

115 So. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

September 13, 2020

Gadsden First UMC

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



Pop Verses: 9-13-20

Sermon Notes

One of my favorite movies, *The Princess Bride*, was made back in 1987. It's hard to describe...you will just have to see it for yourself if you haven't already. I've seen it so many times, some lines from this movie are burned into my brain. Lines like, "As you wish." Or what about, "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." I can see it in my mind right now – Mandy Patinkin saying those words... They have

sort of become a part of Pop Culture.

Another quote from that movie centers around the character Vizzini, who keeps saying over and over again, "Inconceivable!" After Vizzini attempts to cut a rope that the Dread Pirate Roberts is climbing up, the pirate doesn't fall to his death, and Vizzini yells again, "Inconceivable!" And Inigo Montoya says, "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

That's the problem with "Pop Verses." (verses that are lifted out of context so much they become a part of Pop Culture). These verses many times don't mean what we think they mean. They get quoted anyway...or put on a refrigerator magnet.

An example of this phenomenon is the verse I will preach on this coming Sunday:

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

(Ps. 37: 4 NRSV)

Beautiful verse, right? But all we seem to fixate on is the part where the Lord gives us the desires of our heart...suddenly we are 6 years old and it's Christmas Eve, and we know Santa is going to give us that Red Rider BB Gun that is the desire of our heart! Would it surprise you to learn that this verse has nothing to do with us getting a Red Rider BB Gun (or anything else like that)? Join us this Sunday IN PERSON OR ONLINE at 9:00 for Celebration, or 11:00 for Traditions. If you join us in person, please remember to wear your mask.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- Mosaic: 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Church Courtyard (Social Distancing and masks required.)
- Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm Thursday, Sanctuary (Social Distancing and masks required.)
- Sunday Celebration Worship, 9:00 am, Sanctuary
- Sunday Traditions Worship, 11:00 am, Sanctuary

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

SEPTEMBER MISSION SUPPORTING THE C.L.I.C.K. PROGRAM



Since they have not been in session during the COVID 19 outbreak and the schools were shut down, we will work with them to see what their needs are when they return. Watch for updates!

Clothes Closet Workday

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
9:00 am to 11:00 am

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00 am to
12:00 pm



AUGUST MISSION SUPPORTING OUR ADOPTED SCHOOL STRIPLIN ELEMENTARY

It is time for school to begin, although extremely different this year! Our students will be starting with Virtual School but there are still many needs that we can help the teachers meet. The three biggest requests from teachers are: HAND SANITIZER

REFILL BOTTLES, PUMP HAND SOAP, AND DISINFECTANT WIPES. *Please help us collect these items!*

We will continue to collect the items for Striplin through the end of August! A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have already dropped off items! The church office will remain closed but these three items can be dropped off in the lobby by ringing the doorbell. The Mission Team THANKS you for your generous support of this Mission Project!!!

Along with the Beginning of School comes our FUNDRAISER to support our teachers at Striplin through the year. These funds will provide **The Teacher of The Month Program** (50.00 / month), **Teacher of the Year** (100.00) and the **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** in May. Our teachers work so hard, especially now with Covid 19, so your support will enable us to say, " **THANK YOU!**"

Please add a donation to your pledge, mail a check to the Church Office, or use e-giving to make sure we are able to provide a much needed " **JOB WELL DONE!**"

Donations for Striplin Elementary School

Hand Sanitizer (large
refill size)

Pump Hand Soap

Disinfectant Wipes



UMW News

Guess what!! UMW will meet for our September 14th luncheon.

We will have our luncheon **in the gym at 12:00 noon**. Dr. Chip Griffith is the speaker. His presentation will be "Medical Missions Across the World". The Stevens Circle will be in charge of decorations and cleanup.

The UMW **Executive Board Meeting will meet at 10:30 am in the Gathering Room** to have more room to spread out.

We will follow all the CDC guidelines with social distancing. There will be a catered box lunch with minimal fanfare. Everything will be sanitized and each individual will pick up their own food and beverage. We will be wearing masks except when we are eating!

I am so looking forward to once again seeing all UMW ladies!! Be sure to *call in your reservations to your circle leader or Shelby Smith at 256-442-7117 by Friday, September 11, 2020.*

—Eileen Graham

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

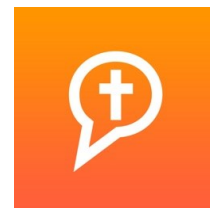
Sermon.net:

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:

#gfumcconnect2020



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

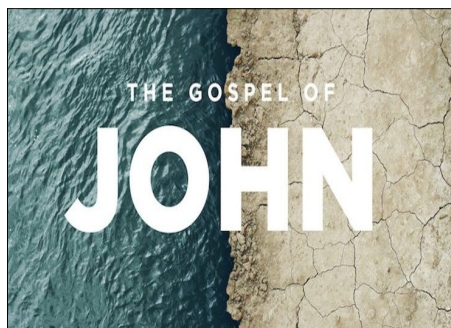
Renew Journey Group w/Mark Condra and Eric Wright, 10:00 am, Sundays, GoToMeeting Email Mark or Eric for more info: mcondra3@gmail.com or ericwright@gmail.com

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

Interested in leading or teaching a journey group? Contact one of the pastors or Sheila Freeman at 256-490-5018 or Sheila@fumcgadsden.org



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*.

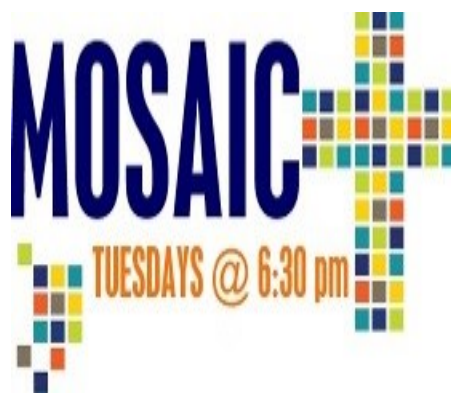
Facebook Live

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.)

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.)



ELC News

We will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day Holiday.

The new handbooks for this year will be ready to go home with the parents soon.

We started Music for 2k, 3k and 4k and Spanish for 3K and 4K.

—Helene Haller

Youth News

The Youth will continue to meet Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the courtyard. 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

Youth & Children's Ministry

SHOEBOX MINISTRY



Children's Ministry News

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

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. See you on the Green!

Calendar for week of September 6-12, 2020

Sept 13, 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
 6:00 pm, Youth; via Zoom or Instagram

Sept 14, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 10:30 am, UMW Executive Board Meeting, Gathering Room
 12:00 pm, UMW Luncheon, Gathering Room/Gym

Sept 15, Tuesday

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

Sept 16, Wednesday

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

Sept 17, Thursday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
 7:00 pm, College Group, via Zoom or Instagram

Sept 18, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charlie Nell and Robert G. Johnson by their family.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Leda Taylor
 Judy Dressman



Continued Prayer Concerns

Hanky MacFadyen John Hatfield
 Butch Herb Nancy Smith
 Doug Martin John Floyd
 Joanne Hightower Jane Jones
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

Please remember our church families that have lost a spouse, child, or sibling. Call or send a card and let them know you are praying for them

Honorariums and Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund:

In memory of Jim Bennett and Sid Gardner, given by Juanita Hammons.

Music Fund:

In memory of Jim Bennett and Sid Gardner, given by Gloria Rives.

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Marian Ford in the death of her sister,

Davey P. Anderson



Birthdays.....

Sept 13 Betty Ballard, Linda Marble
Sept 14 Tommy Bone, Marihugh Leach
Sept 15 Alicia Dowling, Anna Dobbins, Danielle Wilson
Sept 16 Bibb Holland
Sept 17 Joseph Callahan
Sept 18 Hunter Grimes
Sept 19 Ruth Chandler, Gwen Ford, William Leach, Sophia Norris, Julian Salazar



Welcome
 J.T. and Trish Harrell

Week of September 6, 2020

Online Viewer Total 314
 *In Person Total *57 Total overall 371
 Celebration 127 Traditions 142
 Mosaic *12 Thursday *18
 Youth *14 Bible Study Groups 45
 Children *13
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$12,125.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$555,840.00
 YTD General Offering Received \$532,893.79

The church office is still closed. You may call if you have a need that we can help with between 8:00am-4:00pm, 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 attending any service or activity at the church. If you do not have one, we have them available for you to use. Stay Well. Stay Safe.

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give