



March 17, 2023

## The Weekender

### It's all relative

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I don't know where I heard about it first, but I've always remembered this idea about the Chinese Theory of Relativity. That theory states that for everything you are going through there are a billion people in China who don't care.

Ouch. So maybe it's not really a theory and maybe something that I just made up. But the intention of it is to keep things in perspective when things start going tough for me in my life. Admittedly, things aren't really that tough. Running late. Helping the kids get ready in the morning. Trying to find that one meal that everyone in our house agrees on to eat. These are inconveniences. How I handle them says more about me than the actual crisis, and whether it is even a crisis or not. To me, that is the strength of the Chinese Theory of Relativity.

But that's not really a great world outlook when we think about it. It separates us from real suffering and hurt in the world. It's dismissive of those for whom the present moment is a crisis. It doesn't allow us to see the full humanity of others in our lives and our world.

For everything you are going through there are going to be people who don't care. That's okay. Because there is one who cares. The Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the one who cares deeply about everything that you are going through.

Here's another theory of relativity. It's from Luke 12:7, where Jesus says, "Even the hairs on your head are all counted. Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows."

One of these perspectives allows us to remove ourselves from being human and seeing ourselves in God's image. It prevents us from seeing the shared humanity around us. The other allows us to see ourselves—and every other person (even those we don't agree with)—as precious in God's sight. I pray that we would have the eyes to put things in the right perspective. After all, it's all relative.



### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 19, 2023**

**8:45 and 11:00 AM**

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

*Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:24-41*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

# CURRENT NEWS



## Worship and Welcome updates

You are invited to stay in the sanctuary after 11 AM worship postlude this Sunday, March 19, to hear updates regarding our spaces of Worship and Welcome. We have several needs for improvements to our facilities and want everyone to have the chance to listen and learn about the work the Trustees and a special sub-committee are part of. If you have questions, please let Thomas know.



We need your blood!

Sign up NOW  
for March 19  
Blood Drive!

## Give blood this Sunday, March 19

The FFUMC Red Cross Blood Drive is this Sunday. Have you signed up?  
**Bonus: The coffee and food table returns for all donors.**

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and choose our drive ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.

NOTE: We have hosted 57 drives at FFUMC and collected 4236 units of blood. You can be part of the 58th drive!

We hope to see you there!



[What to do before, during and after your donation? Find out!](#)



Without you, the  
directory won't be  
complete.

**Schedule  
NOW!**

## Schedule your NEW directory photo session now!

### Photography sessions NOW OPEN for May 4-7

We are ready! A new church directory will be produced by The Portrait Cafe this summer. What to do now? Schedule your photography session!

[Schedule your photo session now: follow this link.](#)

Session options are Thursday, May 4, through Sunday, May 7. *(Monday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 9, may be added by The Portrait Cafe for sessions if May 4-7 slots are filled.)*

Each family unit photographed by The Portrait Cafe will receive a free 8x10 photo and a free directory.

[Follow this link for complete information at FayettevilleFirst.com.](#) See what to wear and why we should avoid green, how to change an appointment and more. If you still have questions, contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), or Karen Powell or Michelle Burch at the church office for assistance at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Donations for Fayette Samaritans

We can help others in our community through Fayette Samaritans. How?

Make a **regular tax-deductible financial donation**.

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:*** Little girl clothes, size 4 and larger (new or gently used); Ladies underwear (new only)

**Volunteer**. The average number of weekly volunteers is 41.

**Find out more** from the president of Fayette Samaritans, Linda Ladd, at 770-363-1909 or [lladd941@comcast.net](mailto:lladd941@comcast.net).



## High School Seniors: Apply for Ed Travis Scholarship NOW

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to a graduating senior at FFUMC entering an accredited college, university or technical school for the upcoming school year. [Get instructions and an application at FayettevilleFirst.com](#). **Completed applications are due March 31 in the church office.**



## Serve at SafeHouse Outreach on March 30

Want to help serve a meal at SafeHouse? Thursday, March 30, is our next service to the homeless in downtown Atlanta. Please contact Randy Riddell for details if you'd like to help serve at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com).

*The FFUMC bus will leave for SafeHouse on March 30 at 4:30 PM and returns by 8 PM. Let Randy Riddell know if you want to be on it!*



## Holy Hootenanny on April 16

Hold the date for a church-wide picnic and celebration in the late afternoon on April 16. Watch for details soon!



## 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 are available** in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com), or Allie Hansen, [ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com), with questions. Share photos of your adventures with Joan Aycock at [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com).





