



December 9, 2022

## The Weekender

### Do you see what I see?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

The Christmas song, “Do You See What I See?” asks us to imagine the first Christmas in a way that represents a new coming, a new hope, and a new day. It also invites us to see where God may be at work in our world and our midst.

Here are some things that I have seen or that are scheduled just in this week:

- We have hosted over 450 people in our sanctuary thanks to the wonderful members of our church who put together the Season of the Nativity display.
- Our Sunshine group had their Christmas party for the first time in 3 years.
- We celebrated one of our dear members of the church and his 103rd birthday.
- Bible studies, table groups, and committees continue to meet and the children’s council continues to dream about what is next.
- We were able to give to over 14 local charities and non-profits through the Christmas Marketplace.
- Titus 2 welcomed Inman Elementary Schools chorus.
- UMM had their end of the year meeting.
- We had a wonderful night of fellowship with youth in their pajamas for their Christmas party and children in their costumes for the Christmas Pageant.
- UMW hosted their end of the year party.
- Saturday we will welcome members and families with kids for Christmas camp with a special visit from Santa Claus.
- Sunday will be Lessons and Carols that will kick off a week of music and fellowship from the Fayetteville First Preschool program on Tuesday, Churchwide Caroling on Wednesday, Carols and Keyboards on Thursday and Friday, and the final Sunday in Advent.

As we continue to move forward, our doors will always be open to each other and to our community. Those events above mention nothing of the ongoing events, benevolence ministries, classes, groups, support groups, adults in action, preschool and regular fellowship events which keep on coming.

Do you see what I see? I see a church that is opening its doors to the community and providing ways for us to serve and invite others to serve. It may not be obvious, but simply creating opportunities to invite others allows others to see the love of Christ in this place. I hope that you will take the opportunities to invite others this season to come and see and to share the love of Christ as we take it out into the world.



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 11, 2022**

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

[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)  
Service of Lessons & Carols

## CURRENT NEWS

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### 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 Uzoije 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!](#)

This event will be livestreamed at these links:

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

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



### Last chance: Be on the tree!

It's not too late (YET) to be on the Family of Faith tree! Send us your photo ([jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com)) and the Season of the Nativity team will create 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. Photos are being added as they are prepared, so look for yours to be there soon!



### 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.



## Let's eat pizza this Wednesday, December 14

### Time is 5:00 PM

Enjoy pizza from Anthony's at our final Wednesday night dinner of the year. **We meet together early at 5 PM** this week to accommodate those who will be spreading good cheer on our caroling teams. [Make your dinner reservation by Monday, December 12, at 10 AM.](#)



## 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.



## 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.



## 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 [jkbbaileys11@gmail.com](mailto:jkbbaileys11@gmail.com).



## 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.





## Holiday children's schedule

December 11 - Lessons & Carols Service, 8:45 & 11 AM

Children's Choir sings at 11 AM

No Wonders of Worship

December 14 - Churchwide caroling at 5:30 PM; meet in Fellowship Hall

Final children's Wednesday programming for year

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

*Come  
and See*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**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



# inspired ...

## 500 nativities remind us of the reason

Hundreds of folks in our community came to see a moving display of more than 500 nativities in our sanctuary to celebrate the Christ child last weekend. This collection has been lovingly brought together by Sharon Bowen and her daughter, Wendy Haymans, to share the joy of Christmas with as many people as possible (*shown above with Wendy's daughter and helper, Ashley*). The exhibit featured nativities made from materials including cloth, pewter, clay, wood, and even a single coffee bean. A favorite of Sharon's is made of bullet casings from Liberia because it symbolizes joy and new hope as God can take something bad and make it good. A display from the Amazon Valley, one of Wendy's many favorites, features a variety of animals at the manger including a monkey and armadillo. This team plans to continue to grow their collection, hopefully securing nativities from the 8 states in America not yet represented along with many more countries.



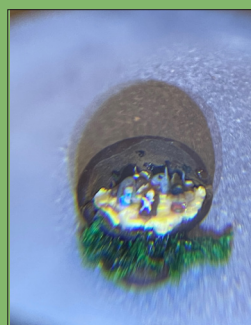
Carol Webb and Lea Agnew are grateful to the outstanding volunteers who pitched in to make the Nativities from around the World exhibit possible. These include

Kathe and Bobbie Anderson  
Janet Baileys  
Mary Ann & Lanny Cauthen  
Deb Cole  
Lauren Davis  
Jane Gough  
Jeff Hansen  
Gerry & Jim Haymans  
Anna James  
Carol Key  
Clara Martin  
Carolyn McKinley  
Ruth Ogletree  
Jeffrey Ray  
Nancy Ricciardi  
Karin Shah  
Trudy Whittington

Sally Archer  
Susan Burch  
Maggie Clarke  
Karen Davis  
Bonnie Giglio  
Dottie Gray  
Marilyn & Wayne Harris  
Pat Hobson  
Tami Kemberling  
Faye Livingston  
Glenda Martinez  
Rita Middleton  
Florence Prine  
Sara Reams  
Jane & Randy Riddell  
Sandra Watson  
Phyllis Williamson

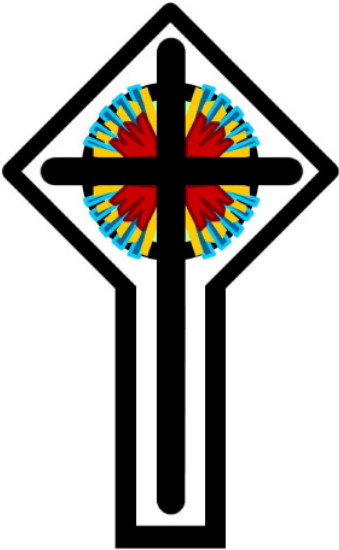


Joan Aycock's inspired design and graphics helped to inform and draw attendees from the church and community, and Gary Sampson and Megan Schultz provided essential logistical support.





## December 8, 2022 Financials



### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,120,335.93
Year to Date expenses	\$1,166,781.63
Difference	-\$46,445.70

### Benevolence

Received this week \$5,713.00  
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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM