



January 27, 2023

The Weekender

Better than biscuits

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Someone shared this joke with me this week because Sunday's worship service reminded her of it.

"There once was a preacher who was invited to attend a men's breakfast. As they all sat down, the visiting preacher asked one of the impressive older farmers if he would say grace before they ate.

The old farmer stood, everyone bowed their heads and the old farmer began. He said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The preacher opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard!" Now the preacher was overly worried.

However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour." Just as the preacher was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued. "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits."

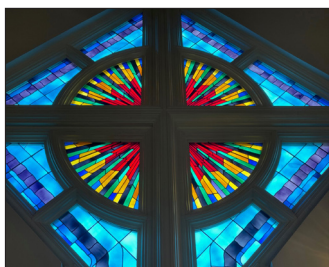
"So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait till You are done mixin', and probably it will be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

To put it in the words of one the hymns of the church, "Hymn of Promise," we experience God's creation, "unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Or to put that joke in the context of scripture when Jesus prays for his disciples before he is crucified, "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one." (John 17:20-21).

The honest truth is that we do not have all the answers to the past, the present, or the future. We cannot know for certain what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. That is good news for us.

I leave you with this thought. It was wisdom that was given to me from my dad who said, "Remember in life, when you see other people, you can never know how much grace someone needs in their life." We may see lard or buttermilk or raw flour, but following God allows us be part of the mixing and come out on the other side where it's all biscuits.



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

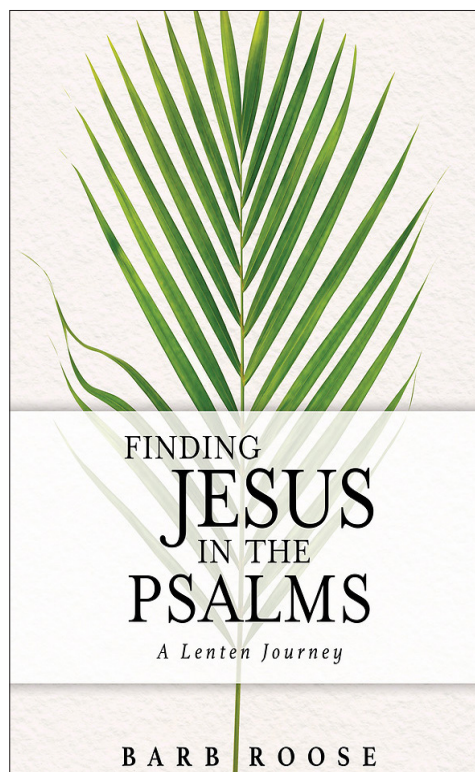
8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Our Lenten Season Approaches

In just a few weeks, we will move into the Lenten Season in our church calendar. Here's a look at what is to come:

Ash Wednesday Service: February 22

Sanctuary, 6 PM, Rev. Charles Robinson

Lenten Lunches, Thursdays, Noon, Fellowship Hall, \$5

Dates, Sponsoring Group, Speaker List:

Ash Wednesday, February 22: UWF Board - Thomas Martin

1st Thursday, March 2: UMM - Charles Robinson

2nd Thursday, March 9: Bethany - Allyson Lawrence

3rd Thursday, March 16: Marie Lamb - Connie Hyder

4th Thursday, March 23: Friendship - Dave Lee

5th Thursday, March 30: Ethel Taylor - Danny Beck

6th Thursday, April 6: Mary Martha Hope/Tabitha - TBD

This year's book for Lenten Lunch, *Finding Jesus in the Psalms* by Barb Roose, may be purchased at your favorite bookseller including [Cokesbury](#) and [Amazon](#).



SOUPER BOWL II week 4 update

We are in week 4 of the Souper Bowl II challenge. Team Allyson's lead holds, but not by much. Will Team Thomas rally? 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: February 1

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

[February 1 Menu from Papa Lou's Kitchen: Smothered Pork Chops Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, and Cake.](#)

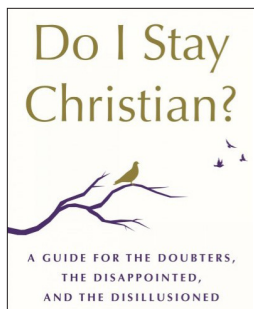
[Make your reservation here](#) or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by Mondays at 10 AM.

Upcoming: February 8: It's a surprise!



Handbells begin again

Handbell rehearsals will resume Thursday, February 2, with practice on a new night: Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM every week. 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.



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 or Welcome Portal through February 12. Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com.



Valentine Potluck coming soon!

Are you ready to share some FRIENDSHIP, FOOD, and FUN? Come enjoy a Valentine Potluck sponsored by the United Methodist Men.

WHO Everybody - plus invite a new friend or two

WHEN Saturday, February 11, Noon to 2 PM

WHERE FFUMC Fellowship Hall

WHAT TO BRING Appetizer, Side Dish or Dessert to go with ham and chicken provided by UMM

WHAT TO EXPECT Games! Musical Entertainment!

WHAT TO DO NOW? Save the date and let Bill Webb know you plan to come so he can make sure we have plenty of main courses and places prepared. Just contact Bill (call or text 770-833-6740 or email at williamlwebb@bellsouth.net) by **Monday, February 6.**



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.

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, Beef Stew, Sloppy Joe), Pasta Sauce, Jellies and Jams, Peanut Butter, Juice, Canned Fruits, Dried Beans, Boxed Potatoes, Rice, Canned Vegetables, Diapers Sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6, Pull-ups all sizes



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.



Donation tips: Did you know...

