



May 12, 2023

The Weekender

Are you ready?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

1 Peter 3:15 reminds us, *"Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you."*

These verses call us to action. They tell us to do something. They prompt us and move us forward in the ways we think through how we respond. We are to be ready to defend ourselves, our positions, our beliefs, our values. When someone demands from you an accounting of the hope that is in you, or when someone wants to know what makes you different, what makes you believe, what keeps you going — you need to be ready to make a defense of Christ for the hope that Christ has put in you.

How do we do that? What will we say? What if our hope or our words or our thoughts fail us? How do we give a defense of the hope of Christ if we cannot find the words?

It doesn't matter what we say; it matters how we say it.

Scripture tells us how to speak. The very next verse should guide our thoughts, words, and actions: *"yet do it with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:16)."*

Gentleness and reverence.

I know a lot of smart people who speak very loudly and proudly and are certain about what they are saying. But by my estimation, they do not do it with gentleness and reverence. We are to give an account of what we believe, but what we say will have little effect on those who hear it if we shout or brag or do it without being gentle or reverent. You could add other words like kind, patient, self-controlled, loving, joyful, peaceful, in a good spirit, or faithful to the calling. All of a sudden, that starts looking like the fruits of the spirit. All of a sudden, the way we live and act and respond and give an accounting for the hope of Christ that is in us starts to bear fruit. Sometimes it happens quickly. Sometimes, it happens slowly. But our reminder is to be ready, and to speak with gentleness and reverence.

May we live in a way that is gentle and reverent to those with whom we speak about the love of Christ.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



ALMOST DONE!

Check contact info

Submit photos

Order printed copy

Check info, submit photos and order directories by May 15

Photography sessions from The Portrait Cafe are now complete. **NOW is the time to verify your contact information** in Realm as we prepare to print updated directories. Contact admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

If you missed the photo sessions:

Send a photo to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, by May 15.

If you want to use a photo from a previous directory, contact us. If we can find it, you can use it. **Please note: We will only use previous directory photos as a submitted photo if specifically requested.** We will not automatically pick up old photos, so let us know if you want to use one.

Printed Directories:

Those who had a new photo taken from The Portrait Cafe will receive one free printed directory per household unit.

Submitted a photo? Don't want a new picture at all? Want an extra directory? In all these cases, you may order a printed directory (\$15 each). Contact us with your name, quantity desired and payment by May 15, and will will preorder for you. Simply mark "2023 Directory Copy" on your payment (cash, check, or online at onrealm.org/FFUMC/give).

Christmas Shoe Boxes kick off this Sunday

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). This ministry targets children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Drive Dates:

May 14 - June 11

Details:

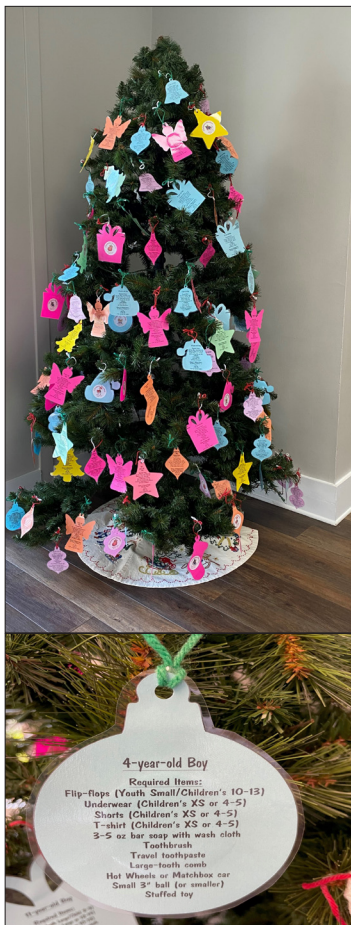
Choose an ornament (or several) from the tree in the Welcome Area behind the sanctuary. Lists on ornaments are for girls and boys of various ages.

Follow the very specific list on the ornament for each sponsored child. Please avoid getting creative and follow the list exactly.

Include \$5 per box for shipping costs to destination. Indicate UMW Christmas Shoe Box on your check or online gift.

Put the ornament list (VERY IMPORTANT) together with the items in any bag or container you don't need returned and place it in the collection bins in the Welcome Center or church office by June 11.

Christmas Shoe Box donations will be packaged for shipping at the June 15 UMW Unit Meeting.





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.](#)



Goodbyes and New Beginnings

After three years of leading our preschool and connecting our church to the broader community, Kerry Bleil is leaving to return to classroom education. We are grateful for her leadership, presence, and patience running our preschool during the pandemic. We would like to show our appreciation to her by receiving a love offering. If you would like to give to that cause, please designate "Bleil Love Offering" on your check or online contribution. We hope to have these donations in by May 21. Thank you, Kerry!

