



June 9, 2023

## The Weekender

### Signs and wonders

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Last week, I was in Athens with 1,400 of my brothers and sisters in Christ in the United Methodist Church for Annual Conference. Annual Conference is the annual meeting of United Methodist Churches in the North Georgia area. There are several areas over the world that meet together to listen to inspiring sermons, celebrate those who have served churches as pastors, remember the saints of the church, vote on necessary legislation before the body, and fellowship together as the body of Christ.



What inspired me the most was the closing service of worship. We celebrated Holy Communion together. It was in the beautiful chaos of that meal that I felt God's presence the most. Because it was in an auditorium setting and the seating was weird, there was no one to give us direction. Unlike here where we have dedicated ushers helping us know when to go, there was no one giving instruction. For the type A person in me, that was very frustrating. But in the chaos, I saw people hugging, talking, and exchanging information to keep in touch with one another, and the love of Christ was being shared with people who share in ministry to all the world. It warmed my heart.

It also brought home the theme verse for annual conference last week, Joel 2:28, *"After this, I will pour out my spirit upon all. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men will see visions."*

I have heard these verses and even preached from them at times. But what I noticed this time was what precedes the verses "After this." "After what?" is the question I have often overlooked. What precedes the visions and dreams is that there will be abundance. There will be replenishing, restoring, and God's fortune poured out. God is in the business of restoring. God is in the business of replenishing. God is in the business of making all things new.

May we dream dreams and see visions and prophesy to the goodness of God in all that we think, say, and do. And may God restore us in every way.



**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

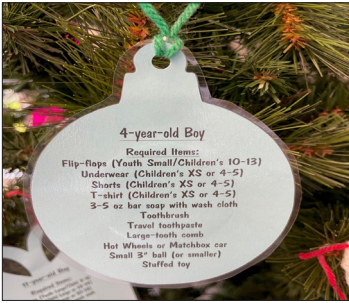
**JUNE 11, 2023**

**8:45 and 11:00 AM**

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

*Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13*

Dr. Thomas Martin



Box contents  
due Sunday, June 11

## Shoe Box contents due Sunday, July 11

All 100 ornaments from the Christmas Shoe Box project have been taken. Just bring your items this Sunday, June 11, in a disposable bag with the ornament attached to the Welcome Portal. The United Women in Faith will prepare the shoeboxes for the United Methodist Disaster Relief (UMCOR) Warehouse in Decatur, AL. From there they will go to children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Please include \$5 per box for shipping costs to destination. Indicate UMW Christmas Shoe Box on your check or online gift.

Questions? Go to [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com) or contact Maggie Clarke, [mwclarke195@gmail.com](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com).



## Pack Christmas boxes at UWF Unit Meeting Thursday

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](mailto:lauren-davis@comcast.net). Indicate number of children for nursery.



## Summer lunch update: apples & drivers needed

Our Summer Lunch Program is now underway providing food stability for many families in Fayette County. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 AM each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward.

Thanks for all the cookies (enough to take us through June). What is needed? Apples and drivers! We would like to include an apple in each lunch. Apples have been secured for next week's packing on June 13. If you or your group would like to contribute fruit for a future week, contact coordinator, Virginia Pope, at [vgail.pope@gmail.com](mailto:vgail.pope@gmail.com) or 678-361-1722. Also, a few more drivers are needed.



## Creative Faith on Fridays at Gremlin Growlers

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

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.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kaprunices@mindspring.com).

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



## 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](http://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](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.

[What to do before, during and after your donation?](#)  
[Find out!](#)





## 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.



## Getting ready for VBS

VBS is around the corner! 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.

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

[Check out this Amazon Wish List if you'd like to order through Amazon.](#)

Questions? Contact Allie Hansen, [ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Summer Handbells: music reading and theory

Would you like to play handbells, but feel that you don't read music well enough to play? 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](mailto:jhames@bellsouth.net).





## 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:

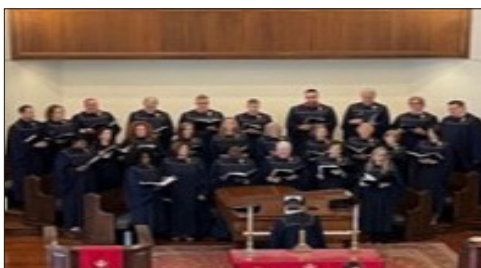
**Online:** [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & press SUBMIT.

**Email:** Send an email to Lauren Davis at [lauren.davis@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com).



## 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



## 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

## FFUMC KiDS NEWS

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### 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.**

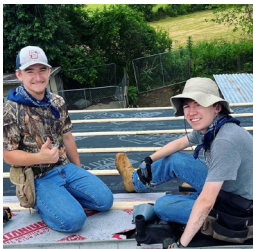


### Prayers as Create Camp begins next week: June 12-16

Prayers are appreciated as campers enjoy Create Camp next week. They'll learn music and dances, how to create and build set designs, and participate in traditional camp crafts and games. It's going to be a great week!

## FFUMC Youth NEWS

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### We take off June 11 for Appalachia Service Project

Prayers go with our youth as they leave for Appalachia on Sunday, June 11. Meet in the church office parking lot at 6:30 AM if you'd like to pray with them in person as they depart. We appreciate your prayers throughout the week for these youth participants as represent FFUMC: **Jasmine Akeman, Emma Autrey, Logan Ayers, Glenda Harrah, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer.** Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director.](#)

## Notes of Gratitude

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Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that were left at our home Sunday afternoon. Mickey and I are really enjoying them in our kitchen window. I am truly blessed to be part of a great church family. Grace and peace!

— Rev. Charles Robinson

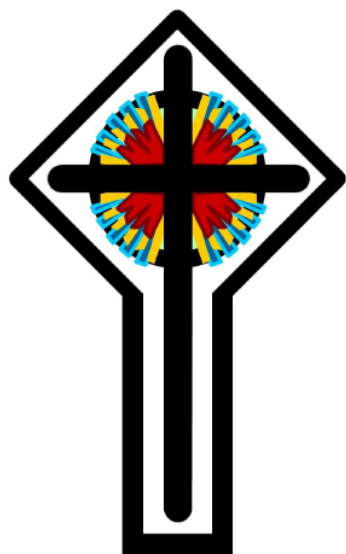
# Special Offering

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## Wesley Woods Offering on June 18

For nearly 50 years, churches of [The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church](#) have received a special offering for Wesley Woods, most often taken on Mother's Day. This generous support funds financial assistance for meals and housing to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their resources. It also supports on-site chaplains and an innovative wellness program. This offering will be taken at FFUMC this year on June 18. Please mark any donations as "Wesley Woods."



## June 8, 2023 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$516,606.92
Year to Date expenses	\$540,546.44
Difference	-\$23,939.52

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,364.00  
68 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$20,523.46

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

# inspired ...

## Summer Lunch reaches community

Our Summer Lunch Program started this past Tuesday, June 6, as more than 20 volunteers packed 293 lunches for children in our community who may experience food insecurity when school is not in session. The team is grateful for all your help and donations. Enough cookies have already been given for lunches through this month. If you or your group would like to contribute apples for the lunches in the coming weeks, contact coordinator Virginia Pope, [vgail.pope@gmail.com](mailto:vgail.pope@gmail.com) or 678-361-1722, for details and to see when they are most needed. Drivers and helping hands vary each week with shifting schedules, so please help out when you can. You're sure to find it a fun and rewarding time to be together and serve others.



*Thanks for the helping hands!*