



May 5, 2023

The Weekender

On Power and Power

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

On Monday, for about 30 minutes, the power went out here at the church (and in other parts of Fayette County). That means no lights, no heating, no air, and no internet (gasp!). I took that opportunity to go and walk around the property and check the areas where we are supposed to have power back-up (like emergency exits and the like). What I discovered during the lack of electricity and power was one group who was not worried or panicking. There were people at the church who weren't concerned in the least.

The preschoolers.

The preschoolers who are here at the church went about their day playing on the playground, making pictures of clowns, playing "keep the balloon off of the ground," singing songs, and showing each other their clown noses. In a world that relies so much on electricity and power, it was humbling in that moment to see what real power looks like.

Jesus says, *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt 18:3-4).

That's a very strong word. Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Like much of what Jesus says, this is not literal. We cannot physically change and become little children. Jesus is instead inviting us to form our lives and our hearts and our minds to the attributes of children. Christ is inviting us to be humble, to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to, to put others' needs above our own, and to admit our dependence not upon the things of this world but upon the simple things.

So next time the power goes out—or even try to turn off the power and stay away from screens or radio—contemplate the children. In a world that runs on power, real power is found in the faith of children. May we live our lives in such a way that we see the kingdom of heaven because we become like little children.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

1 Peter 2:2-10

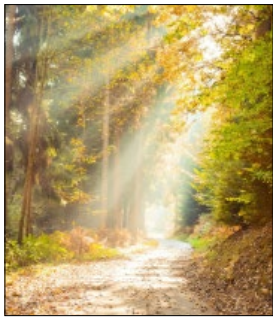
Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Mother's Day recognitions due Monday, May 8

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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meet May 11 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, **May 11, 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.



New directory photo sessions run through May 8

Come to the Fellowship Hall for all photo sessions for our new directory. You'll be asked to verify the information to be printed (names, address, phones, emails) before photographer Angie takes some great photos.

[Follow this link for complete photo session details at FayettevilleFirst.com](https://www.fayettevillefirst.com). See what to wear and [why we should avoid green](#). Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, if you have questions.

Didn't get a photo session scheduled? We still want to include you!

If you are NOT getting 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. There is no charge to have your photo included; however, you will need to purchase a printed directory if you want one.*
- 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.*

YOUR CHECKLIST!

- Go to scheduled session
- Check church database
- Submit photos
- Order directory copies



Last Wednesday Night Supper of Spring: May 10

Gather with friends for food and fellowship for our last Wednesday Night Supper of this season from 5:15 to 6 PM. Make your reservation now!

[May 10: Breakfast for Dinner - Breakfast Casserole, Grits, Mixed Fresh Fruit, Banana Bread, Pastries](#)

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



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 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.



Bring in Jeans - Last chance

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 the weekend and ends May 8.





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.



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). 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!](#)

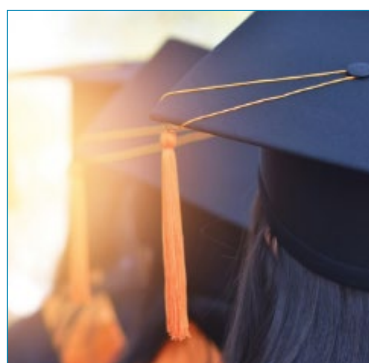
At Create Camp, children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, and participate in traditional camp crafts 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



Graduates ... Last chance to be included

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. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2023!



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.](#)

Note of Gratitude



Dear Church Family:
I want to thank very much everyone in the church for all of the support you have given me and Julia [before and since her passing]. Your calls, visits, cards, and gifts have been overwhelming. — Dick Webb

May 5, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$416,780.43
Year to Date expenses	\$422,900.34
Difference	-\$6,119.91

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$219.00

51 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$14,776.48

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)

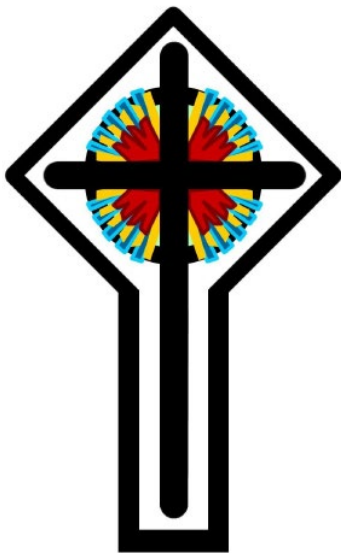
Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 ...

Thanks for Wednesday Nights together

How do you make everyone feel welcome? Just ask the Hospitality Team! Thanks to this group, we've had a year of food and fellowship together on Wednesday nights. The core leaders Marilyn Harris, Carolyn McKinley, Lauren Davis, and Lea Agnew were assisted by other faithful volunteers including Karen Davis, Robertine Mitchely, and Mills and Mary Ellis Martin to present and serve the meals most often from local restaurants. They switched around pickups and other setup to spread the joy. Thank you, team, for keeping us connected around the table this year. We appreciate all your work with suppers and other gatherings.



Better Together!



We had theme nights and potluck nights, but mostly just good food from local restaurants, good conversation, and fun!