



August 4, 2023

The Weekender

Being fed

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

This week's gospel lesson is on Matthew's story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. The narrative of the feeding of the crowds in the wilderness is notably straightforward. Jesus was moved by compassion for the crowds and healed them. Late in the day, the disciples assessed the situation (in the wilderness there is nothing for the hungry crowds to eat) and perhaps they, too, were moved by compassion when they suggested the crowds be sent to nearby towns where they could buy food. Jesus had another idea: feed them right here with what we have. Taking the five loaves and two fish the disciples had on hand, Jesus blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples fed the crowds, numbering five thousand men, plus women and children. Everyone had enough to eat, and they gathered up the leftovers. The story does not tell us how the hungry crowd is fed in the wilderness; only that no one leaves hungry. And so the story invites us to use our imaginations.



I wonder if the "miracle" of the feeding is not so much what Jesus does as what happens among the crowds in the presence of Jesus. Maybe the crowds experienced the transformative power of Christ's presence when he ordered them to make themselves comfortable on the grass, as if they were honored guests at a meal. And when he blessed the loaves, the crowd sensed this meal was special. Perhaps as the disciples moved through the crowds distributing the food, no one feared there wouldn't be enough, and so they didn't think of themselves and their own needs. The men shared with their wives and sisters and mothers, and the children were fed first. Maybe Jesus' compassion was contagious in the way they cared for each other. And Jesus' healing touch inspired them to gratitude for a simple meal abundant by wilderness standards. Conceivably the most profound thing Jesus does in the story is to insist that the disciples imagine possibilities for distributing food for a hungry crowd so that there is enough for everyone.

To me, this reminds me of two important things. First, in following Christ, it is our care and concern to feed other people. Second, because we follow Christ, we must also be fed, not just with food, but with spiritual nourishment. Giving and receiving are both parts of being the church. I hope that you will find opportunities for us to join together as we are fed and as we feed others.



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 6, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Matthew 14:13-21

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Save the date for meal packing event on August 20

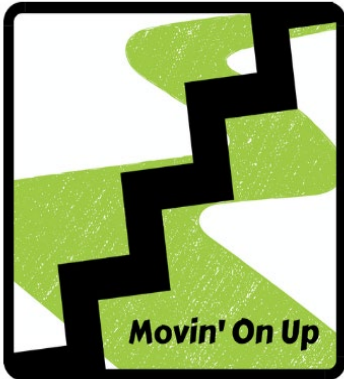
You're invited to help fight hunger by preparing highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event on Sunday, August 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Fayetteville First UMC gym.

[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!*



Movin' On Up

Sunday, August 6 is promotion Sunday. That means each student moves up a grade level and some students will change Sunday school rooms. If your student is Pre-K 3 through Kindergarten, they are invited to join Ms. Anna this Sunday in room B-230. First and second grades are invited to join Ms. Faye and third through fifth grades are invited to join Ms. Nancy. Ms. Faye and Ms. Nancy's classes will start in room B-225 at 9:45AM. After large group time together, they will separate and Ms. Faye's class will stay in B-225 and Ms. Nancy's class will move to room B-215. Pick up is at 10:45 AM in these small group rooms. We hope to see you this Sunday as we start the new school year together!

New 6th grade students are invited to join the youth in the Foundry from 9:45-10:45 AM. Contact [Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin](#) with any questions.

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.



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 using this **UPDATED LINK**.

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.



United Methodist Men meet August 8

Men will unite in ministry and mission at the next United Methodist Men's gathering on Tuesday, August 8. Meet at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner (be sure to bring a dish to share). During the meeting, you'll prepare for your part in the Let's Do Lunch gathering to be held the following Saturday. Questions? Contact Raymond Mitchely at 770-314-2035.



SAGE going to Breman Holocaust Museum in Atlanta in August

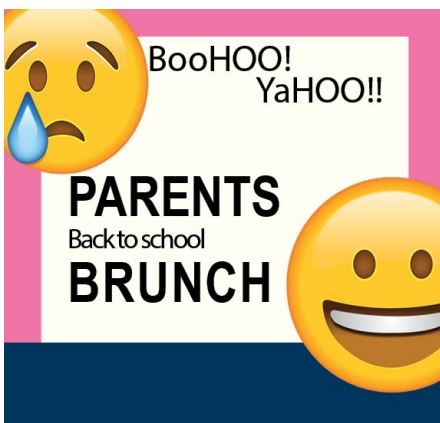
On Friday August 18, the SAGE group will be visiting the [Breman Holocaust Museum in Atlanta](#). We will depart from the church office promptly at 9:00 AM. Please arrive no later than 8:45 AM. Cost: \$6.00 a person, plus \$2.00 for gas. Lunch will be at the VARSITY (but don't tell your cardiologist!)

[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](#).



G3: Good Grief Gals meet Thursday, August 10

Encouragement along the path continues in this new year. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the SECOND THURSDAY. Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, **August 10, at 5:30 PM** at Partner's Pizza in Fayetteville. Everyone will be responsible for their own dinner and beverage. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaileys11@gmail.com.



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.](#)



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.



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..



New nametags have arrived

They're here! If you ordered a new FFUMC nametag last month, you may pick it up in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary this Sunday. If you still need to pay for your tag, simply mark the \$9 payment as "Nametag" in the memo line and place it in the offering or deliver to the church office.



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.

July 31, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$701,613.49
Year to Date expenses	\$739,283.46
Difference	-\$37,699.97

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received for month of July: \$1,925.50
99 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$32,008.18

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:

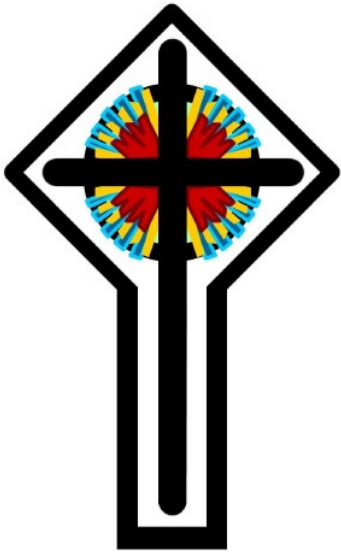
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

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 ...

A vision of the church!

As prices have increased on most every item, school supplies have become a real burden on families as they face the start of each new school year. This year, we as Church were able to help over 52 families stretch their back to school budgets just a little bit farther. And we had a lot of fun doing it!



Our Back-to-School Celebration last Saturday provided over 90 bagged school supplies – not enough to cover all the needed supplies for any given student, but certainly it offered a little help for many. One family who won one of our backpacks full of supplies is a family of ten, including five adopted children. Of the items given away, each one was donated by this amazing congregation. Nancy Riccardi (a retired school teacher who knows a lot about school supplies) organized the materials and divided them up by grade level needs. We had multiple drawings for our big give aways and “cake walk” style games run by the fabulous Cake Walk Master himself, Ralph McDuffie. The youth provided cotton candy, Balloon Lady Joan made balloon animals... we had bouncy houses, a water slide, Kona Ice... and lots of fabulous volunteers who helped set up, man the registration table, and take down and put everything away after the event. It was wonderful. It was fun. It was Church.