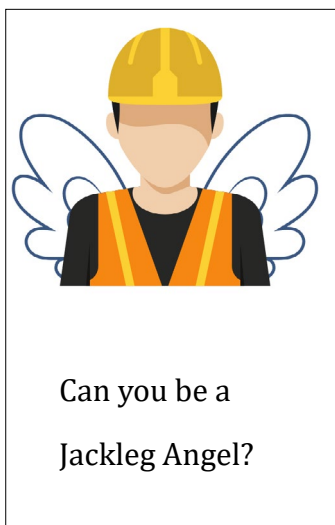
## Special Offering for UMCOR March 19

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative costs. If you would like to donate we recommend a donation to UMCOR through their website or by [giving to FFUMC](#) and noting the gift, "UMCOR."



## "Paws" to share some love

Do you have a special love for dogs? You are invited to join Steve Cartwright in dog rescue by volunteering with his group, Bullywags, at adoption events at PTC Petco every Saturday afternoon. For more information, contact Steve at 404-405-0341.



Can you be a  
Jackleg Angel?

## Jackleg Angels? We need some!

A new group is forming to complete tasks around the church campus. Self-named "Jackleg Angels" are looking for volunteers handy with power tools, household tools, gardening skills, and general do-it-yourself experience. We know there are folks in the congregation who enjoy working with their hands, building calluses and once in a while busting knuckles. We have already completed some projects around the church, both indoor and outdoor, but we could use more helping hands. We meet as the tasks require, form 2- or 3-person teams, and "Get 'er Done." We believe we can save the church a significant amount by doing some jobs ourselves, rather than hiring contractors. Our maintenance supervisor is only one man, so we work with him to help carry some of the load. Contact Bob Dunn at 281-299-8217 to get going!



## Life Line Screening this Saturday

Did you know that 80% of strokes are preventable (according to the American Heart Association)? Life Line Screening provides valuable screenings to detect the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease. You can sign up for the complete stroke screening package and more to be held at FFUMC on March 18. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-844-591-7160 or visit <https://llsa.social/HC> to register.



## Wednesday Night Supper: March 22

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 22 Wings & Things 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) by Mondays at 10 AM.

*Upcoming March 29: Tim's Country Kitchen*



## Yes! I'll help at Family Art Night

Looking for an opportunity to get a glimpse into preschool life? Now is your chance! On Wednesday evening, March 22, Fayetteville First Preschool is hosting a Family Art Night for our students. We would **love your help** in making the evening run smoothly. Having volunteers from the church will allow preschool grown-ups to enjoy the evening with their children. [Please click on the Sign-Up Genius link to view available volunteer opportunities.](#) You just show up! Art stations will be set up with instructions and materials when you arrive. Guaranteed fun! Questions? Contact Kerry Bleil, director, at [kbleil@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:kbleil@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Preschool applications accepted for 2023-2024

Pass the word ... Fayetteville First Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year. Little ones from age one to four are welcome to come learn, play and grow together. Make sure your spot is reserved.... And pass the word along! Contact director Kerry Bleil for more information.

[Fayetteville First Preschool Facebook](#)

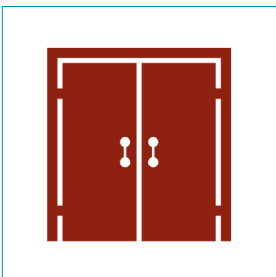
[Information Brochure](#)

[Information Webpage](#)



## Green Team meets March 21

Would you like to join with others at FFUMC who work with intention to take care of our precious earth? You're invited to meet with Tami Kemberling and others on Tuesday, March 21, at 6 PM in room C-260 to discuss plans for Earth Day and beyond.



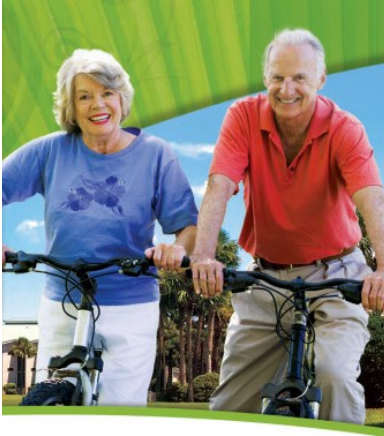
## Close the doors, please

You can help with climate control (and protect our organ) by keeping the doors closed to the sanctuary throughout the week. If you see the doors open that lead directly into the sanctuary when it is not in use, please just pull them shut. Thanks for your help!

**PARDON  
OUR  
PROGRESS!**

### **Working on the Workroom: Pardon our progress!**

The church workroom near the elevator is getting an overhaul over the next few weeks to make the space more functional for all our church-wide needs. During the re-do, the copier will remain available. If you can't find something else you need, contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), in the church office for help.



### **SAGE Retreat planned at St. Simons Island**

Want some time away on an adventure? Come with SAGE to "Adventurous Adult Retreat: Living Life to the Fullest" at Epworth By the Sea on beautiful St. Simons Island.

Date: May 15-18, 2023

Speaker: Rev. Keith Elder

Entertainment: Andy Offutt Irwin, storyteller

Workshops: Adults in Motion, Writing Your Legacy, Storytelling, more

Cost: \$390-\$460

[Retreat Information](#) [Retreat schedule](#)

Contact Rev. Joe Watson and let him know you're interested.



### **"Can I please bag carrots?"**

Virginia Pope, our leader for the summer lunch program last year, would like to be an expert carrot bagger this year. Can you help make that happen for her? Our summer lunch program provides meals during June and July for those who receive free or reduced price lunch during the school year. Can you volunteer as a helper? Would you serve as leader for the program? Contact Virginia Pope, 678-361-1722, with your questions or to let her know she can count on you!

## **FFUMC KIDS NEWS**

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### **CELEBRATE with palms on Palm Sunday, April 2**

Let's celebrate on Palm Sunday, April 2, in the palm processional. All children are invited to gather at 10:45 (after Sunday school) in the courtyard to receive fronds and prepare to wave palms in the sanctuary at the beginning of the 11 a.m. worship service.



### **It's Coming ... Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 2**

April 2, Palm Sunday, is a big day! Worship at 11 AM and wave palms in the Palm Sunday Processional. Following the service, come to The Field for fun with a bounce house, food, and cotton candy. The FFUMC Egg Hunt will begin at 1 PM.





## iRespond To God's Grace, March 22

At FFUMC Kids we create an environment for children and families to grow in awareness of God, to experience God's love, and to respond to God's grace. One of the ways we respond to God's amazing grace is in service. Our next iServe event is Wednesday, March 22 from 5-7 p.m. and we will be helping our preschool families as they hold their annual Art Night event. Plan to be here to support our preschool and expand your understanding of service. Email Pastor Allyson, [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com), or Ms. Allie, [ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com), and let us know you are coming.

## FFUMC Youth NEWS

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### Support youth missions

Want to support a youth (or several) individually on their summer trips to Appalachia? You can **purchase a "bond certificate" in \$25, \$50 or \$100 (or larger) amounts.** The certificates are available in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary or or you may print one from these links. Just complete the certificate and take it to the church office by May 1 with cash or check attached. Individuals or small groups are invited to participate. Could your Sunday school class, UWF group, or other small group pool resources to support one or several youth volunteers?

[\\$25 Bond Certificate](#)

[\\$50 Bond Certificate](#)

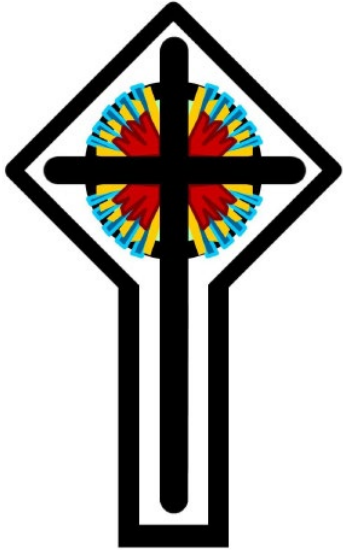
[\\$100 Bond Certificate](#)



Some youth may be able to help with your personal house projects to earn donations toward their trip costs (no guarantees on dates/availability, but requests can be made and we will try to work out the details). Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director.](#)



You can **give online!** Just go to [www.fayettevillefirst.com](http://www.fayettevillefirst.com), scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the "Donate" button, and be sure when submitting your contribution to memo "Youth Summer Missions."



## March 15, 2023 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$253,024.68
Year to Date expenses	\$254,172.69
Difference	\$-1,148.01

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$230

31 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$8,686.83

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM



**We go together these 40 days**

[See the schedule of Lenten opportunities at FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

[or access a PDF here.](#)

We can "punch holes in the darkness" throughout this season.



# inspired ...

## Giving with Love Gives Ministries

The United Methodist Women have supported Love Gives Ministries and their work with the homeless and those living on the margins for several years. Love Gives Ministries and founders Jim and Lynn Duncan have used donated funds from Christmas Marketplace to show God's love and grace by sharing his blessing with others. The Friendship Circle works with this group year round and recently spread some extra love by collecting activity books, crayons, pencils, puzzles, bubbles, candy, and more for kids along with toiletries and necessities for adults. These were given to grateful recipients last month who are living in transitional housing. Thank you for all the ways you find to share and care for others.



*Ask Friendship Circle leader Clara Martin (shown at left and above) about Love Gives Ministries and how you can help support them.*

*Meeting the needs of those without.*