



December 16, 2022

The Weekender

Come and See: Do not fear

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One thing that I have discovered as I read the Gospel of Luke is that when God draws near, when God gets ready to do something, then when God does something, people get afraid. Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men. They all get afraid of the presence of God. Why is that? God is not to be feared, but those who know God know that God's goodness is greater than they are.



That is why Herod does not fear. He does not understand how good God is. He only knows how great he thinks he is in his own works.

Yet the response, the command, the instruction that is given from the mouths of angels is "Do not be afraid."

Do not be afraid. The people of God know the goodness of God. But we do not need fear. We do not need to be afraid.

Take a minute to think of the goodness of God in your own life. How much do we have? How much has God given to us? How much do we give thanks?

Or do we, like Herod, get consumed by our own thoughts and works? Do we think of our own goodness and scrap and fight to preserve it?

I hope not. Because God has a message for us. Do not be afraid. God brings Good News to us. God works to deliver us, save us, redeem us. It may not be the way that we want, but we do not fear. God is with us.

I hope you will take the time to join with us in worship and fellowship over the next week as we hear once again the angels' message: Do not be afraid.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

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

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

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Carols and Keyboards concert tonight

World-class artists present elegant, timeless music at the second annual Carols and Keyboards concert tonight, Friday, December 16, in the Fayetteville First UMC sanctuary at 7 PM. Musical performances include four grand pianos, organ, choir and soloists. Justin Maxey, Director of Music & Organist, will be joined by pianists Daniel Solberg, Rick Massengale, Kipp Gill, and Rolando Salazar; soloists Tiffany Uzoiye and Kayla Harriot; and conductor Stephen Rotz.

The concert will premier a new piece of music for four pianos, organ, choir and soloists by renowned composer Joel Raney, commissioned by members of the choir. This concert is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. [Share a poster with friends!](#)

Take photos at the concert and share at #carolsandkeyboards to spread the Christmas celebration.

See concert again: [Thursday, December 15, 7 PM](#) Watch online live tonight: [Friday, December 16, 7 PM](#)



Poinsettia orders due today, December 16

Your purchase of poinsettias has at least 3 benefits this year:

1. Poinsettias enhance our worship space through the season.
2. You may give plants in memory or honor of family or friends. They'll be listed in the Christmas Eve Order of Worship. Ordered poinsettias are available to take from the sanctuary following the Christmas Eve service.
3. Proceeds from poinsettia orders benefit the FFUMC Flower Ministry. This group makes flower arrangements to encourage others throughout the year.
4. [Click here to complete the Poinsettia Order Form for honorariums/memoriums and payment online.](#) (Cost: \$15 each) DUE DECEMBER 16.



Christmas Eve Services

Noon, 4 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Our traditional Candlelight Worship on Christmas Eve will be offered in the sanctuary at Noon and 4 PM and in the chapel at 11 PM. The 4 PM service will include the Chancel Choir and will be livestreamed. All services will offer beautiful music, communion and candlelight singing. Nursery will be provided at the 4 p.m. service only with Christmas Activity bags available for children at all services. [On Christmas Eve, the online link will be provided on the worship page at Fayetteville First.com.](#)



Did you hear the bells?

Weren't the handbells beautiful in church recently? Would you like to help grow this group? Beginning Thursday, February 2, handbells will resume with practice on a new night: Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM every week. No rehearsals are scheduled before then. Please contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, for more information.



Longest Night Service brings message of hope and peace

December 21 is the actual longest night of the year. It is the day where there is the least sunlight and the longest darkness. It is no coincidence that it is so close to Christmas. Christmas is a time for celebration and hope, yet the holidays may be difficult for some who might be facing an empty chair at holiday gatherings or who are struggling finding joy and hope. The Longest Night Service is a time to come together acknowledging that there are some things that are difficult for some of us. We will pray, sing, and hear a message of hope and peace on the night that is the longest of the year. All are welcome to join us at 6 PM in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 21.



December Requests from Fayette Samaritans

We can help others through Fayette Samaritans, our local food pantry and clothes closet. Donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Most needed: Green Beans, Corn, Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Clothes Closet Needs: Requests for clothing are increasing, especially for the basics. Needs include long sleeve sweatshirts (no design preferred, new or gently used in all sizes for kids, teens, and adults) and new socks and underwear in all sizes for kids and adults.



Parenting in a Tech World

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 PM beginning January 11

As parents, we often don't understand the technology that is at our fingertips, much less the technology that is accessible to our children. This class is not designed to provide all the answers, but will offer some guidelines for parents and kids as they grow up in an increasingly technological world. Each Wednesday night we will watch a video, share discussion, and fellowship as we navigate the real world as parents together.



Titus II will meet January 10

The next Titus II will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at noon in the gym. Reservations for lunch may be made with Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.



Sign up now for January 15 blood drive



It's time to sign up for the next blood drive at Fayetteville First UMC as we do what we can to give the gift of life in this way. Sign up to donate in the FFUMC Family Life Center gym on January 15 at redcrossblood.org or email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com for questions or assistance.



Serve year-end meal at SafeHouse Outreach

Want to help serve a meal at SafeHouse? Thursday, December 29, is our next service to the homeless in downtown Atlanta. Please contact Randy Riddell for details if you'd like to help serve at randyhr8@gmail.com.

Please place any remaining donations for our SafeHouse Outreach winter apparel collection in the bin behind the sanctuary or in the church office by December 29.



