



June 2, 2023

The Weekender

Are you listening?

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

I have never heard God's voice. That does not mean that I have not listened for it. It does not mean that I have not pleaded for answers or assurance or hope. When I have doubts and anger, that is when I almost demand to hear God's voice. Like the prophet Elijah, who went up on the mountain to hear God's voice, my request is often a demand.

I have not met a lot of people who have said they have clearly heard God's voice. I have met some people who have clearly felt a tug or a nudge in a direction that they thought was God.

Like Elijah, I often expect God's voice to be loud and booming. I expect it to give me clear direction. I expect God to be loud and thunderous and commanding and awesome. Like the prophet Elijah, I now think that God's voice is different than that.

If you recall the story of Elijah, he goes up onto the mountain to hear God. A fire passes. God is not in the fire. A thunderstorm passes. God is not in the thunderstorm. An earthquake passes. God is not in the earthquake. Then nothing.

Silence.

Elijah feels the presence of God in the silence. He has to tune his ears to block out all the extra noise around him. He has to be quiet. He has to listen.

Are we listening for the loudest voice? Are we listening for the voice that is clamoring to be heard because they are sure of themselves? Or are we listening to the meek and mild? Are we listening to the voices of those who cry out in the wilderness? Are we willing to be still enough so that we can encounter God even in solitude and silence?

If you listen close enough, you will hear God's call to us: "Go! Make of all disciples. And I will be with you, always."



TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2023

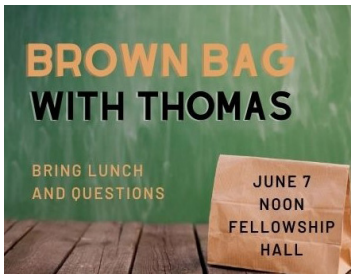
8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Dr. Thomas Martin, Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



Bring lunch and questions to Brown Bag with Thomas

The North Georgia Annual Conference is underway. Representatives from our church include our clergy as well as Lauren Davis and Bill Webb (our Lay Leaders) along with Cindy Hall and Nancy Ricciardi (our District Representatives). Bring your lunch and join in the next Brown Bag Lunch meeting hosted by Dr. Thomas Martin. He'll share information from the conference and invite questions on June 7 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.



United Women in Faith announce mission projects

You are invited to participate in the United Women in Faith Southwest District mission projects for this year which include UMCOR and Rushton's Hope.

UMCOR disaster relief needs boxes of 33-45 gallon heavy duty trash bags and bottles of concentrated liquid household cleaner, 16-40 oz.

Rushton's Hope is a ministry serving the impoverished, homeless, rejected and hurting people in the area of Griffin. They provide for physical needs through food, clothing, toiletries, household items, and furniture, and will take used mattresses as well as monetary donations. They also minister to spiritual needs through a worship service, jail ministry, a crisis pregnancy ministry, and special events through the year.

Rushton's Hope needs jelly, crackers (any kind, either individually wrapped packs or short stacks), microwavable cups of Rice-A-Roni and Mac & Cheese, but other items will be accepted.

A box will be in the Welcome Portal to collect for these two projects through September 1.

For more information on Rushton's Hope or for pick up of large items, please call Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761. If you have furniture to donate, Cindy Hall and Faye Livingston will coordinate with the Summer Lunch Families and Rushton's Hope so that needs are met where they are the greatest.



Time to share cookies for summer lunch

Our Summer Lunch Program will swing into action to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County beginning June 6. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 AM each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward. Contact Virginia Pope if you'd like to pack or be a driver.

What is needed now? Cookies, either homemade or store-bought (no nuts, please). These should be marked for "Summer Lunch" and delivered to the Fellowship Hall, placed on the counter or in the food refrigerator by Monday of each week. Feel free to pre-package two cookies per baggie or leave that for our weekly packers. *Questions? Contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com or 678-361-1722.*





Summer Delights on Wednesday Nights

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 begins Friday, June 2

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.



Looking for a few Pew Pixies

Can you help prepare the sanctuary for worship? A group of Pew Pixies serve on a rotating basis to fill the pew pockets and ensure the worship space is ready for Sunday services. To join this quiet but important team, contact Nancy Lindsey, worship leader, at 770-310-5193, brian_nancy@mindspring.com.



Matthew 25 Ministries receives pill bottles

THANK YOU to all who donated pill bottles to the United Women in Faith mission project that was completed this spring. The pill bottles have been delivered to Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio, and will be distributed to Third World countries. [Check out their website to see all the ways they serve God by serving others.](#)



Get moving with Pickleball!

Have you wondered what Pickleball is all about? Come find out! Our gym is now equipped with Pickleball nets, paddles and balls. Just come in comfy clothes and shoes and try out the game with a group of enthusiastic and supportive players.

Currently playing: Wednesdays, 7 PM
Fridays, Noon

Skill level: 1st time beginner plus more advanced, Men & Women

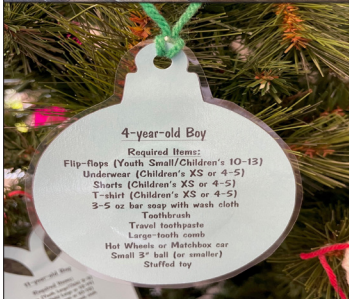
Info Option: Pickleball Group Texts - contact Lauren Davis
lauren-davis@comcast.net, 770-846-4652



Reach out at SafeHouse Outreach on June 29

You can be part of the FFUMC team to help those who live on the margins in Atlanta at our next SafeHouse Outreach night on June 29. Volunteers are needed to fill the bus and help serve a lasagna meal (complete with SafeHouse bread provided by Randy Riddell). Leaders on this trip are Mike DeLisle and Chuck Grayson along with Wayne Harris, bus driver. Let Mike know you can help by emailing him at kaprunices@mindspring.com.

Bobby and Kathe Anderson along with grandkids Emma and Eli serving at SHO.



Christmas Shoe Boxes: Only 1 week and 18 ornaments left

You've taken **82 of 100** ornaments from the tree in the Welcome Portal to help spread joy and love at Christmas for children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

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).

Drive Dates: Now - June 11

Details: Choose an ornament (or several) from the tree. 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.



UMW Unit Meeting: Christmas Shoe Box Mission Program

Come with a friend, neighbor, or family member to the next Unit Meeting of the United Women in Faith/UMW on Thursday, June 15. Hear from Maggie Clarke how you can improve the lives of children around the world through UMCOR Christmas Boxes. We'll enjoy a meal from Chicken Salad Chick including Broccoli Salad, Grape Salad and Tuxedo Cake. Cost: \$10 payable June 15. After dinner, plan to stay to pack up the boxes for UMCOR.

June 15, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM

Make reservations by June 11 with UMW Circle chair or contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net. Indicate number of children for nursery.



VBS Volunteers Q & A and materials meeting June 4

Calling all VBS Volunteers! We are meeting Sunday, June 4, at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All adult and youth interested in volunteering at VBS this summer are requested to attend, pick up their classroom binders, ask questions, and make certain that all required paperwork is completed.

Our church community can also help us meet some supplies needs. Just put them in the donation box in the church office or Welcome Portal by June 19.

[These VBS needs are also on this Amazon Wishlist.](#)

- Pool noodles
- Old water hoses
- Boxes of facial tissues
- Black lights
- EL wire
- LED lights
- Rope lights (multicolored if possible)
- Old-fashioned corded phones (rotary, etc... these can be returned after VBS if desired)

Questions? Contact Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com.



Final "Build Each Other Up" Bible Study June 7

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 the final study session of heroes of the Bible who teach us all how to build one another up.

[Register here.](#) Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) 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:

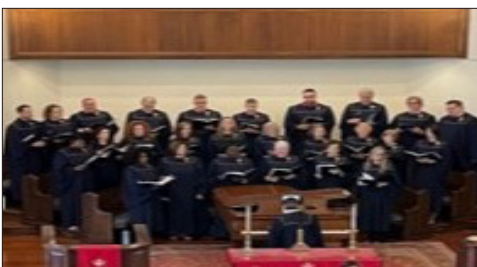
Online: [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & press SUBMIT.

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.



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.



Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Final session in the series: June 11

Join in the final session as we get to know our neighbors and engage together in racial reconciliation.

Held at Fayette Friendship Community Church, 847 New Hope Road
Sunday, June 11, from 3 PM to 5 PM



Share through Fayette Samaritans: New "Most Needed" List

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 Fruit, Hamburger Helper, Sweet Green Peas, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Spaghetti (Dry Pasta), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ketchup, Feminine Products

Clothing needs: Men's boxer-style underwear all sizes, women's underwear size extra large, girl's underwear sizes 6-8, girl's socks

FFUMC KIDS NEWS



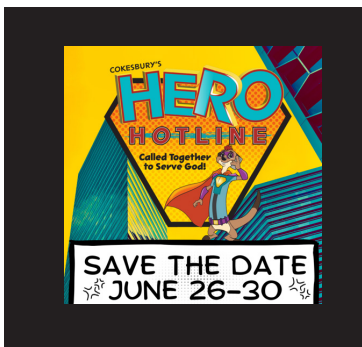
Get ready for summer learning and fun!

The adventure begins soon! Save your place now.



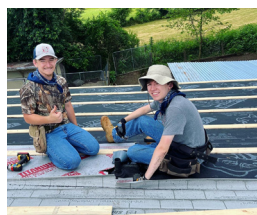
Create Camp: June 12-16 [Register here!](#)

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



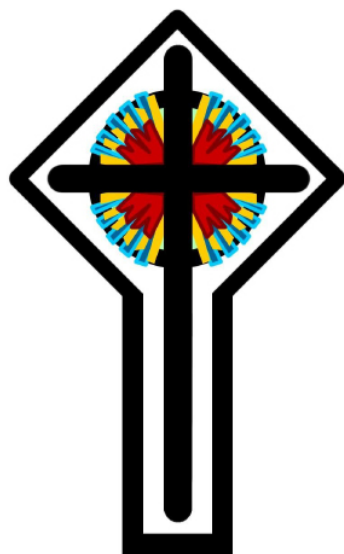
VBS HERO Hotline: June 26-30 [Register here!](#)

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.



Ready to take off June 11 for Appalachia Service Project

We appreciate your **prayers** over the youth trip participants serving at the Appalachia Service Project: **Jasmine Akeman, Emma Autrey, Logan Ayers, Glenda Harrah, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer.** 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 31, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$492,303.71
Year to Date expenses	\$504,568.01
Difference	-\$12,264.30

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$225.00
62 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$18,392.90

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 ...

Mother's Day donations raise \$2,000

,For more than 10 years, Bethany Circle of the United Women in Faith has sponsored a Mother's Day mission project honoring and remembering all moms and those who mother others and have impacted lives. This year the project proceeds went to Bloom our Youth which helps those in foster care and Promise Place which helps with domestic violence. Due to your generous donations, each charity received a check for \$1,000. The directors were so very appreciative. Bethany Circle extends thanks and gratitude to all.

Right top: *Becky Davenport, Bloom President & CEO, receives \$1,000 check from Bethany Circle member Frieda Everritt.*

Right Center: *FFUMC Bethany Circle members support the Mother's Day fundraiser each year. Thanks for your service.*

