

115 So. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

October 11, 2020

Gadsden First UMC

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

10-11-20 Sermon Notes

“Suffering and Questions”

I can think of nothing that pulls up questions from deep inside of us like suffering! When things are going really well, nobody sits around and asks deep questions...like “Why, God?” Well – except for that old Kris Kristofferson song that I really like...

Why me Lord, what have I ever done
To deserve even one
Of the pleasures I've known?
Tell me Lord, what did I ever do
That was worth loving you
Or the kindness you've shown?

Anyway – let things really start to fall apart and all of the sudden we are questioning everything. And the same suffering that causes some people to run toward God causes other people to turn their back on God. I hear people say, “I don't see how anyone could make it through this without their faith in God.” And I hear people say, “If there truly is a God, then why is there so much trouble/hate/crime/suffering, etc... in the world?” This is not just a philosophical question...it really does hurt. Why is life sometimes...unfair?

Take Job for instance. He was a really good guy! Job 1: 1 says that Job was “perfect and upright.” That doesn't mean he was sinless – nobody but Jesus can claim that. But it does mean that he was complete and mature in character, and that he had integrity in his conduct. And then, BAM!

When Job lost all his possessions and all his children, his wife (who was obviously shell-shocked) said this to him:

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. (Job 2: 9-10 NRSV)

Job's wife asks an interesting question that we might want to really take to heart: “Do you still persist in your integrity?” Even in the face of suffering and loss? Even when your heart is broken in two?

This Sunday, we will talk about some of the questions that suffering brings out of us. Of course, we will look at, “Why?” But we will also look at some other questions that may be more important than that one. This Sunday, we will also celebrate *Children's Sabbath*, so our children will be doing some special things in our in-person worship services. If you would rather join us online via Facebook Live or YouTube or Sermon.net – welcome!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sam

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)

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

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

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:
#gfumconnect2020

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

Email

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Instagram

First_umcgadsden

#gfumconnect2020

ELC News

Fall pictures went well. The ELC will be closed Monday, October 12th for Fall Break.

We are expecting some special visitors on Wednesday October 21st for our 4K class. More details to come.

Helene Haller

Youth News

October 14th at 6:00 pm
"Integrity" & Youth Art Project

October 21st at 6:00 pm
"Fear Not" & Pumpkin Carving

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.



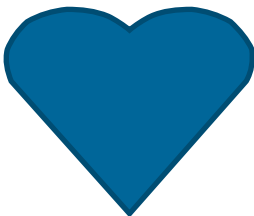
Join Andy on Facebook Live
or Instagram
Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

Children's Ministry News

Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 11

Children will take part in the worship services as we celebrate with our Children.



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. #GFUMCCConnect2020

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.)





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

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



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



Calendar for week of October 11-October 17, 2020

Oct 11, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Sanctuary
 10:00 am, Sunday School, Ken Casey & George Varner, 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 12, Monday

ELC closed for Holiday
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 10:30 am, UMW Executive Board meeting
 12:00 pm, UMW Luncheon, Gym
 1:15 pm, Jean Holtsford Circle

Oct 13, Tuesday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 12:00-1:00 pm, Stevens Circle
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Courtyard

Oct 14, Wednesday

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

Oct 15, 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 16, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Leda Taylor Judy Dressman
 Philips and Alyssa Leach

Continued Prayer Concerns

Ronald Garry Trish Harrell
 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 Hanky MacFadyen given by Evelyn & Glen Pierson.
 In memory of Jim Bennett given by John & Elaine Baird.

Howell Erwin Medical Fund:

In memory of Doug Martin given by Don & Debbie Hiltz.
 In memory of Doug Martin given by Sandra Hunter.
 In memory of Jim Bennett, Dr. Larry Grimes, and Doug Martin given by Nan MacFadyen.

Ladle of Love Fund:

In memory of Doug Martin given by the Joyce Sington family.

Birthdays.....

Oct 12 Dotty Ivey
Oct 13 Mary Gomillion
Oct 14 Steve Huie, Alana Clemens, Addison Rains, John Riley
Oct 15 Ken Davis, Dr. Mike McEwen, Robin Wilson, Anna Catherine Edwards
Oct 16 Margaret Kirby, Millie Martin, Ashby New



Week of October 4, 2020

Online Viewer Total 328
 *In Person Total *130 Total overall 458
 Celebration *33/124 Traditions *53/148
 Mosaic *10 Thursday *11
 Youth *12 Bible Study Groups 38
 Children *11/18 Communion *30
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$21,965.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$617,600.00
 YTD General Offering Received \$589,886.99

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