



December 23, 2022

The Weekender

Come and See: Wonder

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I hope we never lose sight of the meaning of Christmas. I know most of us won't. But I hope that we won't lose sight of the gift, of the angels, of the shepherds, of the fear and trembling.

I hope we won't ever take for granted the beautiful music or the worship spaces decorated for the season. I hope we won't ever take for granted the little things of life that make it special and that make life worth sharing.

I hope we won't take for granted the Carols and Keyboards concert that we were able to experience in this place. (If you missed the concert, you can view a recordings here: [Thursday, December 15](#) [Friday, December 16](#)).

I hope we won't take for granted the year of joy and fellowship we have had with our Valentine's Day potluck lunch, Rise Against Hunger, Christmas Marketplace, Vacation Bible School and Create Camp, Lenten Lunches, Christmas Caroling, and the list could go on and on.

I know we won't. We, who have missed much, will not miss the meaning of this Christmas. We will celebrate and light candles. We will remember not only Christmases past, but also the very first Christmas which was less predictable than any Christmas we have ever experienced, yet brought the world so much more joy than ever before.

I hope that whether you gather with us or travel this Christmas, that you will not take for granted the gift of Christmas and that your attitude and actions will reflect the love of Christ that came to the world with a sense of wonder and awe almost 2000 years ago.

Let us never take the love of God for granted.



Christmas Day
December 25, 2022
One service: 11:00 a.m.

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

Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



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.

[A Worship link for the 4 PM service is available at FayettevilleFirst.com.](https://www.fayettevillefirst.com)



Enjoy the Carols and Keyboards concert again!

Would you like to hear the beautiful Carols and Keyboards concert again or share it with a friend? Just follow these links and celebrate Christmas any time.

[Thursday, December 15, 7 PM](#)

[Friday, December 16, 7 PM](#)



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.



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.



New January 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: Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Canned Chicken, Chicken Broth, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Coffee, Laundry Detergent, Cookies, Diapers Sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6, Pull-ups all sizes



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. Menu: Ritzy Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Vegetable, Roll, Chocolate Cake. Reservations for lunch are due by Thursday, January 5. at noon and 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.





SOUPER BOWL II

sponsored by
**FAYETTEVILLE FIRST
UMC**

SOUPER BOWL II season kicks off soon!

2023 will bring a fun and friendly competition as we have our second Souper Bowl challenge. Souper Bowl II will kick off January ????, but you can begin to gather cans of soup now to donate to our community. Start collecting any variety of 16.3 - 18.8 ounce ready-to-eat soup, not condensed, at home over the holidays. You'll get more information on this year's competition guidelines in January. Let's get ready for hot competition coming soon!

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

inspired ...

Thanks for Being on the Tree

To everyone who contributed to our Family of Faith tree, thank you!

If you haven't yet seen the tree, make a point to visit the Welcome Center behind the sanctuary to take in this lovely representation of our many faith journeys, all of which have come together at Fayetteville First UMC.

The tree will be in place through New Year's Day (next Sunday), and then everyone who sent a photo is encouraged to find your ornament and take it as a future reminder of the life we share in this family of faith.

A very special thanks to Nick Hansen for beautifully etching the ornaments and to all who helped bring this project to life.

Carol Webb, Lea Agnew and the Season of the Nativity Team

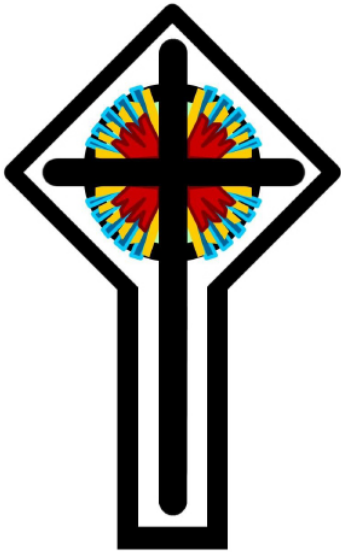




We are grateful for your prayers for our family as we mourn the loss of Bill's mother, Myna Castings, who died December 15.

— Bill and Cheryl Castings

December 21, 2022 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,176,528.96
Year to Date expenses	\$1,216,071.81
Difference	-\$39,542.85

Benevolence

Received this week \$35

105 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$32,967.51

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)

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 2 of this newsletter for End-of-Year Giving notes.

Merry Christmas from the staff of FFUMC