



April 7, 2023

The Weekender

Who is Easter For?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This is the culmination of our faith. This holiday. This weekend. It anchors everything that we believe. It enforces what we believe. Yet, in our historic Apostles Creed, there are only three lines given to the momentous occasion that is Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter:

*suffered under Pontious Pilate
was crucified, died, and buried
he descended to the dead (this line is often omitted)
the third day he rose from the dead*

Everything that we believe as Christians hinges on these three lines. That being said, who is Easter for?

Easter is for the people who feel that they have been suffering for a long time. Christ suffered at the hands of others. We may not suffer at the hands of other people, but outside forces such as illness, disease, work, mounting pressures, and struggles with who we are in this world are ways in which we suffer. Christ suffered too. Easter is for you.

Easter is for people who crack under the pressure of day-to-day living and working. It may be hyperbole, but there is sense in which we have to put to death things of this world. Or we may feel dead. Or, more bluntly, we may have experienced death in our family that has shaken us to the core. Easter is for you.

Easter is for people who feel new life everyday. You don't have to be in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, but you may have come through it. You may not feel the pressure of the world or the anxiety of the moment. You may be living in the hope of the resurrection right now. Easter is for you.

Here is the good news, there is no prerequisite for Easter. You don't need all the answers or all the pain. You don't need drama or lack thereof. Easter proves to us once and for all that there is no where we can go that God's love will not go for us. Easter is for everyone. Easter is for you. Easter is for me. Because the gift of Easter comes not from us, but from the love and grace of God.

Easter is for you.



EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION APRIL 9, 2023

6:45 AM SUNRISE SERVICE

8:45 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

9:45 AM CHILDREN & YOUTH

EASTER CELEBRATION

11:00 AM Sanctuary & Online
Worship

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

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Decorate the Easter Cross:

*You are invited to bring flowers to decorate
the courtyard cross on Easter Sunday.*

Be sure to bring your camera, too!

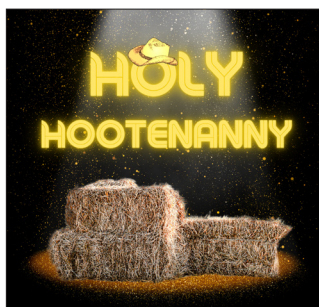
CURRENT NEWS



Bring Lenten Offering this Sunday

We are invited to punch holes in the darkness of hunger with our Lenten offering. You may use your Lenten Offering Bag to collect an offering to place on the chancel rail Easter morning. More bags are located in the narthex. Donations may also be made online or by check and should specify "Lenten Offering" or "Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event" in the memo line.

Our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event will be held in August. During the event, highly nutritious, dehydrated meals are prepared for use in crisis areas around the world.



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 on 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 dances!

Games! Corn Hole! Horse Shoes! Pickleball!



Without you, the directory won't be complete.

Schedule NOW!

Monday, May 8, now open for photos!

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:

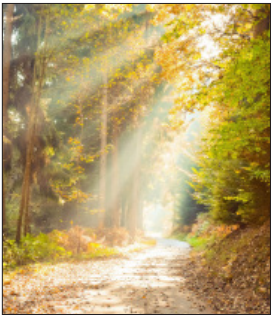
- Support the entire directory effort.
- Keep our directory fresh and updated.
- Get a FREE 8 x 10 photograph.
- Get a FREE printed directory.
- Get access to an online directory prepared by The Portrait Cafe.

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



G3: Good Grief Gals meet April 13 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, **April 13, 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.



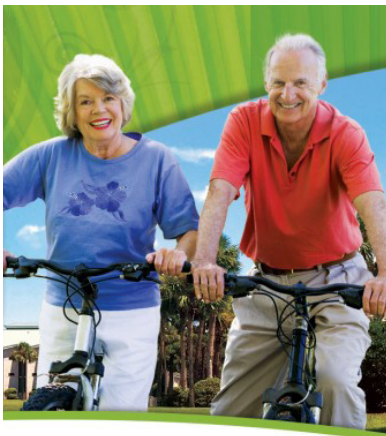
Wednesday Night Supper: April 12

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

[April 12: Tim's Country Kitchen: Meatloaf](#)

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

Upcoming April 19: Broadway Diner



Register by April 14

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. Nancy Dennis is inviting interested individuals to her house Tuesday, April 11, at 10:30 a.m. to find out more information and to register with others.



Fresh Expressions Vision Day, Saturday, April 15

Join in an interactive day of training as we learn to see the many unique ways the Holy Spirit might be inviting us to step deeper into mission and ministry in our community. The Vision Day will be held at The UMC Global Ministries building in Atlanta from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. During the day we will learn how Fresh Expressions of churches are reaching new people and how we can explore and engage others right here in our own town. [Lunch](#)

[is provided so registration is required to reserve your spot and your meal. Let Rev. Lawrence know you want to go by Monday, April 10.](#) We will leave from the church office parking lot at 8:30 a.m. on April 15. If you're curious to know more about Fresh Expressions in our North Georgia Conference, explore and like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fxngumc>.



Green Team: We each can do something

The FFUMC Green Team works to help up develop GREEN practices and habits to help take care of the earth and to encourage local entities to make the efforts easier across our community. The team is planning Earth Day participation coordinated with Southern Conservation Trust on April 22 in City Park in Fayetteville. Look for more detailed info soon.



What are things we can do right now?

Place paper, cans, and plastics in marked containers located throughout the church (and in our community, wherever you find them!)



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



Worship at 8:45 resumes in Chapel after Easter

We appreciate all the work the Trustees and others did to make our chapel ready to be used again. Early worship services will resume in the chapel at 8:45 AM beginning April 16.



Looking for the mailboxes? They've moved temporarily

As our workroom space continues its transformation into a very useable resource room for the entire church, we've moved the Sunday School, UMW, UMM, and other group mailboxes to the inside room beside the copier (across from the preschool director office). Just walk into the room and you'll find them!



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.

Fayette Samaritans



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.

FFUMC KiDS NEWS



Easter Sunday Sunday School

Parents and Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles – you won't want your child to miss this Sunday in Sunday school. Children will make Resurrection Rolls, hear the story of Jesus coming out of the tomb, and make fun crafts to help them more fully grasp the story of the resurrection of Jesus. Join Ms. Faye and Ms. Nancy and friends in Room B-225 at 9:45 AM.



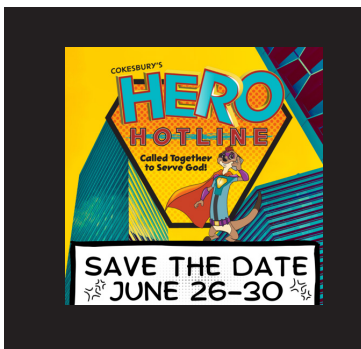
Get ready for summer learning and fun!

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.



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 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."

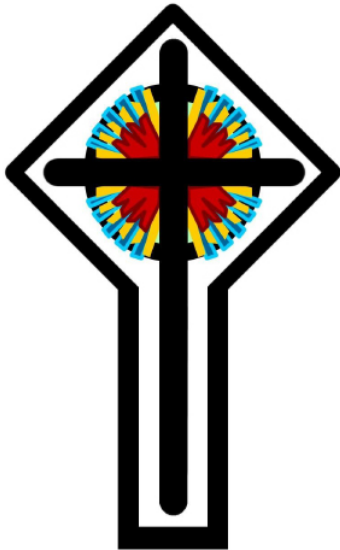
Notes of Gratitude



Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the outpouring of love shown to us by way of cards, texts, beautiful flowers, hugs, kind words and especially your thoughts and prayers at the passing of my sister, Judy. You are all such a blessing in our lives, and we thank God for such a wonderful church family! God bless you all. — Susan and Sam Burch

Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers delivered by FFUMC's "flower angels." With loss, comes grief and sadness, but coming home to the bright flowers brought so much joy and was a reminder for several days that there can be joy and happiness in the midst of the emptiness. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. — Susie Arrington

April 5, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$332,705.23
Year to Date expenses	\$316,399.41
Difference	\$16,305.82

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$299.00

37 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$10,349.08

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

The church office will be closed April 7 for Good Friday.

Regular office hours resume Monday, April 10.

inspired ...

Getting ready for Easter: Palm Sunday, Egg Hunts, and more

Holy Week began with celebration during Palm Sunday's processional which included the Handbell Choir and children. Following the 11 AM service, we headed to The Field for fun together with food, bouncy houses, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We prepared for Easter at our final Lenten Lunch of the season and a service on Maundy Thursday and the command to love one another. Now we await another celebration on Easter morning and the resurrection promise — Christ is risen indeed!

