



July 28, 2023

The Weekender

An update from Staff Parish Relations Committee

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

I would like to start out by extending my appreciation to those who currently serve and have previously served on the Staff Parish Relations Committee. The current group of members has an approach that is compassionate, confidential, and congregational focused. I am grateful for all who serve.

With many staff changes in the past two months we, as a committee, tried to look at the ways in which we can make good changes for the life and vitality of the church and do so in a patient and prayerful manner.

We voted to fill the Children's Ministry Assistant position with someone who can not only assist in the programming of children's ministries, but also someone who is trained to work with children with special needs. There is a growing need in our community for ministry with families in this area and this intentional hire shows our care and concern for the community by creating safe and welcoming spaces for children and families.

When it comes to the music ministry of FFUMC, we are taking an approach that it is better to find the right candidate than the available candidate. During the month of August we will sing familiar hymns, hear music from members of our choir, and share in a more "camp meeting" style of worship. We will continue to interview and reach out to candidates and involve members of choir in the decision process.

In youth and student ministry, Austin Baur is going to serve as Interim Youth Director in the fall while we conduct a search for the new Director of Youth Ministry. Austin has been part of our congregation since 2019 and was instrumental in helping us start livestreaming during the pandemic and continuing the ministry today. He will be supported by the wonderful team of volunteers and the clergy and staff here at the church as he continues sharing his love of scripture, fellowship, and service.

As a congregation, I encourage you to pray for the right fits for our ministry and mission to find their way to us. We have an amazing opportunity to continue to grow into the future for the church and in our community. It is because of people like you that we are able to do this. Thank you for your continued prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to Christ through Fayetteville First United Methodist Church.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

"I thank my God every time I think of you! I always pray with joy, whenever I pray for you all, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Phil. 1:3-5



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 30, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Back to School Bash, Saturday, July 29, 3-5 PM

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 to the FFUMC gym between 3 and 5 PM this Saturday for an energetic celebration.



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.



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.





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.

[Sign up to PACK meals from 1-3 PM here.](#)

Would you like a light lunch before the packing begins? Sign up for yours by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



All ages (from 4 years up) can help!

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



Tables are full for Let's Do Lunch — Get on waiting list!

Reservations are currently full for the 2nd Annual Let's Do Lunch coming Saturday, August 12. A waiting list is now available.

If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please cancel your reservation to free up a place.

To cancel or be placed on the waiting list, contact Lauren Davis at lauren-davis@comcast.net with your name and details.

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



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.



House Build in Griffin, Georgia: Help Square Foot Ministry

Square Foot Ministry is a volunteer organization that builds homes to provide permanent housing for families. [Don't know about their work? Find out more!](#) **Volunteers are needed each Saturday** during July and August to complete the home started the first weekend in July. Come help us build a home for Vanessa and her two children, shown here. A job is there for everyone. Please sign up at squarefootministry.org using our [sign up genius form](#). Also, fill out the volunteer waiver form online to save time when arriving. (If you have a group that can work during the week, contact us at 770-329-7736 to set up a special day.) For questions, contact Judy Reynolds at 404-386-1190.



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.



Ready to play handbells?

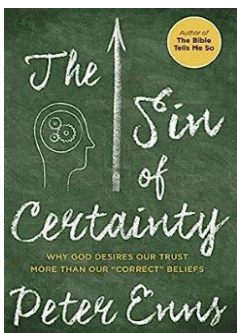
Beginning August 31, handbells will begin regular rehearsals on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM every week. Have you wanted to join this group? Some new players are needed, and one could be you! Please contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, for more information.



You get a FREE portrait, even if you didn't order anything

If you had your photo taken by The Portrait Cafe, you get a FREE 8 x 10. Those portraits (and any extras that were ordered) are 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!



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!



Fayetteville First Preschool opportunities

Preschool starts soon at Fayetteville First. Maria Ruhe, our new preschool director, is excited about the year! [Get to know Maria and say "hello."](#) Maria shares how we can help with supplies: "We're a play-based school focusing on fine and gross motor skills, social emotional growth, and kindness for ourselves, others, and the world around us. We have 6 classrooms and serve approximately 45 students, ages 1-5. Thank you for considering a donation! [Check out their Amazon Wish List and help out if you can.](#)



"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



Two mission projects continue until September 1

The United Women in Faith Southwest District's mission projects continue until September 1 for Rushton's Hope and UMCOR.

Rushton's Hope is a ministry serving the impoverished, homeless, rejected and hurting people in the area of Griffin. **Updated needs list:** Cereals for adults and children, Pop-Tarts, Canned meat (tuna, chicken, Spam, Vienna sausages), Canned vegetables, Laundry detergent, Women's deodorant and shampoo

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

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



Green Team fills first CHaRM TRAIN

Ready to put some energy into recycling while exposing the need for accessible recycling options closeby? Join forces with the Green Team! We have started one TRAIN for saving recyclables at home, sorting them on an agreed "team" date, and delivering them to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials on a rotating basis. **This TRAIN is full, but there is interest in starting another train.** To get more information about **starting your own TRAIN among friends, family and neighbors**, contact the FFUMC Green Team at green@fayettevillefirst.com or call Joan Aycock in the church office at 770-461-4313..



Note of Gratitude



“Think beyond yourself!” Great words to live by. Our family believes living our faith challenges and encourages us to do this, to think beyond ourselves. We were overwhelmed and humbled by our church family, our community and countless others who did just that on Saturday. You thought beyond yourselves to support Don and our family as well as other Sarcoma patients. When we saw each of you on Saturday (near and far) we felt loved, supported and reenergized. Your support in the Hoofin’ It for Harp walk as part of Sarcoma National Virtual Race for a Cure felt like a tremendous bear hug! The walk gave our family an opportunity to think beyond ourselves and together with you and so many others make a difference in awareness of this form of cancer, raise much needed funds for research and be a part of a bigger community. Together we shared love with one another and many we will never meet. Thank you! — Julie Harp and family

July 26, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$693,923.29
Year to Date expenses	\$710,889.10
Difference	-\$16,965.81

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$20

96 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$30,908.18

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:

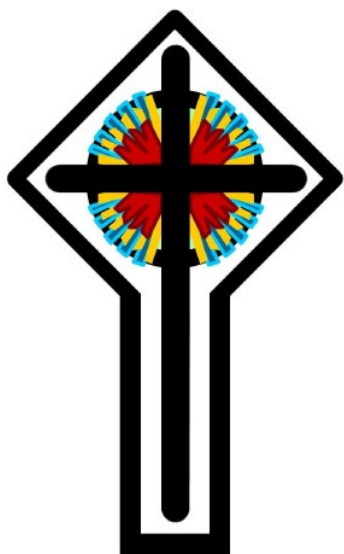
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

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 ...

Moving forward for others Blood Drive and Hoofin' It for Harp

Love. Daily it flows. Through individuals caring for others, From hearts that cannot possibly hold back the tide. Giving... serving ... sharing... wherever.

This congregation and community recently seized the opportunity to share Christ's work of love in their hearts in events hosted on our campus. Our July 16 American Red Cross Blood Drive which honored years of giving by Robbie Gray and his current need for blood products saw an uptick in the number of donors with 40 units given. Then came the Hoofin' It for Harp Race to Cure Sarcoma on July 22. More than 175 supporters showed up for Don Harp and his family and to raise money for research, education, and awareness of Sarcoma, the rare cancer Don is battling. So far, more than \$55,000 has been raised. Robbie Gray, wife Dottie, and granddaughter Sylvie (below) supported this walk virtually as care and concern goes full circle.

Thank you for sharing love with Robbie, Don, and others we may never meet as we live out our faith in these and so many other tangible and unseen ways. Love truly never fails.

Save the date for our next Blood Drive on October 22. You can still donate to the Hoofin' It for Harp team raising money for the [Sarcoma Foundation](#). [Click here.](#)

