



February 17, 2023

The Weekender

"How might we ..."?

Bill Webb, Lay Leader

On Sunday, February 5, 2023, I attended a training session for the SouthWest District at Peachtree City Methodist Church. District Superintendent Susan Landry hosted this event. She invited Reverend Terry Walton, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, to preach. One of Terry's main points was to "see Jesus in the faces of the people with whom we serve." Each of us is made in God's image. He loves each of us and He has given each certain, different gifts. Can we use them to work together for God's kingdom?

The training offered sessions on Finance, SPRC, Missions, and Fresh Expressions, among others. I attended one on Visioning.

In that session, Rev. Blair Zant led a robust discussion of mission. Our overall mission as Methodists is to make disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world. An important question, in the particular context of our church, is "how."

As you may know, Pastor Thomas led group discussions on FFUMC's vision and mission in a series of Saturday meetings last summer. We discussed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We spent much time working on a mission statement. What we focused on is that Jesus did ministry while walking around. We took that statement and applied it to our church. We walk with others while walking with Jesus.

In last week's session, Blair asked "are we in step with our mission?" I believe, while we have room for improvement, we are in step. Our traditional music is at a high level. Our mission program is effective, varied, and strong. The fellowship and growth we share through small groups and Bible studies is vibrant.

Blair asked, "do we celebrate our wins?" I am not sure we do. Three years in the black in our budget is a big win. The successful renovation of the Fellowship Hall is huge.

But not everything is excellent. Blair emphasized that while we focus on our mission, "**how might we**" improve as a church? Below is a series of "how might we" questions, that in no way are meant to disparage the things we do well.

"How might we" care for our buildings including the heating and air system, organ, stained glass windows, chapel, and kitchen in the Fellowship Hall?

"How might we" discuss respectfully and with open minds honest differences that tend to divide us?

"How might we" have fun?



“How might we” get more people to attend and participate actively in the life of the church?

“How might we” grow our Pre-K program and involve parents?

“How might we” invite new residents in downtown Fayetteville?

“How might we” enhance Sunday Schools for all ages?

“How might we” punch holes in the darkness?

What **“how might we”** is near your heart? “How might we” have conversations about these and other questions? I am glad to visit with you and your small group to listen and share ideas.

Bill Webb invites conversation with you! Contact Bill at 770-833-6740 or williamwebb@bellsouth.net.



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 19, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)
2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 2023

6:00 PM, Sanctuary

[Online link active at 6 PM and after](#)

Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



Journey through John during Lent

You are invited to journey through the Gospel of John during Lent. Dr. Thomas Martin has prepared a 40-day guide for individual study that we can do together. Through daily readings and reflection questions, the goal is to apply the lessons to our lives and see where we can “punch holes in the darkness.”

3 Ways to access the guide:

- Get a **printed copy** of the scripture references and questions.
- Access the scripture references online at **fayettevillefirst.com**.
- **Subscribe** to the **Journey through John** email list. Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, for a daily email that includes the full scripture and questions. These will be sent each day throughout the 40 days of Lent.

Materials will be available this Sunday and after.
Let's go together on this Lenten journey.



Your support of Fayette Samaritans makes a difference!

Fayette Samaritans sends thanks for all our support.

Look at these facts from 2022:

Assisted with **groceries** and **clothing**

Provides emergency financial help

43% of families helped have minor children

22% helped are seniors on a limited income

Cash donations help prevent eviction and utility disconnects. Last year 322 evictions were prevented and 399 utility connections were kept.

Cash donations offer limited medical or dental aid; assists as women and children leave the women's shelter; provides for perishables like meat, milk and eggs.

In 2022, Fayette Samaritans assisted 645 families with each being assisted an average of 2.4 times. The total of individuals in the families was 4,625.

How can you help?

Make a **regular tax-deductible financial donation**. Projected needs for 2023: \$408,000.

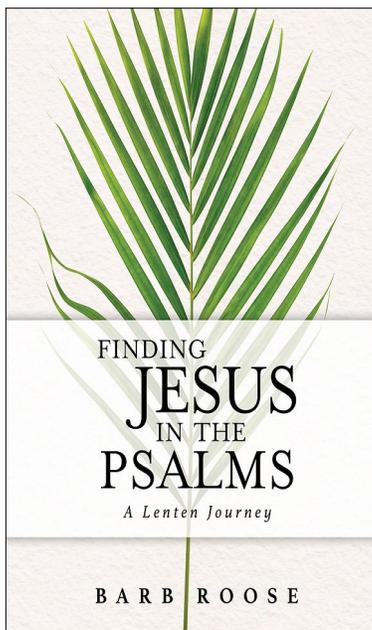
Give **food**. Donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

February most needed: Canned Chicken, Chicken Broth, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Canned Peas, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Cookies, Coffee, Laundry Detergent, Pull-ups Size 5, Feminine Products

Donate **clothing**. **Critical needs:** *New underwear for men and women; New or gently used girls and women's socks; Men's shirts (button up or Tee-shirts) sizes S and M*

Volunteer. The average number of weekly volunteers is 41.

Find out more from the president of Fayette Samaritans, our own Linda Ladd, at 770-363-1909 or lladd941@comcast.net.



Lenten Lunches begin Wednesday

Noon, Fellowship Hall, \$5

Weekly lunches for fellowship and reflection begin next week. Come to the Fellowship Hall at noon. No reservation is needed. Cost: \$5

Dates, Sponsoring Group, Speaker:

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 - Kathie Hansen

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](#).



Amplify Media FREE to you!

Amplify Media is a streaming service allowing churches large and small unlimited video access in order to discover, customize, and share diverse resources that encourage deeper discipleship and greater impact.

