



January 13, 2023

The Weekender

A little bit of kindness

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Two years ago, in the early days of Covid-19, I was reaching out to other ministers and friends that I had not spoken to in a while. These were people who had given me guidance or counseling or had just been good people. Some of them, I had not talked to in three to four years. Some of them were people I had not seen in 10-15 years.

From those conversations and reaching out to people, I have renewed friendships. In talking with friends I realized that the things that we were discussing as twenty-somethings were not the concerns that we had now in this present age. Furthermore, we found out that for most of us, the things that we thought divided us weren't really that important now.

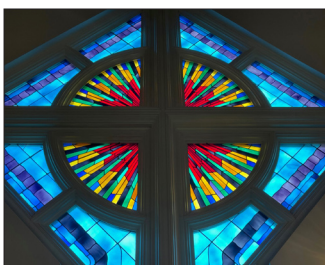
One friend in particular, who is a Baptist minister and now teaches at a college, said that he was glad to hear from me, that it had been too long. Then he said something that caught me off guard and made me sad at the same time, "Thomas, the only reason I'm talking to you is because you were kind to me when others weren't."

The only reason he would even take my phone call is because I was kind to him when others weren't.

How many people do we avoid because we (or they) are unkind? How many lost friendships and relationships are there in this world because of someone being unkind?

I got to see my friend face to face Tuesday for the first time since 2004. We caught up face to face and shared our hopes and our struggles as people, as pastors, as men, and as friends. My life would be less full without him in it. And all it took was a little kindness.

Beloved, let us show love to one another, and if we can't show love, may we at least share a little bit of kindness with those in our world.



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 15, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL II season is on!

We are in the Souper Bowl II challenge in week 2. The numbers speak for now ... but they are just the beginning! Bring any variety of 16.3 - 18.8 ounce ready-to-eat soup, not condensed, to the Welcome Center area as a donation for our community, and let the competition continue!

Here's how to credit your team:

Mark the bottom of each can with the first letter of YOUR last name. A Sharpie is available at the donation site. Those with A-J will be credited to TEAM ALLYSON and K-Z will go to TEAM THOMAS.

Any cans that are received without letters will be divided between the two teams. Donations are also accepted to complete the soup donation packages. Who will win? We will find out on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, when either Allyson or Thomas will be presented the Souper Bowl II championship trophy.



Food and fellowship at Frank's next week

Are you ready for fellowship? How about good food? Let's go to Frank's Family Restaurant in Palmetto and get both! Details for the next Senior Adults Going Everywhere outing:

Lunch at Frank's Family Restaurant in Palmetto

Thursday, January 19

Meet at 10:45 AM in church office parking lot for 11 AM departure

Reserve your seat on a church vehicle by noon on Tuesday, January 17.

Call the office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



IMPORTANT: Sign up for Sunday's 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.**

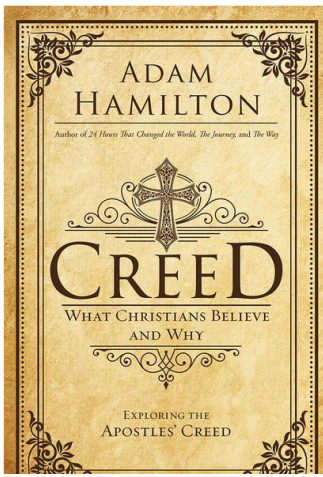
Our sign ups have averaged 31 over the past year. Can you sign up now for the January 15 drive in the FFUMC Family Life Center gym? Please go directly to the American Red Cross site at redcrossblood.org and choose our drive ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. Email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com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

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



Handbells move to Thursdays

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.



Study on the Foundational Beliefs of the Apostles' Creed Starts January 18

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.



Wednesday Night Supper: January 18

Gather with friends for a good meal and fellowship on Wednesday evenings, now from 5:15 to 6 PM, with a meal from a local restaurant.

[January 18 Menu: Picadilly Cafeteria: Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole or Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, Cake.](#)

[Make your reservation following this link](#) or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by Mondays at 10 AM.

Upcoming: January 25: Wings & Things



Walking with others through grief

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays February 13 through May 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit GriefShare.org.



SEE & SEEK: Transformation Together

Is 2023 calling you to go deeper in scripture and to where it leads? A new weekly group will read scripture from the upcoming Sunday lectionary texts (most often) and will reflect on two questions:

- 1) Upon reading the scripture, where did you see God at work in your life this past week?
- 2) How does this scripture spark insight, hope, or action for the coming days?

To see, seek and share with others, join with guide Janet Baileys, jkbaileys11@gmail.com, on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 PM in Room B355. Begins January 11.



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.



School Supplies for El Salvador

It's back to school time ... in El Salvador. We can help children start their new school year with much needed supplies as a mission team from FFUMC, McDonough First UMC, and Cornerstone UMC delivers them on their trip there in February. These specific supplies are requested:

#2 pencils	small pencil sharpeners
Colored pencils	24-pack Crayola crayons
Glue sticks	Bic pens, blue or black
6" rulers	"Pearl Pink" or similar erasers
Kids' safety scissors	Dry-erase markers (for teachers)

Donations may be left in the church office through February 12. Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com.



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

FFUMC KiDS NEWS



Wednesday Nights for kids: Join in!

Join in Wednesday night dinner (now starting at 5:15 PM) by making your reservation on Mondays by noon. Then head over to the children's area for fun and learning.

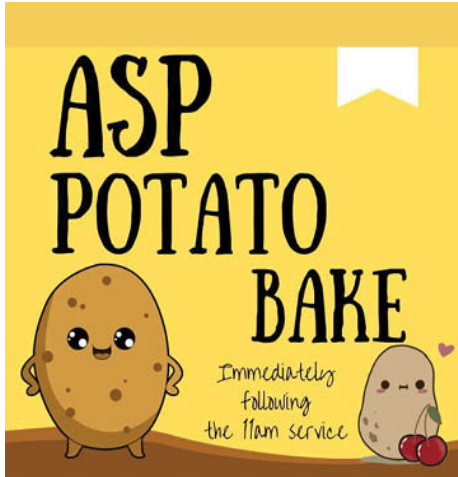
Kids Crescendo Choir: Sharpen your music skills, enjoy fun music games, and learn songs to share with others. Kindergarten through 2nd graders meet in Room C320. We'll be preparing for a trip OFF CAMPUS on Sunday, January 29, when we will sing at Azalea Estates at 10 AM. Let's get ready!

Video Games/Art Club: 3rd through 5th graders enjoy a lesson and video games or an art project. Meet in Room B220 for a fun time together.



January Youth Schedule

January 13 - Renovatus Youth Retreat 2023 begins
January 18 - No eighth period, youth games at 6 PM
January 26 - Regular youth resumes



ASP Potato Bake Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, February 12

Immediately Following the 11am Service in Gym

Join FFUMC Youth and Inman UMC Youth for a potato bake fundraiser, hosted by us, Fayetteville First UMC! Come enjoy a hot, fresh baked potato and salad bar as we fellowship in community with congregation members from Inman UMC. We'll also be sharing stories from last year's Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip, as well as answering any questions you may have about the ASP program and mission work. Donations are greatly appreciated but not required. All proceeds will go towards directly funding the trip costs of FFUMC and Inman UMC youth trip costs.

I want to thank all of the wonderful members of our church for the many expressions of condolence you gave to me following Eleanor's death. She loved her church, her ministers, and our church family.
— Ralph McDuffie



Christmas Marketplace Team:

Thank you so much for the financial donation to Hope Harbor. Every penny goes to be sure the ladies have what they need to focus on Jesus and succeed in life. We love and appreciate each of you.
— Dee, Stan, and Hope Harbor Staff

Shawl Ministry: Thank you for your thoughtfulness with the gift of a shawl. As I get older and older, I need that extra warmth, especially on my feet when

I sit down. We [Bryant and I] were members at FFUMC for thirty years. I think I held every office in United Methodist Women, but we didn't have a shawl ministry, so I missed that opportunity. Lanier Village Estates is a continuing care facility and is the reason we left Fayette County. It was a wise choice! Alzheimers is rampant in Bryant's family heritage. Thank you again for your gift.

— Cecile Balkcum

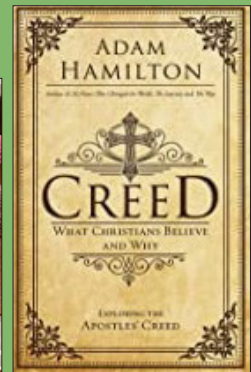
inspired ...

Back together on Wednesdays

It's always good to be together! Wednesdays are a great time to gather with your FFUMC family. It's a FULL day. What's offered?

- 10 AM Table Group to dig deeper in relationship and scripture
- 11 AM Creed Study with Rev. Allyson Lawrence
- 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper
- 6 PM Children: Kids Crescendo Choir and Video/Art Club
- 6 PM Youth Group and Worship
- 6 PM Parenting in a Tech World
- 6 PM See and Seek: Look at scripture and reflect on 2 questions each week
- 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study: Digging deeper in the Bible book by book
- 7 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal

There's a place for you!





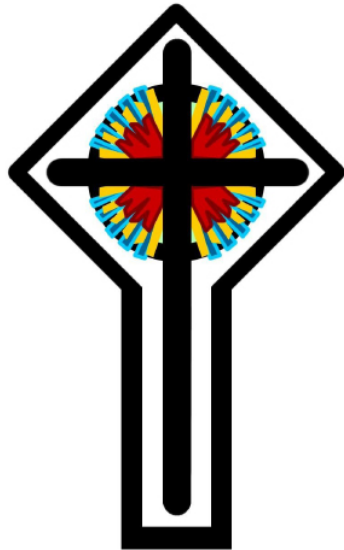
Celebration of the Life of Eleanor McDuffie

The McDuffie Family invites you to a celebration of the life of Eleanor McDuffie. All are welcome.

Saturday, January 21

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Fayetteville First UMC Fellowship Hall



January 11, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$57,891.92
Year to Date expenses	\$42,044.61
Difference	\$15,847.31

Benevolence

Received this week \$448.00

4 families assisted in 2023 for a total of \$1,225.00

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

The church office will be closed Monday, January 16, in observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.





2022 Highlights

Thank you for your financial faithfulness in 2022! Your contributions have allowed us to serve within and beyond our church family.

Healthy 2022 Financial Report

Your intentional giving allowed FFUMC to finish 2022 in a healthy financial state. All apportionments were paid, expenses covered, and 100.64% of the budget was received. We spent 95.73% of our 2022 budget.

2022 revenue	\$1,307,011.33
2022 expenses	\$1,234,895.70
Surplus for 2022	\$72,115.63

As a result of thoughtful giving and spending, we finished with a surplus for 2022. John Wesley's three rules for money come to mind: Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can. We have been blessed and we seek to be a blessing to others. At the first meeting of the year, the Finance Committee will discuss our current financial situation and how best to proceed.

Planned giving in 2023

Finance and other committees worked with church staff to create a purposeful budget for this year. The approved budget for 2023 is \$1,307,762.00 (an increase of \$9,077.00 from the 2022 budget, mainly due to increased pricing passed on from FFUMC from vendors).

- 128 pledge cards have been received for a total pledge amount of \$707,695.00.
- We need an additional 15 pledge cards to match the number of pledges from 2022 or 16 to surpass our number of pledges from 2022.
- If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2022, it is not too late.
- Pledge cards are located in the church office and in the usher area of the sanctuary. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, mailed or dropped off at the church office.

2022 Year-End Giving Statements Sent

2022 year-end giving statements were sent via email on January 6, 2023. You may also access your statement via Realm.

We're here to help! If you have any questions regarding your 2022 statement or your 2023 pledge, please call the church office at 770-461-4313.

Karen, Michelle, Janet or Julie will be happy to assist you.

