, I went to a large training even in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It was one of the most joyful, energetic gatherings I had ever been to (that wasn't a youth or children's event). Everywhere you looked, people were engaged in conversations in pairs or small groups. The coffee shop was bustling with activity. When we had worship together, it was dynamic and heart-felt. What I saw going on around me (and participating in myself) was something that the New Testament referred to as *koinonia*... a word that means "communion" or "fellowship". Here is what Adam Hamilton says about *koinonia* in his book, *Creed*: "It [*koinonia*] involves getting to know others, building relationships with them, and actively caring for and encouraging them. This was the purpose of the church – to foster, build, and serve as a community of people devoted to one another in brotherly and sisterly love, bound together by a common faith, and working together to live out their faith in the world. We not only are Christ's assembly; we are his family." (pp. 113-114)

*Koinonia* was happening at this big event! What was this event? It was a training for *Celebrate Recovery*. In case you are not familiar with it, *Celebrate Recovery* is a Christ-centered twelve-step program that is designed to help anyone who is struggling with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. I believe the close fellowship that was taking place at the *Celebrate Recovery* event was so powerful because it was the fellowship of the suffering. It was communion among those who had shared common pain. Suffering produces a kind of fellowship that nothing else does. This coming Sunday we will start a new series that comes straight out of the book of suffering – *Job*. Maybe more than any other character in the Bible, Job reminds us of a painful truth: to live is to suffer. This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. We will talk about the communion of suffering, as we turn to the first chapter of the Book of Job. Remember the story?

(Job 1: 1-22 NRSV)

Join us this Sunday for in-person worship with distancing and masks at 9:00 am for Celebration, or at 11:00 am for Traditions. If you don't feel comfortable with in-person worship yet, please join us for online worship via Facebook Live, YouTube, or Sermon.net. Pastor Andy will be back with us, having been given the "green light" to do so by the Health Department. Since it is World Communion Sunday, we will celebrate Holy Communion – but at this time we are still only doing "Drive-Thru Communion," which will take place from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Portico.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Sam

***Remember our special Communion Offerings for the Benevolence Fund  
will be received during Holy Communion as we drive through.***

## 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)
- **Sunday, Oct. 4,**  
**Communion, 5:00-7:00 pm**  
(Drive through Portico)

**\*All services in person  
require social distancing &  
masks.**

## Generosity

- **Give online:**  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)
- **Text to Give:**  
256-344-8464

# COME HELP OUT AT THE TRUNK OR TREAT!

If your family is interested in hosting a car trunk or table to pass out candy at our Trunk or Treat event on October 25, please call or text Katharine at 256-393-3051. We are also accepting bags of individually wrapped candy!



## MISSIONS: SUPPORTING OUR ADOPTED SCHOOL STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY

As school starts back in person, Principal Ash is asking parents to send their child with a bottle of water each day as the water fountains are turned off due to Covid 19 guidelines. Your Mission Team will be delivering cases of water to the school, for those students that come without a bottle from home or additional needs.

## 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!



follow GFUMC on Instagram:  
first\_umcgadsden

Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of church activities:  
#gfumcconnect2020

### 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

### Donations for Striplin Elementary School

Hand Sanitizer

(large refill size)

Pump Hand Soap

Disinfectant Wipes

Bottled Water

### Church Phone

256-543-8200

### Website

[www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org)

### Email

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

### Instagram

First\_umcgadsden

#gfumcconnect2020

## ELC News

Professional Photography Group will be here Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for Fall pictures.

Fall Break is Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. No school as we enjoy a day to remember Christopher Columbus. We are also making plans for our annual Halloween Parade. More details coming soon.

*Helene Haller*

## Youth News

**October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

Youth Meeting, Courtyard  
"Our Stuff" & Zombie Games

**October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

"Integrity" & Youth Art Project

The Youth ministry will continue to provide online devotionals for those who aren't able to make it on Wednesday night in person.

### 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

# Children's Ministry News



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden invites you to our

\*The Children's Ministry team is taking donations of individually wrapped candy!

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 25  
2:00-4:00

The home of Mark and  
Allison Casey  
108 Casey Drive  
Glencoe, Alabama 35903

For any questions, call Katharine at 256-393-3051

Free hot dogs,  
drinks, treats,  
petting zoo, and  
bouncy house!  
Bring your family!



**Children are meeting in the Green Space with Social Distancing on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Parents are required to attend with their child/children. The nursery is open during this time.**

**See you on the Green!**

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







**Sunday Morning** w/Ken Casey and George Varner, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting

**Thursday, Men at the Well**, 7:00 am, Zoom, Mark Condra, Todd Rains, Bob Blount or Mark Casey

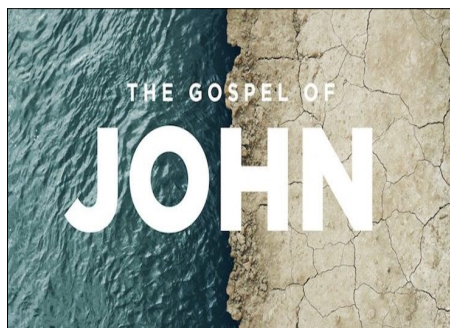
**Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others.** A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused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

**Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family. All Journey Groups are currently meeting virtually. #GFUMCConnect2020**

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***Interested in leading or teaching a journey group? Contact one of the pastors or Sheila Freeman at 256-490-5018 or [Sheila@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:Sheila@fumcgadsden.org)***

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### **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam**

#### **A Study of the Gospel of John**

Join Pastor Sam online each Wednesday night at 6:00 pm for a study of the *Gospel of John*.

**Facebook Live**

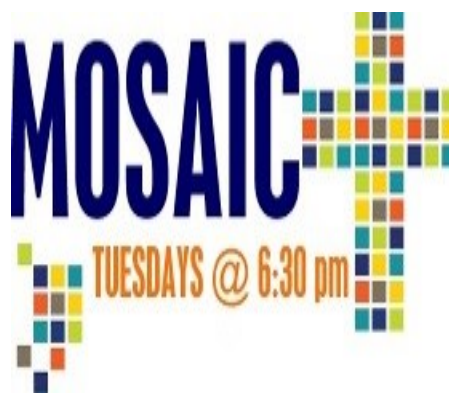
**Wednesdays @ 6 pm**

(You can watch the weekly episodes "on-demand" via the church app or website. Each lesson is uploaded to the church app and website following the live broadcast.)

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### **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.)





The **UMW Luncheon** will be on **October 12th** beginning at **noon** in the gym.  
The **UMW Executive Board** will meet at **10:30 am** in the Gathering Room.  
We will have a catered lunch provided by the **Gadsden Country Club**. We will continue to follow the CDC guidelines. We will wear a mask, social distance and have disposable utensils and individual drinks. Our program will be "**Fifteen 25**". This ladies clothing boutique was located on Rainbow Drive but now is located at **408 Broad Street**. Michelle Turk will be bringing some of her fabulous clothing for us. Check out the Facebook website: **Fifteen 25**. Remember to make your reservations with your circle leader or you may call **Shelby Smith at 256-442-7117 by noon on October 9th**. Call or ask a friend to come with you. (Deco/clean-up will be LuVerna Waid Circle)

#### Circle Meetings

Jean Holtsford-Second Monday-**October 12th**-meet following luncheon  
Stevens Circle-Second Tuesday-**October 13th** at noon  
LuVerna Waid Circle-Third Tuesday-**October 20th** at 6:00 pm

*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](http://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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)



## Ready to get started with Text to Give?

1. Text 256-344-8464
2. For your first time click "SIGN IN" then "REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT".
3. Complete the registration to receive your secure PIN
4. Select the fund, enter the donation amount and payment information.
5. Tap "Save Payment" to use it for future gifts!

## It's that easy!

### Other text commands:

EDIT— Update your account and payment information

KEYWORD — See a list of Keywords (funds) you can give toward.

REFUND — Made a mistake? Refund your last gift. (15 min. expiry.)

Text to Give: 256-344-8464  
Online Giving:  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)



## Calendar for week of October 4-October 10, 2020

### Oct 4, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Sanctuary  
 10:00 am, Sunday School, Ken Casey & George Varner, GoToMeeting  
 10:00 am, Renew Journey Group, Mark Condra & Eric Wright, GoToMeeting  
 10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook  
 10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online  
 11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Sanctuary  
 5:00-7:00 pm, Communion, Portico  
 6:00 pm, Youth; via Zoom or Instagram

### Oct 5, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

### Oct 6, Tuesday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday  
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Courtyard

### Oct 8, Wednesday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open  
 6:00 pm, Children's Ministry, Greenspace  
 Youth Ministry, Courtyard  
 6:00 pm, Bible Study with Pastor Sam; Online

### Oct 9, 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  
 7:00 pm, College Group, via Zoom or Instagram

Oct 10, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ronald Garry Trish Harrell  
 Leda Taylor Judy Dressman

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Beth Kimball  
 John Hatfield  
 Joanne Hightower  
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

*Pray for our fellow Americans and  
 our nation!*



### Honorariums and Memorials

**General Budget Fund:** In memory of Dr. Larry Grimes, DeLeath Rives, Jim Bennett, and Sid Gardner given by Sue Roberts.

**Ladle of Love Fund:** In memory of Doug Martin given by Bill & Donna Campbell. In memory of Sid Gardner given by Marjorie Ross. In memory of DeLeath Rives given by Dorothy Rogers. In memory of Doug Martin given by Stan & Pat Walker.

**Music Fund:** In memory of Doug Martin given by Steve & Lynne Frederick. In memory of Doug Martin given by Alex Holtsford. In memory of Doug Martin given by Frank & Judy Dressman. In memory of Doug Martin given by Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Wesley.

**UMCOR:** In memory of Doug Martin, Davey Anderson, and Hanky MacFadyen given by Dotty Ivey.

### Birthdays.....

**Oct 4** Wilson Able, Martha Smith, Alyssa Branch  
**Oct 5** Harding Leach, Hilary Jarecki, John Paul Wilson, Stephen Blackstock, Madison Walker  
**Oct 6** Susan Swann, Emily Kate Hayes  
**Oct 7** Miller Wigley  
**Oct 9** Jack Floyd, Kinley Freeman  
**Oct 10** Cynthia Whitt, Abby Ross



### Week of September 27, 2020

Online Viewer Total 309  
 \*In Person Total \*106 Total overall 415  
 Celebration \*26/121 Traditions \*44/138  
 Mosaic \*10 Thursday \*12  
 Youth \*8 Bible Study Groups 50  
 Children \*6  
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00  
 General Offering Received \$6,714.20  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$602,160.00  
 YTD General Offering Received \$567,921.99

### Benevolence Fund

The "Benevolence" offering fund is very low. This fund is from offering donations we receive during communion. Since our schedule for communion has changed we have experienced a decrease in these donations. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please send this along with your regular offering. Thank you!

*Finance Team*