You can deliver **Fayette Samaritan donations** to the church office or to the donation box near the gym.

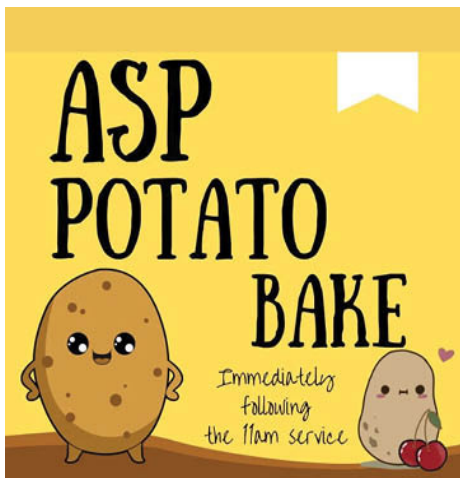
"Souper Bowl" donations are collected in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary until February 12.

School supplies for El Salvador may be placed in the Welcome Portal donation bin beside the Souper Bowl display through February 12.

Recent collection drive for **pill bottles** and **winter items for SafeHouse Outreach** have concluded. Please save them at home for our next drive or donate elsewhere.

ALL donations should only be placed in designated bins or delivered to the church office to keep our campus tidy and ensure donations are given to the intended recipients. Call the church office if you have questions. And thanks for all you share!

FFUMC Youth NEWS



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.



Ways to Serve and engage in Children's Ministries

As we continue to grow and expand our ministries we need your help. Here are multiple ways you can get involved and learn more about our amazing Kids Ministries.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

We are looking for classroom assistants in our Video Game Club and Art Club and also on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. [Here is a link to get more information on what a Sunday/Wednesday classroom assistant does and for days to volunteer.](#)

WONDERS OF WORSHIP LEADERS

Wonders of Worship Leaders greet the children after the 11 children's moment and guide them through a short lesson. Lesson plans are provided with helpful details and all the materials needed. [Check out this link to volunteer for Wonders of Worship.](#)



VBS VOLUNTEER

VBS is June 26-30 — The VBS theme this year is "Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God." What a great message for our kids to hear! Make sure to save the date for this year's VBS and get ready to answer the call to serve God 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.

VBS workshop— Want a more in-depth look at Cokesbury VBS? Join us for a training workshop and lunch on March 4 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

In this workshop you'll learn about:

- the 5 different sessions of Hero Hotline VBS
- the Bible story backgrounds for each session
- the music
- the science experiments
- the crafts, snacks, and recreation



Messy Church

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Join Pastor Allyson and others for a workshop that will help us think about new ways of being church. We will learn ways to engage families in worship together as we consider next steps for intergenerational gathering to connect new people in new places. Lunch is included but you must register. Contact [Pastor Allyson](#) or go to <https://www.ngumc.org/eventdetail/messy-church-before-and-beyond-17105429> for more information.

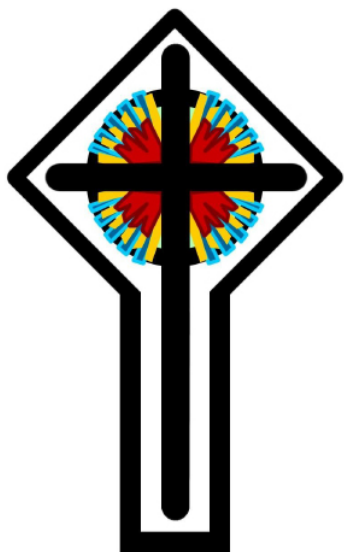
Notes of Gratitude



Shawl Ministry: Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl. It is helping me to stay warm while my foot continues to heal. I love my church family, office staff, and ministers. — Karen Davis

I would like to thank my FFUMC family for the thoughts and prayers during the hospitalization and death of Steve. I'm so appreciative of the texts, emails, cards, calls, visits, food and flowers. The knitted afghan from the shawl ministry is beautiful. It has been very humbling to receive so much love and support during a difficult time. I am so thankful to be a part of a loving, caring congregation. — Charlotte McAdams

January 25, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$88,884.00
Year to Date expenses	\$70,711.34
Difference	\$18,172.66

Benevolence

Received this week \$568.00

9 families assisted in 2023 for a total of \$2,908.10.

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

inspired ...



Square Foot Ministry: 20 Years Serving Others

A group that has been serving others for 20 years was founded right here at Fayetteville First UMC. This past Sunday Square Foot Ministry, squarefootministry.org, celebrated its 20 year anniversary in the Fellowship Hall.

Square Foot Ministry began its first home build on nearby Church Street in 2002 with only \$5,000 in the bank. But the miracle of this build, which saw the home ready for move in within three weeks and \$20,000 for the ministry in the bank, has continued to help those in need across many neighboring communities and states. Cleanups and builds after natural disasters as well as new home construction and home repairs have engaged hundreds of youth and adults each year. With its first full-time director, Ron Fairly, at the helm, this ministry continues to expand. With a goal to build 75 homes by 2030, Ron will be busy fundraising, coordinating, and working with volunteers to make dreams happen. Fayetteville First remains actively involved in leadership with several members serving on its board and with volunteers with skills from zero to expert. We are invited to help this ministry be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Photos: Faye Livingston and Gary Wood show off a quilt made from Square Foot Ministry shirts; Doug Higgins (2nd to right), one of the founders, shares in the celebration; Ron Fairly (left) at reception; Tim Aycock, current board president, with Jeff Williams and Alfred Berry; Craig Wiley, another founder, shares a Square Foot experience.

