



June 30, 2023

The Weekender

What happens next?

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

This week has been exciting and busy here at Fayetteville First UMC. We have welcomed over 150 children, youth, and volunteers into the fellowship and facilities of this congregation. All of this would not have been possible without your support and willingness to share the love of God with others. That is where this all starts: a desire to share God's love with the world. That is embedded in the great commission. We are sent because we want to share God's love with others.

But what happens next?

We have to have a road map of where to go or at least a compass of where we are pointing.

The theme for Vacation Bible School this week was "Hero Hotline." Our students learned Bible stories, shared crafts, had snacks, learned new songs and dance moves, and got to enjoy church. They had fun. And don't we all need a little more fun?

But after the fun, what happens next?

The theme verse has been repeated and will be repeated in worship this week. What happens next? We will strive. Strive for the things that bring peace and build each other up. There are lots of things that we can strive for, but the question that we must always ask ourselves is this: "Will this bring peace or build up others?"

What if we considered every action, every word out of our mouths, every thought and deed, every gift, as an opportunity for us to share peace and build each other up? What if we were to scrutinize everything in light of that question? That could be exhausting, but it can also be lifegiving. It can be the thing that points us toward the love of Christ and invites others into it as well.

Living in peace and building each other up is a lot more fun than living in conflict and tearing others down. Therefore, as people called Christians, let us strive for the things that bring peace and build each other up. Let's have fun. And let's let the Holy Spirit guide us into what happens next. Let's strive for better things.



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 2, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Psalm 89:1-4; Romans 14:19

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



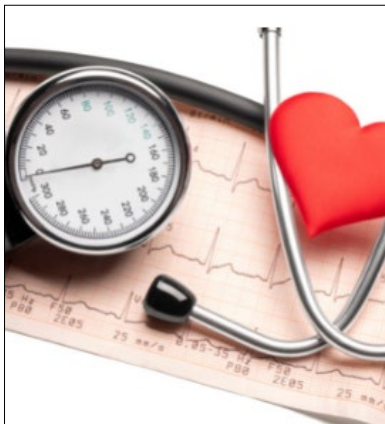
School supply drive for local students

School supplies have become increasingly more expensive and we are wanting to help families curtail some of that cost. Would you begin collecting school supplies so we can give them out at our back-to-school event on July 29? [To see example suggestions of needed school supplies check out this local school's list.](#) Please place donations in the Welcome Portal bin or church office by July 21.



Hello! I'm

Would you like a customized nametag to help you greet others? Did you lose one you may have had previously? We are placing another order. Let us know if you want one by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com. The deadline to place your order is Monday, July 17. Cost is \$9.



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 in the gym.

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.



Dickey Farms & Blackbird Cafe: July 13

Join with friends for a visit to Dickey Farms and lunch at The Blackbird Cafe on Thursday, July 13. Senior Adults Going Everywhere will meet in the church office lot for a 10:30 AM departure. After lunch and a "peachy" good time together at the farm, we'll return around 3:30 PM. Cost: \$2 transportation, plus lunch and any Dickey Farms purchases on your own. Questions? Contact Rev. Charles Robinson, Minister of Nurture. Sign up in the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



New! July "Most Needed" List for 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 Chicken, Canned Green Beans, Canned Corn, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Peanut Butter, Soup (no Cream of Chicken, please), Dried Pinto and Black-eyed Peas, Rice, Cookies, Feminine Products

Clothing needs: Men's boxer-style underwear all sizes, boys underwear all sizes, socks for men, women, boys and girls



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 Celebration is Sunday, July 2

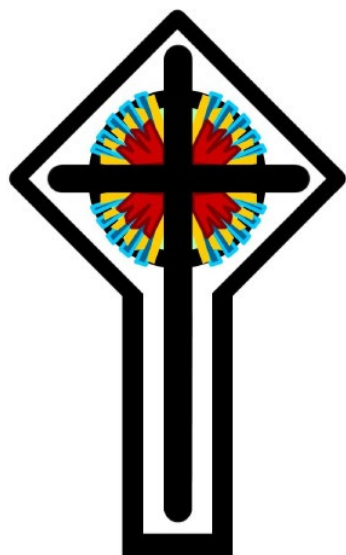
Join us for a VBS celebration in church on Sunday, July 2, as we share songs from both Sunshine VBS and VBS kids at the 11:00 AM service and enjoy popsicles and lemonade in the courtyard.

Notes of Gratitude



Thank you church family for the prayers, cards, flowers and equipment. As always your prayers are the most treasured. I had knee replacement recently and every chance I had I made dumb decisions. One of those was choosing to come off the pain medication. Remember I was still loopy when I made that decision. Prayers must take care of Stupid because I'm doing great in spite of my choices.

Close behind your prayers is the blessing of being able to borrow a walker and cane from our church. I am so grateful to all those that donate, collect and distribute these items. No idea who came up with this idea but BRILLIANT! Thank you! – Ruth Ogletree



June 28, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$598,983.61
Year to Date expenses	\$598,775.65
Difference	\$207.96

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$103.00

77 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$23,705.77

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

The church office will be closed Tuesday, July 4. Happy holiday!

inspired ...

Where's the magic in VBS?

What makes VBS happen? Let's hear from a former camper, youth volunteer and now young adult helper in a note sent to one of our leaders:

You know now that I've helped with putting up decorations and seen all the planing that goes into VBS.... There's a different magic to it, but it's still a magic.

Like when I was younger I was always in Wonders of Worship so I never knew the congregation was asked to help move pieces of the chancel area. I would just go home and all of a sudden the church was transformed into a whole new world. And I honestly thought it was some sort of magic button or something that the grown ups pushed and boom VBS.

Now I see the magic is in the people. :) -Alpha Williams

Well stated, Alpha. Yes, those people behind the scenes provided the environment for more than 120 heroes in training to experience an exciting, action-packed, God-filled week at VBS. Thank you, everyone, for all your contributions to the magic that is VBS.

