



February 24, 2023

The Weekender

A holy Lent together

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.*
-From a Prayer for a Service for Ash Wednesday



Life can be overwhelming with all that we have to do in our lives. Shopping lists, home improvement projects, keeping the house clean, keeping kids' schedules, keeping our busy schedules. Sometimes it's a wonder that we have any time for ourselves.

And here comes the preacher telling you that you need to be doing more self-examination, repent more, pray more, fast more, deny yourself more. We keep adding more to our plate. We keep adding more to our lives. We keep adding and adding and adding.

Lent is one of those seasons in our church life where we subtract by adding. Think of it like nutrition. We are told to substitute fruit for candy, water for coffee, veggies for potato chips. The end goal is that it makes us healthier and is better for us in the long run.

Observing a holy Lent is addition by subtraction. We might substitute reading the Bible instead of reading the latest op-ed in the paper (or at least spend more time thinking about the Scriptures than what we read online.) We might substitute fasting from eating out to eat at home or eat fruits and vegetables and take the savings of money and give to the Lenten offering which supports Rise Against Hunger. We might spend more time in quiet in our cars driving around than listening to music or talk radio. We might pray more for others and offer prayers for ourselves. We might even tune our hearts to hear the voice of God.

However you approach this Lenten season, I hope you will do so knowing that we are pursuing perfection in Christ. That means that we do not get there on our own. We go with the grace of God. May God's grace be with you as we celebrate and observe a holy Lent together.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 24, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

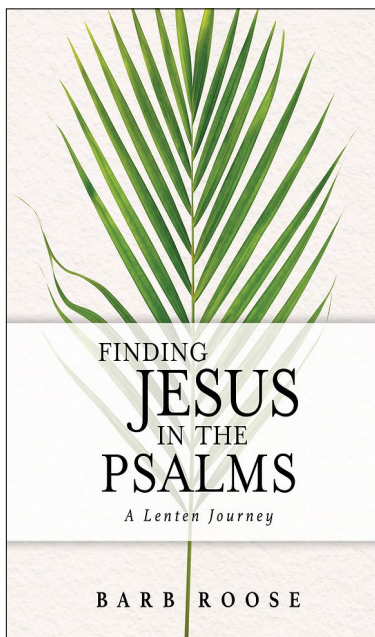


Journey through Lent

We take this journey through Lent together. [See the schedule of Lenten opportunities at FayettevilleFirst.com](#) or [access a PDF here](#). It's not too late to begin the *Journey through John* study 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 in the narthex.
- [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.



Lenten Lunches continue each Thursday Noon, Fellowship Hall, \$5

Weekly lunches for fellowship and reflection continue each Thursday throughout Lent. Come to the Fellowship Hall at noon. No reservation is needed. Cost: \$5

Dates, Sponsoring Group, Speaker:

- 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](#).



EGG your neighbor! A Lenten community outreach

Give the gift of fun to families in your neighborhood. This Lenten and Easter season we're EGGing our neighbors (in a nice way) with our Egg Your Neighbor kit. **Kits will be available beginning March 12** in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, or Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.



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.

New March Most Needed List: *Canned Beef Stew, Hamburger Helper, Canned Fruit, Jelly, Jello, Bar Soap, Deodorant for men and women, Feminine Products*

Donate **clothing**. **Critical needs:** *New underwear for men and women, especially larger sizes; 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.



