



labor pains

GALATIANS 4:19

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

September 19

Sermon Notes

“Labor Pains”

This month’s theme is “labor.” If you were to look in the dictionary for the word “labor,” (I did, because I’m nerdy like that) you would find several different definitions. It is a noun, of Latin origin, and the first, most common meaning is “physical or mental exertion; work. It can also mean a “specific task” or “labor unions collectively”... AND it can mean the process of childbirth. In this case, “labor” can be turned into an adjective. What kind of pains? *Labor pains*... pains associated with bringing someone new into the world

There is another kind of labor pain that the Apostle Paul is describing in his letter to the Galatians. Here is what he says in Galatians 4: 19 –

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you –

Paul viewed those who came to follow Christ as a result of his ministry as his “children.” He says this not in a condescending way, but with great love and affection...and pain. He is telling his Galatian “children” that what is happening to them is like he is in labor all over again. His goal is to see “Christ formed” in them. Paul’s goal is to make disciples. Does that sound familiar? It should! It is the cornerstone of our mission statement at Gadsden First United Methodist Church! The process of making disciples is...well... painful.

I will say more about this on Sunday, but for now I will leave you with this: (1) Making disciples is well worth the labor and the pain. (2) The labor doesn’t stop after disciples are made...neither does the pain.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

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

Sunday Worship

Celebration Service 9:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

Traditions Service 11:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
on facebook live: @fumcgadsden

Tech Team Schedule

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

September 19

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

September 26

Celebrate 175-Labor of Love @ 10 am
Eric Wright, Will Brookshire, Mark Condra
Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven



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.

Wednesday Night Supper
 September 8, 5:15 pm
 Barbecue, Chips, Fruit, Cookies
 Dinner: \$7 per person
 Children 11 and under: \$3
 (Max \$20 per family.)
 Make a reservation by
 Monday, Sept 20 by calling the church
 office @ 256.543.8200 or email:
 sheila@fumcgadsden.org

In-Person Bible Study on Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 pm
“The Gospel of Luke” w/Pastor Sam

In-person
Pastor Sam
Wednesday
Mornings @ 11 am
Gathering Room



Online
Pastor Sam
Wednesdays @ 6 pm,
online, FACEBOOK Live
 (Also, available on-demand on
 the GFUMC website or church
 app under the media tab.)

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom– New Study: Saints & Sinners

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. A different member of the small group will lead a discussion each week.. **Thursday, September 16, 2021:** Todd Rains will lead us in a discussion of Stephen, the Martyr and how his loyalty and willingness to sacrifice his own for his belief shaped Christianity. **Thursday, September 23, 2021:** Mark Condra will discuss how two wealthy merchants, Aquila and Priscilla, helped Paul in Acts 18. Go to 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.*

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am in person

- Living Water Sunday School Class, “Mysteries of the Messiah” by Rabbi Jadon Sobel, Chapel, Room 118.
- Martin Fellowship Class, “International Sunday School Lessons”, Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, “ The God We Can Know” by Rob Fuquay, Room 208, Starts Sunday, September 12.
- Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting. *Members are welcome to meet with another classes return.*

MOSAIC
 @ THE BACK FORTY BEER COMPANY
 A Safe, Affirming Community of Worship
 Thursdays @ 6 pm
 Starts September 9



Celebrate
175
Labor of Love
Worship Celebration
A Celebration of 175 Years of Ministries and Missions

BISHOP DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT
REV. DR. SAM HAYES
REV. ANDY YARNELL

Sunday, September 26 @ 10 AM
 First United Methodist Church
 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, Alabama

Protocols are in place for the safety of our in-person guests.

- Seating Limited in the Sanctuary with Social Distancing.
- Additional Seating will be available in two overflow areas of the church where worship will be broadcast.
- Hand Sanitizer stations are located at all entrances and throughout the building.
- Masks are requested for those who have not been vaccinated and anyone who wishes to have added protection.
- We look forward to seeing you at the Celebration whether it is in-person or online!

