



June 24, 2022

The Weekender

Do you want to be right?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I was lucky enough to be in a carpool in seminary with two other guys who lived near me. We saved on gas and had lively discussion about what we were learning in our days as students. One was a United Methodist turned Episcopalian and the other a lifelong Presbyterian. There's probably a punch line and a joke to be worked in that opener but another time, maybe.

I was also fortunate because these other two guys were way smarter than I was. They would be talking about what we heard in class, what we were reading, and what they were reading for fun. I was barely keeping up with the daily reading, much less extra reading for fun. I sat in the back seat and watched and listened to them argue and debate and learn and grow. Occasionally I would pipe up with some nugget that I thought was helpful for the discussion but very rarely.

That's not to say I didn't have opinions.

One day, politics made its way into our discussion based upon our New Testament class. I all of a sudden started talking more than I had before giving proof texts and history and all of the things I had learned. But apparently the driver (Methodist turned Episcopalian) heard something in my voice and my tone that needed addressing. He simply said to me, "Did you come to seminary to learn how to be right or to learn how to be a pastor?"

That stung a little bit. But it was a valuable teaching moment that has shaped me ever since. It shapes how I read the scriptures. It shapes how I treat others. It shapes how I am perceived by others. If someone can hear something in my voice that prompts that question, I must ask myself the same question everyday, "Am I here to be right or am I here to be like Christ?" It's a question that we must all ask ourselves. A lot of it has to do with what we put into ourselves. Galatians, the fifth chapter, talks about things that defile and things that build up. This Sunday, we will wrestle with what we put into our minds, bodies, and spirits and I hope that you will ask yourself, like me, "Do you want to be right, or do you want to be more like Jesus?"



Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 26, 2022

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

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

Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Matthew 15:10-20

You Are What You Eat

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Justin Maxey and Daniel Solberg

In Concert: June 26, 3 p.m.

Justin Maxey and Daniel Solberg will present a program of piano and organ duets interspersed with congregational hymns in our sanctuary on Sunday, June 26, at 3 p.m. Invite a friend and enjoy the afternoon at this free concert.



Congratulations, Dian.

Yes, she is retiring.
She will be missed!

Goodbyes and New Beginnings

After five years of warmth and welcome at the front desk of the church office, Dian Nelson is retiring effective June 30. Her presence and her joy in sharing God's love will be missed. We want to wish her well. In the coming weeks, you will hear of ways in which we can show our appreciation to Dian for her service. For now, we want to celebrate ministry she has shared with us as a member of this staff as she remains a member of this congregation.

Now Hiring

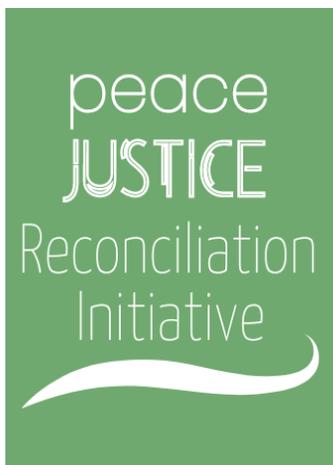
We are looking for a part-time person to work with the Administrative Team here at Fayetteville First UMC. If you or someone you know is interested, just email Thomas (tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com) for a job description. The duties include oversight of room and facility scheduling, working with the staff, knowledge and use of the church database system, and bringing a joyful presence to members of our church, our community, and those who serve in ministry with us here at Fayetteville First.



Save the Date for a very special event "Let's Do Lunch"

Let's share lunch on Saturday, August 13, at noon in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall. All the ladies in our congregation are invited and encouraged to bring a friend, neighbor, and family.

This free event is hosted by the UMW. Details to sign up will come soon.



Next Steps for Reconciliation Initiative: June 29 and July 13

All are invited to continue conversation about racial reconciliation begun earlier this year when Rev. Brian Tillman and Dr. Gary Mason visited our church. On Wednesday evenings June 29 and July 13 at 6:30 p.m., participants will be guided through discussions to explore welcoming diversity and bringing healing to our communities presented by **Be The Bridge**. Links to the materials are available: [Be the Bridge 101](#) (introduction and preparatory guide) and [16 Bridge-Building Tips](#). You don't need to read either paper, but we will discuss items from both at these meetings. If you wish to engage in this initiative, simply come to Room C-240 at 6:30 p.m. on June 29 and July 13. Bring a snack for yourself if you'd like. We will finish at 8 p.m. Questions? Contact Ron Reams, redwolf.reams@gmail.com.



New Fayette Samaritans list for July

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 July (but all donations are welcome and appreciated):

Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Laundry Detergent, Cookies, Pop Tarts, Ketchup, Mustard, Shampoo

Clothes Closet Needs: Women's underwear size extra large and all sizes of men's boxer shorts



2022 Summer Lunch continues each 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.



Go to Atlanta with SAGE 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.



Serve at SafeHouse Outreach

You are invited to serve those who live on the margins in Atlanta on June 30 at SafeHouse Outreach. We'll prepare more than 100 meals, transport them to their facility, serve it to the clients, and let others know we care about them. Contact Randy Riddell at randyhr8@gmail.com and he'll let you know where you are needed most.



Get on the wait list for Vacation Bible School

You still may be able to join the VBS fun! Register and get on the wait list! 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.](#)

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 "Shoeboxes" 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.



Throwback Thursday at City Center: June 30

Throwback Thursday! Join your FFUMC family at the City Center at 8 p.m. for an oldie but goodie: The Goonies! Bring your lawn chair or blanket and your dinner or dessert and enjoy this classic movie with friends. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions. (Movie may not be appropriate for all ages.)



iServe: Summer Lunch and Noah's Ark

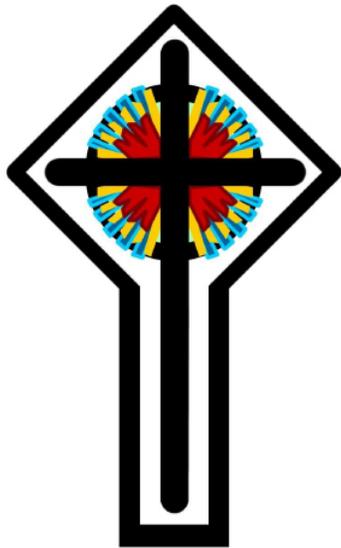
Kids join in mission on Tuesday, June 28, at 9:30 a.m.! Let's serve together at our Summer Lunch packing event and then load up the church van to go to Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary in Locust Grove. Noah's Ark is a place for abused, unwanted, and neglected animals. FFUMC will provide a picnic style lunch (which we will pack together before we leave) or you can bring your own lunch. Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary is the mission that this year's VBS will support. Join us and learn more about how this organization helps take care of all of God's creation, enjoy a picnic, walk around the paved pathways and be home by 3:30 p.m. [Let us know you're coming and we'll save you a seat on the van \(click here\).](#)



Serve with Square Foot in Newnan

Square Foot Ministry is looking for volunteers on Saturday, June 25, and Saturday, July 9, at the duplex build in Newnan. Can you help between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.? Experts will be onsite to train you on what is needed, so no special skills are required. [For more information or to sign up, click here.](#)

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*



June 22, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$615,638.77
Year to Date expenses	\$564,766.91
Difference	\$50,871.86

Benevolence

Received this week \$50,871.86
56 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$18,653.33

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 ...

Create Camp 2022 preps for VBS

Camp has been a creative adventure for students in third through sixth grade this week at FFUMC. Designed to go deep into the themes of this year's VBS, Create Camp 2022 also has nurtured leadership skills and offered an expressive (and impressive!) summer experience.

Rev. Allyson Lawrence seems excited about the experience for campers:

The kids have had a great week. From learning to be directors of skits, costume designers and set creators they have learned how to work as a team and to take on important leadership roles. Each day we focused on a different aspect of teamwork using the acronym TEAM.

T - Talk to each other

E - Everyone has a job

A - Ask for help

M - Motivate each other

Friday the students will have a chance to show their families how they have grown as individual leaders and as an extremely capable team by performing songs and a Bible skit using their own costuming and set design.

This group of students is prepared to lead us to VBS 2022: Discovery on Adventure Island coming July 11-15. We'll be ready to follow these leaders!