Create an account:

- Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/enter-access-code>
- Put in Fayetteville First UMC Access Code: CPWSB
- Follow prompts to set up your FREE personal account

Once your account is created, you can access the content we have made available through your personal computer, smartphone, tablet, or smart TV. You will not be charged a fee. Fayetteville First already has the paid subscription that is for our subscribers. Be sure to keep your email and password in a safe place so you can remember how to log in next time. Contact Allyson, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions on access and content on this great resource.

NOTE: A study by the author of *Jesus in the Psalms*, the book on which our Lenten Lunch series is based, is available on Amplify Media. It's all FREE!



Ash Wednesday and School Winter Break

No Wednesday Night Supper next week

Our Ash Wednesday service begins this Wednesday, February 22, at 6 PM in the sanctuary. Fayette County schools are on winter break as well, so we will not offer a Wednesday Night Supper next week.

See you back at the table March 1!



Titus II meets again March 7

Gather for a good meal and fellowship on Tuesday, March 7, at noon. Make your reservation by noon on Thursday, March 2, by calling Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.



"O Be Joyful" concert at Spivey Hall coming March 5

Southern Crescent Chorale presents "O Be Joyful!" at Spivey Hall on Sunday, March 5. Sponsored by Dr. Frank and Deb Cole, the concert will feature a wide variety of choral music including Durante's Magnificat, Hosanna In Excelsis by Gounod, Busto's Ave Maria, and gorgeous hymn arrangements of "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" and "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing". Steve Shivers, pianist, and our very own organist Justin Maxey will lend their great talents to the event with solos. Many FFUMC singers are in the chorale as well. The world-class acoustics of Spivey Hall make this concert a favorite of both patrons and singers. Tickets may be secured through southerncrestchorale.org or spiveyhall.org. The concert is at 3:00 PM on March 5 and costs \$20 per person, students \$15.

FFUMC KIDS NEWS



VBS Workshop

Want a more in-depth look at this summer's VBS coming June 26-30? Join us for a training workshop and lunch.

March 4 from 10 AM - 1 PM

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

Let Rev. Allyson Lawrence or Allie Hansen know you are coming. And then get ready to dial in to VBS 2023!

FFUMC Youth NEWS



Thank YOU

"Blown away!" Youth director Hannah Vickery's response to your support of summer missions through the Potato Bake last Sunday. You'll see and hear more about this soon!

But for now ... THANKS!



February 20

President's Day Holiday

Church Office and

Entire Church Campus Closed

Please **DO NOT ENTER ANY DOOR**

anywhere on the church campus on Monday, February 20,

EVEN IF YOU HAVE A DOOR CODE.

Entry of any type will set off alarms.

Church office and campus will reopen Tuesday, February 21.

With Gratitude



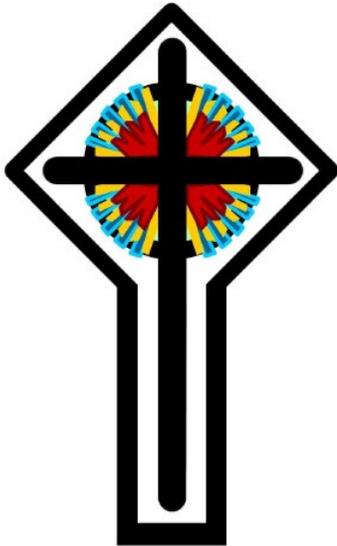
I would like to thank my church family for all the expressions of love as I recover from knee surgery — The delicious food, beautiful flowers, cards, texts, calls and visits — The brunch from Friendship Circle was delicious and the crocheted afghan from the Shawl Ministry is beautiful. I am humbled and blessed to receive your love and prayers.

— *Nadine Anderson*

Both my husband and I want to thank you for each time beautiful flowers were delivered to us recently. We thank the precious ladies who brought them all the way to Riverdale and for all of you who make the days of our church members much brighter on their way to healing. God bless you.

— *Donna and Ben Westberry*

February 15, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$142,323.73
Year to Date expenses	\$148,488.56
Difference	- \$6,164.83

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$ 1,637.00

16 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$4,767.40

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.

Church campus closed Monday, February 20.

Please do not enter any church door even with a door code.

The campus will reopen on Tuesday, February 21.

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 ...

You all are super Souper Bowl Champions!

Souper Bowl II showed what champions are made of ... they just keep working hard day by day and doing what they do with excellence. Our congregation is made up of champions all around!

Though close competition throughout the season saw the Souper Stars led by Pastor Allyson in the lead, the championship bling went to Minister of Minestrone led by Pastor Thomas who pulled through with a last minute triumph. Both teams bested their count from last year. Boxes lined the altar rail last Sunday, each filled with 12+ cans of soup, crackers and peanut butter for others in our community.

This Souper Bowl Challenge brought to us by the United Women in Faith was led by Carolyn McKinley. She admits to being concerned about the slow start of the competition but delighted by the eventual result: 1575+ cans of soup. Her encouraging advise for Souper Bowl III? "Start tucking away a few cans of soup each week now. You'll be shocked at how much you can give next year," she says. The voice of one champion speaks for us all: little by little we can do a lot!



Dr. Thomas Martin (a.k.a. Minister of Minestrone) accepted the trophy, medal, and ring last Sunday as his team was named Souper Bowl II Champions by coordinator Carolyn McKinley and United Women in Faith president Janet Baileys.

The boxes will be given to the following groups:

Fayette Samaritans

FFUMC Benevolence families

Griffin Homeless group

Dreams of Lois group servicing the Atlanta Children's Center, a local mobile home park, and food pantry for students

Thank you for every can!