New Preschool Director Announced

We welcome Maria Ruhe as our new preschool director. We'll introduce you to her soon.



Wear Colors of Fire on Pentecost Sunday, May 28

This year, during our worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, wear red, yellow or orange to represent the celebration of the birth of the church and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.



"Build Each Other Up" Bible Study, May 24, 31 and June 7, FREE

As we live into Romans 14:19, "*Let us strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up,*" join Rev. Allyson Lawrence in this short 3-week study of heroes of the Bible who teach us all how to build one another up. We will study Jethro, Shiphrah, Puah, and Miriam, the Magi and the disciples and how they mentored, cared for, and listened to the Word of God. [Register here.](#) Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with questions.



Summer Delights on Wednesday Nights, beginning May 31

Enjoy food and fellowship throughout the summer. Meet at the Bus Barn Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Bring a dinner of your choice or order from Hog Pit BBQ right there at the City Center. We can enjoy the nice summer evenings, the ice cream shop, the playground, inside/outside dining, and simply being together all summer long.



Creative Faith in the Summer-time, Fridays in June and July

Join old friends and make new ones at Creative Faith each Friday in June and July at Gremlin Growlers. We will meet at 11:00 AM each week to talk and to share our experiences of God. Contact [Pastor Allyson](#) with questions.



Let's Do Lunch - Saturday, August 12

We are now accepting reservations for our 2nd Annual Let's Do Lunch! And don't forget to bring a few friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! You have until July 29 to reserve your seat.

This year, we are delighted to have author Pat Elsberry as our special guest. You will be blessed to hear her inspirational story.

Guests will enjoy Chicken Salad for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated tables in the Fellowship Hall.

There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 3 easy ways to make your reservation:

Online: [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & press SUBMIT.

Email: Send an email to Lauren Davis at lauren.davis@comcast.net with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of anyone coming with you.

Phone: Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

You can make reservations for you and your friends at the same time.

If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Lauren to cancel.



Share through Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those with food insecurity and other needs. Food and clothing 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)



Two Sessions Remain:

May 21

June 11

Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Two sessions remain: May 21 and June 11

Join in the final two sessions as we get to know our neighbors and engage together in racial reconciliation. Remaining topics are The Church and Healthcare. 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: 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



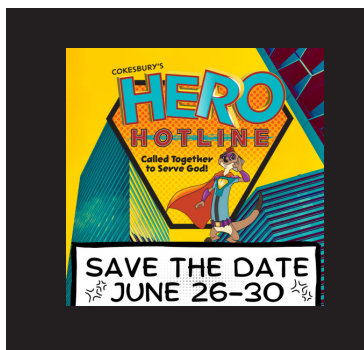
Get ready for summer learning and fun!

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



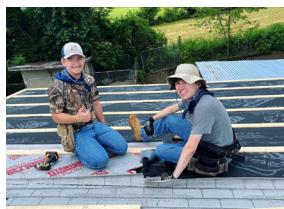
VBS HERO Hotline: June 26-30 [Register here!](#)

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.



Graduates ... You'll be celebrated May 21

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 missed the deadline to be included in the graduation bulletin or luncheon, please contact Hannah Vickery, hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com, to participate.



Preparing while surrounded by prayer

These students are serving on summer missions. We 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.** 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.](#)

May 12, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$440,391.73
Year to Date expenses	\$439,160.68
Difference	\$1,231.05

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,021.00

56 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$16,456.45

You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

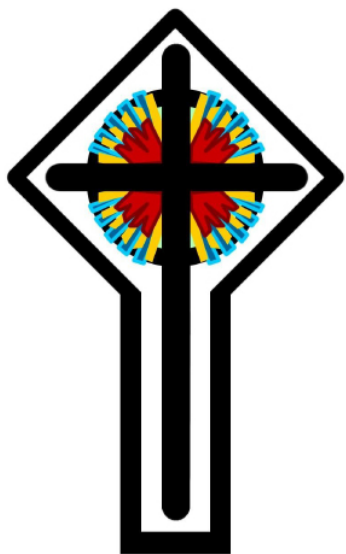
Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

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 ...

Finishing up a good year with children

It's been a good year in Children's Ministry! With lots of joy, plenty of planning, generous volunteers, and faithful participation, we have offered a variety of activities for faith development, connection with friends, and fun. We celebrate this year as we prepare for an "event-full" summer.



Opportunities included

- Acolytes*
- Sunday School & Wonders of Worship*
- Trick or Treat Village*
- Movies at the park*
- Choir in worship & Azalea Estates*
- Video Games/Art Club night*
- Christmas Camp & Christmas Caroling*
- Family Art Night*
- Family Field Trips*
- Palm Sunday Processional*
- Egg Hunt*
- Earth Day*

and more! Thanks for a great year!

