



March 3, 2023

The Weekender

"Do I have to?"

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I try not to make my life a lot of "have tos." You know the "have tos" of life. We have to do laundry. We have to go to the doctor. We have to go to the grocery store. We have to get our prescriptions filled. We have to get up in the morning and get the kids ready for school.

In reality, those are "get to" things. We are fortunate that we have enough resources to have a washer and dryer in our home. We are fortunate enough that we have access to healthcare and we get to go to the doctor. We are grateful we live in a place where we have access to food and we get to go choose what we want to eat from the store. We can call in a prescription to the drugstore and have the means to transport ourselves to get medicine. We are blessed to have children that are healthy (but maybe not always ready to get out of bed in the morning) that love us and care for us and we, in return, get to care for them.

All of the things that I could complain about — that I have to do — more than likely are things that others would give anything for. So what, then, is my attitude for day-to-day living?

The response is evident in the joy of life that we have. Do we really appreciate all that we "get to" do? Or are stuck with a "have to" mentality? There will always be things to do that we don't want to do. But think for a minute for those that would love to have some of our problems. It really changes your perspective.

Next week, I get to serve for three days on the Board of Ordained Ministry for the North Georgia Conference of the UMC. It involves a lot of interviews and a lot of reading with people who feel called to full time ministry. And every time, after much talking and reading, I am fortunate that I "get to" hear the passion of those who know and proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and "want to" serve God's holy church. I get to hear their excitement and that makes me glad for the future.

I invite you to consider prayer, study, and fellowship as things that you "get to" do rather than things that you "have to" do. I promise you, it will change your outlook on the things of life. May we have the courage to be able to turn our "have tos" into "get tos."



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Romans 4:13-17; John 3:1-17

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



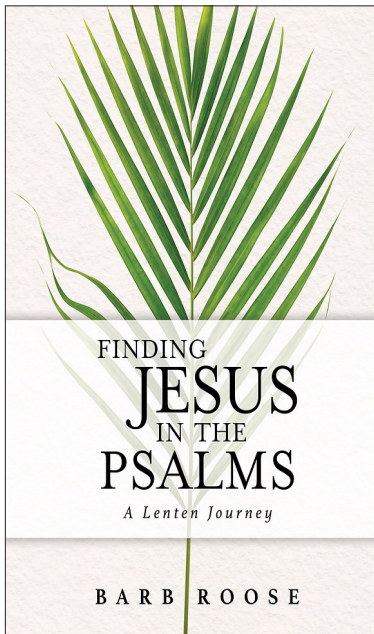
Journey through Lent Schedule

We take this journey through Lent together. [See the schedule of Lenten opportunities at FayettevilleFirst.com](#) or [access a PDF here](#). Together we can "punch holes in the darkness" throughout this season.



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.



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](#).



Ready for a new directory? Save the date!

We are ready! A new church directory will be produced by The Portrait Cafe. Look for more details soon, but for now:

SAVE THE DATE

The Portrait Cafe will be here **Thursday, May 4 through Monday, May 8**.

Photographer reservation times begin soon ... look for it!

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



Make a difference through Fayette Samaritans

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

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.



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.**



Give blood at FFUMC: Sunday, March 19

Did you know that most of the donors at our blood drives are now from this congregation? Options for donation sites have increased in our community, which is a good thing. This opens up space for YOU to donate in a familiar setting at Fayetteville First UMC! Can you sign up now for the March 19 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.

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



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.

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!



"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.



Piccadilly at Wednesday Night Supper March 8

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 8: Piccadilly: Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole, Corn, Rolls & Corn Muffins, Italian Cream & Red Velvet Cake

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

Upcoming March 15: PotLuck! Get ready to bring a dish to share and enjoy some REAL home-cooked goodness!



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. Meal: Hot Crunchy Chicken Salad, Green Beans, Biscuit, Pineapple Upside Down Cake.



