



April 28, 2023

## The Weekender

### Hearts unfolding

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This past week at church council, Randy Riddell shared a reflection on flowers, blooms, and the song "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" which has the lines:

*Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,*

*Opening to the sun above.*

We open ourselves up to God. We make ourselves available to receive the gifts of God. In the case of plants, these are water, sunlight, shade, and soil. We are invited to consider the lilies of the field: how they neither toil nor stress yet God has clothed them in more splendor than Solomon in all of his glory.

God has created us to both give and receive. Like flowers, we receive from God the things we need. We receive sun and rain and shade and soil. We grow where we are planted. And we share our beauty with others.

That is a special thing to be given and to be reminded of. You can share God's beauty in this world just by being you and by being who God created you to be. You do not have to toil, but you do have to grow. Perhaps that is the tricky part for all of us. We will have to grow and change. We will have to adapt. Like hearts that open like flowers, we move toward the light. We move toward the sun. We move toward the Son.

And in doing so, we share beauty and joy with others, no matter what we may be going through. It is something that we all can do. Grow, change, and know that we are being drawn closer to God just by being who God created us to be.



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 30, 2023**

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

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

*1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10*

Dr. Thomas Martin

# CURRENT NEWS

---



## UMW Bethany Circle recognizes mothers May 14

A special bulletin insert on Mother's Day will recognize our mothers and those who mother others. The UMW Bethany Circle will have a rose in the courtyard on Mother's Day for all those who are recognized. To donate to missions and recognize those who mother us, please use the form and envelope in this Sunday's bulletin and return it to the church office by May 8. Proceeds will benefit Bloom and Promise Place. **Please make checks to Bethany Circle** and include names for "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" and who is placing the recognition. Questions? Call or text Frieda Everett at 404-219-0635.



## Titus II meets May 2: It's GAME day!

Come to Titus II on May 2 at noon for food and fellowship...and GAMES!  
*Menu: Main course choice: Crunchy Chicken Salad, Porkchop, Baked Chicken; Vegetable; Roll; Dessert choices: Pick 1, 2, AND 3!*



## Photos are next week: May 4-8

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

### 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.

AVOID  
WEARING  
GREEN

See below

### 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 Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), or Karen Powell or Michelle Burch at the church office for assistance, 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).

Without you, the  
directory won't be  
complete.

**Schedule  
NOW!**

We want to  
include  
YOU!



## Wednesday Night Supper: May 3

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

[May 3 Piccadilly: Fried Chicken](#)

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

*Upcoming May 10: Breakfast for Dinner*



## Family Field Trip to Arabia Mountain on May 13

Join the FFUMC Family trip to Arabia Mountain and to the AWARE Center (Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort) on May 13. We'll gather at the church at 9:45 AM, ride the church vans together and have a fun educational program presented by an animal handler at AWARE. The handler will present us with four rescued ambassador wild animals. The exact lineup will vary but it may include an owl, an opossum, a turtle, and a hawk. The handler will tell us the animals' stories, share tips on peaceful coexistence, and take questions from our group. After our presentation we will hike up and picnic on Arabia Mountain. The Arabia Mountain trail is considered beginner friendly. So bring your hiking shoes, a brown bag lunch, and your love for the great outdoors.

[Let us know you are coming by clicking here.](#)



## "Purple Bags" support Rise Against Hunger August 20

Reminder — Our 2023 Lenten offering supports the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing event on August 20. We would like to pack 30,000 meals. If you have a Lenten offering yet to turn in, please use your purple Lenten Offering bag or write "Lenten Offering" in the memo of your check or online gift. We want to include you in our total Lenten Offering amount.

*Please return all Lenten offering bags to the church as soon as possible for future use. Thanks!*



## Earth Day Everyday: Let's Reuse!

[We can celebrate Earth Day everyday with our 5 R's of green stewardship. See the list here!](#)

This week let's REUSE! Let's share jeans for children through teens with others (nearly new, please). Place any nearly new jeans in a collection bin near the elevator or in the church office and your FFUMC Green Team will get them to Bloom to help children in foster care.

*Jean collection drive continues through May 5.*





That we all may be

*one*

John 17:11

## Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Three sessions remain: 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 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 Needs List: Let's share through 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.

**Most Needed List:** *Canned Beef Stew, Hamburger Helper, Grits, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Bottled Fruit Juice, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Jelly, Laundry Detergent, Feminine Products*

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

**Volunteers Needed:** Interviewers, Receptionists, Clothes Closet Workers, Pantry Workers. Call 770-719-2707 and say, "I'll help out!"



