



August 25, 2023

The Weekender

What do you say?

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Who do you think people say that Jesus is? Is Jesus a good teacher? Is Jesus a moral philosopher? Is Jesus someone who showed us a better way to live in peace and harmony? Sure. That's what people say. It's always easy to default to what people say, isn't it. And it's not just about Jesus, it's about everything. It's always easier to say the phrase, "People are saying..."

"I saw this video on the internet and people are saying that..."
"I read somewhere that the church is in decline..." Who's saying that? Is that what you see?

There is a phrase by author and poet Wendell Berry who says, "If we hope to have clarity, we must submit to complexity." To me, it means there are no easy answers, unless the answer is the truth. That is always the easiest answer.

What do you say? Who is Jesus in your life?

It is hard to get to a place of clear, honest communication when we hide behind "what other people say." It is hard to have a nuanced conversation when we hide behind "what other people say." It's easy not to engage in meaningful friendships, relationships, understanding, or even empathy when we hide behind "what other people say." It is a real temptation because it is so prevalent. It is not new to our place and time. Hiding behind what people say is in our human nature. Jesus knows this. That's why he asks, "Who do people say that I am?"

We can get so lost in ourselves or lose ourselves so much that we become unrecognizable even to ourselves and in the process of self-consumption, we forget Jesus and his question that calls us back to him, "Who do you say that I am?" The disciple Peter gets chastised for not setting his mind on divine things but on human things. I think this can be the case with us sometimes—so consumed with our identities, our debates, our political affiliations, our groups, our rightness, we neglect the one who can save us.

I hope that you will find a way to serve Christ, so that all may know that he is Lord.





13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 27, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Messy Church starts Saturday, 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 Saturday, August 26, from 11 a.m to 1 p.m.

What can you do?

Pray

Volunteer [Sign up to help with Messy Church by going to this link.](#)

*First Event:
August 26*

Be part of a new way of being church. The 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.

*Celebrate
FFUMC's
175th anniversary
by helping others*



Let's eat together on Wednesday Nights

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together! Starts September 6 at 5:15 PM.

What's the draw?

Friendship! Be with people you really like.

Hassle Free! Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by noon on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

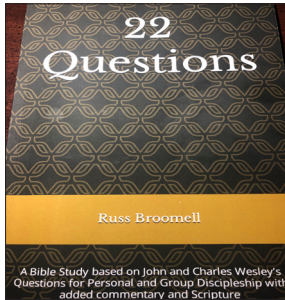
Sept. 6 menu: Fried chicken, Potato Casserole, Veggies, Bread, Cake



Make plans now for South West District Trip

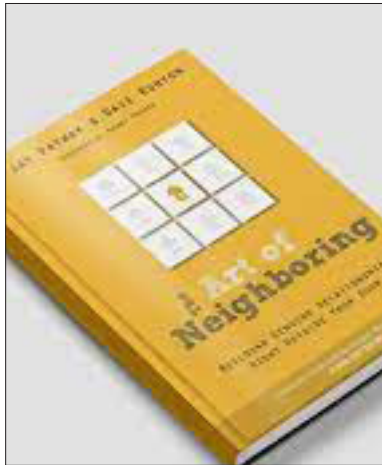
April 6-13, 2024 El Salvador

You can share Christ and ministry in El Salvador by joining with our South West District mission trip April 6-13, 2024. Be part of construction work (no skills needed), food distribution, meeting folks, and putting on a VBS (translators on-site). Must be 16 years old. Contact veteran leader and trip participant Maggie Clarke, 404-395-8161 or mwclarke195@gmail.com, for more information as preparations begin soon.



Study 22 Questions with Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Sunday School Class is currently studying "22 Questions," a Bible study based on John and Charles Wesley's questions for personal and group growth. You're invited to join in this study Sunday at 9:45 AM in Room 270.



The Art of Neighboring

Jesus said, "Love your neighbor." What if we took his invitation literally? Join a three-session discussion and study of the book, "The Art of Neighboring." It isn't rocket science but it is an eye opening journey through the way we build genuine relationships right outside our doors. After our time together you will have an action plan of how you can be more than acquaintances with the people who live on your street and how you can truly love your neighbor. We will meet September 17, October 1, and October 15 from 3 – 5 pm in room C-200. There is no cost for this group but you will want to buy the book, "The Art of Neighboring" by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon, before our first meeting.

Chaplain Mercer kicks off Titus II on September 5



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.

"Welcome to Fayetteville First!" Usher Info Social

Looking for a great place to serve? Join one of our usher teams! Enjoy an ice cream social and discover more about being an usher on Sunday, September 10, at 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Allyson Lawrence will describe what ushers do, how often they serve (regular and flexible options) and how you can get involved in this great ministry of hospitality and leadership.





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.



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.



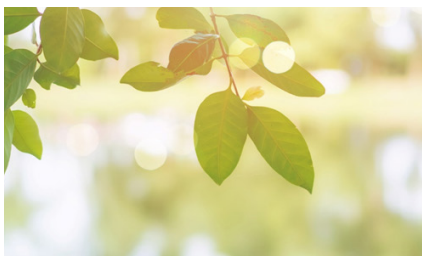
Reach out at SafeHouse Outreach on August 31

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.



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.



United Women in Faith Unit Meeting features "Rahab"

You're invited to experience "Rahab: Luck or Providence" at the next United Women in Faith salad luncheon on Thursday, September 14, at 11:30 AM. Carla Cloud tells the story of this woman's hope, forgiveness, and redemption. Please bring a favorite salad to share. The event will also receive donations for Bloom's older foster children sponsored by Bethany Circle. UWF members should reserve with their circle and others may contact Lauren Davis at lauren-davis@comcast.net by September 10. Nursery available with reservation.

"Rahab: Luck or Providence"
September 14 Salad Lunch



Get your church directory ... they're here!

Drop by the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary and pick up "Our Church Family 2023 Church Directory." Families photographed by The Portrait Cafe will find your copy in baskets arranged alphabetically by last name. Those who purchased and paid for a directory will find yours in a separate basket on the same table. Forgot to order one? We've got you covered. You may pick up a copy in the church office (\$15). Details on how to access this directory online, courtesy of The Portrait Cafe, will be available soon.



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.](#)



Wanna help Square Foot Ministry paint inside Vanessa's home?

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!](#) Come help us complete the home for Vanessa and her two children, shown here. We're ready to paint the inside now, so it's nearly complete. 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.**



UMCOR & Rushton's Hope Drive goes through September 1

The United Women in Faith Southwest District's mission projects continue through next week 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.





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 23, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$775,749.01
Year to Date expenses	\$804,374.01
Difference	-\$28,625.00

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$615.00

111 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$35,642.61

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:

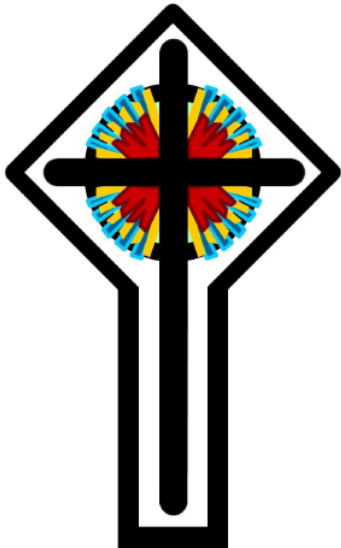
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

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 ...

Packing meals to Rise Against Hunger

What does it take to pack 30,000+ meals in two hours?

\$12,000

110 enthusiastic volunteers

Rise Against Hunger's great team

With busy hands, energy, and hearts of service, we worked last Sunday with Rise Against Hunger to pack 30,000+ meals to provide food stability in our world. The 139 boxes we packed were each filled with 36 bags to make six meals ... a total of 30,024 meals which will likely head to the Phillipines and/or Haiti as they are used along with other packing events to fill a container to go to one of Rise Against Hunger's partners. This popular event never disappoints ... and it helps so many. Thanks for pitching in!

