



July 14, 2023

The Weekender

Pressing on

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Thank you for being the church. We are over halfway through summer break with our family. School starts back in less than three weeks. We are trying to savor every moment that we have but also preparing at the same time to get back into the routine of life, school, activities, extra-curriculars, and friends. We, as a family, are grateful that our church has been a place throughout the summer where we can serve, worship, fellowship, study, grow, pray, nurture, and be nurtured. I hope you have felt the same way. It truly takes a team working together to get things done, and I am grateful for the staff, volunteers, and most importantly, you—the members of Fayetteville First UMC—for giving so generously of your time, talents, and treasures. Thank you for being the church.

I also wanted to give you some staff updates. Rev. Allyson Lawrence and I are delighted to be re-appointed to Fayetteville First UMC for another year. We are grateful for Rev. Susan Landry (our district superintendent) and Bishop Robin Dease, our new Bishop, for another year here at this great church. We look forward to serving with you.

We are also celebrating with Hannah Vickery as she has officially begun a new position at a new church. Austin Baur, who you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks, will be taking over as interim Youth Director.

Allie Hansen has taken a full time position at the school where her children attend. We wish her well but know that they will remain active members throughout the year as well as offering her expertise in Create Camp and VBS moving forward.

Justin Maxey has taken a position as the new Music Director and Organist at All Saints Episcopal in Atlanta. He has served with us faithfully for two years and we are grateful for his presence with us. This is an opportunity that came along for him that he was not looking for so we celebrate his time with us.

As you can imagine, the Staff-Parish Committee will be very active in the next few weeks and months as we re-envision our children's and youth ministry and begin the process of finding a new music director. I encourage you to pray for that group and this church. These are opportunities for us to celebrate the good work that has been done and look ahead to the future in ways that strengthen this congregation.

You will have the chance to show your appreciation to Allie and Justin in the coming days and I hope that when you see them you will express your gratitude toward them.

I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 3:13-14, "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." We do not forget the work of those from the past, but we celebrate and we press on. May God bless us as a congregation as we press on to the prize of Christ Jesus.

Thank you for being the church.



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 16, 2023

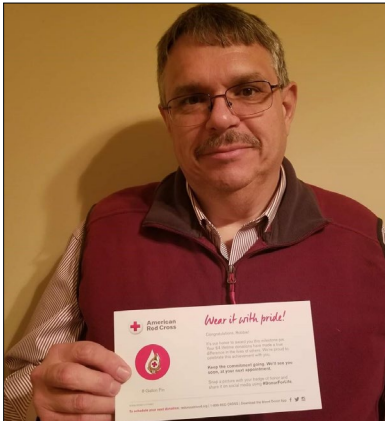
8:45 and 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Robbie Gray shows off his 8 gallon pin.

Giving for Others: Blood Drive Sunday, July 16

Every Blood Drive announces a critical need for blood donors. One of the main needs is transfusions "for patients with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients and trauma victims," according to the Red Cross.

Who of us doesn't know or know of someone with these conditions? In our own FFUMC church family, Robbie Gray, is currently receiving transfusions for Burkitt's Lymphoma - a rare, fast growing type of blood cancer. His wife, Dottie, reports he has completed about 30% of his treatments and has already received dozens of blood products!

Please prayerfully consider Robbie, and so many others like him, and sign up to donate this Sunday, July 16, at our next Red Cross Blood Drive.

Sign up at redcrossblood.org and choose our drive.

[Use this flyer to encourage others to donate here at FFUMC.](#)

Email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com for questions or assistance.



Hoofin' It for Harp

You're invited to join the Race to Cure Sarcoma in honor of Don Harp, hosted at Fayetteville First UMC.

Saturday, July 22

8:30 AM FFUMC gym gathering

9:00 AM Walk 1 mile around Fayetteville Town Square

[Join the team or make a donation to our team page](#)

Together we can race to cure Sarcoma and raise much needed funding for research, education and advocacy.

[Spread the word! Share this flyer with family and friends on social media.](#)



Portraits are here! Get yours Sunday

The Portrait Cafe has sent the photos you ordered! Get yours in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary this Sunday, July 16, between 9:30 and 11 AM and again following the 11 AM service. After Sunday, the photos will be in the church office for pickup.

Pictorial directories are in production and should be here by the first of September. We'll let you know when they arrive!



Save your place at the Let's Do Lunch table!

Reservations due July 29

We are now accepting reservations for our 2nd Annual Let's Do Lunch coming Saturday, August 12! 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.



Back to School Bash, July 29, 3-5 PM, FFUMC Gym

Join us for an epic party as we celebrate summer and kick off the new school year with bouncy houses, popcorn, cotton candy, and more. We will have three 'grand prize giveaways' of backpacks stuffed full of school supplies and smaller prizes of various other school supplies provided by this generous congregation. Bring your friends, your friends' friends, grandkids and neighbors.



Back to School Blessing Sunday, July 30, 11 AM service

All teachers, students, school staff and administrators, bus drivers: gather your backpack (or workbag) and join us at the **11 AM worship service on Sunday, July 30**, for a special blessing of the backpacks for you and the new school year.



New classes begin Monday, August 14

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays August 14 through November 13 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B350. (No class on Labor Day). All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit GriefShare.org.



We wish you blessings, Allie and Justin

We appreciate the work of Allie Hansen as Assistant Director of Children and Family Ministry and Justin Maxey as Director of Music and Organist. We would like to show our appreciation by receiving a love offering. If you would like to give to that cause, please designate "Hansen Love Offering" or "Maxey Love Offering" on your check or online contribution. We hope to have these donations in by July 30.