ST. SULPICE ORGAN CASE
PARIS

Back story on Sunday's Chancel Choir Anthem

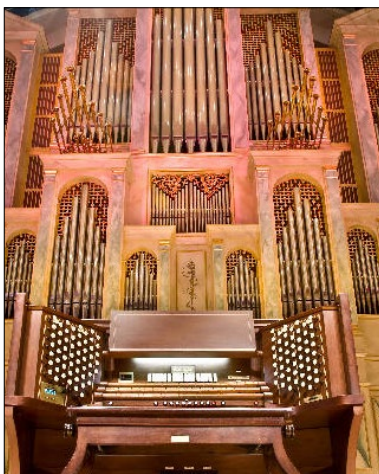
Kyrie from Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass) in C-sharp minor, Op. 16

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

The Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass) in C-sharp minor, Op. 16, is a mass by the French composer Louis Vierne. He composed it in 1899, scored for choir and two organs. It was published in 1900, before it was first performed at Saint-Sulpice in Paris in December 1901. Although scored for two pipe organs, it was later adapted for a single organ, as most churches could not provide two such instruments. During this Sunday's offertory, the organ will drastically change volumes throughout the piece. The softer sections were originally to be on the choir organ (orgue de chœur) in the front of the cathedral and the louder sections on the grand organ in the rear of the cathedral. — *Justin Maxey*



"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.



Speedi Pig at Wednesday Night Supper March 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.

March 1: Speedi Pig - Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Dessert

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

Upcoming March 8: Piccadilly



Titus II meets again March 7

Come to Titus II on March 7 at noon in the gym for a "Sniffles and Sneezes" presentation. Glenda Martinez will share a collection of over 100 handkerchiefs with a mixture of history and fun. Learn how she got the collection, hear a poem and song, and maybe win a prize! You'll also have a good meal and plenty of fellowship. Make your reservation by noon on Thursday, March 2, by calling Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.



Homeless Offering this Sunday

The North Georgia United Methodist Housing & Homeless Council is an agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church and was created to help churches and other non-profit organizations minister to people experiencing poverty and homelessness. **The 2023 Homeless Offering will be taken this Sunday, February 26.** Your support of the Offering allows us to fund multiple ministries across North Georgia. Please mark any donations to this ministry as "2023 Homeless Offering."

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



Busy in El Salvador

Youth director Hannah Vickery is with Maggie Clarke and others on the United Methodist team serving in El Salvador through building, helping with VBS, delivering school supplies and more. Soon we will hear about this mission trip and about the Potato Bake on February 12 where you supported youth summer missions in a way that "blew her away."

With Gratitude



During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. We appreciate the beautiful bouquet of flowers that were brought to the door. Thank you so very much.

— Beverly Redd

inspired ...

The 40 day journey

We have begun our journey through Lent. With a reminder on Ash Wednesday that we are dust, we also receive the encouragement that we do not walk alone.



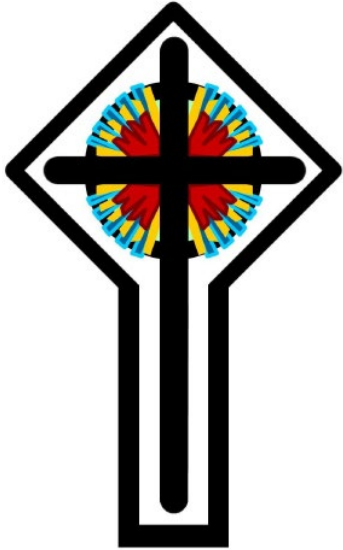
At our first Lenten Lunch, Dr. Thomas Martin presented the introduction to this year's book "Finding Jesus in the Psalms" and shared the story behind the stitched cross above (which he got when he was 12) as he explored the question "Where do you see Jesus?" The Ash Wednesday service featured the anthem "Create in Me A Clean Heart," and Rev. Charles Robinson shared a sermon on "Don't Squander This Life." The 2023 Lenten Study "Journey Through John" began as well with readings and reflection questions for each of the 40 days. We go with prayer and hope as we travel together.

Resources available here or go to FayettevilleFirst.com:

[Ash Wednesday Worship Link](#)

[Journey Through John Study](#)

[Journey Through Lent Schedule](#)



February 22, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$173,025.62
Year to Date expenses	\$165,458.66
Difference	\$7,566.96

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$255.00

21 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$6,042.81.

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