



July 8, 2022

## The Weekender

### Sowing Seeds

Hannah Vickery, Director of Youth

In the book of Galatians, Paul writes words of encouragement and advice to early Christian communities. In Galatians 6:9-10, he says *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."*

This summer, thanks to the generosity and support of our congregation, FFUMC Youth walked alongside and served the communities of Elizabethton, Tennessee, and Bayou La Batre, Alabama. God encountered us as we saw God's action all around us in the world, and we had the incredible opportunity to take part in this restorative action.

We did not grow weary in doing good: in fact, we embraced it. Through partnerships with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and YouthWorks, we saw seeds being planted in the communities we served AND in youth. We nurtured and watered the seeds that had already been planted, and we even got to experience the harvest of some seeds planted by other youth and community members long before we arrived. We acted as one small piece to a larger puzzle, one part of God's bigger unfolding story. By participating in God's kingdom work on these summer mission trips, we were reaping a harvest much bigger than ourselves. This is why we stepped outside our church doors this summer. This is why these summer mission trips mattered, and why future local mission projects this year will matter. We may never get to see our seeds reap a harvest, but that's not the point. We trust that the seeds God does have us planting are important, thriving, lasting works that will grow for generations to come in our communities and world.

THANK YOU to every single one of you who supported these youth mission trips in one way or another. Your generosity gave students and their parents the gift of financial blessing, having completely covered all youth participant trip costs and expenses. Your prayers covered us as we sweated and worked and toiled the seeds for harvest. These trips would not have been possible without you. Be on the lookout as we announce an event to personally thank you in the days ahead.



**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 10, 2022**

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

**Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after**  
Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Luke 10:25-37

**On Deuteronomy, Pharisees, and Neighbors**

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS



### Let's Do Lunch - Saturday, August 13

It's time to make your reservation for "Let's Do Lunch," a special event for women on Saturday, August 13. Remember to bring some friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! You have until July 29 to reserve a seat for you and your guests. Participants will enjoy a Chicken Caesar Salad for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated tables in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall.

We are delighted to have Debbie Walker as our special guest. You will be blessed to hear her inspirational story. She will also delight us with her beautiful voice, accompanied by Penny Brown.

This event is FREE, but reservations are required. Choose one of these 3 easy ways to make your reservation. You may make reservations for you and your friends at the same time.

1. **Online:** [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form and press "Submit."
2. **Email:** Send an email to Nancy Dennis at [sewpar21@gmail.com](mailto:sewpar21@gmail.com) with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of anyone coming with you.
3. **Phone:** Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Nancy Dennis to cancel.



### Vacation Bible School starts Monday!

We are so excited to start VBS this coming Monday. Before we head into the week, the FFUMC Kids Ministry team wants to give a big THANK YOU to our whole congregation. Every year VBS takes over the entire campus. Weekly ministries and small groups relocate and make adjustments to their normal routines; people take vacation time to serve; Trustees double down on church repairs/improvements; our facilities staff works twice as hard; pew pixies and worship committee members help us rearrange the sanctuary and put it back together. And that short list doesn't even begin to cover all the other servant leaders from teenagers to octogenarians. Thank you, thank you! You make a difference.

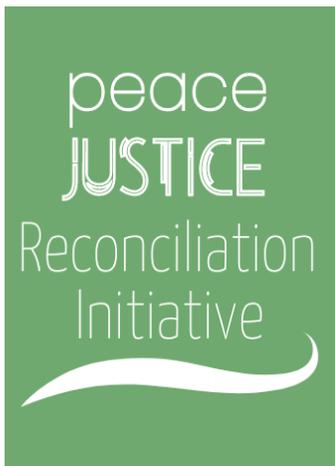
Our theme this year is Discovery on Adventure Island. Each day the kids will explore a new Bible story that helps them better understand how the light of Christ illumines their path so they too can shine with love, trust, faith, joy and hope. This year we are holding our registration count to right around 100 children. We hate to turn kids away but we also want to be able to offer the best experience we can. Please continue to pray for our servant leaders, our staff, for the families that will come to our church – some for the first time, and for the spirit of God to guide us throughout the week.