Thank you, Allie and Justin, for all your contributions to the life and ministry of FFUMC.



Ready to play handbells?

Beginning August 31, handbells will begin regular rehearsals on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM every week. Have you wanted to join this group? Some new players are needed, and one could be you! Please contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, for more information.



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.



Murphy-Harpst Children's Home special offering this Sunday

This Sunday is Murphy-Harpst Special Offering Sunday! [Murphy-Harpst provides hope and healing to severely abused and neglected children and youth](#) through residential treatment, foster care, and creative therapeutic approaches. Over 1/3 of their annual support comes from United Methodist Churches! Please give generously today and be a part of a nearly 100-year legacy of serving Georgia's most vulnerable children. [Give directly to Murphy-Harpst online](#) or mark any specific donation through FFUMC as "Murphy-Harpst" in the memo line.



Experience a Messy Church

Have you heard about Messy Church and want to know more? A small group is invited to travel to Aldersgate UMC in Augusta on July 16 to experience and participate in Messy Church – Augusta. If you are interested let Rev. Allyson Lawrence know and she will give you the details. There are only a few spaces available so an RSVP to alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com by July 14 is required.



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



Save the date for meal packing event on August 20

You're invited to help fight hunger by preparing highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event on Sunday, August 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Fayetteville First UMC gym. Watch for sign up details soon!



All ages (from 4 years up) can help!

Label bags, fill meal packets, seal, box — There is a job for you!



Apples needed for last two weeks of Summer Lunch Program

Our Summer Lunch Program is nearly done with only two packing sessions left: July 18 and 25. We have plenty of cookies, but we do need more apples for the lunches. Just leave your contributions in the Fellowship Hall marked "Summer Lunch." Contact coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com or 678-361-1722 with any questions.

Acolyte Party

Let us celebrate you! All Acolytes are invited to come to a party in their honor at Royal Lanes Social for DuckPin on July 26 from 4 – 5 PM. When we finish bowling we will take the church van to the City Center, eat pizza and hang out there till 6:30 PM. Parents can drop off at the church at 3:15 PM and pick up in front of Hog Pit BBQ and Scoops at 6:30 PM. DuckPin and pizza is free!



Hello! I'm Nametag orders due July 17

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. Mark your payment in any form as "Nametag" in the memo line.





School supply drive for local students (link repaired!)

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: https://www.fcboe.org/domain/1433.](https://www.fcboe.org/domain/1433) Please place donations in the Welcome Portal bin or church office by July 21.



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.

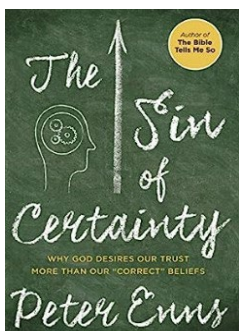
Rushton's Hope needs jelly, crackers (any kind, either individually wrapped packs or short stacks), microwavable cups of Rice-A-Roni and Mac & Cheese, but other items will be accepted. For more information on Rushton's Hope or for pick up of large items, please call Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761. If 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.



New study begins July 30 and you're invited

Participate in meaningful group discussions on Sunday mornings beginning July 30 at 9:45 AM in Room C260 as the Study Class begins "The Sin of Certainty" by Peter Enns. Discuss how a vibrant faith can view skepticism not as a loss of belief, but as an opportunity to deepen religious conviction with courage and confidence. The book combines Enns' reflection of his own spiritual journey with an examination of Scripture to model an acceptance of mystery and paradox that all believers can follow. Secure your book from your favorite bookseller and join in!

Note of Gratitude

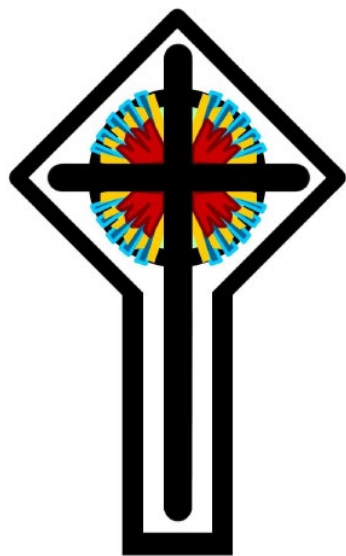


FUMC Flower Ministry:

We are so appreciative of the flowers you delivered to our home last week. The flowers were a real mood lifter among all our appointments. We appreciate your ministry so much.

— Gaines and Vicki Wallen

July 12, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$658,810.45
Year to Date expenses	\$667,195.99
Difference	-\$8,385.54

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,510.50

81 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$25,101.54

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 ...

Promise Place receives [drumroll...] 4,726 items!

Donations for the VBS Mission project for Promise Place grew throughout the week ... and grew ... and grew to 4,726 items to help women and children! That's a lot of socks, underwear, diapers, pull ups, toiletries, toothbrushes and more. With an estimated value of \$7,000 for much needed items, the staff at Promise Place, which offers safety for victims of domestic violence, were overjoyed when Allie Hansen along with son Conner delivered your donations this week.

Thank you for your generosity! It tops off the VBS Celebration, which was pretty huge with VBSers enjoying lunch and a program for parents, participating in worship and throwing pies and dumping stuff all over the leaders. We celebrate all the many heroes as we care, serve, and love.

