



June 23, 2023

The Weekender

Plans and interruptions

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

I don't know about you, but when I get most stressed it seems that I am running on last minute plans. Or at least, I didn't take time to plan out what would or wouldn't happen. Those are my most stressful moments.

I make the analogy with couples in premarital counseling when I ask them this question: "Why do you spend so much time on the details and plans and preparation for a wedding day?"

The response is usually something along the lines of, "We want to be able to enjoy that day!" It's a common answer, but it is a good answer. We plan and prepare so that we can enjoy all that life has to offer in that moment. Inevitably though, things can and will go wrong. How well we are prepared for the planned, determines how we respond to the unplanned.

This Sunday, the youth have been preparing worship for us. They have helped select scripture, hymns, and prayers. They are working with ideas for the sermon and theme. Hannah has done a tremendous job helping our students think through the ways in which we connect with God. We have learned that planning is important.

I hope you will be in worship this week as we give thanks to the youth for their witness to us and with us in this space. I also hope that you will think about worship, service, mission, and devotion to God in ways that prepare us for life's interruptions because like the saying goes, "Blessed are the flexible for they shall bend and not be broken."



*Blessed are the flexible
for they shall bend
and not be broken.*



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 25, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

1 Timothy 4:12-15; Matthew 18:20

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Reach out at SafeHouse Outreach Next Thursday, June 29

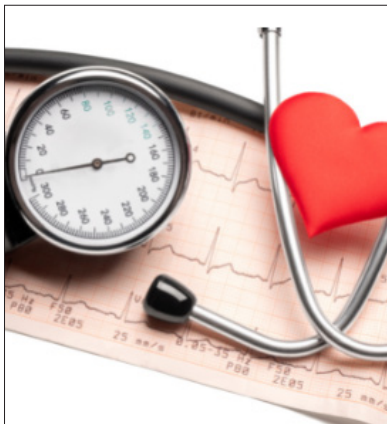
You can be part of the FFUMC team to help those who live on the margins in Atlanta at our next SafeHouse Outreach night on June 29. Volunteers are needed to fill the bus and help serve a lasagna meal (complete with SafeHouse bread provided by Randy Riddell). Leaders on this trip are Mike DeLisle and 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.



Summer Lunches packed on Tuesdays

Have you helped at Summer Lunch yet? It's a great time to get to know others who want to serve those in our community who may face food insecurity. Packing begins at 9:30 AM each Tuesday during June and July (except on July 4). If you or your group would like to contribute fruit for a future week, contact coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com or 678-361-1722.



Give blood at FFUMC: Sunday, July 16

Donate in a familiar setting at Fayetteville First UMC on Sunday, July 16, from 8 AM to 1 PM.

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at redcrossblood.org and choose our drive ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com for questions or assistance.



We wish you blessings, Hannah

Hannah Vickery has been at Fayetteville First for three years as Director of Youth while serving as a graduate resident with the Center for Youth Ministry Training and a student earning a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry with Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She will be with us through June 30 and will then move into a new season of ministry in Healdsburg, California. We are grateful for Hannah's leadership with our youth through COVID and beyond. 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 "Vickery Love Offering" on your check or online contribution. We hope to have these donations in by June 25. Thank you, Hannah, for your service with us, and best wishes as you continue in ministry.



Share through Fayette Samaritans: "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.

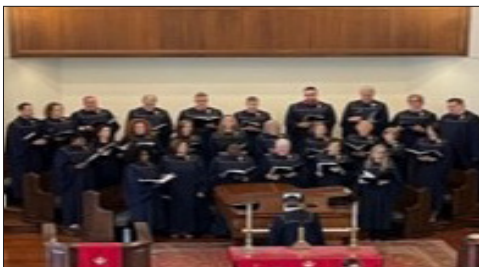
Most Needed List: Canned Fruit, Hamburger Helper, Sweet Green Peas, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Spaghetti (Dry Pasta), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ketchup, Feminine Products

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



General music reading and theory

Would you like to read music well enough to play a variety of instruments or sing? Join us this summer on the 2nd and 4th Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM for a music reading and basic music theory class. The class will meet during June and July. Questions? Contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net.



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.



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.

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.

Donations are accepted to offset the costs of this event. Mark any donation as "UWF-Let's Do Lunch."



United Women in Faith mission project continues

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. 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.

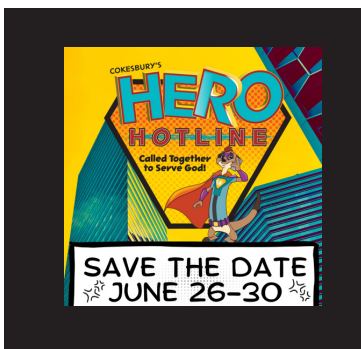
A box will be in the Welcome Portal to collect for these two projects through September 1.



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.

FFUMC KIDS NEWS



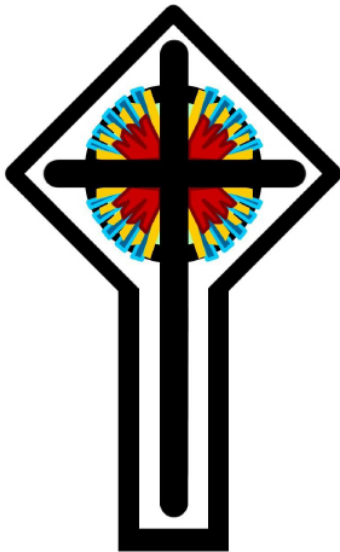
VBS HERO Hotline begins Monday

More than 120 heroes in training are headed to VBS next week! We appreciate your prayers and all the volunteers who will make this a great experience. **All hero spots are filled, so registration is closed.** We'll have a family program on Friday at 11:50 AM followed by a lunch. [All are invited but reservations for lunch are required by Wednesday, June 28.](#) Join us for a VBS celebration in church on Sunday, July 2, as we share songs from both Sunshine VBS and VBS kids at the 11:00 AM service and enjoy popsicles and lemonade in the courtyard.

Notes of Gratitude



Dear Flower Ministry:
Thanks to Susan Burch and Kaydee Matthews for bringing me flowers from the Flower Ministry recently. This is very thoughtful and appreciated. — Ralph McDuffie



June 21, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$558,672.77
Year to Date expenses	\$571,586.62
Difference	-\$12,916.85

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$149.00
74 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$22,505.77

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 7 PM;
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

inspired ...

Our youth and ASP

Teams from FFUMC and Inman UMC served last week with the Appalachia Service Project in Breathitt County, Kentucky, where damage from last year's major flood is still prevalent. Two teams repaired floors and put in a new kitchen while another team installed a new roof for a family.



Our youth expressed moments that made them stop and wonder about God's action in the world. During our debriefing time, they shared deeply about the impact of the week and what they learned from the relationships they formed with the homeowners. Our youth will continue in prayer for those families as more teams follow this summer to make their homes warmer, safer, and drier for generations to come - and for the continuation of God's story in Breathitt County.

We could not have leaned into our theme of "loving strong" this week without your prayers and financial support! This congregation was a part of God's story this week, as one church coming together to serve and participate in God's loving kingdom work. — Hannah Vickery