**If you haven't signed up to volunteer and want to, it's not too late.** You can serve for a single day or for the whole week. We particularly will need help on Friday beginning at 1:30 p.m. when we return our Adventure Island paradise back to our beautiful worship and gathering space. If you would like to help clean up and put things back in order or help throughout the week, contact [Pastor Allyson](#) or [Ms. Allie](#) and we will give you all the details for how to do just that.



### You are invited!

The church family is invited to join our VBS Team and families for a Chick-Fil-A lunch Friday, July 15 at 12:20 p.m. in the gym. [Please let us know you are coming by registering here.](#)



## Next Steps for Reconciliation Initiative Meeting on July 13

All are invited to continue conversation about racial reconciliation begun earlier this year. Our first followup meeting was on June 29 and the second will be 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 at the meeting. If you wish to engage in this initiative, simply come to Room C-240 at 6:30 p.m. on 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](mailto:redwolf.reams@gmail.com).



## Fearless Dialogues - Diving Deeper A Conversation on Racial Justice and Healing District-wide meeting with Rev. Brian Tillman at FFUMC

In a third session, Rev. Brian Tillman, Conference Director of Inclusion and Advocacy, will lead participants in considering concrete steps as we lead our congregations and communities toward racial healing and reconciliation. You do not have to have participated in the first two sessions to take part in this event. Register by calling or emailing the SouthWest District Office (770-227-1074 or [southwest@ngumc.net](mailto:southwest@ngumc.net)) by August 3. This event will be hosted by Fayetteville First UMC on Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## New classes begin in August

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays August 15 through November 14 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B350. (No class on Labor Day). All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).



## 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*



*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2).*

## Hospitality Team

One of the things we do well here is welcome. We may not always get it right and it may not always be perfect, but we try to show hospitality to our members and visitors. With that comes the need for volunteers to assist when we have events for our church and for our community. A Hospitality Team is being formed with people who like to host and help. If you would like to be on the team, please email Thomas at [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com) and let him know you are interested or if you have any questions. A meeting will be held at the end of the summer to get those together who are interested in helping serve and host.



## Good Grief Gals

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot....a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. — Ecclesiastes 3:1-4*

Same time, same place, but with a new name!

Twelve women from FFUMC who are moving through life after the death of their spouses met on June 9 to support and uplift each other. There were hugs, smiles, laughs, and even a few tears that evening. It was a wonderful gathering for all. If you are also moving through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the **SECOND THURSDAY**. **Our next gathering will be held on July 14 at 6 p.m.** at Partner's Pizza in Fayetteville. Everyone will be responsible for their own dinner and beverage. If you have any questions, contact Janet Baileys at [jkbaileys11@gmail.com](mailto:jkbaileys11@gmail.com).



## Blood Drive Sunday: July 17

You can help relieve the severe blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC on July 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve a specific donation time and help plan for workers, please schedule at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com).



## Cookies needed for Summer Lunches July 12

Summer Lunch packing continues each Tuesday during July beginning at 9:30 a.m. **Special need this week is cookies** (either homemade or store-bought — no nuts, please).

Please drop off any donations to the gym kitchen and clearly mark them as "Summer Lunch."

Questions? Contact coordinator Virginia Pope at [vgail.pope@gmail.com](mailto:vgail.pope@gmail.com).



## Space available for Atlanta 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 the church office to be placed on the list.



## Serve with Square Foot in Newnan on July 9

Square Foot Ministry is looking for volunteers on 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.](#)



## Tonight! Flicks on the Green! Turning Red, July 8

Come and join FFUMC Kids for the City of Fayetteville's showing of the movie *Turning Red*. You will find us at 8 this Friday, July 8, 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. We had lots of fun at Encanto last month – hope you will come and share in a fun night together!