RSVP: Return this card to the church office or go to www.fumcgadsden.org/celebrate-175 to respond.

Name(s): _____ I (We) will attend in-person. (____#)

Email: _____ I (We) will attend online via facebook live or the church website (____#)

Phone: _____ I am unable to attend.

Please share a memory or a note about what GFUMC means to you.



Youth Ministry News
Wednesday Nights Youth Group
6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

ELC News

Friends of the ELC Consignment Sale
Come Shop & Volunteer
 Sept. 16, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, "Girls Night Out" (Tickets \$10.00)
 Sept. 17, 9:00am-5:00pm, General Public
 Sept. 18, 7:00am-10:00am, Half Price Day

Our first lunchbox revolt will be Tuesday, September 21st. Greg from The Dog House will be here serving hot dogs and chips. Information will be sent home soon.
 —Helene Haller

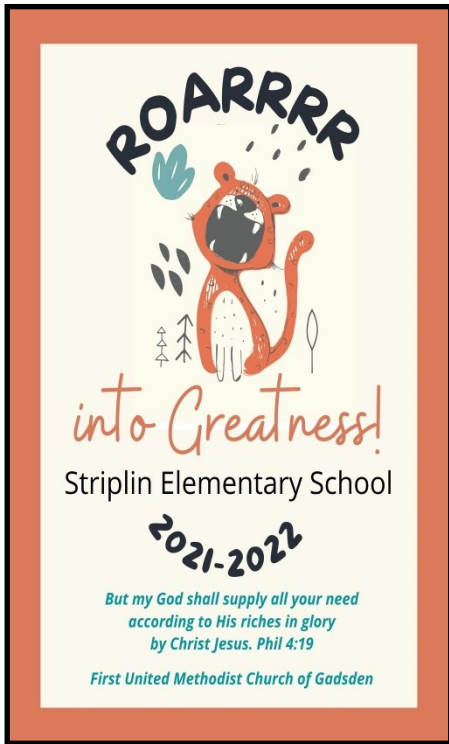
Dinner: Wednesday, Sept. 22 • \$7 per person • 11 & Under: \$3
Menu: Barbecue, Pasta Salad, Chips, Fruit, Dessert
Don't forget to make a reservation for Wonderful Wednesday Family Supper by Noon on Mondays!

Children's Ministry News

"Celebrate Wonder"
 Children's Church
 In-Person, Sundays
 9 am and 11 am during Worship
 Children's Worship Room

GFUMC Kid's Fall Calendar
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
6:00-7:00

CHILDREN SING IN SERVICE SUNDAY 9/26 10:00	THE AMAZING CHEMISTRY SHOW SUNDAY 11/14 6:00-7:00
TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY 10/17 2:00-4:00	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY 12/12 TBD



Missions

GFUMC is
“Roaring into Greatness”
 with Striplin Elementary!

Each year we have the opportunity to make a difference for our adopted school!

We are kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by providing each teacher with a bag of supplies for their classroom. And once again this year, we will provide Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Gift Cards and Certificates, A/B Honor Roll parties and the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

Please help us support our GREAT teachers and students by giving to the Striplin Fund. Thank you in advance for your Generosity. **#amindsetofexcellence**

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



As Fall is approaching, we will be collecting Fall and Winter Clothing. Clean out your closets and don't forget Your Clothes Closet! Women, Men, Youth, and Children's clothes are needed.

UMW NEWS



Due to the increase of the Covid Virus, **We will not meet on September 13** for the **UMW Luncheon**.

We will assess on a month to month basis.

Watch this newsletter for new updates throughout the next few months. —Eileen Graham

R & R



The meeting for September 27 has been cancelled due to Covid numbers. We have postponed meeting in person until January 2022.

Honorariums & Memorials

Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.

Altar Flower Fund

Gifts to this fund are used to place flowers on the altar for special worship days throughout the year. Flowers may also be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one by personal request. Contact Susan Swann in the church office for available dates and more information.