*Christmas Shoe Box  
Collection*

Begins  
May 14

## Save the Date — Christmas Shoe Boxes

Want to help make 100 children (or more) very happy at Christmas this year? The United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) are sponsoring the second annual Christmas Shoe Box drive in cooperation with the United Methodist Disaster Relief (UMCOR) Warehouse in Decatur AL. (Shoe Box Ministry [umdisasterwarehouse.com](http://umdisasterwarehouse.com)). This ministry targets children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

**Drive Dates:** May 14 - June 11

**Details:** Beginning May 14, choose an ornament from the tree in the Welcome Area behind the sanctuary. A list of very specific items for each sponsored child is on the ornament. Monetary donations will pay for shipping costs (\$5 per box) to the destination.

*All donations must be placed in collection bins in the church office or Welcome Center no later than June 11 and will be packaged at the June 15 UMW Unit Meeting.*

## 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.

## FFUMC Youth NEWS

---



SENIOR

Information due

April 30

### Graduates ... Information is due to celebrate YOU!

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](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) AND [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com) by April 30.

**Congregation: You're invited!** All congregation members are invited to attend and support our seniors at the Graduate Celebration Luncheon immediately following the 11AM service in the Fellowship Hall on May 21. If you plan to attend, [please let us know \(click here\).](#)

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2023!



## Youth Get Ready for Summer Missions

FFUMC Youth are excited and preparing for our youth summer mission trips - Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and YouthWorks! There are several opportunities to support the youth prayerfully and financially coming up:

**Bond Certificates** (DUE MAY 1 to church office) - You can purchase a "bond certificate" supporting a youth(s) for \$25, \$50, or \$100. If you have questions about specific youth financial needs before purchasing a bond certificate(s), contact [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com). See below for names of youth trip participants. [Link to certificates online.](#)

Come out and support at the city **Earth Day Festival** (April 22), where we'll be selling popcorn and cotton candy as part of the Fayetteville First UMC booth!

We also appreciate your **prayers** over the youth trip participants:

**Jasmine Akeman, Austin Anderson, Emma Autrey, Logan Ayers, Glenda Harrah, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer, Andrew Starkey**

Ways you can be praying:

Read 1 Peter 1:13 and pray that God would prepare our hearts and minds to encounter and experience God's presence.

That God would open our eyes to see and our ears to listen as we are taking part in God's kingdom work.

Pray and read Matthew 5:13-16 as we are participating in God's action this summer, that we would be salt and light in the communities we'll be partnering with and walking alongside.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10 and pray that we would be open to encountering, discerning, and exploring our calling, mission, and purpose from God.



Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about our youth summer mission trips. We're looking forward to going out, representing Fayetteville First UMC and being the body of Christ in the world together. Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director.](#)

## Notes of Gratitude

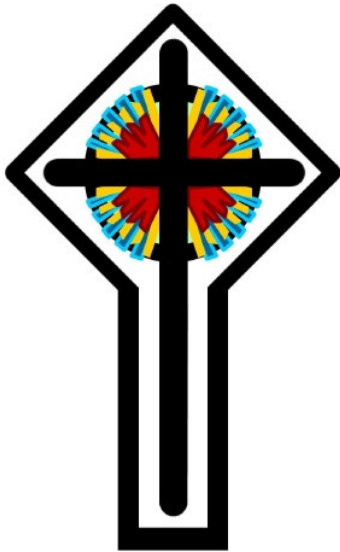


Dear Shawl Ministry:

The blanket I received from you all is so pretty and much appreciated. You are so kind to remember me at this time of sadness over losing my sister. Thank you so much for sharing love and comfort to me and many others. — Susan Burch

Dear Friends at FFUMC:

Just a little note to let you know how much I enjoy the beautiful flowers from the last service. They are brightening my living room and filling it with a lovely fragrance. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. — Ingrid Shields



## April 26, 2023 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$399,205.78
Year to Date expenses	\$375,541.94
Difference	\$23,663.84

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$230.00

49 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$14,289.13

### 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

*Upcoming*

**May 7:** Baby Recognition Sunday

**May 10:** Last Wednesday Night Dinner of season and regular programs

**May 13:** AWARE Family Field Trip

**May 14:** Mother's Day - Donate to missions to honor or remember someone special

**May 17:** Fayetteville First Preschool Graduation

**May 21:** Graduation Sunday

# inspired ...

## Earth Day ... everyday ... working together

Last Saturday, our youth, children, and Green Team enjoyed a beautiful day in the sunshine sharing mission opportunities and ideas on how to take care of God's good green earth.

Our youth greeted every dog that passed by while telling the community about their summer mission trips. They shared cotton candy and popcorn and accepted donations.

Our children's ministry spread seeds of kindness by helping young growers fill compostable pots with wildflower seeds for at-home planting and caretaking and they invited all to Create Camp and VBS. The clear message: We can do our part, and it's never too early to start!

Continuing their mission to educate the community on earth-care opportunities, the Green Team demonstrated seed planting ideas, gave out information on CHaRM and its recycling options ([livethrive.org](http://livethrive.org)), distributed plant seeds, and signed up dozens of concerned citizens to partner with the Green Team through exchanging information and exploring green options in our area.

Together, we are making our world more beautiful with unfolding hearts of care and concern.

