



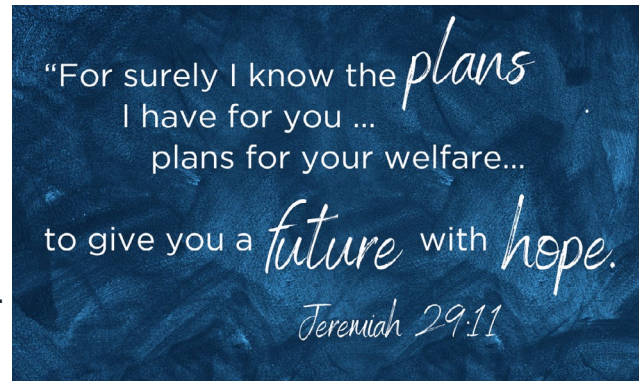
September 29, 2023

## The Weekender

### Hope and a future

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

I remember our youth group growing up once went on a mystery trip. All we were told was that we would be driving for about four hours, we would need a bathing suit, water shoes, a couple of changes of clothes, a sleeping bag, and toiletries. We had no idea where we were going or what we would be doing.



We ended up going to Ichetucknee Springs in Florida. It is a natural spring that you can tube down. The water is a constant 72 degrees. That doesn't sound cold, but I assure you, I remember it being freezing. I got sunburnt. I got a rash because I wasn't wearing a shirt and spent a lot of time paddling on a rubber inner tube. I could go on and on about the complaints about things that happened on that mystery trip. Or I could be grateful for the experiences and that someone took the time to plan a journey.

The Christian experience is a lot like that. God has the roadmap and oftentimes we do not know where we are going or what the end will look like. We may get bruises and bumps and burns, but we will have the experience. "And best of all," as John Wesley is famous for saying upon his deathbed, "God is with us."

Beginning on October 1, you are invited to join in prayer and fasting for 40 days with other United Methodists in North Georgia. John Wesley asked his members, "Will you commit to fasting and prayer by precept and example?" Fasting may look different to everyone but we can all pray.

You are invited to pray for renewal, for fervor, for zeal. You are also invited to pray for our church and your commitment to the operation, mission, and vision for the future. I'll leave you with this verse, which is always important to remember on all of life's journeys: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."



**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**OCTOBER 1, 2023**

**8:45 and 11:00 AM**

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

Guest Violinist: Carolyn Hancock, Assistant Concert Master  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

*Philippians 2:1-13*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

# CURRENT NEWS

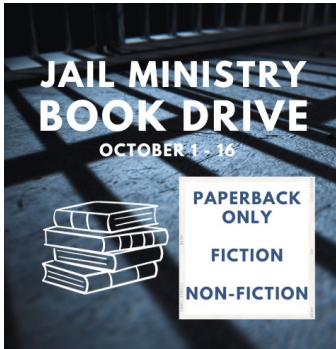
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## Fasting and Prayer

Beginning October 1st, North Georgia United Methodists are invited to take part in 40 days of prayer and fasting from October 1 to November 9 in a spirit of Consecration for Renewal. [A list of times and emphasis for prayer and fasting can be found by clicking here.](#)

If you would like to be part of an accountability group for this season of fasting and prayer, please contact [Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin.](#)



October 1-16

## Share books with jail ministry

This Sunday you'll hear about our local Jail Ministry during our Ministry Moment. Danny Beck, Jo Springer and others visit with inmates to offer encouragement and spiritual guidance. You can help!

Locked in their cells all but three hours each day, inmates read a lot for information, entertainment, and growth. We are collecting books to donate to the jail library between October 1 - 16.

Paperback books only (no hardbound or magazines)

Fiction or non-fiction

Also needed: Plastic reading glasses of any strength

Place in the collection bin at the church office or welcome portal. Thank you!



## Register now for Fall 2023 Contemplative Retreat Calvin Center, Sunday, October 22, 2:30—5:30 PM

Is an approaching new season calling out to you for refreshment and renewal? Are you interested in exploring meditation and contemplative practices? You are invited to get away for a Contemplative Retreat sponsored by FFUMC's Study Class at the Calvin Center on Sunday, October 22, from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Experience nourishing readings and an introduction to practices from guest leader Kimberly Broerman from Deep Waters Prayer and Exploration along with space and supplies to engage. Cost: \$25 (includes meal and all materials). Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), 770-861-4499. Registration is limited. [Register today at this link.](#)



## "I'll give!" Sign up for Blood Drive Sunday, October 8 **NOTE DATE CHANGE** 8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym



Let's join faithful donor Rebecca Stevens and donate at the next American Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC on Sunday, October 8.

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and choose our drive ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.



## Let's eat together on Wednesday Nights

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together 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 by noon each Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a Fellowship Dinner pew card.

October 4 menu: Broadway Diner: Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Rolls, Ice Cream Sundaes



October 3

## "Dueling Banjos" on one banjo? Hear it at Titus II

Come to Titus II on Tuesday, October 3, at noon in the gym and hear a musical presentation by Dr. Judy Hames and David Ellis. The two will share a variety of musical selections as well as some bluegrass, which includes a unique version of "Dueling Banjos." If you missed reserving the meal, come just to hear the music.



## National Faith & Blue Weekend: October 7

Join Fayetteville's Police Department and our residents for a special gathering of resolution and reconciliation. It's all part of the National Faith & Blue Weekend - a collaborative effort to build bridges and break biases.

Saturday, October 7, 12 - 2 PM

City Center Park, Fayetteville



## Trunk or Treat is coming Saturday, October 28

Only 20 spots available for Trunk or Treat this year! This year we are asking **groups within the church to decorate a trunk and pass out candy.**

Groups can be from Sunday school classes, mission trip travelers (like El Salvador, Safehouse, or Griffin), youth groups, UWF Circles, men's groups, JAG, pickleball friends, yoga friends, Chancel Choir or Seasoned Singers - or any other group. Think creatively, grab some candy or other treats and come celebrate fall and fun! Your trunk can highlight your favorite things about your group or just be fun decorations. Please nothing too scary.

[Sign up here to reserve your trunk or treat space.](#)

**The Trunk or Treat event is Saturday, October 28, from 11 - 1 PM.** It will be part of our Messy Church games. Scripture focus for the event is Joshua 1:9 Lunch is provided. We'll have games, a cake walk, music and just a really great time together. Join the celebration!

## 33rd Annual Christmas Marketplace!

### Save the date to join us on November 4

### 9 AM to 3 PM

This UWF-sponsored fundraising event is looking for church-wide support again this year! It is our church's largest annual fundraiser, and working together we raised a record-breaking \$14,000 last year.

The Christmas Marketplace offers:

A tremendous **outreach** opportunity as we open our doors to the community, who come by the hundreds onto our campus for a glimpse of what FFUMC has to offer.

Volunteers from our church family enjoy **fellowship** and get to know each other better as we work together to set up and clean up, donate baked goods and household items, and welcome shoppers.

Much-needed **support** for local small business owners, who depend on events of this type and have struggled over the past few years.

[More information is coming soon.](#) We hope you'll put the event on your calendar and are able to volunteer to help make the 2023 Christmas Marketplace the best one yet!



## Woof Stock comes to Fayetteville September 30

Come enjoy the Fayette Love Your Pet event and a dog-friendly vendor and music festival at City Center Park on Saturday, September 30.

### Event schedule:

Fayette Love Your Pet: 10 AM to 1 PM

Vendor and Music Festival: 1 PM to 6 PM

Bring your pet at 1 PM as Pastor Thomas will offer a blessing of the pets.



## Christmas music will fill the air! Join in!

Our enthusiastic and talented Director of Music & Organist Nick Bowden says, "Come join in! The way things have developed so wonderfully for Christmas is just one of the exciting things I see happening here at FFUMC." Nick is planning wonderful music for this holiday season, and anyone who wants to sing and participate in any or all of the offerings is invited. All ability levels welcome. Not sure? Come just give it a try at rehearsals.

