



January 20, 2023

The Weekender

Belonging

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement
and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be
united in the same mind and the same purpose.*

— 1 Corinthians 1:10

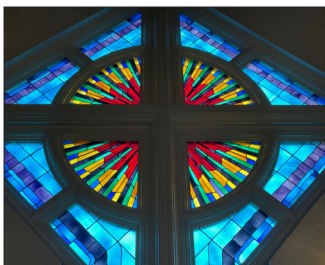


Recently, I have done something that I thought I would never do: listen to sports talk radio. I cannot describe the phenomenon in my life. I'm a fan of our hometown teams, but I don't regularly watch Falcons or Hawks games. I try to follow the Braves and make it to a game at least once a year. Atlanta United, that's an obsession. I continue to ask myself what is the appeal of sports talk radio at this point in my life.

Well, if you've never listened to it, here is a synopsis: It is a bunch of people yelling at each other and saying why they are right and the other person is wrong. That's it most of the time. Just yelling and disagreeing. Yet, in people setting up their camps, there is a sense of belonging. Everyone wants to be right. Everyone wants to show that their way is better. That's sports talk radio. I like it because it is about things that rarely matter in the grand scheme of things. I can listen to it, get emotionally invested, then realize that it doesn't matter and have a good laugh.

Church is different. When yelling and fighting happens, it matters. It is emotional. It is purposeful and can even be fruitful if done well. Paul knows that there will be church arguments and disagreements. None of his letters would have been written or retained had there not been church conflict. Yet...

Yet Paul also calls us, all believers, to "be united in the same mind and purpose." That is not that we all believe the same thing...that is a cult. It means that we have the mind of Christ and are committed to his purposes. It's ok to disagree, it is not ok to be mean. May we know that we will disagree, but may we have the same mind of Christ, for we all belong to Christ.



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

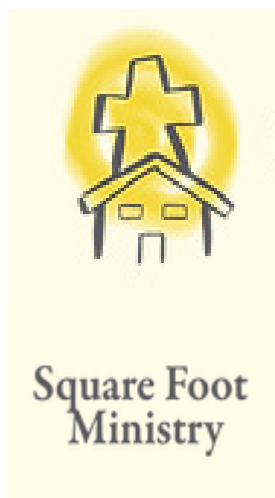
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Brown Bag with Thomas next Wednesday

Bring a lunch and come share some time with Thomas at the next Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, January 25, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Want to hear more about what's going on at FFUMC and the United Methodist Church? Come listen. Want to find out something specific? Bring your questions and ask.



Square Foot celebrates 20 years: You're invited!

You are invited to Square Foot Ministry's 20th Anniversary Celebration Reception on Sunday, January 22, from 2-4 PM in the Fayetteville First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (Building A).

Please come out and help us celebrate what the Lord has done through the ministry in the last 20 years and hear about our plans for the future. Also, help us recognize the work of some faithful volunteers over the years. Spouses, family, and guests are welcome.

[To help with planning, please RSVP here.](#)



SOUPER BOWL II week 3 update

We are in week 3 of the Souper Bowl II challenge. Team Allyson pulled ahead, but will the lead last? You decide! 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.



Wednesday Night Supper: January 25

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 25 Menu: Boneless Chicken Wings, Tater Tots, Side Dish, Dessert](#)

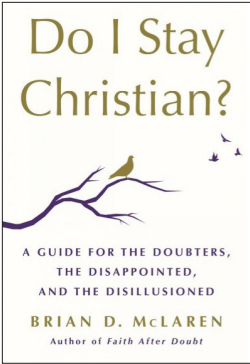
[Make your reservation here](#) or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by Mondays at 10 AM.

Upcoming: February 1: Papa Lou's Kitchen



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.



Book Club: Do I Stay Christian?

The Sunday Book Club will begin a new study on January 29 at 9:45 AM in Room C260 exploring Brian McLaren's "Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned." All are invited to participate. Questions? Contact Tim Aycock, timaycock@gmail.com.



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.



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.



Church Council meets next week

The church council will meet on Tuesday, January 24, at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.



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.



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.

