



May 13, 2022

The Weekender

It's very simple

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

A preacher was working on his sermon one day when he heard a commotion outside his office. He came outside to find a group of neighborhood boys gathered in a circle shouting, laughing, and corralling a small puppy in the middle of the circle. Not expecting the worst but certainly not exactly planning for the best, the preacher came up to the boys and asked, "What exactly is going on here?"

The leader of the group shouted out, "We're going around the circle seeing who can tell the best lie. Whoever tells the best lie gets to keep the puppy."

The preacher was appalled. He had never heard such a thing. He said, "Boys, that has to be one of the worst things that you could do or say. Telling a lie to get a puppy? You should all be ashamed of yourselves. Why, I've never told a lie."

The boys fell silent. Finally, the leader piped up, "Well preacher, looks like you get to keep the puppy."

As Christians, we strive for perfection in love. But we know that we will get it wrong sometimes. That is why God's grace is so important in our lives. We are not perfect. We will get things wrong. We will mess up. Sometimes, churches and congregations will even disagree and fight each other. So how do we respond when we can't seem to get things right?

John's gospel provides us with the secret to living in community. It is also the secret to church growth. It is also the secret to becoming more like Jesus. It's very simple. Love one another.

Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, people will know that you are my disciples." Here is a question to ask yourself at the end of the day, "Is my desire to be right greater than my desire to be loving?" None of us is perfect, no one has all the answers, and occasionally Christians will disagree. But if we truly love others as Christ loved us, then we have nothing to worry about. May our desire to love be greater than our desire to be right.



Gracie Gazaway (who was not won in a contest)



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

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

[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

When the Church Fights

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



FFUMC welcomes United Women in Faith Tomorrow

Our church is hosting a cluster meeting for the SouthWest District United Women in Faith. ALL women at FFUMC are welcome and encouraged to attend on May 14 at 10 a.m. in the gym. Being a member of UMW or a circle is NOT a requirement. There are several clusters of churches in the SW District and each cluster has a gathering to share ideas and also give time for informal presentations. Anyone who would like to hear about women's ministries in other churches and hear about the exciting changes happening in United Women in Faith is invited to come.



Jim and Lynn Duncan received a 2021 Christmas Marketplace check from Janet Gazaway for Love Gives Ministries.

Spring Unit Meeting features Love Gives Ministries

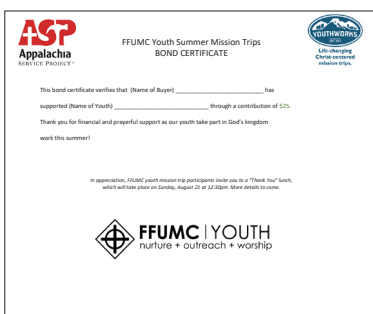
All women in the church are invited to the United Women in Faith (UMW) spring Unit Meeting on Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center gym. The program will be presented by Lynn Duncan of Love Gives Ministries, a wonderful ministry that is sharing Christ's love as they serve and give so generously to those in need in the community.

At the meeting you can enjoy a dinner catered by Chicken Salad Chick (\$10) with **reservations for the meal due by Sunday, May 15**. UMW members should make reservations through their circle chairperson. All others, please contact Susan Burch at showburch@gmail.com or at 678-523-7329. Please indicate the number of children for the nursery.

Would you like to donate to Love Gives Ministries? You are invited to bring these items to the Unit Meeting on May 19 or place them in a collection box in the church office:

Supplies needed: toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, body lotion, panty liners, pads, tampons, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper

Food items needed: peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, 6-pack of crackers, tuna in a pouch, chicken in a pouch, Vienna sausage, instant coffee, fruit cups, applesauce cups



Get a BOND to support youth missions: Due May 15

Want to support a youth or youths individually on their summer trips to Alabama and Appalachia? You can **purchase a "bond certificate" in \$25 or \$50 amounts**. The certificates are available in the hallway at the end of the breezeway near the gym or [you can print one from the links on the youth website page](#). Just complete the certificate and turn it into the church office by May 15 with cash or check attached. Individuals or small groups are invited to participate. Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director](#).

You can **give online!** Just go to www.fayettevillefirst.com, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the "Donate" button, and be sure when submitting your contribution to memo "Youth Summer Missions."

UMW Marie Lamb Circle Sponsors Christmas Shoe Box Drive

The Marie Lamb Circle hopes to make 100 children very happy at Christmas this year. We are sponsoring a Christmas Shoe Box project in cooperation with the United Methodist Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur AL ([Shoe Box Ministry. umdasterwarehouse.com](http://ShoeBoxMinistry.umdasterwarehouse.com)). This ministry targets children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

[Click here to access the list of required \(and prohibited\) items and extra items as space permits.](#) [This size chart may also help.](#) These boxes can be filled at a cost of \$17-22 plus \$5 to cover shipping costs out of the country.



How can you or your small group help?

- Download the list of items to purchase, the size chart, and these instructions.
- Decide what size(s) you want to focus on.
- Decide how many boxes you or your small group can make (please do both boys and girls). Boxes are available in the church office or from Maggie Clarke.
- Purchase items, place them in a Zip-Loc or other bag, and place bag in the donation bin outside the gym or return to the church office. Include a check for \$5 made payable to the church for each box. Be sure to write "Shoebboxes" on the memo line.
- To donate money, toward either the contents or the shipping cost, contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com, 404-395-8161.

Members of the Marie Lamb Circle will verify the contents, pack the boxes, and insert the Nativity coloring book provided by the warehouse. All purchased items must be turned in by July 4, 2022, so that we can deliver the completed boxes to the warehouse the first week of August.



Food donation needs for May

Thanks for helping others! Donations for Fayette Samaritans, our community food pantry and clothes closet, may be placed in the **hallway cart near the gym** (new location) or **dropped by the church office**.

Most Needed in May (but all donations are welcome and appreciated):
Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Tuna, Canned Fruit, Corn, Saltine Crackers, Jelly, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

Clothes Closet Needs: All sizes women's underwear, especially large



Fellowship Hall Renovation Notes

We're excited about getting started on this highly anticipated project! Look for these groups and items in their relocated areas as our Fellowship Hall undergoes renovation from now through July 8:

Fellowship-Discipleship Class will meet in the Family Life Center (gym) on Sunday mornings for Sunday School.

Fayette Samartan Donation Dropoffs will be received in the foyer outside the Family Life Center (gym) or in the church office.

The UMW/United Women in Faith Book Nook is now in the C building on the third floor near the elevator. You can't miss it!



Missions: Ready to serve?

The Missions Committee met on May 1 for an informational meeting to talk about current missions and suggest some new ideas for missions that we can include in our missions program.

Soon we hope to present some of our missions activities in the newsletter and/or during the Sunday services. Are you interested in missions? Please let us know! Contact Suzie Lusk, Missions Chair, 678-333-5386.

Ask Suzie Lusk, Missions Chair, about opportunities for outreach.



Create Camp: [Sign ups now open](#)

Ready to get creative this summer? Children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, as well as participate in traditional camp crafts and games. June 20-24. \$10/camper



Vacation Bible School registration now open

Join the VBS fun! From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, Explorers are guided by a Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the Reference Book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories. July 11-15.

[Rising PK3-Rising 6th for Fall 2022. After June 30: \\$10/child.](#)



Summer Lunch Program begins in June

In just a few weeks, our Summer Lunch Program will swing into action to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County while school is out for the summer. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward.

Packers and drivers are needed.

To participate, contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com.



Let's go to Mary Mac's Tea Room

Had a hankering for Fried Green Tomatoes, Hushpuppies, Chicken and Dumplings or other Southern fare? Ready to go to Mary Mac's Tea Room with friends? Then jump on the bus with Senior Adults Going Everywhere! Gather by the church office on **Thursday, May 19**, for departure promptly at 11:30 a.m. The group will dine at Mary Mac's around 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 transportation plus lunch. Make a reservation with Dian in the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by noon on **May 16**.



Under the Sea youth party May 18

Youth and their friends are invited to celebrate the end of the school year and beginning of summer with an "Under the Sea" party! Dinner, snow cones, yard games, and inflatable attractions will provide fun under the sea. Wednesday, May 18, 5-8 p.m. in Parking Lot C.

inspired ...

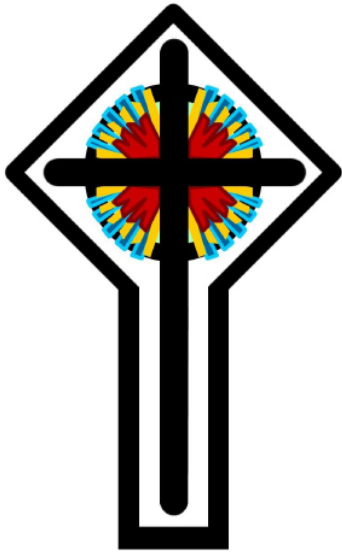
Thank you for sharing love and care



The **Bethany Circle** honored mothers last Sunday in the courtyard with lovely roses as a gift of care and love. Now your generous donations will extend this love to others in our community. **Bloom**, offering assistance to foster children and their caregivers, and **Promise Place**, providing support and shelter for victims of domestic violence, will each receive \$459 to help women and children. Bethany Circle says "thank you" for your support of these ministries.



Bethany Circle members Christie Burton, Frieda Everritt and Beth Refuss offered roses before the early service and Karen Neuner and others spread the love throughout the morning on Mother's Day.



May 11, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$476,969.67
Year to Date expenses	\$447,518.62
Difference	\$29,451.05

Benevolence

Received this week \$200.00

44 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$14,370.76

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

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

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM