



December 2, 2022

## The Weekender

### Come and See: Welcome

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

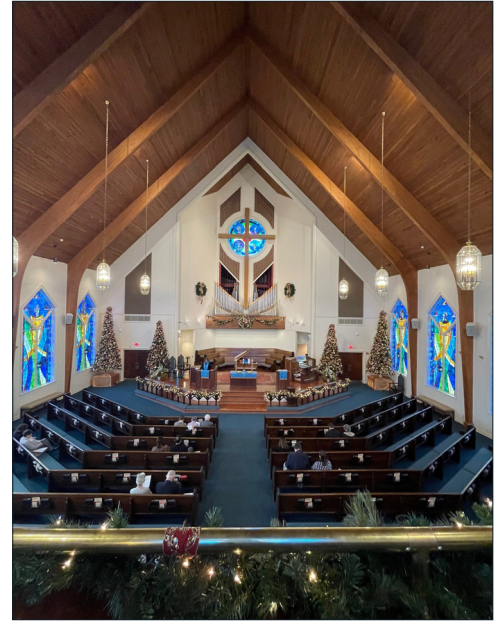
Advent means come and see. That is our theme not just for Advent but for the whole Season of the Nativity. This takes us all the way through Epiphany which is a striking or sudden realization. That got me thinking about the times when I have felt that strong and sudden realization that God loves me. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, called his epiphany an experience in which his heart was strangely warmed. But it happened because he showed up and expected God to do something.

How often do we expect God to do something for us without showing up? How often do we expect God's miraculous presence without being present ourselves? Advent is the time when we prepare and come and see.

There are times, however, when we do show up but we do not show up with the right hearts. We may treat showing up like a transaction at a restaurant. We might say things like, "The atmosphere was bad." "The music was too loud." "The waiter talked too much." "The food portions were too small." Surely we wouldn't say things about church like that, would we? We wouldn't come into worship of God looking for things to complain about, would we?

I certainly hope not. Because that would mean that we weren't preparing to welcome Christ into our homes, into our midst, and into our lives.

Advent means come and see. May our welcome begin not with who we welcome into our church but by welcoming Christ into our hearts.



### Second Sunday of Advent

**December 4, 2022**

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

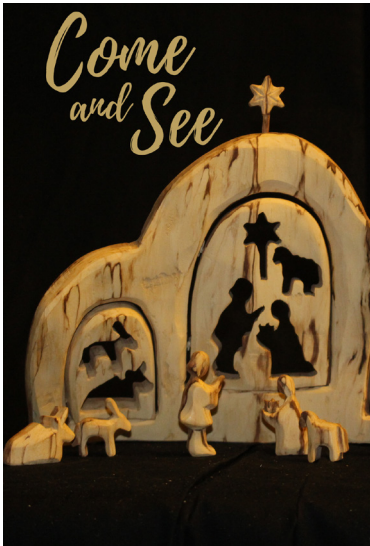
[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin**

## CURRENT NEWS

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### This Weekend: Nativities of the World coming to FFUMC

Come and See! An exhibit of 500 nativity scenes from dozens of countries and cultures will be on display at FFUMC on December 2 and 3. This remarkable collection includes a wide range of styles, materials and textures - each a unique expression of the Incarnation. The nativities have been lovingly collected over many years by Wendy Haymans, daughter-in-law of our own Gerry and Jim Haymans, and Wendy's mother Sharon Bowen. We are very fortunate the exhibit was available this year to be shown in Fayetteville in our sanctuary. Hours are Friday, December 2, from 1 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come and See is the theme of our Season of the Nativity observance this year. There is no charge for this beautiful experience. So Come and See — and bring friends.



### Honoring James Watkins at 103 this Sunday, Noon to 1:30 PM

You are invited to a birthday celebration to honor James Watkins on his 103rd birthday. We will be in the Fellowship Hall right after the 11:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, December 4, and will surround him with love and good wishes from **Noon to 1:30 PM (note the time adjustment)**. A guest book will be available to sign and leave a message, and there will be a decorated box to leave birthday cards. Please come by and enjoy the fellowship of this wonderfully happy occasion, along with cake and ice cream.



### Be on the tree and get your Season of the Nativity Packet

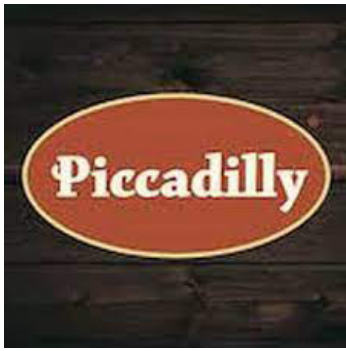
We prepare for Christ, welcome the birth, and live out faith during The Season of the Nativity: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The Season of the Nativity team is inviting us to "Come and See" as we live purposefully through these days. This year's packet includes an inspirational Intentional Advent devotion guide, children's activity set, youth prayer card, and more and is available in the church office and narthex.

Be on the tree! Send us your photo ([jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com)) for the Family of Faith Tree and a keepsake ornament for display. Send photos by December 15 to ensure yours is ready by Christmas Eve. You'll find the tree in the portal behind the sanctuary near the Fellowship Hall.



Want to explore the Christmas story with young ones this year? Make a banner to hang on a tree, window, or doorway with the activity set included in your packet. The sample shown on the tree was simply strung with twine. The kit can also be used for a paper nativity scene. It's a versatile and engaging way to share faith together.





## Piccadilly and Pageant December 7

Enjoy a delicious dinner from Piccadilly on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:30 PM. Then participate in the Christmas pageant with our children in "To Whom the Angel Spoke" as we all tell the story, complete with costumes. Make your dinner reservation by Monday, December 5, at 10 AM. Menu: Piccadilly: Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole, Grilled Vegetables, Roll or Corn Muffin, Italian Cream Cake or Red Velvet Cake.



## Christmas with The Martins: December 8

Ladies, mark your calendars for our upcoming **United Women in Faith (UMW) Christmas Banquet** to be held on Thursday, December 8, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to join together for a wonderful night of food, fellowship, and Christmas music provided by our very own musically talented Thomas Martin and his parents, Tommy and Flo. We have a treat in store!

Bring your favorite appetizer, salad or dessert to share as well as a friend to enjoy this special time together. We will be collecting laundry pods to be used for an upcoming "Laundromat Ladies" missions project.

Please make reservations through your circle. All others can contact Susan Burch at 678-523-7329 or [showburch@gmail.com](mailto:showburch@gmail.com) by Monday, December 5. Please indicate the number of children for the nursery.



## Titus II welcomes Inman Elementary Chorus on December 6

Hear the joyful sounds of the season as we gather for a good meal and fellowship on Tuesday, December 6, at noon for Titus II. The Inman Elementary Chorus will once again share enthusiasm, cheer, and beautiful music with us.



## United Methodist Men Meet Tuesday, December 6

All men are invited to the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:15 PM as the United Methodist Men gather for a covered dish and fellowship meeting. Bring a dish and come fellowship and enjoy our time together.



## Churchwide Caroling December 14

Let's spread Christmas cheer to others in our church family on December 14. Make your reservation for Wednesday Night Supper on December 14 (from Anthony's Pizza this night). Note the early dinner start time at 5 PM. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall after dinner at 5:30 PM to arrange in caroling teams. Then we'll head out to spread good tidings. All ages are encouraged be a joyful part! You don't even have to sing. Your presence will be appreciated. Help us plan caroling routes by letting us know you will be caroling. Contact the church office at [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) or 770-461-4313.





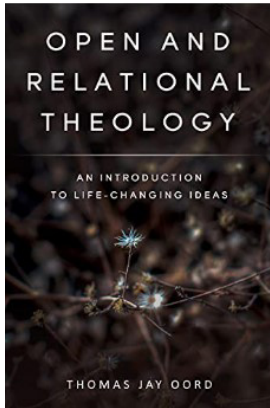
## December Requests from Fayette Samaritans

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.***

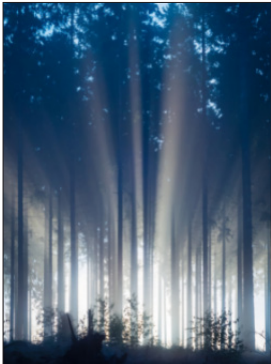
*Most needed: Green Beans, Corn, Jiffy Cornbread Mix*

*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.



