



August 18, 2023

The Weekender

What's the emergency?

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

A simple question, "When does my emergency become your emergency?"

It is a question the Pharisees would answer with the response, "Whatever we tell you is the emergency is the emergency." The disciples weren't washing their hands in the proper, ritualistic way. Therefore, they were breaking the code of purity. Jesus has to remind them about the importance of dietary restrictions and why those rules were there in the first place.



Jesus responds to the crowds and disciples and anyone who will listen, "It is not what goes into the mouth of a person that defiles, but what comes out of their mouths that defiles a person."

Jesus goes on: "What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and that is what defiles."

What comes out of your mouth? What comes out of the mouth of those you listen to?

The Pharisees' emergency is one of rules and regulations and who did what in the way that was the custom and what was expected.

Immediately following this encounter and Jesus' explanation of the parable is a woman, a Greek, non-Jewish woman, whose emergency is that her daughter is being tormented by a demon. How many of us parents would not go to great lengths to help our children? What was this woman's emergency? That her daughter be healthy and whole.

My simple question, that I must wrestle with, is which emergency does Jesus take more seriously? The rules and regulations and routines of how things have always been done? Or the person who is in pain (even if they are a Canaanite)?

As followers of Christ, which will we make our "emergency," our priority? Will it be for the people or will it be for the policies? Will it be to confirm to those who watch over our shoulder or will it be to assist those in need who are always having to look over their shoulders?

This Sunday, we have the chance to gather together and do good, to offer hope, and to help people who we will probably never meet. This is being the church. We do it everytime we gather together, every time we pray together, every time we give together, every time we serve together. But we do it together. Because in Christ we see that people and their needs are where Christ puts his energy and time. Why should we do any different?



12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 20, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15:10-28

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Volunteers ... Sign up! Rise Against Hunger THIS Sunday!

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.](#)



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.](#)



*First
Event:
August 26*

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.

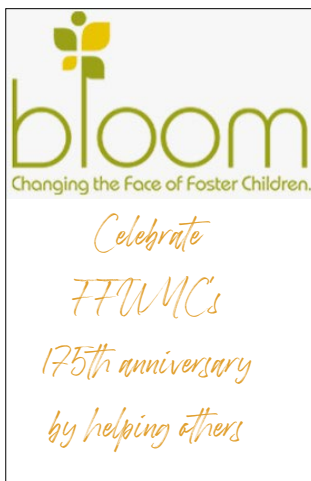
Celebrate FFUMC's 175th anniversary by helping foster kids

In honor of FFUMC's 175th anniversary, please help Bethany Circle collect 175 of each of the items below for Bloom's older foster children. Donations may be dropped off by September 18 in the church office or on the Bloom table located behind the sanctuary in the Welcome Portal.

Items needed:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Large (9.5" x 7") clear toiletry bag | Shampoo, 3 oz. |
| Adult toothbrush, individually packaged | Conditioner, 3 oz. |
| Toothpaste, 2.5 to 3.5 oz. | Bar soap or 3 oz. body wash |
| Full-size men and women's deodorant | |

Questions? Contact Karen Neuner, neunernotes@gmail.com.





Can we find you in children's ministry?

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. Contact Rev. Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com for more info. [If you're ready to commit and are Safe Sanctuary certified you can sign up by clicking here.](#)

Wonders of Worship: Volunteers are invited to serve in 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.



Lean into God's love at UWF retreat

Join Kim Reindl at **Faith, Fun and Everyone: Leaning into God's Love**, a one-day retreat offered by the United Women in Faith South West District on Saturday, September 16, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at The Bradbury House. To register, contact Kathie Hansen, 678-592-5177. \$20 payable at event.



Reach out at SafeHouse Outreach on August 31

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 Thursday, August 31. Volunteers are needed to fill the bus and help serve a meal. Please contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, to participate.



Green Team helps care for earth: Join in!

The FFUMC Green Team will meet the second Tuesday of each month beginning September 12 at 6 PM in on the Fayetteville First UMC campus in Room 200. Join in and invite anyone you know who is interested in caring for our earth with sustainability. Questions? Contact Tami Kemberling, 678-641-9604 or tamidale57@gmail.com.



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.



Chaplain Mercer kicks off Titus II on September 5

Come to Titus II on September 5 at noon in the gym and hear a presentation by Rev. Frank Mercer, Chaplain for First Responders in Fayette County and former pastor of Rolling Hills Baptist Church. You'll also have a good meal and plenty of fellowship. Make your reservation by noon on Thursday, August 31, by calling Martha Turner at 770-461-2802. Lunch (\$8): Fried Chicken, Fried Okra, Vegetable, Biscuit, Dessert.

September 5



Fayetteville First Preschool opportunities

We can help our preschool by providing learning supplies. Preschool director Maria Ruhe shares, "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.](#)



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](#). 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.



Pickleball going strong at FFUMC

We are loving Pickleball! Our gym is now equipped with Pickleball nets, paddles and balls. Join the fun!

Currently playing: Wednesdays, 7 PM and Fridays, Noon
Skill level: Beginners plus more advanced, Men & Women

(Limited mobility sessions with Joan Aycock are available most Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Contact Joan to confirm schedule and reserve each week.)

Information portal: Pickleball Group Texts - contact Lauren Davis lauren-davis@comcast.net, 770-846-4652

General information - contact Joan Aycock jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, 770-861-4499



Guidelines: All are invited to play; however, please make a reservation each time for you and any guest. You'll see how this works once you sign up for the group texts. We have sign-in sheets, door codes, and liability waivers, so be sure to contact Lauren Davis or Joan Aycock for the latest news. **Pickleball Pick Me Ups (short, inspirational conversations) are included with most sessions.**



Final two weeks for this UWF Drive: Due 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.



FINAL TWO WEEKS



New September 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 Chicken, Canned Green Beans, Canned Corn, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Pasta, Boxed Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Jelly

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



Respond NOW for SafeHouse Chili Outreach event

SafeHouse Outreach's Annual Chili Outreach Event is November 18. It's a party with chili and all the sides provided for those needing a hand up. Other partners including shower buses, medical services, barbers, music and dancing add to the celebration day. If you want to participate in the outreach, contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, right away. Space is limited and must be reserved soon. *Photo from 2022 event*

August 18, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$754,444.21
Year to Date expenses	\$798,310.70
Difference	-\$43,866.49

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$317.00

109 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$35,221.56

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:

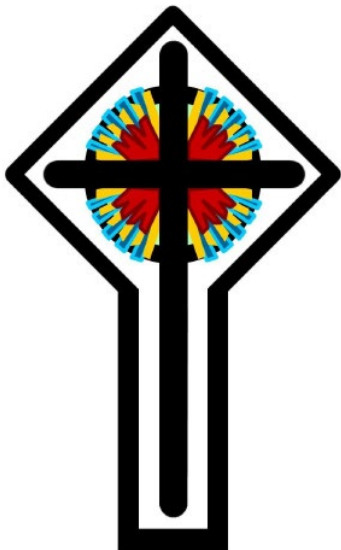
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

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 ...

Let's Do Lunch: a GREAT way to be together

Let's Do Lunch II brought more than 165 ladies together for a delicious salad lunch last Saturday to celebrate friendships and make new friends, enjoy a variety of fun, elegant and whimsical table decorations, and be inspired and encouraged. Speaker Pat Elsberry shared her personal story and the many ways she has experienced hope and serenity.

Many thanks to the planning team of Susan Burch, Nancy Dennis, Lauren Davis, Carolyn McKinley and Gloria Wright and the 20 table hostesses. We also appreciate the United Methodist Men who expertly prepared and served the meal.



**See more on FaceBook.
Just "like" Fayetteville
First United Methodist
Church.**