### Here's what to anticipate for Christmas presentations:

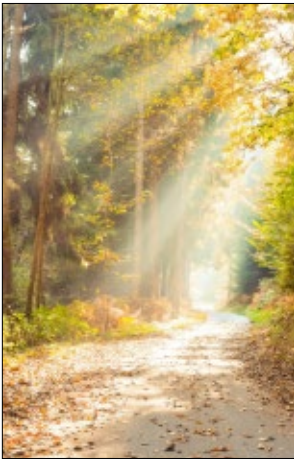
The Messiah - Sunday, December 10, 7 PM

Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 17, 11 AM

Christmas Eve - December 24, 11 AM, 4 PM & 11 PM

For more information on rehearsals or other questions, contact Nick Bowden at 404-932-0877 or [nbowden@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:nbowden@fayettevillefirst.com) or talk to Nick at church.

**Sing for Christmas**



### G3: Good Grief Gals meet October 12 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. 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, **October 12, 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](mailto:jkbaileys11@gmail.com).

**Special note for October:** *In support of our local community food pantry let's all bring a jar of peanut butter to our get together this month to donate to Fayette Samaritans. G3 will be forwarding a blessing onto others as we share the gift of our time together.*



### October is OUR month to help 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*



### Shred & Recycle at City Center Park

#### October 14 from 9 AM to Noon

Electronics in the landfill? Goodness, no! Bring your old electronics to City Center Park on Saturday, October 14, to be recycled! (Note: No TVs or monitors please.) Bring your papers to be shredded and glass, too!

FFUMC's Green Team is volunteering as The City of Fayetteville hosts an electronics, shredding and glass recycling event. It's free!



### Ministry together

Fayetteville First has a place for you to live out faith. Have you considered checking out some of these?

See & Seek Groups, Sunday school, Bible Studies

Adults in Action volunteer

Worship Committee

Chancel Choir

Jail Ministry

Flower and Shawl Ministry

United Women in Faith

Wonders of Worship helper

Benevolence Committee

Jackleg Angel Group

Green Team

Messy Church volunteer .... The list goes on and on!

You'll find a place here! For more information on opportunities, contact [Pastor Thomas](#) or [Pastor Allyson](#).



# Gratitude

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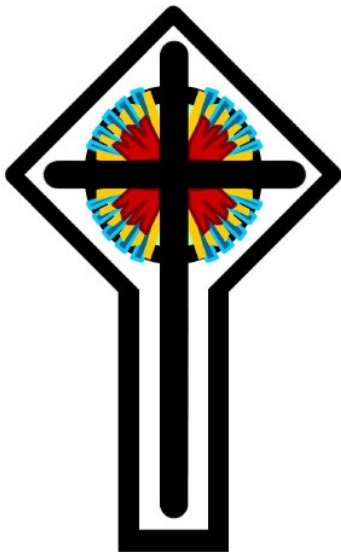
## **Thank you, Shawl Ministry:**

*Thank you for your gifts of sympathy and prayers. We feel comforted by these shawls made by members of the fellowship that meant so much to our father. — Nicole and Eve De Lisle*

*My mom, Katherine Heglar, is really enjoying the prayer shawl! It keeps her warm and reminds us that you are praying for her and our family. — Julie and George McKelvy*

## **Thank you, Church Family:**

*I want to say thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, and food while in the hospital and since I have been home. You are a caring church and I appreciate every one who said a prayers for me. I'm back in church. I'm back in church. Can't see as well as I did, but Sunday I just have to be with FFUMC. My sincere love and appreciation. — James Watkins*



## **September 27, 2023 Financials**

### Operating Budget

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date receipts | \$890,159.50 |
| Year to Date expenses | \$901,174.94 |
| Difference            | -\$11,015.44 |

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$42.00

129 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$39,888.31

### **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](http://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 ...

## Bethany Circle and YOU help Bloom

"So grateful!" That is the message from Bethany Circle to all who contributed to toiletry kits for Bloom to use in their care of foster children. Thank yous extend to United Women in Faith circle members and numerous individuals throughout the church who supported these projects with financial gifts as well as item donations. We appreciate all you do!



### Spring Younger Foster Kids Toiletry Kits

*Delivered to Bloom on May 17, 2023*

752 individual items collected

94 kits created

### Fall Foster Teen Toiletry Kits in honor of FFUMC's 175th Anniversary

*Delivered on September 28, 2023*

179 kits created using 1253 items

1127 additional items also donated

**TOTAL kits donated this year: 273**

**TOTAL individual items donated this year: 3132**