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
 at the Portico entrance

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021

Blessing of the ANIMALS

Sunday, October 3, 10 am
West Lawn
(near the portico entrance)
Gadsden First UMC



On Sunday, October 3, you are warmly invited to join us at 10 am on the West Lawn (near the portico entrance) for the "Blessing of the Animals". Pets of all sizes, shapes, and varieties are welcome! Please ensure that your pet is secured in a way that provides safety for them and for the other pets present. You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet if they are unable to accompany you.

For those who have lost a pet recently, you are invited to bring a photo to place on our Memorial Wall.

This blessing event is a chance to give thanks for all God's Creation, especially our pets and the special place they hold in our hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)



**Have you downloaded
the Church App?**

Search: FUMCGadsden
(Available in the App Stores for
Android or iPhone!)



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam at the church office at 256-543-8200 or email at giving@fumcgadsden.org.**

Generosity-Ways to Give

- 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 at the entrances the sanctuary.



Calendar for September 19-25, 2121

Sept 19, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**
 10:00 am, Martin Fellowship, Pathfinders, & Living Water
 Sunday School classes, in person

11:00 am, **Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**

Sept 20, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

Sept 21, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

5:00-6:00 pm, **Yoga, Gym**

Sept 22, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

11:00 am, **Wednesday Bible Study, Room 208**

Sept 22, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm, Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 208 / livestream**

6:00 pm, **Children's Activities, Room 108**

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

6:00 pm, **Choir Practice, Choir Room**

Sept 23, Thursday

7:00 am, **Men at the Well Journey Group, Zoom**

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**

6:00 pm, **Mosaic, Back Forty Warehouse**

Sept 24, Friday

11:00-12:00 pm, **Ladle of Love, Portico**


Celebrate 175—Labor of Love • Sunday, September 26, 2021

Order a mum in honor or in memory of a special person. Mums will be placed at the entrances & in the Chancel area of the Sanctuary. Order online @ www.fumcgadsden.org or call 256-543-8200. Cost \$15.00

Honorariums and Memorials


General Budget Fund:
 In memory of Will Downs, given by Gloria Rives.
 In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Jack & Connie Brechin.
 In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Cleve & Bess Estes
 In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Law Office of Cusimano, Roberts, Mills, & Knowles.

In Memory of Her Life
Barbara Morrison



September 6, 2021


The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Scott Waldrup in the death of his mother, Catherine Ann Waldrup



September 12, 2021

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Carma Rayburn	Marian Ford
Sonya Nesbitt	Lisa Dobbins
Wanda Hemby (Jill Moran's mother)	
Pam James (Jan Humphries sister)	



Continued Prayer Concerns

Joyce Singleton June Styles Jan Humphries
 William (Skip) Edwards (Jennifer Jackson's father)
 Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberrys' son-in-law)
 Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Birthdays.....

Sept 19 Ruth Chandler, Gwen Ford, William Leach, Sophia Norris, Julian Salazar
Sept 20 Vickie Stewart, Pat Martin, Cherie Cornelius, Phil Owen
Sept 21 Randy Holland, Hannah Murray
Sept 23 Joan Garry, Kathye Vance, Gordon Isbell, Courtney McNair, Adam Sollie, Caiden Phillips
Sept 24 Susan Wright, Lowndes Harrison
Sept 25 Barbara Mosley, John McNair, Caroline Harrison

Week of September 12, 2021

*In Person Total *192	Overall Total 483
Online Viewer Total 291	Mosaic *10
Thursday *6	Sunday School *23
Celebration Service *48/128	Children *22
Traditional *56/143	Youth *19
Bible Study Groups *8/20	
General Offering Budget	\$15,200.00
General Offering Received	\$21,994.50
YTD General Offering Budget	\$562,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$494,328.16

Covid – Update

We have masks and hand sanitizer available at the entrances and every other pew has been marked off. Please observe social distancing and wear a mask if you have not been fully vaccinated or as needed.

Thank you.