



June 10, 2022

The Weekender

First world mystery

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Have you ever heard the phrase, “First world problems”? It’s a term that relates an inconvenience to those of us who have amenities and blessings beyond the other two thirds of the world which lives on less than \$2 a day on average. A first world problem is when the air conditioner stops working. A first world problem is when there’s sour cream on your burrito even though you don’t mind sour cream, you just didn’t choose it. A first world problem is when the internet and phone goes out at the church office for a day and a half (true story this week here at FFUMC).

But in the crisis of the moment, a broken air conditioner in the summer makes a big difference. Food that you requested not to be included at a restaurant could provoke an allergic reaction. And a lack of internet, phones, and email could mean that those trying to get in touch with you are frustrated. First world problems are real, but should be taken with a grain of salt.

Because there are real problems that exist in the world. There is evil as we have seen in the desire for violence by those in our country who are so lost that they choose violence. There is a disconnect between those who are hurting, lonely, in need, and looking for hope in this world. Our lives are not problems to be fixed, but mysteries to be experienced and lived into and experienced. The church is not a problem to be fixed. It is a mystery to be lived into and experienced. The Holy Trinity, three in one and one in three, is not a problem that can be fixed: it is a mystery that is to be lived into and experienced.

How we approach life is the difference between complaining about a first world problem and living into a mystery. A first world problem is a complaint that is waiting to be fixed. The church, our faith, and our life in Jesus Christ does not need fixing. We need correction in our hearts and minds, but we aren’t responsible for fixing it. The mystery of faith that we proclaim in our communion liturgy, “Christ had died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again” reveals to us that we live into and experience our faith. May we approach our faith with the wonder and mystery and gratitude that God would choose to share it with us, and that it is not our job to fix God. It is the mystery of faith that God would choose to fix us.



Trinity Sunday

June 12, 2022

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

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

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Hope

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Create Camp is June 20-24: [Sign up now](#)

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



FFUMC KIDS Scavenger Hunt with Prizes!

Flicks on the Green! Encanto, June 17

Calling all kids and your families – come and join FFUMC Kids for the City of Fayetteville's showing of the movie *Encanto*. You will find us at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 17 on the green at the City Center. We'll have a scavenger hunt (with prizes!!) and then watch the movie together when the sun goes down.



2022 Summer Lunch kicked off this week

Thank you for helping provide food stability to families in Fayette County through the Summer Lunch Program. Each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. during June and July we'll be packing lunches and delivering them afterward.

You can be a packer, driver or cookie baker any time! Either homemade or store-bought cookies are needed (no nuts, please). Simply mark cookies for "Summer Lunch" and deliver them to the gym kitchen. Weekly packers will place them in servings, so there's no need to individually package them.

Questions? Contact coordinator Virginia Pope at vgail.pope@gmail.com.



A GREAT place to be: Fayetteville First Preschool

Ready to show love and care to our youngest learners? Fayetteville First Preschool is growing, and we have Lead Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Music, and PE positions available beginning with the 2022-23 school year.



Our preschool provides a caring learning environment grounded in Christian beliefs. Using developmentally appropriate practices we aim to help children grow spiritually, socially and physically to create a firm foundation for future success. The ideal candidate for any of these positions has a love of children, a knowledge of or willingness to learn about developmentally appropriate practices, values collaborating with colleagues and understands the importance of developing relationships with families.

Please send inquiries and resumes to Director Kerry Bleil at kbleil@fayettevillefirst.com.



You'll find Linda Ladd (right) serving throughout the church. Here she is with Lauren Davis.

June's Minute for Missions Features Benevolence

FFUMC member Linda Ladd shared about the benevolence work of our church this past Sunday. She explained that money donated to the Benevolence Fund on communion Sundays and throughout the month helps meet the financial needs of people in our community. To receive funds, applicants must have already seen one other organization such as Fayette Samaritans in the county. Members of the Benevolence Committee spend a few hours each week on a rotating schedule to interview those seeking help. If you'd like to help in this way, contact Dian in the church office and she'll connect you to the committee.

Linda also shared about her work with Fayette Samaritans, a ministry that coordinates efforts between churches and groups to distribute donated clothing, books and food. Current needs are regularly shared in *The Weekender*, but all donations are appreciated. Collection boxes are in the church office and in the hallway by the gym. If you would like to volunteer a few hours a month or even a morning a week at Fayette Samaritans, contact Linda at 770-460-7142.



JUNE Needs List

Fayette Samaritans June needs

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 or dropped by the church office.

Most Needed in June (but all donations are welcome and appreciated):
Cookies, Chicken Both, Beef Broth, Canned Pasta, Rice, Laundry Detergent
Clothes Closet Needs: Women's underwear size 10 and larger, Men's underwear size large and extra large



Register for Vacation Bible School

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.](#)



Recognition on Father's Day

We appreciate our fathers. Tabitha Circle of United Women in Faith will honor our fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, foster dads, uncles, brothers or those men who have stepped in to take care of and play a fatherly role for children who are not their own on Sunday, June 19, after the 11 a.m. service with a Hershey's Kiss and a prayer card. Let's celebrate dads together!

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). 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.



Financial Awareness Class for Newly Graduated Seniors and College-Aged Adults

Join this four-week series, led by Rev. Allyson Lawrence, to learn the basics of budgeting, planning, spending, and credit cards. The foundational material for this series is derived from the Saving Grace series available through Cokesbury. There is no cost for this class and materials will be provided. The dates are June 22, 29, July 6, and July 13 starting at 5 p.m. each day.



Yoga designed for YOU: Join Senior Yoga

Enjoy the health benefits of yoga safely at Senior Yoga, a brand new offering at Fayetteville First UMC. A gentle flow class with modified poses designed to absorb postures without risk of injury is now offered by Frieda Everritt. Certified in Senior Yoga, Frieda will lead a 30 minute class on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the gym. Cost is \$2 per session. Contact Frieda Everritt for more information, 404-219-0635.



Go to Atlanta with SAGE trip on July 21

Take a trip to Atlanta for lunch and an outing with friends on Thursday, July 21. Senior Adults Going Everywhere will leave the church office at 9:30 a.m. A limited number of reservations are available on a first-come basis. Cost is \$14 for a tour of the Atlanta History Center, and lunch at The Swan House ranges from \$12 to \$30 dollars depending on what you order. Contact Dian in the church office to be placed on the list.



Thank you, Shawl Ministry

Thank you for the kind gift of a beautiful blanket sent to us after Annelle's passing. You were so sweet to think of us in this way. Your ministry is a labor of love, and we appreciate what you do for us and for many others. God bless you.
— Sam and Susan Burch



Upcoming: Save the date!

June 26 — Justin Maxey and Daniel Solberg in concert; Sanctuary; 3 p.m.

June 30 — SafeHouse Outreach Night

July 17 — FFUMC Blood Drive

August 21 — Rise Against Hunger Packing Event



Let's pray as our ASP Team leaves this Sunday

You are invited to come pray for our high school team as they depart for their Appalachia Service Project in Carter County, Tennessee, this Sunday, June 12. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 a.m. ASP participants are Austin Anderson, Emma Autrey, Glenda Harrah, and Sarah Nell Harp along with leaders Xed Blankenship, Jordan Hart, and Hannah Vickery.

June 8, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$565,697.66
Year to Date expenses	\$545,863.28
Difference	\$19,834.38

Benevolence

Received this week \$1,091.00

54 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$17,678.33

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)

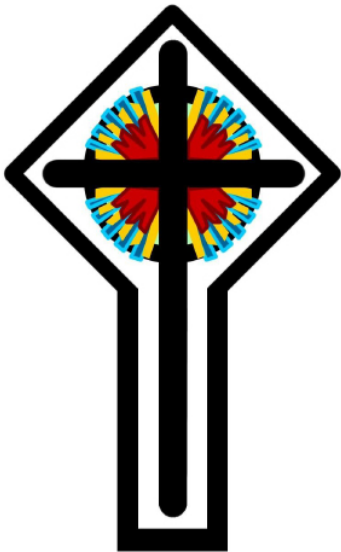
Closed Fridays

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



inspired ...

Summer Lunch kicks off for 2022

Around 25 volunteers helped kick off the 2022 Summer Lunch program this past Tuesday. Sandwich makers, carrot baggers, snack grabbers and packers prepared around 200 nutritious lunches for Fayette County families, providing food stability while school lunches are unavailable. In addition, a smaller team of volunteers prepared nearly 50 lunches on Monday.

You're invited to be a part any Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the gym during June and July. Let coordinator Virginia Pope know that you can help. Cookies are needed each week (homemade or store bought, no nuts, please) and can be left in the gym kitchen marked for "Summer Lunch." Lunch packers will place them in appropriate servings, so there's no need to pre-bag them. Thanks for serving others in our community!

Contact coordinator Virginia Pope at vgail.pope@gmail.com.