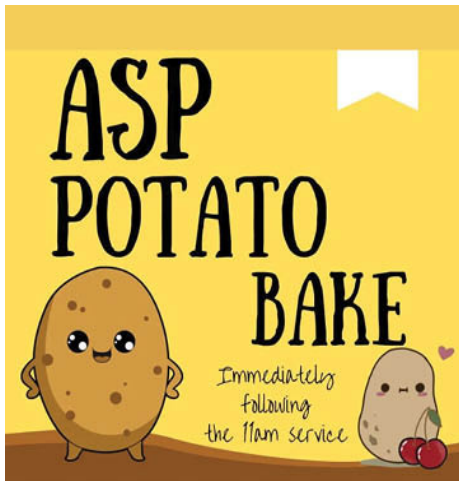
Kids Crescendo Choir: Sharpen your music skills, enjoy fun music games, and learn songs to share with others. Kindergarten through 2nd graders meet in Room C320. We'll be preparing for a trip OFF CAMPUS on Sunday, January 29, when we will sing at Azalea Estates at 10 AM. Let's get ready!

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.



Serving in Kids Ministry

Make sure to save the date for this year's VBS and get ready to answer the call to serve this summer! We need superheroes of all ages and abilities to help train and lead our future heroes to greatness. We can't do it without the support of you, the congregation of Fayetteville First. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) or [Allie Hansen](#) today to find out how your abilities and gifts can best serve at VBS this summer.



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.

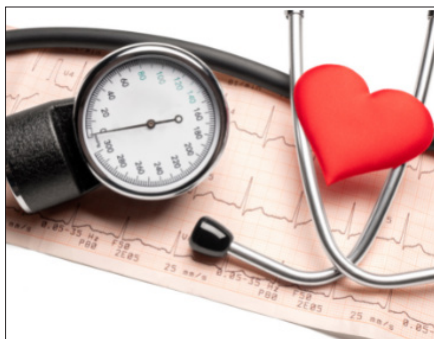
Notes of Gratitude



Thank you for your generous support of Square Foot Ministry! Your donations help us provide safe, affordable housing for those in need. God bless. — Craig Cote

Thank you so much for being a Bloom Christmas Angel. You made our kids feel extra-special and loved through your support. We appreciate you!
— Bloom

I want to thank you for all the calls, meals, visits, and flowers during my recent surgery. I love my pastors, church staff, and church family. My church means a lot to me. I appreciate each of y'all so much. — Karen Davis



Thanks for a successful blood drive

Thanks for donating blood last weekend. Sign ups were strong (33) and 80% of the donors were from FFUMC.

Results: 35 units collected. A successful day! Thanks to all who helped!

Our next blood drive is March 19.

inspired ...

Renovatus 2023 - A youth adventure

Our youth held their annual Renovatus winter retreat last weekend at Lake Junaluska. They worshiped with 20 other churches while focusing on encountering God and community. The theme was reinforced throughout the weekend with skiing, group reflection activities, and prayer stations. Thanks for all the encouraging notes you sent and your prayers. The youth had a great time and grew as a community.

*Our youth had a great experience at Lake Junaluska for Renovatus 2023 .
The snow made it even better!*





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).

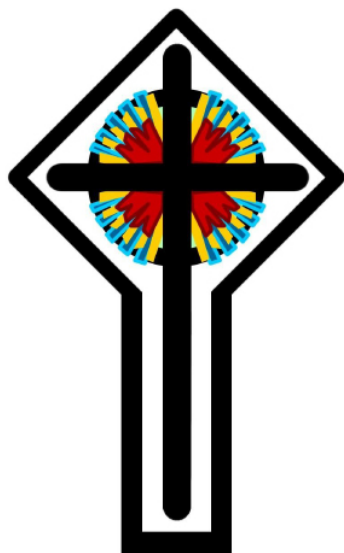
- 128 pledge cards have been received for a total pledge amount of \$707,695.00.
- We need an additional 15 pledge cards to match the number of pledges from 2022 or 16 to surpass our number of pledges from 2022.
- If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2022, it is not too late.
- Pledge cards 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.





January 18, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$75,532.02
Year to Date expenses	\$65,372.77
Difference	\$10,159.25

Benevolence

Received this week \$143.00

7 families assisted in 2023 for a total of \$2,308.10

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