



March 11, 2022

The Weekender

The problem with change

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

I remember somewhere in 5th or 6th grade learning about the process of sublimation. Up until that point, I had understood that matter is what stuff is made of. I had understood that that stuff can either be qualified as a liquid, solid, or gas. I had seen the process watching ice cubes turn into water turn into vapor on the hot plate in elementary school. But the word sublimation was new to me.

A refresher: Sublimation is the process of changing from a solid to a gas without passing through an intermediate liquid phase. In other words, it changes rapidly and goes from one end to the other so quickly it skips a step.

Change is hard. Drastic changes are harder.

Maybe that's why the disciples are so reluctant to hear Jesus' words about death and resurrection while he is still with them. Change doesn't seem real, no matter how much we know it is coming or how much we anticipate it.

The problem with change is that it reminds us that we are not in control. I think of Jesus' parables of the yeast. When you add yeast to bread, it changes and grows whether you are watching it or not. You cannot see the yeast working with the naked eye, but you can see the results of it.

The Christian life involves change. Sometimes it is quick and sudden growth like sublimation when we are justified by God's grace and find redemption. Sometimes, like yeast, it is slowly and gradually empowered by God's sanctifying grace. Sometimes it happens without us even knowing, like God's prevenient grace.

The thing we must all accept about being followers of Christ is that change is going to happen. But the good news is that if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. May we learn to thank God for the change, for we are all new creations in Christ.



Second Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2022

8:45 a.m., 11 a.m.

Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after

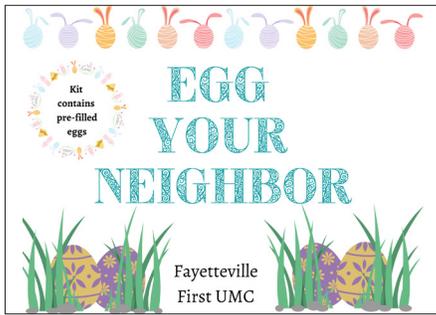
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

Lent in Real Life: Changes

Rev. Allyson Lawrence



CURRENT NEWS



Get "EGG Your Neighbor" kit Sunday

Give the gift of fun to families in your neighborhood. This Lenten and Easter season we're EGGing our neighbors (in a nice way) with our Egg Your Neighbor kit. Kits will be available beginning March 13 in the Welcome Center. [Supplies are limited so register today!](#) Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, or Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.

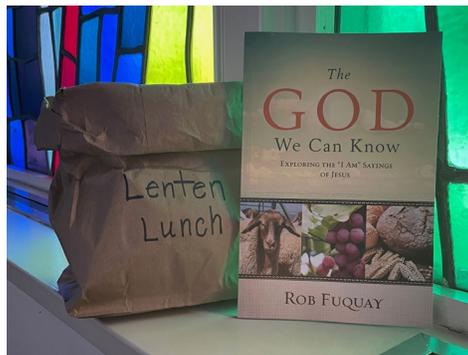


Together We Journey

The season of Lent prepares our hearts for the celebration of Easter. We journey together.

[Lenten Schedule available online, in church office, and in narthex](#)

- Lenten Lunch and Meditation each Thursday at noon
- F-I-T Faith Challenge
- Lenten Offering to benefit Rise Against Hunger
- Lenten Community Outreach (Egg Your Neighbor)
Kits available March 13
- Group and personal daily examination



Lenten Meditation Theme: "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

Our Lenten Journey continues next Thursday, March 17, as Jo Springer explores another chapter on the "I AM" *Sayings of Jesus* based on Rob Fuquay's book *The God We Can Know*. The UMW will provide a light lunch (\$5) at noon in the Fellowship Hall with the meditation to follow.



ARISE! F-I-T Faith Challenge invitation from Allyson

During our forty day F-I-T Faith Challenge we are focusing on loving ourselves as God's masterpiece. You are invited to join Rev. Allyson Lawrence and others as we explore the God-created masterpiece within each of us. Join this challenge any time throughout the Lenten season. We will meet Sundays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. to move our bodies, we will read scripture daily, and through our weekly gathering time we will surround ourselves with people who love and support one another as we focus on God's transforming power. [Follow the F-I-T Faith Challenge link here](#) or at FayettevilleFirst.com for more information and to register. Contact Rev. Allyson at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com.



SAGE Heads to Buckner's on March 18

Enjoy lunch at Buckner's on March 18 with SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere). Invite a friend to join you! Make your reservation with Dian Nelson at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com and then meet in the church office parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 for transportation plus lunch.



Interested in Biblical travel to Egypt?

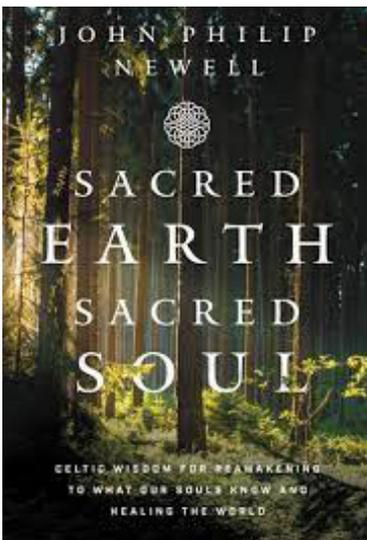
Fayetteville First is joining Due West UMC on a pilgrimage to Egypt to learn about Moses and the Exodus, see the pyramids, and tour the Nile. The dates are November 1-11, 2022. For more information on cost and other related expenses, please contact Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Need from Summer Lunch families

NEW REQUEST: Refrigerator in good working order

Families who are in the Summer Lunch Program have some specific needs. Can you help? If you have what is listed or other items to donate, just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net or text the photo to 678-656-4117.



Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul Study begins April 3

The Study Class (aka The Book Club) will explore John Philip Newell's book "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul." This class will meet in-person and virtually in Room C270 on Sundays beginning April 3. All are invited as we explore the long, hidden tradition of Celtic Christianity, explaining how this earth-based spirituality can help us rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, with each other, and with the earth. Newell introduces some of Celtic Christianity's leading practitioners, both saints and pioneers of faith, whose timeless wisdom is more necessary than ever. "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" offers a new spiritual foundation for our lives, one centered on encouragement, guidance, and hope for creating a better world. For more information, contact Tim Aycock at timaycock@gmail.com.

Lunch with friends at Titus II



Sheriff Barry Babb joins us for the next Titus II on April 5 to speak on safety. Make a lunch reservation with Martha Turner, 770-461-2802, by noon on Thursday, March 31, before the meeting on Tuesday, April 5. Lunch cost: \$8



"Sally Ride" and Leadership Development on March 24

A group meets monthly at FFUMC to discuss one of the books in the UMW Reading Program list. The next meeting is March 24 at 1:30 p.m. with a discussion from the Leadership Development section called "Sally Ride." Anyone can participate in the UMW Book Reading Program. [Just pick a category, find a book, and get to reading!](#) The April book is also listed in case you can read ahead. [Contact Deb Cole, dvcole@hotmail.com, for details.](mailto:dvcole@hotmail.com)

March 24: Leadership Development — "Sally Ride"

April 28: Nurturing for Community — "The Book of Joy"



Yes! I know who that is!

Let's help our church family get to know who we are. **How?** Just update your photo in our church directory. **How?** Simply send an up-to-date photo from your phone in portrait orientation to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, and she will update your profile in the directory. **Why?** We all need a little help with keeping in touch. We want to provide an updated church directory for FFUMC with as many photos as possible to jog our memories of everyone in our church family and to give correct contact information and let us meet those who are new to us. Questions? Call Joan at 770-461-4313.

March 9, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$221,923.07
Year to Date expenses	\$226,906.33
Difference	-\$4,983.26

Benevolence

Received this week \$1,222.00
27 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$9,211.68

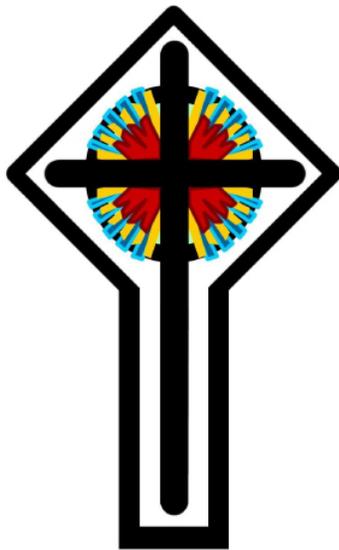
You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.
Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Regular Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)
Closed Fridays



Reminder: Set clocks ahead
Saturday night

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

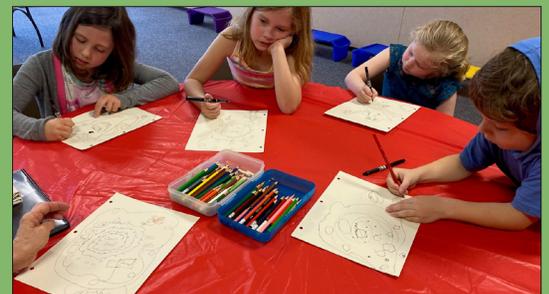
inspired ...

iRespond: Creative steps in spiritual formation

Experience is the best teacher, and our children are getting plenty of it as they learn ways we respond to God's grace. **iRespond** is a creative, intentional effort to move students through expressions of loyalty to Christ promised in the United Methodist membership vows. In small groups, the students are exposed to ways to be faithful in prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness through five touchstones: **iPray, iLove, iGive, iServe, and iLead.**

Just look at some examples from the last few weeks. The third and fourth grade students explored our worship spaces and the importance of being present in an **iLove** segment. Kindergarten and first graders practiced prayer in creative ways with flowers, bubbles, art supplies, Play-Doh and more through **iPray**. First-time acolyte servants in third through fifth grade are learning their important big kid opportunity in worship participation through **iServe** sessions.

As these young disciples move toward Confirmation, they'll be prepared for important personal decisions to come in their faith journey. And it looks like they'll have a good time along the way!



Thanks for your service!
Patrick Mayhew (far left above) joined other students in learning about worship and then served as an acolyte for the first time this past Sunday with James Martin, crucifer, and David Martin, acolyte.