## Explore with others in the Study Class

The Study Class (aka Book Club) will begin reading a new book on December 4 entitled "Open and Relational Theology: An Introduction to Life-Changing Ideas" by Thomas Jay Oord. The class meets in C-270 at 9:45 AM on Sundays. Using understandable language and illustrations from everyday life, Oord explains the core ideas of this theology and reveals why this way of thinking is life-changing – for good – for so many. Secure your copy of the book in your favorite format and come wrestle with our biggest questions about good and evil, purpose and freedom, love and science. Questions? Contact Tim Aycock, [timaycock@gmail.com](mailto:timaycock@gmail.com).



## G3: Good Grief Gals meet on a Saturday in December

Women moving through life after the death of their spouses are meeting each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also moving through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please join us. Instead of our normal second Thursday meeting at Partner's Pizza, we will gather for brunch in a member's home on Saturday, December 10. For details and directions, contact Janet Baileys at [jkbaleys11@gmail.com](mailto:jkbaleys11@gmail.com).



## Poinsettia orders due Friday, 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.](#) Alternately, complete a form available in the bulletin on Sunday or anytime in the church office. (Cost: \$15 each) DUE DECEMBER 16.



## Carols and Keyboards: December 15 & 16

World-class artists will present elegant, timeless music at the second annual Carols and Keyboards concert on Thursday, December 15, and 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!](#)



## Giving thanks

*Thank you very much for the pretty bouquet of flowers you brought. It was nice to be remembered on Veteran's Day. — James Watkins*

## FFUMC KIDS NEWS

### Christmas Pageant 2022



### Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 7

Let's help our FFUMC kids tell the Christmas story at our very own FFUMC Christmas Pageant on Wednesday night, December 7, at 6 PM following Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner. Danny and Julie Beck, Bill Webb and the FFUMC Children's Choir invite your active (but unrehearsed) participation in "To Whom the Angel Spoke." Join the Christmas celebration as we all tell the story of Jesus' birth.



### Christmas Camp only one week away

Send your kiddos to Fayetteville First UMC's Christmas Camp Saturday, December 10, for a day of fun crafts, games, holiday movies, and more! Kids ages 0 to 12 years old will get to spend time together getting in the holiday spirit and parents can use the time to get some needed holiday errands run, presents wrapped, or simply enjoy a child-free brunch/lunch!

- Registration is now \$15/child.
- Online registration will close 12/7/22.

Please send a lunch with your child, although holiday snacks will be provided.

[Register for Christmas Camp now!](#)



# inspired ...

## Offering hope to the unsheltered

Your donations to SafeHouse Outreach are making a difference to those on the margins in Atlanta. Over Thanksgiving, slow cookers of chili and a third load of FFUMC-donated coats, blankets, and other winter items were delivered to SafeHouse Outreach. In the past month we have delivered a total of

21 blankets/quilts	57 pair socks
18 pair men's pants	222 hats
20 jackets/sweaters/vests	28 coats

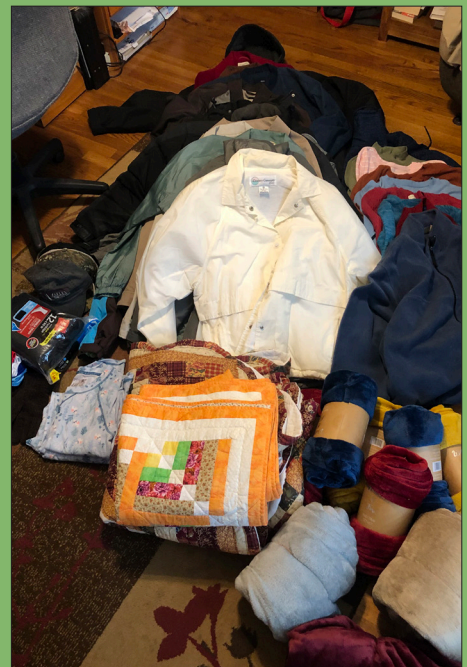
plus shirts, PJ's, underwear and gloves.

Would you like to contribute? Donations will be delivered on or before our next meal service on December 29. If you have donation questions or would like to prepare food or serve, contact Randy Riddell at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com).



*Your SafeHouse Outreach donations will be delivered at our next service opportunity on December 29. Collection bins are located in the church office.*

*Pictured: Mike DeLisle transports a bag full of your donations.*



## **An update from the Finance Committee:**

As we close out 2022, we have much to be thankful for. We would like to remind you in the coming days to return your pledge card if you have not already done so as we prepare for 2023. There is much to be thankful for that we will outline below. Also, we would like to thank everyone who gives to support the mission and ministry of the Fayetteville First.

As we prepare for 2023, we wanted to send you an update from the Finance Committee on 2022. As you may remember, we ended last year (2021) with a surplus of \$143,206.89 in the budget. At the start of the year, we decided that the best approach is a cautious and a prayerful one. We decided that what we would like to do with the surplus is to create three buckets for distribution.

The first bucket is to ensure that we have enough in our operating checking account to cover at least 50 days' expenses. The second bucket is to use a portion for capital improvement projects. The third bucket is to give this portion away to others, whether that be local missions and agencies, world-wide agencies, or using it as the foundation for new ministries. The decision as to where the money will go would be up to the Missions Committee and brought before the Church Council for vote.

At the November Finance Committee meeting we decided to act on this so that we could celebrate the generosity of God's resources and plan what God may be calling us to do. In deciding the hard numbers, we decided first to determine how much we would like to give to missions. Our annual mission budget is 33,600. It was first determined to take that exact amount from the surplus. The first bucket that we filled was missions! It wasn't on ourselves but it is designed for others! Thanks be to God!

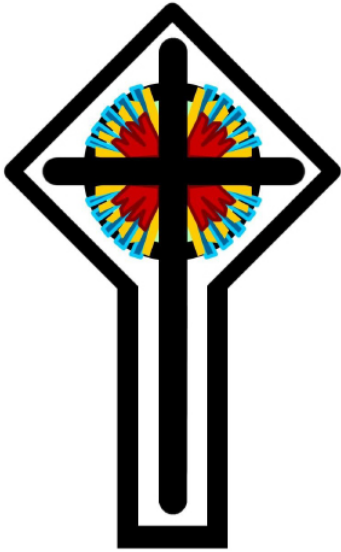
Next, we calculated the 50 days operating expenses which came in just under \$180,000, so we decided to round up. While the surplus funds were noted from 2021, they were held in our day to day operating account. So in order to maintain the 180,000 minimum balance, we subtracted the \$180,000 from the current balance which was \$265,585.61. The difference was \$86,425.61. With \$33,600 designated to go to missions, the remainder of the \$86,425.61 (now \$52,865.61), will be designated to Trustees.

We, as a church, owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Finance Committee this year who helped direct and prayerfully consider the avenues in which we can return this gift to God's work through Fayetteville First UMC. The conversations have not always been easy or short, but they have been good. The Finance Committee is also grateful to the members of this church who have so faithfully given and supported the ministries of the church. Without you, none of these joyously difficult decisions could have been made.

To close, let us be reminded of Paul's words from 2 Thessalonians 3:13, which we read in worship a couple of weeks ago, *"Therefore my brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing what is right."* May God continue to guide us on the paths of his righteousness.

If you have questions on your 2022 pledge to FFUMC, please contact the finance office at 770-461-4313.

## November 30, 2022 Financials



### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,098,956.92
Year to Date expenses	\$1,133,708.29
Difference	-\$34,751.37

### Benevolence

Received this week \$555.00  
103 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$32,367.51

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

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

*Come  
and See*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Nativities of the World

December 2: 1-7 PM & December 3: 11 AM - 4 PM FFUMC Sanctuary

**Christmas Pageant** December 7 — Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**Lesson & Carols Service** December 11 — Sanctuary, 8:45 AM & 11 AM

**Churchwide Christmas Caroling** December 14 — 5:30 PM, Meet in Fellowship Hall

**Carols & Keyboards Concerts** December 15 & 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