

115 So. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

August 30, 2020

Gadsden First UMC

Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope
#GFUMCCConnect2020

RESET “Resetting Our Expectations”

8-30-20

Sermon Notes

“Resetting Our Expectations”

This has been an eventful couple of weeks for students and teachers, administrators and staff, as school started back. Oh yes – and don’t forget the parents...some of whom have become unexpected “home-school teachers!” Needless to say, nobody *expected* to have a school year that started out the way this one did.

A “Peanuts” cartoon from a few years ago shows Charlie Brown saying to Linus, “I learned something in school today. I signed up for folk guitar, computer programming, stained-glass art, shoemaking, and natural foods workshop.” Charlie Brown continues – “I *got* spelling, history, arithmetic, and two study periods.”

Linus asks, “So, what did you learn, Charlie Brown?”

Charlie replies, “I learned that what you sign up for and what you get are two different things.”

Isn’t that the truth! I saw one person post on social media that the most useless thing they have ever purchased was a “2020 Planner!” None of us signed up for this, did we?

So, maybe while we are “resetting” things this month, we ought to spend some time resetting our expectations. When I think of resetting expectations, I think of Moses. Remember the story of the “burning bush?”

Exodus 3: 1-15

Moses grew up as a Prince of Egypt, but had to reset his expectations when he had to escape as a fugitive to Midian. Then after 40 years working as a shepherd for his father-in-law, he was called by God to go back to Egypt “to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” He certainly wasn’t expecting that when he was taking care of sheep in the wilderness!

This Sunday we will talk about what we should expect and how to reset expectations when they are unrealistic. I hope that you will join us via Facebook Live or YouTube, at 9:00 or 11:00 this Sunday morning – or gather with us this Thursday at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary for Thursday evening worship!

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 Online Worship, 9:00 am
- Sunday Traditions, Online Worship, 11:00 am

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



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

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.

New opportunities will begin in August! It's easy to join via GoToMeeting or Zoom! Contact one of the Journey Group leaders or the church office to find out more about how to get started!

Contact: sheila@fumcgadsden.org or 256-543-8200

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

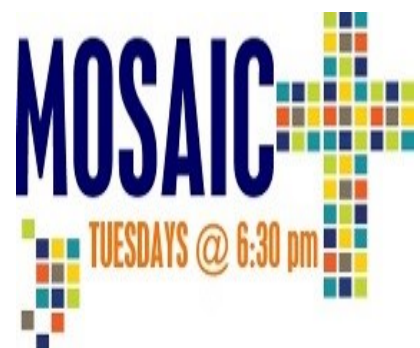
Facebook Live

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.)



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!”**



A Pizza Party to for Back to School Week from GFUMC partnering with Ronnie Watkins Ford

Christmas in



*Fill a Stocking for a Child for
It's Christmas in our hearts!*

- **Already picked up a stocking?** You may also return stockings at Striplin Donation drop-off times or by calling the church office.
- **Would you like a stocking delivered to you so that you can fill and return?** Contact Charlotte @ 256-504-9718
- **Would you like for Santa's helpers to do your shopping for you?** You can sponsor a stocking with your donation of \$15.00 and one of the remaining stockings will be filled!

*(Remember the church office is closed,
so please use the pick-up and drop-off times above.)*

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

Donations for Striplin Elementary School

Hand Sanitizer (large
refill size)

Pump Hand Soap

Disinfectant Wipes

Stocking Stuffer Ideas

Toothbrush

Toothpaste

Hair items

Small Bible

School supplies

Small toys

Gloves

Hats

Socks

Cards

Books

Candy

ELC News

We are excited to get our Fall 2020 term started.

Last week's Open House was wonderful!

We had a great first week here at the ELC. Next week we start Music for 2k, 3k and 4k and Spanish will begin for 3K and 4K.

—Helene Haller

Youth News

The Youth will meet Wednesday, August 26, 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



GFUMC Youth Group

Social Distancing Olympics



With Christ Central Youth Group

Youth & Children's Ministry

Despite the social distancing implemented, the children and youth loved the visit in the GFUMC gym from 6th Day Creatures!



Children's Ministry News

Children are meeting in the GreenSpace with Social Distancing on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Parents are required to attend with their child/children. See you on the Green!



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

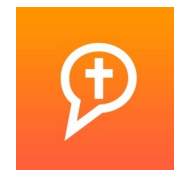
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: **FUMCGadsden**

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



Week of August 23, 2020

Online Viewer Total 304

*In Person Total * 102 Total overall 406

Celebration 113 Traditions 134

Mosaic *16 Thursday *26

Youth *30 Bible Study Groups 57

Children *30

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00

General Offering Received \$4,768.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$524,960.00

YTD General Offering Received \$509,561.79

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Calendar for week of August 30-September 5, 2020

Aug 30, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Online
 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, Virtual
 11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Online
 6:00 pm, Youth; via Zoom or Instagram

Aug 31, Monday

9:00 am– 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

Sept 1, Tuesday

9:00 am– 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Courtyard

Sept 2, Wednesday

9:00 am– 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 6:00 pm, Children's Ministry, Green Space
 6:00 pm, Bible Study with Pastor Sam; Online
 6:00 pm, Youth; Courtyard

Sept 3, 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 4, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

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.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Hanky MacFadyen
 (Nan MacFadyen's mother)
 John Hatfield



Continuing Prayer Concerns

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

Birthdays.....

Aug 30 Jane Weaver, Tommy Hood, Aaron Andrews, Jenn Yarnell, Warren Vallejo
Aug 31 Dr. Cecil Dorsett, Faye Kennah, Bill Green
Sept 1 Louis Loveman
Sept 2 Sherry Bridges, Neita Taylor, Susan George, Frances Isbell, Sam Blackstock, Sarah Blackstock
Sept 5 Makayla Walker



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund:

In memory of Jim Bennett and Sid Gardner given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Sid Gardner given by Katie Grimes.
 In memory of Jim Bennett given by Mike & Sheila Witherspoon.
 In memory of Sid Gardner given by Craig & Cheri Hoeflerlin.
 In memory of Sid Gardner given by David E. Ross.
 In memory of Jim Bennett and Sid Gardner given by 21 Club.
 In memory of Sid Gardner given by Kleinschmidt Associates.

Ladle of Love:

In memory of Jim Bennett and Sid Gardner given by Stan & Pat Walker.

Music Fund:

In memory of DeLeath Rives given by Alan & Sandra Berman.
 In memory of Jim Bennett given by Sam & Leone Norris.

Altar Flowers Fund:

In memory of Sid Gardner given by Barbara Bennett.

Striplin Elementary Fund:

In memory of Sid Gardner given by Sam & Leone Norris.

The Johnson Family Children's Library

Alice in Wonderland has been donated in loving memory of Dr. Adrian Chandler by Harriet, Keith, and Hannah Murray.