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](#)

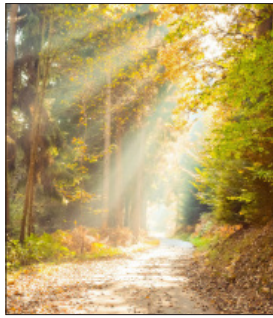
[Information Brochure](#)

[Information Webpage](#)



Messy Church: What's it about? March 8 at 7:30 PM

Intergenerational ministry and fun go hand in hand when you have Messy Church. But what is Messy Church? A few of our folks attended a workshop in February that introduced us to this creative way of being Church. Next Wednesday night, March 8, at 7:30 PM in Room C-200, those of us who attended will be having a debriefing session to discuss what we learned and how we might apply it to our church. You are welcome to join us and share in our recap and brainstorming. — *Rev. Allyson Lawrence*



G3: Good Grief Gals meet March 9 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. 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, **March 9, 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.

**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 Aycok, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, in the church office for help.

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.

FFUMC Youth NEWS



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, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the "Donate" button, and be sure when submitting your contribution to memo "Youth Summer Missions."

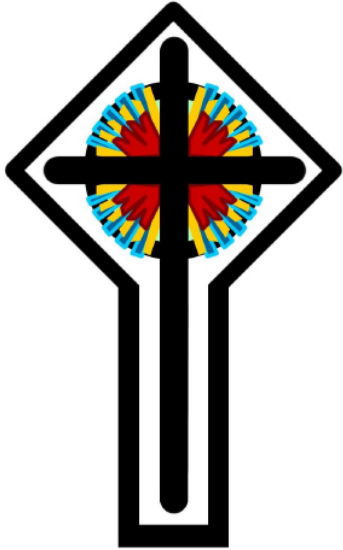
With Gratitude



Thank you for all your love and support with Dreams of Lois. The soup boxes are going to be a big help with the Atlanta Children's Shelter, CHOA, and the community. Because of you, we are able to serve.

— *Dreams of Lois, Ivory Cloud*

February 28, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$192,662.97
Year to Date expenses	\$191,005.39
Difference	\$1,657.58

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$102.00

23 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$6,942.81

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



My Prayer during Lent

— Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

My prayer is that you find the sacredness in every moment of God’s holy presence with you.

My prayer is that you draw closer to God with a desire to please and serve God alone.

My prayer is an echo of the prayer of Jesus that we “all may be one.”

inspired ...

Getting out of my comfort zone in El Salvador

Maggie Clarke

Little did I realize in February 2014 when I made my first trip to El Salvador that I would go back another six times...and counting. It's been amazing to watch what God has done there in the last nine years. Teams I have been part of have participated in building three church buildings – El Shaddai, La Gloria, and now Los Horcones – and a parsonage for the pastor of Los Horcones.

In February, 13 members of Fayetteville First UMC, McDonough First UMC, and Cornerstone UMC participated in Vacation Bible School, food distribution, and construction. We worked with Brian Dubberly, who operates Salvadoran Mission Projects. Brian's wife, Ellyn, is appointed there by the General Board of Global Ministries. Hannah Vickery and I represented our church. Hannah displayed considerable construction skills as she mixed concrete, spread stucco on the walls, and helped put up a tin roof. Although I usually do construction, I decided to step outside my comfort zone and do Vacation Bible School. Both of us participated in the food distribution program.

The Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador began in 1994 and now has five churches in Ahuachapan. The elementary school begun by the church in 2013 with 18 students now has nearly 600 in grades 1-10. Students who want more education may continue for two additional years to prepare for careers or to go on to university. The cost for a student to attend the Methodist School is \$40 per month. Scholarship money collected from churches in this country assist those who cannot afford tuition. Our church sent \$1,480 to cover the cost of three children for one year. You also sent four suitcases full of school supplies (thank you!) To sponsor a child or simply send money, donate to FFUMC marked for "El Salvador Tuition" or "El Salvador Donation" and the funds will be sent.

The church also operates a clinic where people can receive free or reduced-cost medical care. The new clinic is scheduled to open March 1, 2023, at the school.

Are you interested in serving in El Salvador? We are investigating organizing a trip for adults/youth/families in 2024 or 2025. You do not have to speak Spanish — hugs and smiles don't need translation — or know anything about construction. You just have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone and let God work through you in a miraculous way.

[Contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com, for details.](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com)