End-of-year giving

Ready to wrap up your giving for 2022? These notes will help. The church office will close at 1 PM on December 30. Offering items for 2022 may be **dropped in the church office drop box the afternoon of December 30 and the entire day of December 31.** If mailed, all 2022 donations with a post mark of December 31 or earlier will be credited to the 2022 budget year and receive tax credit in the 2022 year. The church business office is ready to assist you with any questions regarding your end-of-year giving.



I would like to thank my church family for the many prayers, cards, and words of comfort during the loss of my beloved Mother. — *Tammy Cook*

I want to thank all who helped me celebrate my 103rd birthday on December 4. It was a nice reception, and I appreciate so much Nadine Anderson and Faye Livingston for planning the reception. And thanks to Dave Lee for being there with his camera and taking pictures of everyone who wanted one. It was just a great celebration and I'm grateful for all who came to wish me a happy birthday. Love to all. — *James Watkins*

Thank you all so very much for your generous donation to Love Gives Ministries. We appreciate your kindness and show of love to us. — *Lynn and Jim Duncan*

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers in memory of all my large family that served in the Armed Forces. You are a blessing to me! — *Nadine Anderson*

Thank you, FFUMC Friends, for the lovely birthday card. I am indeed a happy and blessed 90 year old person! — *Blanche Babcock*

FFUMC KiDS NEWS



Holiday children's schedule

December 24 - Christmas Eve services at Noon, 4 PM, 11 PM

December 25 - One Morning Worship, 11 AM, Sanctuary

No children's Sunday school or Wonders of Worship

January 1 - One Morning Worship, 11 AM, Sanctuary

No children's Sunday school or Wonders of Worship

January 11 - Children's Wednesday programs resume

FFUMC Youth NEWS



FFUMC Youth are heading to Lake Junaluska for their 2023 Renovatus retreat! If you would like to take part in our youth's faith journeys, we are requesting notes of encouragement. Youth enjoy reading your words of wisdom very much while on the retreat. It lets them know their church family is thinking of them and is with them as they encounter God and community.

Do you need help getting started in your notes of encouragement? Here's this year's prompt: **What wisdom do you have for encountering God, encountering community, and encountering ourselves?**

All notes of encouragement are due to the church office by Monday, January 9. To receive a list of the 20 youth and 7 leaders who are attending and for other questions, contact Hannah Vickery, Director of Youth Ministry, at hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com.



January Youth Schedule

January 4 - Holiday break continues

January 11 - Renovatus volunteers only meet

January 13 - Renovatus Youth Retreat 2023 begins

January 18 - No eighth period, youth games at 6 PM

January 26 - Regular youth resumes

DATES TO REMEMBER

*Come
and See*

Lesson & Carols Service [Did you miss it? Enjoy it online!](#)

Carols & Keyboards Concert December 16 — Sanctuary, 7 PM

Longest Night Service December 21 — Chapel, 6 PM

Christmas Eve Services December 24 — Sanctuary: Noon, 4 PM Chapel: 11 PM

Christmas Day December 25 — Sanctuary, One Worship Service, 11 AM

Epiphany Sunday/New Year's Day January 1 — Sanctuary, One Worship Service, 11 AM

inspired ...

Christmas Marketplace distributes funds to local charities

The 32nd Annual Christmas Marketplace held here on November 5 raised an all-time record of \$14,945 for local charities. This fundraiser enabled the United Methodist Women, who sponsored the event, to donate \$1,547 to each of the following local charities: Bloom Our Youth, Fayette Samaritans, FFUMC Benevolence Fund, Healing 4 Heroes, Hope Harbor Ministries, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors, Love Gives Ministries, Fayette Pregnancy Resource Center, and Promise Place.

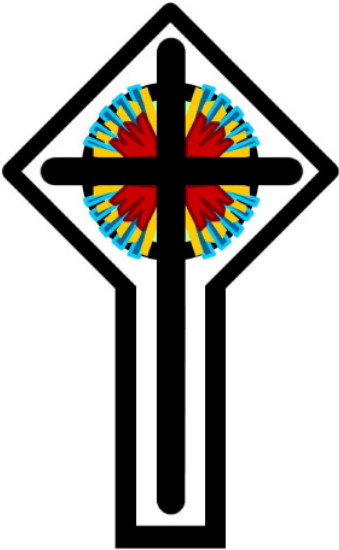
Congratulations on a job well done!



Christmas Marketplace organizers and ministry recipients (Not pictured: Healing 4 Heroes and Hope Harbor Ministries):

*Frieda Everritt, Christmas Marketplace Marketing Coordinator
Carol Key, Christmas Marketplace Vendor Coordinator
Ashley Williams, Executive Director at Promise Place
Marine Sgt Charlie Santoriello, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors
Lynn & Jim Duncan, Executive Directors at Love Gives Ministries
Luci Hough, Executive Director at Pregnancy Resource Center
Becky Davenport, Executive Director at Bloom Our Youth
Linda Ladd, Fayette Samaritans
Lauren Davis, Christmas Marketplace Chair
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister at Fayetteville First UMC*

December 15, 2022 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,162,188.81
Year to Date expenses	\$1,188,468.08
Difference	-\$26,279.27

Benevolence

Received this week \$2,124.22
104 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$32,667.51

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)

Now open Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Church Office Holiday Schedule

Christmas holiday:

The church office will be open on Friday, December 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for Christmas.

New Year's holiday:

The church office will be open on Friday, December 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2, for the New Year Holiday.

See page 4 of this newsletter for End-of-Year Giving notes.