**FFUMC KIDS Scavenger Hunt with Prizes!**



## Thank you

FFUMC prayer warriors, flower ministry, ministers and staff:  
Our words cannot possibly express to you the gratitude we feel for all the prayers lifted up for Elise. They have certainly been felt and improvements have been made. We are humbled and grateful for the prayers, flowers, calls, texts, and FaceBook messages. They are all read to Elise. Elise still has a few more weeks for healing to be complete, so please continue your prayers for her.  
— Elise Wheatley and her family

# inspired ...

**"God winks" on youth mission trips** — Hannah Vickery

We are thankful for these many "God winks" or as we called them on our mission trips "Wow! Moments":

**Four courageous adult volunteers** who offered their time, gifts, and strengths to walk alongside youth and communities for a week: Xed Blankenship, Nick Hansen, Jordan Hart, Faye Livingston



**Five youth** whom God met and encountered on these trips: Emma Autrey, Glenda Harrah, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer, Jack Travis

**Three** of these youth expressing interest in becoming a summer staffer with ASP or YouthWorks when they are old enough to do so (in college)

**Getting to know and work with a veteran**, whose family home was leaking and molding from an old roof. We finished most of a new tin roof, which was completed by another church group the following week.

**Learning** about the rich family history and the stories of local employees at **Bellingrath Gardens**

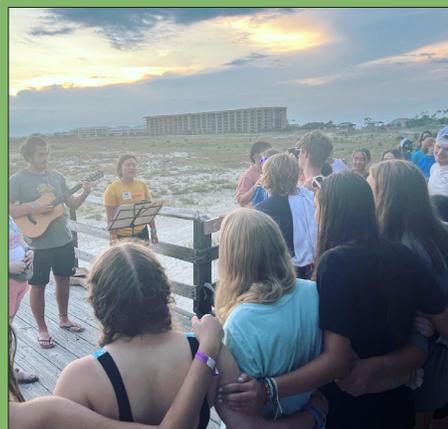
Watching our youth take full responsibility over planning and leading **Kids Club activities**

The joy of **seeing youth lean into their strengths and gifts** while they took part in God's restorative kingdom work

A **loose mouse** in the cabin that provided laughter, community, and tired tears

**High school youth from another church befriending our middle school youth**, shooting hoops and playing in the ocean together

**"Box of Chocolate" moments** expressed by our youth, where they were thankful for each other and for the ways in which they experienced God on their trip



**A beautiful sunset** that lasted just long enough for us to worship as one body of Christ on the beach before the rain came



**Stereotypes and judgments of community members being torn down** and new graceful, patient, dignified, and loving views of people being built up

The **theme of God's love** being reiterated in both ASP's theme (Rooted in Love) and YouthWorks theme (For Real) to youth and adults

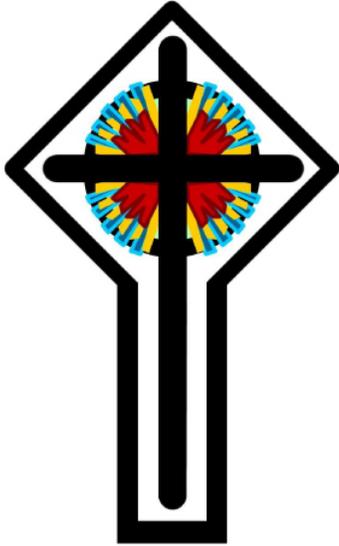
**New friendships and relationships** built with youth and adults from other churches — Inman UMC (Fayetteville, GA), Tuscaloosa First Presbyterian Church, Palms Presbyterian Church (Jacksonville, FL), St. Martins UMC (Dittmer, MO), Wesley Monumental Church (Savannah, GA), New McKendree UMC (McKendree, MO), Hermitage UMC (Nashville, TN), St. James UMC (Tampa, FL)

**Fifty five pies in faces** as part of a fundraiser for a new deck

**Seeds planted in FFUMC Youth** that will only continue to grow into a full harvest



**ASP Rhatadin Work Crew** with members from both Inman UMC and Fayetteville First UMC: (l-r) Jordan, Caroline, Emma, Olivia, Grady, Starkey, Noah, Glenda, Hannah, Xed, Maddie, Kenny



## July 7, 2022 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$652,897.73
Year to Date expenses	\$643,140.57
Difference	\$9,757.16

### Benevolence

Received this week \$877.00

60 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$20,616.31

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM