

The Weekender



Faces of the saints Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” — Genesis 50:20

Throughout churches in the Holy Land, terrorists throughout the years have done their best to erase the faces of the saints. They believed that any art depicting anyone purported to be holy or to be a saint was blasphemy. So these invading armies came through and destroyed the art, holy books, and specifically the faces on the art that was painted in the chapels. This is one of those pictures from a visit I made in 2015 to the Holy Land.

Our tour guide, a Palestinian Christian, explained to us in the context of this church, that what some intend for evil, God means for good. He reminded us of the communion of the saints—naming those in our lives who have gone before. He remarked that even though the faces were gone, the church continued, and that now it was up to us to be the faces of the saints.

In the midst of the turmoil and war and terror by Hamas in the Holy Land, there is much sadness that Jewish people are once again being targeted by militant racists. This blatant attack on a race of people should have no place in our world. As faces have been erased, intending and perpetuating evil, it is my prayer that God may somehow show up in a mighty way.

St. Francis of Assisi offers this prayer, and I encourage you to pray it as part of your daily routine today, and in the days to come:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.



20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 15, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 AM
[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

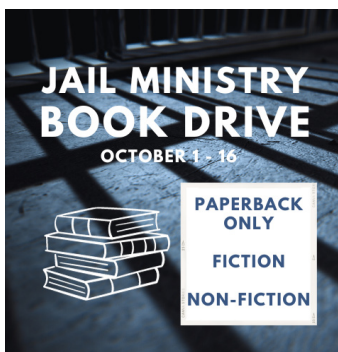
CURRENT NEWS



Fasting and Prayer

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

Last Sunday you heard about our Jail Ministry to visit with inmates and 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!



Have you or your group reserved a Trunk or Treat Space?

Only 20 spots available for Trunk or Treat 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!



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, or fill out a Fellowship Dinner pew card.

October 18 menu — Hog Pit BBQ: Barbecue chicken sandwich, Macaroni and cheese, Coleslaw, Dessert



Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal! All profits are donated to our UWF charities

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 4.

Want to place a larger order for personal use and gifts? [Complete this order form or get one on Sunday next to the bulletin stations.](#) Then drop the form along with your **exact payment** in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales" in the church office or in the collection plate (remember the envelope!) by **Sunday, November 5**. Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 7 and 8 from 1 to 2 PM and after the 11 AM worship service on November 12. Make out checks to **United Women in Faith or UWF**.

We are committed to raising funds for others. With pecans, everybody wins!

Pecan Time!
Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze and Enjoy All Year



Making a difference in our environment

This Charm Train is up and running , making a difference one bottle (can, box, and plastic container) at a time!

Would you like to form another Charm Train group? The Green Team can explain how easy it is to get a group together who care enough about our environment to take action. Contact Tami Kemberling, tamidale57@gmail.com, or Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, for more information.



33rd Annual Christmas Marketplace!

Bring a friend! Enjoy the day 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.

[Gingerbread House Donation Guidelines - Bring on those homemade goodies!](#)

[Timeless Treasures Donation Guidelines - Someone else can use what you no longer need!](#)

Much-needed **support** for local small business owners, who depend on events of this type and have struggled over the past few years. [These vendors have reserved a booth and more are coming. Just look at the variety!](#)

[Get the latest information right here at FayettevilleFirst.com.](#) 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!



Vendors are getting ready for this BIG event.



Shred & Recycle at City Center Park: This Saturday

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!



Titus II and SAGE have plans!

Upcoming events for those 55+ --- or anyone!

Titus II - Lunch and learn together with friends! Noon, Gym
November 7 – Penny Miller, a singer from First Baptist Church, Fayetteville
Make reservation by Thursday noon on November 2. Call church office or Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.

SAGE - Senior Adults Going Everywhere - Let's take a trip!
October 26 – Apple Trip to Ellijay; lunch at the Double "L"
Meet at church 8:45 AM; Depart 9 AM Reserve in church office.
Cost: Transportation \$4 plus lunch and any purchases



Benevolence Fund Appeal

In the past few months our benevolence fund has experienced high demand from Fayette residents in danger of utility disconnection or eviction from their homes. The fund is currently down, and now would be an ideal time to support our benevolence ministry as FFUMC seeks to help neighbors in need. The generosity of our congregation has a huge impact on the community and is deeply appreciated.

Checks or online gifts may be designated as "Benevolence" in the memo line.



Fall 2023 Contemplative Retreat is only a week away 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?

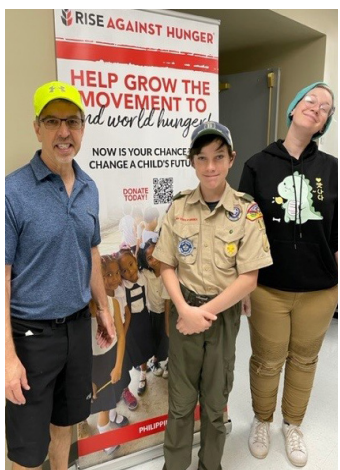
Get away to a Contemplative Retreat!

