



August 11, 2023

The Weekender

"Call me if you need anything"

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

How often do we say "Call me if you need anything" while also hoping that the person to whom we are speaking will not actually take us up on it? Most often they don't, and we are relieved about that. When was the last time someone actually said to you, "Well, since you offered, I do need ... help with my housework" or "a ride to the doctor's office" or "a ride to church" or "a hundred bucks."

The problem with a phrase like "Call me if you need anything" is that it is non-committal. It puts the responsibility for articulating need back on the recipient of the offer and not on the giver. It forces our friends to ask us for help. Are we attuned enough with the needs of those around us to be able to provide assistance without specifically being asked?

On the other hand, when we find ourselves on the receiving end of the "Call me if you need anything" statement, how often are we — self-reliant, independent people that we are — willing to ask for help? Sometimes we don't even think we need help until it arrives. When that happens, when our needs are anticipated and met by others, how do we react? Are we grateful and surprised, or annoyed at the intrusion? "Call me if you need anything" is a subtle theme we hear in gospel readings for this Sunday.

Peter calls out "Lord, save me!" when he begins to sink. But, unlike the non-committal platitude "Call me if you need me," the calling on the Lord that we encounter in this Sunday's Gospel lesson is a reminder that God in Christ is already in our midst, saving us even before we call out for him. In the Matthew 14, Jesus meets the disciples where they are (in the boat), as they are (full of fear and doubt), and then remains with them. In the same way, when we are sinking, when we fear that God is far away, when we call out in terror or in pain, God meets us where we are, as we are, and remains with us to the end.



11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 13, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Sign up NOW for Rise Against Hunger 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. Deadline to order a lunch is Monday, August 14.

*All ages (from 4 years up) can help!
Label bags, fill meal packets, seal, box — There is a job for you!*



Ready to volunteer for Messy Church on August 26?

Messy Church is an intergenerational outreach supported by our Missions Committee that engages new people who are not yet a part of any church. Our first Messy Church offering is August 26 from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. To be successful Messy Church needs people to pray starting now. Then the day of the event we need people to help others register, prepare and serve a simple hotdog meal, set up and play games with others, participate in worship, and welcome folks in the parking lot and all the way throughout the event. [Sign up to help with Messy Church by going to this link.](#)

Join us and find out how many lives we can touch, how many new people we can meet, and where God is moving through this new ministry and new way of being church. Our theme for our first Messy Church is *Creation* from Genesis 1. In the beginning, God created....let us join with God in this new thing God is doing.

Wanna join the pack?

Classroom Assistants: Our children's ministry is in need of a few volunteers to be classroom assistants during the Sunday school hour. If you would like to participate or want to know more, please contact Rev. Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com. [If you're ready to commit and are Safe Sanctuary certified you can sign up by clicking here.](#)

Wonders of Worship: We are also in need of a few volunteers to lead or assist with Wonders of Worship. Wonders of Worship occurs each Sunday (except communion Sundays) during the 11:00 worship service. Lessons and materials are provided each week. [If you would like to volunteer for a particular Sunday please click here.](#) Contact Rev. Lawrence with any questions.



Can we find you in children's ministry?



New classes begin Monday, August 14

GriefShare is a program in which 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.



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 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 August needs 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 Corn, Canned Green Beans, Pasta Sauce, Rice, Hamburger Helper, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Pancake Mix, Syrup, 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

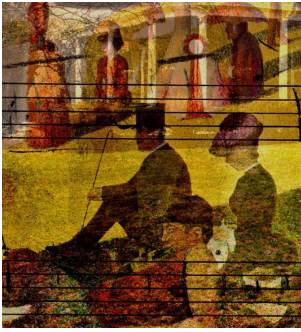
The United Women in Faith Southwest District's mission projects continue until September 1 for Rushton's Hope and UMCOR.

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.

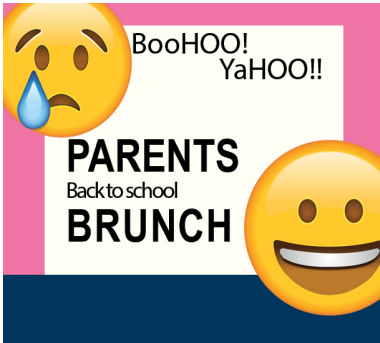




SAGE going to Breman Holocaust Museum in Atlanta in August

On Friday August 18, the SAGE group will be visiting the [Breman Holocaust Museum in Atlanta](#). We will depart from the church office promptly at 9:00 AM. Please arrive no later than 8:45 AM. Cost: \$6.00 a person, plus \$2.00 for gas. Lunch will be at the VARSITY (but don't tell your cardiologist!)

[This promises to be a very informative and moving experience.](#) To reserve your place, please call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com right away. If you have questions, please contact [Rev. Charles Robinson, Minister of Nurture](#).



BooHOO! YaHOO! August 14 at 9 a.m.

How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in the gym on Monday, August 14, from 9 to 10 AM. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) for more information.



Fayetteville First Preschool opportunities

Maria Ruhe, our new preschool director, is excited about the new school year at Fayetteville First Preschool! [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.](#)



Ushers — We appreciate you!

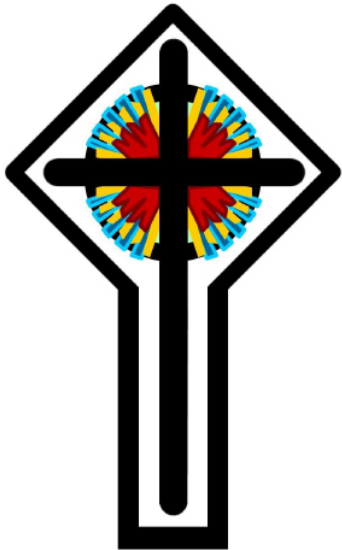
If you have been serving as an usher (for either 8:45 or 11:00 AM), we want to celebrate you and all you have done to lead in worship. Please join us for a lunch celebration Sunday, August 13, starting at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a free, catered thank you lunch.

Note of Gratitude



Thank you for the cards, letters, flowers, and good wishes you have sent with a special thanks to the Friendship Circle.
— Paul Wiley

August 9, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$726,743.86
Year to Date expenses	\$783,275.00
Difference	-\$56,531.14

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received for month of July: \$1,487.00
106 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$34,359.51

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 ...

Summer Lunch impacts families

The season of Summer Lunch 2023 has passed, but the gratitude lives on! Thank you for providing food security for more than 270 children each week throughout the summer. This took the work and dedication of more than 25 people weekly. Inman UMC and Providence UMC were among helping hands packing lunches for drivers who delivered to 11 routes. The FFUMC Mission Committee thanks each of the loyal, busy, smiling servants of God for their presence, work, prayers, gas and love which allowed us to feed these children.



Does this work matter? Consider this note from a grateful family: *"Greetings, It was so kind of you to include us in the Summer Lunches Program at our home. We loved the support during this hot season and the snacks came in very handy. I especially appreciated not worrying about the kiddos meals and it was a real blessing to us during this time. We thank you!"* — H. H. and family

Thank you, FFUMC family, for faithfully sharing tangible love with our community.

