



September 8, 2023

## The Weekender

### Being right

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

The Greek philosopher, Cicero, wrote a book called *How to Win an Argument*. I've never read it because I've never been wrong (that's a joke, just ask my kids).

To me, the fact that this book has been around so long illustrates the truths of our human condition: we like to win, we like to be right, we like for others to be wrong. As followers of Christ, do we resign ourselves to the human condition or do we strive for better things? Jesus calls us to better things than a desire to win, to be right, and for others to be wrong. In fact, Jesus is the one who says, "Whoever loses their lives for my sake will inherit the kingdom of God." Jesus is the one who says, "The measure by which you judge others will be the measure by which you are judged."

Jesus even gives us a road map of how to handle conflict and the human condition.

Rev. Sam Wells, Rector of St. Martin in the Fields in London offers this advice:

"Jesus says, 'What you're trying to do is persuade your brother or sister, not to humiliate them. Don't see this confrontation as a disaster, a last resort, but as a moment of truth, backed up by love. Think about how you want the conversation to end. Not the other person saying, 'I now realize how totally right you were and how completely wrong I was' – that's humiliation. That's preserving the fantasy of your own perpetual righteousness. Think about how to get to words like 'I appreciate that, I can see what you're saying, I'll need to think some more about it... thank you.' That's friendship."

How do you want your conversations to end? Honestly, we would all prefer the "you were right, I was wrong" response (remember the human condition). However, Christ calls us to not only speak in a way that we receive but are also open to the response, "I can see what you're saying, I'll need some time to think about that."

We will argue. We will disagree. But what is the response that Christ wants us to have? Maybe it's not about winning or being right after all.

Maybe you need this prayer, "Dear God, may I spend more time trying to be loving than trying to be right. Amen."



**15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

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

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

*Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS

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### "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.



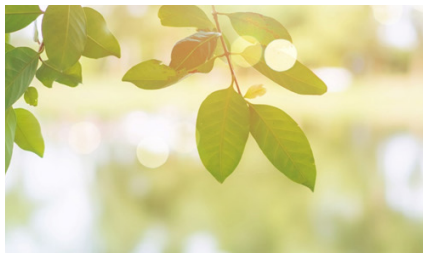
### Lean into God's love at UWF retreat

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.



### 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](mailto:tamidale57@gmail.com).



"Rahab: Luck or Providence"  
September 14 Salad Lunch

### 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](mailto:lauren-davis@comcast.net) by September 10. Nursery available with reservation.



### 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



New! Wednesdays 6 PM

## See and Seek: Small Group Opportunities

A new Wednesday night group is meeting at Gremlin Growlers from 6 - 7 PM. You can have dinner at the church, drop your children off at KiDS 555, and take a few minutes for yourself as you decompress and get recharged. Facilitated by Rev. Thomas Martin, you are invited to come and hang out with old friends, make new friends, and explore scripture and questions like: where did you see God at work in your life this past week? And, how are you inspired to find hope and act in the coming days?



Other groups meet throughout the week. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) to find a group that fits you and your schedule.

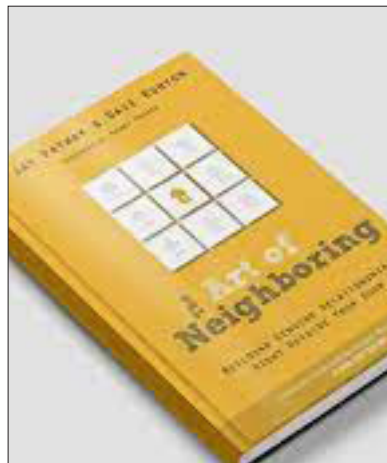


Get your book!  
Join AL & A-JV  
Sept 6 - Oct 18

## Study on Sermon on the Mount

Wednesdays, September 6 - October 18, 11 AM - Noon, Room C-200

Jesus challenges his closest disciples with his Sermon on the Mount essentially saying to them, "Your 'good' could always be better. You may be the salt of the earth, you may be the light of the world, but your salt could be saltier and your light could be brighter." Dr. Amy-Jill Levine says we are invited to "follow Jesus into the Sermon, down the mountain, and out into the world, and to step into the kingdom of heaven." Will you join in this deep dive into the Beatitudes as we study Matthew, chapters 5 - 7, guided by Dr. Levine's book *Sermon on the Mount: A beginners guide to the kingdom of heaven?* Rev. Lawrence facilitates the discussion each Wednesday. Just get a copy of the book from your favorite provider and discover ways these words of Jesus may speak to us today.



## The Art of Neighboring: Begins September 17

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.



## "Living the Way" at FFUMC

We've already kicked off a fresh season at FFUMC. Check out Bible studies, ministry opportunities, senior activities, and new programs for children and youth. [See highlights in the "Living the Way" brochure and get details in this newsletter.](#)



## 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](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com), for more information as preparations begin soon.