Sunday, October 22 2:30 to 5:30 PM

Leader: Kimberly Broerman, Deep Waters Prayer and Exploration

Cost: \$25 (includes meal and all materials, payable at door)

Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, 770-861-4499.
Registration is limited. [Register today at this link.](#)



Rise Against Hunger meals going to Philippines

We packed 139 boxes (30,024 meals) at our Rise Against Hunger event in August. These nutritious meals are now in route to the Philippines. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort in any way! To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in the Philippines face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education. Your meals make an impact! Thanks!



Recovery Church Workshop, Saturday, October 21, 2023

Crossroads UMC in Conyers, 10 AM to 3:30 PM

Recovery Church: How to Cultivate Fresh Expressions of Church That Heal. During the “deadliest year” in our nation’s history, 2020, 3.3 million people died, with 378,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19. 93,000 of those 3.3 million were a record-high number of overdose deaths. Followers of Jesus can be first responders to arrive at the scene of this ongoing crisis. Every congregation can start recovery ministries that literally save lives. This workshop will help equip congregants to be in ministry with those in recovery using the 12 steps to provide a powerful framework for discipleship. We can cultivate new Christian communities with people who are unlikely to attend church as we know it. This training will show us how.

Sessions will include: Why Recovery? Cultivating Fresh Expressions of Recovery, and Essential Skills for Recovery Leaders and Congregations.

Register here: <https://www.ngumc.org/eventdetail/17435996>. Want to carpool? Reach out to [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#).

A time to say, "Thanks!"



October is clergy appreciation month! Like last year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee encourages FFUMC members to write notes of appreciation to our exceptional and God-given clergy and staff at Fayetteville First. Make your note personal: what did that person do for you this year? Get the kids and youth involved in notes and drawings as well. We’ve provided a list of the entire team at FFUMC so you can start those notes now and make sure no one is left out of the love.

Please deposit your notes in the Staff Appreciation Basket in the Welcome Center or drop them through the mailbox at the church office no later than Wednesday, October 25. We will present the notes in church on Sunday, October 29.

Thanks to all of you in advance for showing our love and gratitude for the hard-working professionals at FFUMC!

Clergy:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Rev. Charles Robinson

Ministry:

Nick Bowden, music
Austin Baur, youth
Jordan Hart, youth
Maria Ruhe, preschool

Administration:

Karen Powell, administration
Michelle Burch, administration
Julie Harp, finance
Janet Gazaway, finance
Joan Aycock, communications

Facilities:

Gary Sampson
Meghan Schultz
Karen Davis

Nursery:

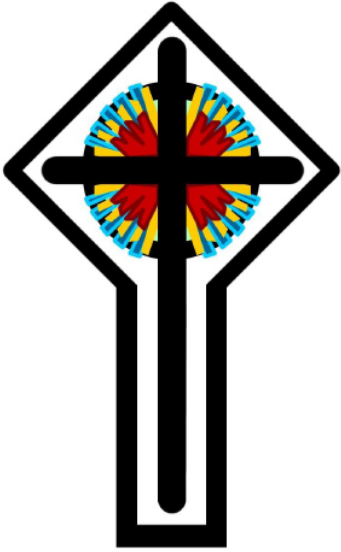
Connie Little
Mia Coward
Claudia Rhodes

Gratitude



Thank you, Shawl Ministry:

I am overwhelmed by your compassion toward me and my family [upon the death of my son, Ryan]. The beautiful shawl came at a time when I really needed the comfort of your hug. ... Thank you. You have blessed me well. May the Lord return your kindness in full. — Lawana Holmes



October 11, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$936,396.90
Year to Date expenses	\$954,579.46
Difference	-\$18,182.56

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$645.00

138 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$41,803.81

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

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

inspired ...

Messy Church and you

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of others through a unique expression of church? Come see what Messy Church is about!

You're invited to participate in our next event -- and celebrate fall!

Join the Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 28, at 11 AM

With space for 20 decorated trunks full of treats and surprises for our guests, FFUMC will provide a welcome space to families of all ages to have fun and experience church while we celebrate the beautiful fall season. The whole community is invited for two hours of Messy Church fun! The event starts outside with arts, crafts, and a cake walk; then we will move to our fun decorated trunks. We'll have worship with singing and a Bible story followed by a simple lunch for all ... and a reminder that we can have church with everybody ... any time ... any day!

Just check out these photo highlights from our September event. You can participate in many ways on October 28. Here's how:

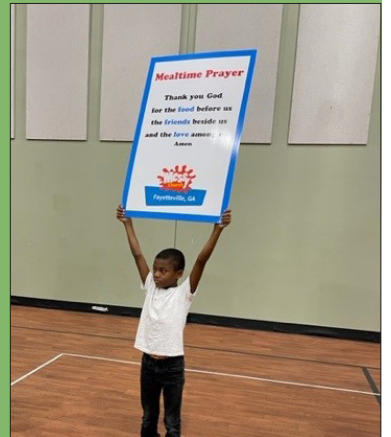
[Sign up to provide a Trunk or Treat space -- individuals and groups welcome!](#)

[Help with the craft, art and active learning time.](#)

[Escort families to worship time and join in.](#)

[Help prepare and serve lunch.](#)

You'll be glad you shared some love in Messy Church!



**Next Messy Church:
October 28 11 AM to 1 PM**