



October 6, 2023

The Weekender

Hope and a future

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

At some point, most of us have gotten our hopes up of going to a restaurant only to be greeted at the door by someone who says, "That will be a 45 minute wait." At that point, we have to choose to wait or move on. Our choice depends on our patience, how hungry we are, and the expected drive time and wait time to go anywhere else. Usually, it is worth the wait. I have never regretted waiting. But I have always regretted driving away, wondering "What could have been?"



Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the LORD, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*"

God has a future for us as people and as a church. Sometimes we wait but other times we are called to the table to enjoy the fellowship of God's love.

As we continue to move forward into our Stewardship and Capital Campaign, we do so with purpose for hope and a future. I offer this reflection from our Stewardship Chair, Jeff Hansen, as food for thought as you consider what you might offer to God for the present and future ministries of the church.

Purpose: The first line of *The Purpose Driven Life* is "It's not about you." Do you live life with that attitude? It's important to have the simple outlook that God created us to have. What does God want from us that is so simple? It's simply ALL that you are. God simply desires every aspect of life. To the point that it isn't "Your" life. Committing to God is not simply putting some money or an attendance sheet in the offering plate on Sunday. Picture yourself putting ALL of everything that you are into the offering plate. Stand in that plate. Live in that plate. Be the person that God created you to be. It's that simple because it's not about you.



19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 8, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

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](#).

A Prayer for the second weekend of October

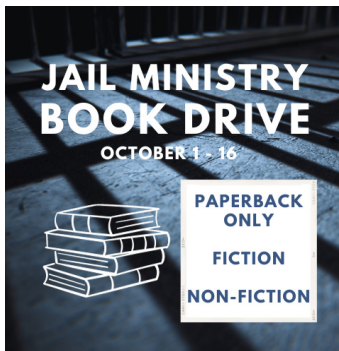
O Lord, we offer you our prayers, even when they are not enough.

We offer you ourselves, even when we feel empty.

We offer you our lives, even when we are at our wits end.

We offer you our praise, because you gave us your Son to show us how to live, serve, and love.

We pray that our lives may become a reflection of God's love so that others may see your glory. Amen.



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!



"I'll give!" Sign up for Blood Drive

Sunday, October 8 THIS SUNDAY

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 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 for questions or assistance.



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!



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

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 11 menu: Wings & Things: Boneless Wings, Tater Tots, Pasta Salad, Pie





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, 6 PM & 11 PM

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



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.

[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!](#)

[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!



Lots of helping hands make Timeless Treasures a HUGE success.



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.

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.*



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!



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.



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.



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?

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.](#)

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

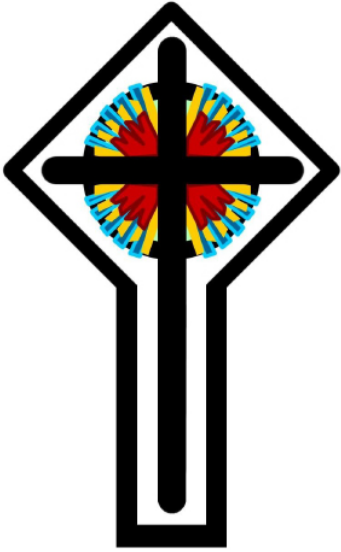
Gratitude



Thank you, Shawl Ministry:

Your thoughtfulness means so much more than words can say. Thank you so much for your kindness. The shawl is lovely and will be enjoyed! Thank you and blessings! — Suzan Cole

October 4, 2023 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$910,259.35
Year to Date expenses	\$945,282.41
Difference	-\$35,023.06

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,312.00

135 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$41,210.46

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



The church office will be closed

Friday, October 6 & Monday, October 9

Regular hours resume Tuesday, October 10

inspired ...

"When I was in prison, you visited me."

Several folks within our church take this invitation to heart and visit the incarcerated through our Jail Ministry. We heard Jo Springer and Danny Beck speak this past Sunday about their experience of offering encouragement, prayer, and helpful guidance over many years to those in the local Fayette County Jail.

Visiting at the jail is an uplifting experience:

"As we share scriptures, the inmates often teach me something I didn't know," said Danny Beck.

"I often talk about things that can encourage the ladies during this time and offer insights on preparing for when they leave the jail," says long-time volunteer Jo Springer. "This is a rewarding experience to know you might say something that could make a difference in someone's life."

"I hope I can show compassion and concern and help in some way," says Phillis Williamson, a new volunteer who recently joined the team. "I tell them, 'We aren't ordained ministers, but we love you and want to be here for you.'"

"My visits to the jail offer an opportunity to meet women who are using the time in their cells to learn, pray, and reset their lives," says Joan Aycock. "Exploring thoughts, prayers, songs, and scriptures together is a meaningful experience for us all as we express and share faith."

Would you like to participate? Currently our church has two reserved timeframes for visits each week. A yearly training is held by county officials to familiarize those involved with procedures and practices. The next training will be on December 4 from 6 to 8 pm in our Fellowship Hall. You may pick up an application in the church office or at the jail.



Can you give some books to the jail library?

We are collecting paperback books for the jail library through October 16 in the Welcome Portal or in the church office. Books of all types, new and used, fiction and non-fiction, help inmates through long hours in their cells. Plastic reading glasses are also needed.

Questions? Contact [Danny Beck](#) or [Jo Springer](#). They'll have answers!