## 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 each week by noon on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

Sept. 13 menu: Olive Garden: Lasagna, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert



## SAGE goes south to shop and eat

Go with friends to Antique Mall and The Sock Shoppe in Griffin with lunch at Southern Pit BBQ!

September 28 Meet at 8:45, Depart at 9 AM

Save your spot! Reserve at the church office, 770-461-4313

For questions or to suggest future trips, contact Rev. Charles Robinson, [crobenson@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:crobenson@fayettevillefirst.com), 770-855-6433.



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

## Celebrate FFUMC's 175th anniversary by helping foster kids

### Donations due by September 18

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](mailto:neunernotes@gmail.com).





That we may be

*one*

## South West District supports racial healing and reconciliation

Join with others to learn and grow together in racial healing and reconciliation through five interactive workshops led by Elaine Beattie. Hear experts and engage in projects and group experiences on topics such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, economics, and church. For more information, contact Denise Wilson, 770-227-1074, [southwest@ngumc.net](mailto:southwest@ngumc.net), or [register using this link](#). All sessions will be held at Senoia UMC from 3 to 5 PM on Sundays September 10, 17, 24, and October 8 and 29.



## Last Sunday to pick up directory in Welcome Center

Drop by the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary and pick up your copy of the church directory if you were photographed for it and any photographs or directory copies ordered. Just look for your name. Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, 770-461-4313, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com).

**After this Sunday, directories will be available in the church office only.**



## Get away at Fall 2023 Contemplative Retreat at Camp Calvin

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 get away for a Contemplative Retreat sponsored by FFUMC's Study Class at Camp Calvin on Sunday, October 22, from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Experience nourishing readings and an introduction to practices from guest leader Kimberly Broerman along with space and supplies to explore. Cost: \$25 (includes meal and all materials). For more information, contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com). Save the date! Registration will open soon.

## Children's Ministry

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### FFUMC KiDS 555 is ready for you

Announcing a new schedule for fall! Join the fun on Wednesday nights at FFUMC KiDs with two clubs.

**Explorers Club** offers rotating activities like game night, Bible study, art time and more.

Grades 3 - 5 meet 5:55 to 6:30 PM; Grades K-2 meet 6:30 to 7 PM

**Music Club** takes students through a host of adventures including singing, music theory, games and instrument playing as we make all kinds of joyful noises.

Grades K-2 meet 5:55 to 6:30 PM; Grades 3-5 meet 6:30 to 7 PM

We're excited to see you! Questions? Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) or [Joan Aycock](#).

## Youth Ministry

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### Youth meet each Wednesday

Join Interim Youth Director Austin Baur and other youth in grades 6 to 12 for fun, study, and service together on Wednesdays during 8th period after school from 4 to 6 and youth night from 6 to 8 PM. Contact Austin for details at [abaur@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:abaur@fayettevillefirst.com).

*Austin Baur with Jack Travis on a middle school retreat this summer*

## Gratitude

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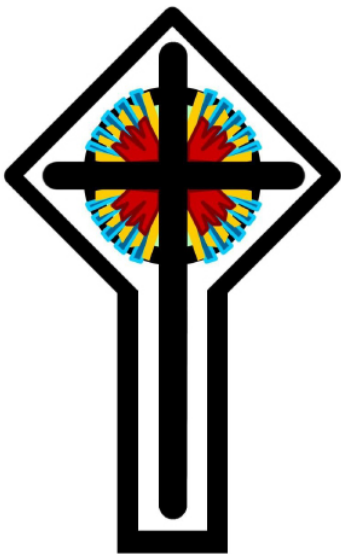
*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for the concern, the prayers, the shawl, the sanctuary flowers and the cards sent in love to my daughter and me. The love and kindness of this church is so amazing. You just don't know how much it means to us and how we appreciate it. Thank you.*

— Judy Reynolds and Kim Chamlee

*Dearest Shawl Ministry: Thank you so much for the shawl, time spent sewing, and the prayer of blessings which bring us joy. We will treasure it in our father's memory. Amen. — The Saunders Family*

## Due to the Labor Day holiday, financials will be updated next week



### 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

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

# inspired ...

## Welcome, Nick Bowden

We are delighted to announce that Nick Bowden will be Fayetteville First's new Director of Music & Organist. Nick is a highly skilled and experienced church musician with a clear call to the service of Christ and the church through music.

Nick comes to FFUMC from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Prior to that, he served at Druid Hills Presbyterian. Nick is perhaps best known from his tenure at Peachtree Presbyterian where he served as Principal Organist and Associate Director of Music for 22 years. Nick has performed

concerts in 37 states and 7 countries at venues large and small including The Crystal Cathedral, St. Paul's London, US Naval Academy Cadet Chapel, Macy's "Wanamaker" Organ in Philadelphia, Sister's Chapel at Spelman, and many others. We are blessed to have so experienced a professional say yes to FFUMC. Nick will build on the foundation that Justin laid. We hope you will all be in attendance to warmly welcome Nick Bowden to our church family this Sunday.

