



January 6, 2023

The Weekender

Renewing our Baptism Covenant

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This past Sunday in worship, we took part in the Wesleyan Covenant service. It is a service that dates back to 1756 that John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, used at the start of a New Year. It is a very personal yet very public prayer to say the words together as a body of Christ. The traditional language of the Wesleyan Covenant prayer is this:

*"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."*



BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY
January 8, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

Guest speaker: Rev. Tommy Martin

That is a high calling for all Christians. It frames us and shapes us.

This Sunday, we will have the chance to reaffirm our faith and remember the Lord's baptism by celebrating and remembering our own. There is a line, from the liturgy, which says, "Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church."

The words that stand out to me are, "acknowledge what God is doing for us." How often do we acknowledge what God is doing for us? Are we quick to take inventory of our blessings or do we rush to look at our deficiencies? Do we see the world through the eyes of God's abundance or do we see it through the world's eyes of scarcity?

I hope you will join us in worship this week as we celebrate and remember our baptism, as we give thanks for what God is doing in our midst, and as we fellowship and covenant to live together in the Spirit of Christ.

We will also welcome a guest preacher this week, Rev. Tommy Martin, who is a retired United Methodist Pastor, who has served churches in South Georgia and has served as a District Superintendent, and also happens to be my dad.

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL II

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UMC**

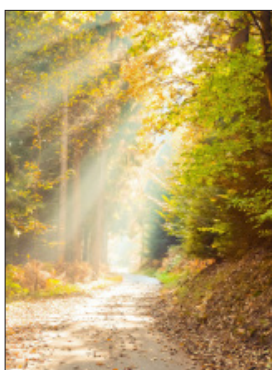
KICK OFF!!!

SOUPER BOWL II season kicks off - NOW!

2023 will bring a fun and friendly competition as our second Souper Bowl challenge kicks off January 8. 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 begin!

Here's the "fierce" part of Souper Bowl II:

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. 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.



G3: Good Grief Gals start new year on January 12 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path continues in this new year. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the **SECOND THURSDAY**. Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, **January 12, at 5:30 PM** at Partner's Pizza in Fayetteville. Everyone will be responsible for their own dinner and beverage. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaileys11@gmail.com.



IMPORTANT: Sign up now for January 15 blood drive

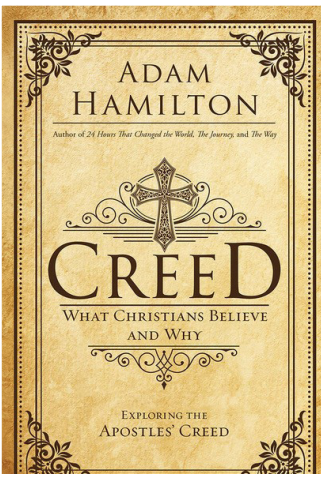
A new American Red Cross policy highlights the importance of our signing up in advance and following through with blood donations. **All weekend drives must collect a minimum of 32 pints to stay on the calendar.** Our sign ups have averaged 31 over the past year. Can you sign up now for the January 15 drive in the FFUMC Family Life Center gym? Please go directly to the American Red Cross site at redcrossblood.org 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 11

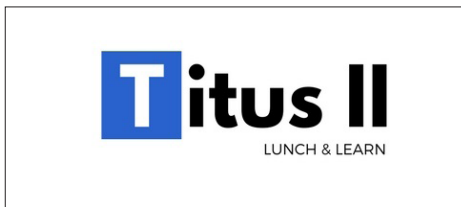
Sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and even harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Maybe we can find some powerful answers contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian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



Titus II will meet January 10

The next Titus II will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at noon in the gym. Menu: Ritzly Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Vegetable, Roll, Chocolate Cake.



Wednesday Night Suppers resume January 11

New: Time extended to start at 5:15

Gather with friends for a good meal and fellowship on Wednesday evenings, now from 5:15 to 6 PM. On January 11, we'll have food from Speedi Pig Barbecue: Pork sandwiches, cole slaw, baked beans & peach cobbler. [Make your reservation following this link](#) or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by Mondays at 10 AM.

January 11: Speedi Pig Barbecue January 18: Picadilly



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.



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. **Update: We have received 127 pledges for a total of \$700,195.00**



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 back in sight! Join in!

Wednesday night programs resume this coming Wednesday, January 11. 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.

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.

January Youth Schedule

- 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

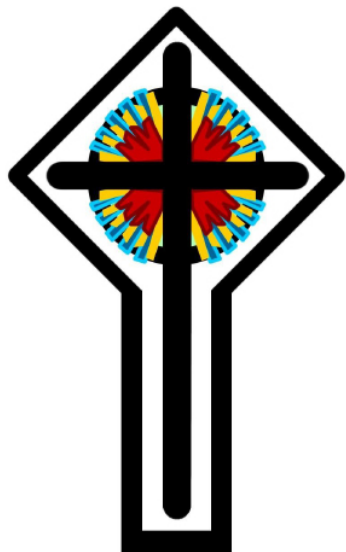


inspired ...

Serving at SafeHouse Outreach

We ended the year with a final meal delivery at SafeHouse Outreach on December 29 to help those on the margins in Atlanta. Chicken Tortilla Soup, Mexican Cornbread, and FFUMC-baked cookies were served to 85 clients with 65 packaged for late arrivers, seconds, and lunches. Hot chocolate, donuts, and trail mix were shared in the parking lot, and we left the final load of warm clothing donations for 2022. **Our next service is March 30.** *Photos: Can you spot most of these volunteers? Randy Riddell, Mike DeLisle, Royce Anderson, Ric Williams, Sara and Ron Reams, Nancy Ricciardi, Phyllis Williamson, and Kathe, Bobby, Emma and Eli Anderson.*





January 4, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$17,406.65
Year to Date expenses	\$32,347.81
Difference	-\$14,941.16

Benevolence

Received this week \$1,356.00

2 families assisted in 2023 for a total of \$600.00

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



2022 Giving Statements

will be emailed by the end of January to the email address connected to your Realm Account.

Questions? Contact the finance office.

We will be happy to assist you!