



April 14, 2023

The Weekender

Glory!

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

The gospel of John tells the resurrection story, and it does so in a way that allows us to see ourselves in it. As people of the Resurrection, we see ourselves in Peter, the one who betrayed, denied, and left Christ to be crucified. Who knows exactly why he was at the tomb that morning. Maybe it was to pay his respects. Maybe it was to say he was sorry to Jesus' body. Maybe it was for him to find closure. But when Jesus was not there, he had to understand. He had to get to the bottom of it. He became Peter the detective. Maybe we, as Easter people, are the detectives trying to find out and gather as many clues as possible.

Then there is Mary. Mary who loved Jesus. Who anointed his head with oil. Mary who wept and remained at the foot of the cross. Why did she come to the tomb? We know she wanted to finish preparing the body for its final resting place. We know she wanted to pay her respects and honor traditions. She did it out of a sense of duty, but also a sense of love. Mary became the worshiper when Jesus simply called her by her name. Peter had already gone on. Mary remained and tried to hold onto Jesus for as long as she could. Peter was the detective. Mary was the worshiper.

John's gospel mentions a third person at the tomb that Easter morning. The disciple whom Jesus loved. We presume this to be John, but in reality, we cannot know for certain. After all, who writes a book about the greatest love that is ever known and leaves out the name of the most beloved disciple? Could John have written it? Possibly. But I think there is something greater going on here. The author of John's gospel does not name the disciple whom Jesus loved in this scene because he wants the whole world to see themselves at the empty tomb. The author wants everyone who comes to the tomb to know that whether they are the skeptical detective or the joyous worshiper, they are beloved by Christ.

Here's the thing about you and me, the beloved disciples: in the story we are the first ones to peer into the emptiness. We are the first ones to stick our heads into the emptiness of the tomb and realize that there is nothing there. It does not change our identity, but it changes our perspective. Here is the glory of Easter: God loves us so much that God calls us beloved. And in our curiosity, simply in our ability to peer into the empty tomb—to literally stare death in the face—we are beloved and we no longer have to go looking for God. God has already found us.

Glory! Hallelujah! Amen!



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023

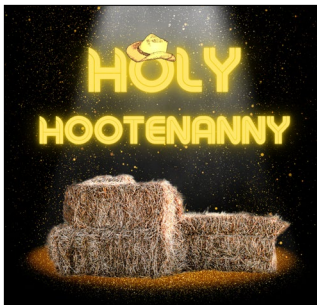
8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



This Sunday: Holy Hootenanny on April 16 from 5 to 7 PM

Get ready for a kick-up-your-heels good time at our church-wide potluck and celebration this Sunday, April 16, from 5 to 7 PM. Starts in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a potluck side dish or dessert to share (meat provided)

Live music with Thomas Martin and friends and line dancing!

Games! Corn Hole! Horse Shoes! Pickleball!



Ready for worship!

Early Worship resumes in Chapel this Sunday at 8:45 AM

We appreciate all the work by our Trustees and others for repairs to our historic chapel. The work is complete! Early worship services will resume in the chapel at 8:45 AM this Sunday, April 16.



Monday, May 8, now open for Photography Sessions

Pictorial Directory Photos scheduled May 4-8

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

We've added another day! Monday, May 8, is now open.

Why YOU should get a NEW photo:

- Support the entire directory effort.
- Keep our directory fresh and updated.
- Get a FREE 8 x 10 photograph.
- Get a FREE printed directory.
- Get access to an online directory prepared by The Portrait Cafe.

If you do NOT get a NEW photo taken:

- You may submit a photo for the "submitted" section due by May 15. *These will be printed as a separate section from the photos prepared by The Portrait Cafe.*
- You may pre-order a printed directory at \$15 each. *Contact the church office to place your order and pay \$15 per directory by May 15 marking "2023 Directory Copy" on your payment.*

[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 Aycocock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, or Karen Powell or Michelle Burch at the church office for assistance, 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

Without you, the directory won't be complete.

**Schedule
NOW!**

**Monday, May 8,
now open for
photos!**



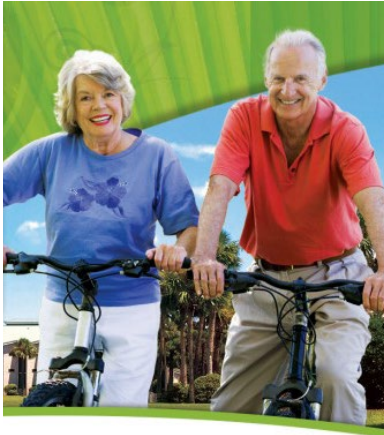
Wednesday Night Supper: April 19

Gather with friends for food and fellowship on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6 PM with a meal from a local restaurant.

[April 19: Broadway Diner - Chicken Alfredo](#)

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

Upcoming April 26: Speedi Pig



Want some time away on an adventure?

Come with SAGE and friends 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 (transportation to St. Simons Island included)

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

[Register by April 14 \(Use this link.\)](#)

After you have registered, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence and let her know.

Register by April 14



Hear great music — support church members and community

Under the direction of Mike Daniell, Peachtree Wind Ensemble performs marches, jazz, classical/symphonic adaptations for band, Broadway and modern pop songs. Several musicians in our church family perform with this group. You may want to support them and mark your calendars for the upcoming concert dates. All concerts begin at 3 PM at Fayette Friendship Community Church.

April 16: The Great Outdoors

October 8: Una Celebration Latina

June 25: For the Heroes

December 2, 3: Christmas Celebration



Earth Day April 22 and your FFUMC Green Team

Join FFUMC children, youth and Green Team at Fayetteville's Earth Day celebration at City Center Park. Learn how you can live the Five R's to steward God's good creation. Saturday April 22, 12:30-4:30 PM

Put one of the 5 R's to use right away: REUSE! Let's share jeans for children through teens with others (nearly new, please). Bring some to our Earth Day booth and the Green Team will get them to Bloom to help children in foster care.

Next FFUMC Green Team meeting is Thursday April 27 at 6 PM. Check with Tami Kemberling for more information.

CHaRM run next week! Tami Kemberling is taking recycling to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials next Tuesday, April 18. Do you have items she can take for you? Styrofoam, cardboard, plastic? Contact Tami by April 17 to see what she is taking and make arrangements for drop off: 678-641-9604.





That we all may be

one

John 17:11

Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Four sessions remain: April 16, April 30, May 21, and June 11

Join with others in getting to know our neighbors and engage together in racial reconciliation. Through interactive workshops, participants will explore topics such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, business, and church. Open to all in the community, this effort is led by the UMC Southwest District under the leadership of Elaine Beattie. Hear experts and engage in projects and group experiences designed for adults of all ages.

Held at Fayette Friendship Community Church, 847 New Hope Road, Sundays 3 PM to 5 PM: April 16, April 30, May 21, and June 11.

For more information, contact Denise Wilson at 770-227-1074, southwest@ngumc.net.

[Follow this link to register once for all sessions.](#)
[Doing the Work Together flyer](#) to read and share.



Fayette Samaritans

New: April Needs List 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 April Most Needed List: Canned Beef Stew, Hamburger Helper, Canned Chicken, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Bottled Fruit Juice, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pancake Mix, Jelly, Laundry Detergent, 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.

FFUMC Youth NEWS



Information due

April 30

Graduation Sunday is just around the corner!

We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 21, at the 11:00 AM service in the sanctuary, followed by a Graduate Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to attend the service, the luncheon, or both, [please fill out this form so we can plan and prepare.](#)

Graduates will be featured in the May 21 Order of Worship. Even if you cannot attend the service or the luncheon, we want to recognize your graduate in the bulletin. For everyone wishing to be recognized:

- Click on the form link above and be sure to answer the question about bulletin recognition.
- Send a senior photo to jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com AND hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com by April 30.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2023!



"Bond Certificates" 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."

FFUMC KIDS NEWS



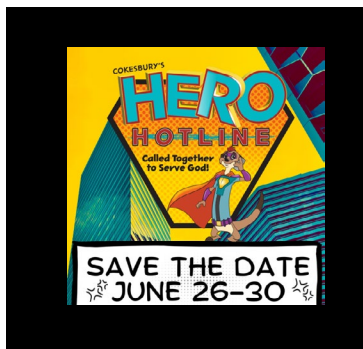
Get ready for summer learning and fun!

The adventure begins soon! Save your place now.



Create Camp: June 12-16 [Register here!](#)

At Create Camp, children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, and participate in traditional camp crafts and games. June 12-16, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM (Monday-Thursday), 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Friday), \$50/camper



VBS HERO Hotline: June 26-30 [Register here!](#)

This year's VBS is Hero Hotline, where a team of young superheroes (rising PK3-Rising 6th) with the assistance of the Professor, Super Meer, and Hero Support will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook — the Bible—to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world. June 26-30, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM. Free if registered before June 10.

Notes of Gratitude



Flower Ministry:

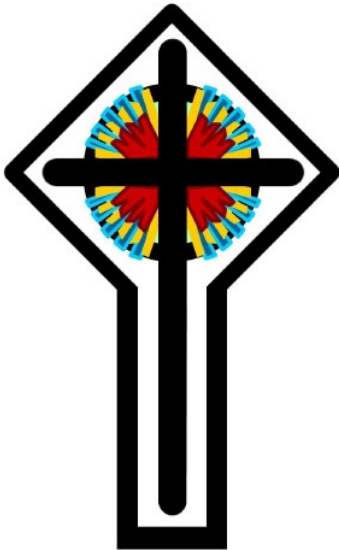
First you are a very special group of very special people — and you do a very wonderfully special service to Christ and His church! We have been the recipients more than once and are always so very pleased and grateful. The flowers are put together so professionally and delivered with tender love and care. May God continue to bless you richly as you continue to do this special work for Him. — Janie Raines and Pete Towell

Shawl Ministry:

A belated "thank you" to the shawl ministry for the nice lap robe they made for me. I appreciate your kindness.

— Ralph McDuffie

April 12, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$364,112.93
Year to Date expenses	\$324,434.37
Difference	\$39,678.56

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$594.00

40 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$11,673.69

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

inspired ...

Family Art Night ... thank you!

Fayetteville First Preschool would like to thank the church family for supporting our second annual Family Art Night a few weeks ago. Volunteers from the congregation were on hand to serve food and to assist families at art stations. Our successful evening was possible because you were willing to give your time to the families of the preschool. We couldn't be more grateful. Thank you!! — Preschool staff



create!



What did it take for a successful Family Art Night?

Y-O-U!

Thank you.

