



May 19, 2023

The Weekender

"Thank you"

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

It's not something that we say enough. When someone does something nice for us. When someone goes out of their way to honor or respect us.

Or maybe it's something that we say too much. Like when we offer gratitude for services in the food or hospitality industry.

Or maybe it's not something that we need to worry about saying too much or not enough. Maybe gratitude is a way of living.

I hope that is how I live my life, with gratitude for others, with gratitude for this congregation, with gratitude for this staff. I am grateful.

Let me take a moment to express my gratitude for Joe Watson and his ministry with us. He has served with us offering words of hope in worship, words of comfort in visits, words of welcome in Titus II and SAGE and words of inspiration in our midst. I am grateful.

In order to spend more time with his family and give support to Julie as she goes through cancer treatments, Rev. Joe Watson has decided to step down from his role as Minister of Nurture. He and Julie will continue to make Fayetteville First UMC their home congregation and we will continue to see them in small groups and fellowship. I hope you will keep them in your prayers and take the opportunity to thank Joe for his work with us. "Thank you, Joe."



Rev. Joe Watson (left) and Julie Watson (right) with Senior Adults Going Everywhere.

I am grateful for Rev. Charles Robinson, who will be taking over as Minister of Nurture. Many of you know Charles already as he preached Ash Wednesday and has been worshiping with us as well. As we say "Thank you" to Joe, we also say, "Welcome" to Rev. Charles Robinson.

Through this transition, I pray that we will find time to be grateful for what God is doing in each and everyone of our lives, and give thanks.



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 21, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Singing through the summer - Try it out!

Want to experience singing in the Chancel Choir? Summer is a great time to give it a go! Rehearsals through the summer are on Sunday mornings only at 9:45 AM from June 11 through September 3. Questions? Contact Justin Maxey, jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com.



Christmas Shoe Boxes project continues

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:

Now - June 11

Details:

Choose an ornament (or several) from the tree in the Welcome Portal or Narthex. 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 you chose which has the 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. Questions? Go to fayettevillefirst.com or contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com.



Enjoy creation at rose show this weekend

See, smell, and photograph hundreds of roses of all varieties at the South Metro Rose Society's 36th Annual Rose Show this weekend. Enjoy the wondrous display of horticultural talent from growers from Georgia and Florida. Get lots of free gardening advice, drawings and fun fellowship.

36th Annual Rose Show

Free admission and parking
Fayetteville Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
870 Redwine Road, Fayetteville
Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 1 to 4 PM
Information 770-631-3885



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.



"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.



Creative Faith in the summer on 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.



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.



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.



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.



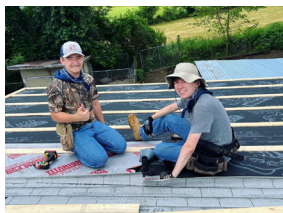
Create Camp: June 12-16 [Register here!](#)

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.



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.](#)

With Gratitude



To our FFUMC church family,
Thank you most sincerely for all your expressions of care after my accident. Cards, calls, visits, meals, flowers from the flower ministry, and especially your prayers - all were so appreciated. God bless our loving church.

— Sara Reams (and Ron also appreciated the help!)

Shawl Ministry:

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawls/lap robes you sent to us after we lost Shannon in this world. The love you show by all the hours of work and prayer on these is so appreciated. We truly are grateful for your prayers as we try to move forward. — Jon and Leslie Wade

Flower Ministry:

Thank you so much for the support you have shown us in the loss of Shannon. The work that you do in repurposing the beautiful altar flowers is so appreciated and meaningful. The lovely white flowers were a bright spot in our home. We are grateful for your prayers and friendship.

— Jon and Leslie Wade

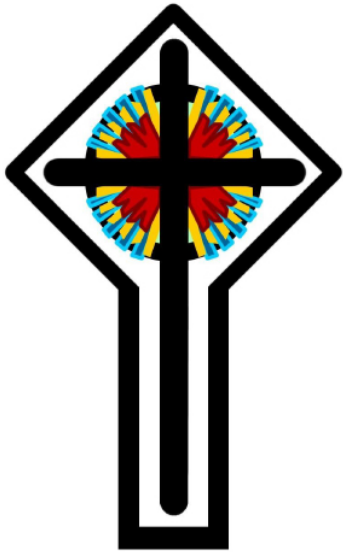
Church Family:

The Hospitality Committee looks forward to resuming Wednesday Night Suppers in the fall. We thoroughly enjoyed these weekly gatherings and are grateful to those who attended. We'll be getting input in the coming weeks to make next season even better!

A special thanks to volunteers who helped: Karen Davis, Kay Walters, Robertine Mitchely, Betty McKibben, Royce Anderson, Sylvia Guice, Nancy Dennis, Judy Pearson, Virginia Pope, Vickie Wallen and Jack-of-all-trades Davis Martin. We also had good help from Zander, Connor and Thea Hansen, and from Mills and Mary Ellis Martin.

See you in September!

Hospitality Committee
Carolyn McKinley
Marilyn Harris
Lauren Davis
Lea Agnew



May 17, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$454,893.66
Year to Date expenses	\$456,156.16
Difference	-\$1,262.50

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$185.00

60 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$17,898.16

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

Upcoming

May 21: Graduation Sunday

June 12: Youth Appalachian Service Project begins

June 12: Create Camp begins

June 19: Sunshine VBS begins

June 26: HERO Hotline VBS begins

June 29: SafeHouse Outreach

inspired ...

Preschool wraps up a great year

Another year at Fayetteville First Preschool has come to an end. We always marvel at how much the children have grown since the start of school. Sure they've grown taller, but they've also grown in ways that may not be as obvious. Some of them mastered stacking blocks or stringing beads. Some learned the letters in their names. Some learned how to take deep breaths when something doesn't go as planned. Some mastered climbing up the slide with their strong bodies. We are honored our preschool families trust us to care for their young children. And we are equally thankful for the support FFUMC gives us. We couldn't do it without you!

— Kerry Bleil, current Fayetteville First Preschool director, is departing to return to the classroom soon. See article in *The Weekender* to express appreciation for Kerry's leadership.



Thanks for a GREAT year!