



December 30, 2022

## The Weekender

### Come and See: Renewal

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

For the first time in my life, I was not in a church on Christmas Eve. I know that in 2020, many of you were in the same boat as we made the difficult decision to cancel in-person worship. Sickness and illness are things that are at times beyond our control. When things happen beyond our control we have two options: react or respond.

Reacting is natural. It is instinctual. It is the way we respond to keep ourselves alive, at times. It is that fight or flight action that confronts us. There is nothing wrong with reacting in that moment. Sadness over what was lost, frustration that things aren't going according to our plan, anger that we do not get our way. There is nothing wrong with the emotions that we experience in those moments.

As Christians, we have the choice to move beyond reacting (and even perhaps saying or doing things that are harmful) because of what Jesus says to us, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn. 13:34-35). That is our mandate. To take our reaction and respond in love.

While I was sad to not be in church on Christmas Eve, I was in my office watching the service while our son was ushering and Leslie and the kids were watching at home as well. All of a sudden, all the reactions leading up to not being able to be in person with you all turned into a response of gratitude for what I did have.

This Sunday, we will have the chance to renew our commitment to Christ, to live according to his mandate from the Last Supper. The service runs deep in our Wesleyan tradition. It is a chance for us to renew our commitment to Christ: to be people who respond beyond our reactions. I hope that whether you are worshipping with us in person or online, that you will take this time and this service to renew your commitment to living a life that becomes the Gospel of Christ.



**Epiphany Sunday**

**January 1, 2023**

**One service: 11:00 a.m.**

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 15:1-8

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS

---



### Epiphany Sunday: Wesley's Covenant Service One Service at 11 AM

This Sunday will offer a special commitment time as we observe the Wesley Covenant Service. The liturgy is adapted from its first celebration in 1755 and is almost directly from Wesley's service presented in 1780. You are encouraged to take this Sunday's bulletin including the liturgy home with you for study and meditation upon the covenant made between you and God, bringing blessing, hope, and renewal in the new year. [Click here for more information from the Book of Worship on the history of this service.](#)



### 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 8, 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 at our kickoff. Let's get ready for hot competition coming soon!



### Time to UPDATE for 2023!

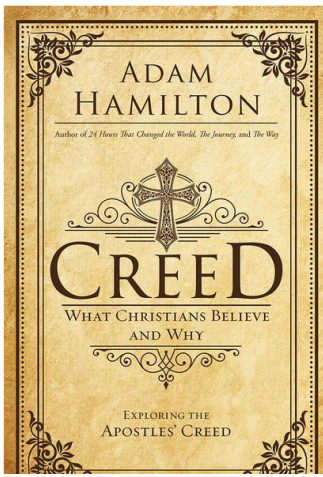
Ready to clean up ... update ... and begin again? Let's get a fresh start in 2023! Here's a quick checklist to help.

☐ **My Realm information is updated!**

Have you noticed that some of us need to update our information in the church database? We'll be happy to assist you in the office to remove old phone numbers (Do you still use that landline?), change addresses that need correction (You mean I never updated that?) and even include or update your photo in Realm (Yes, we can use many of the photos you sent in for the Family of Faith tree AND we will be printing an updated directory in 2023 so you'll have a headstart on getting a new photo in place.).

☐ **The church office has my 2023 giving commitment.**

It's never too late to submit a giving pledge ... but it's really helpful if we have all pledges as soon as possible. To date, we have received 121 pledges for a total of \$671,995.00.



## Study on the Foundational Beliefs of the Apostles' Creed Starts January 11

Sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and even harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Maybe we can find some powerful answers contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs.

In Creed, by Adam Hamilton, we will explore not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe, and why it matters. In turn, participants will be led to confront and examine their own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed's familiar words.

*Six week study  
Wednesdays  
11:00 AM*

Join Rev. Lawrence in this six-week study that meets on Wednesdays at 11 AM in room B-355. Cost of the book is \$13.50. [Reserve your book through this link or the church office by registering early](#) or acquire a copy through your favorite book seller.

[Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with any questions.



### In case you missed it

Our Season of the Nativity has been packed with meaningful experiences. Did you miss some of the offerings in person and online? Here are some easy access links:

[Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 11](#)

[Carols and Keyboards, Thursday, December 15, 7 PM](#)

[Carols and Keyboards, Friday, December 16, 7 PM](#)

[Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24](#)

[Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25](#)



### IMPORTANT: Sign up now for January 15 blood drive

A new American Red Cross policy highlights the importance of our signing up in advance and following through with blood donations. **All weekend drives must collect a minimum of 32 pints to stay on the calendar.**

Our sign ups have averaged 31 over the past year. Can you sign up now for the January 15 drive in the FFUMC Family Life Center gym? Please go directly to the American Red Cross site at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and choose our drive ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. Email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.

[Share this flyer with others ... and get donation tips.](#)







## Parenting in a Tech World

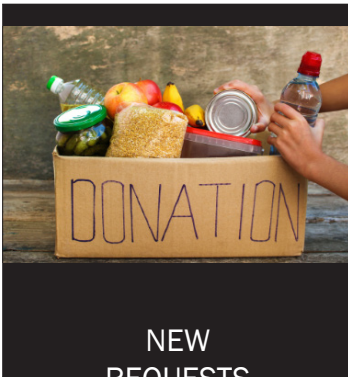
Wednesdays, 6 to 7 PM beginning January 11

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.



## 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](mailto: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*



## 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.



## End-of-year giving guidelines

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.** All donations for the 2022 tax year must be postmarked by December 31, 2022, or dropped off at the church office on or before midnight December 31, 2022. All items in the drop box at that time will be recorded as 2022 giving. However, if a check is simply dated December 31 and received by the office after December 31, it will be considered a 2023 donation. Worship offering on Sunday, January 1 (regardless of date on a check) will be recorded as a 2023 contribution.

## FFUMC KiDS NEWS

---



### Holiday children's schedule

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 by Monday, January 9**. Just leave them at the church office. 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](mailto: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



Thank you all for your cards, calls and prayers! They have meant more than you'll ever know. I am really blessed. I'm praying it won't be much longer before I can be back. Thank you again. God bless you and much love. (P.S. I loved the carolers!) — *Pat Dunn*



# inspired ...

## A GREAT Year Together

Hasn't it been good to be together, especially THIS year?! Enjoy just a few snapshots of the life and ministry we have shared at FFUMC in 2022!

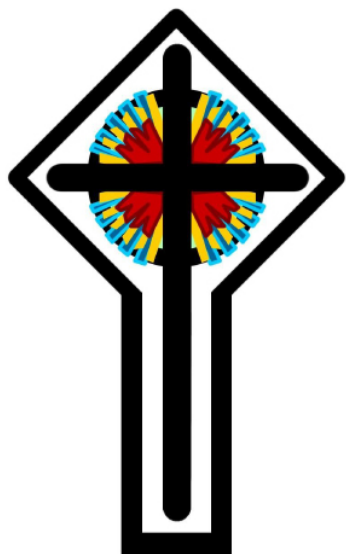






**We are ready for  
new adventures  
in 2023!**





## December 28, 2022 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,230,857.09
Year to Date expenses	\$1,232,926.85
Difference	-\$2,069.76

### Benevolence

Received this week \$395

109 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$33,706.07

### 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](http://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

### 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.

