



November 17, 2023

## The Weekender

### "You knew, did you...?"

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Have you ever played the game "Telephone?" It's a game where you sit in a group, whisper a phrase into your neighbor's ear only once, then they have to whisper that into their neighbor's ear. The phrase goes around the circle until it makes its way back to the person who came up with the phrase. The goal is to keep the phrase intact, making sure that the meaning or words don't change. I have never played that game where the original intent made its way back to the originator. Something is always lost the more people try to convey what is said.



It's just a game, but it symbolizes something deeper at work. Not something sinister, but something that is simply a fact of life: the more degrees of separation, the more chance you have of some information being lost or misunderstood. Perhaps there's a reason, then, that Jesus says, "Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'." Maybe it's why conventional wisdom gives us such sayings like, "It's better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." Maybe there's a reason we learn from our elders, as I learned from my grandparents, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

The reality, though, is that people talk. Everyone hears what they want to hear. People's personal biases are confirmed or we set up false enemies because we heard that so and so doesn't like us or doesn't agree with us.

In this Sunday's gospel lesson, the master says to a servant, "You knew, did you...?" implying that the servant made up his mind about his own actions based upon what he thought he knew about his master. How many times do we make up our minds about something or someone because "we know"? How much arrogance does it take for us to not listen to another person because "we know"? How much hurt has entered the world because others made up their minds, because they "knew," and then responded in a way that was harmful?

Our task, as Christians, is to not respond with knowledge, but with love. After all, knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. May we choose to live in a way that rests not in the certainty of ourselves, but in the certainty of God's love poured out for us in Christ Jesus.



**25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

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

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Sermon: "You knew, did you...?"

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Thanksgiving Schedule

As we give thanks for our friends, families and blessings next week, please note this adjusted schedule:

Wednesday, November 22 - Church office closes at noon

No Wednesday night supper, No regular programs

Thursday, November 23 - Church office closed

Friday, November 24 - Church campus closed

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King Sunday, Normal schedule



### Thanks, Potluck Chefs! It was delicious!

We give thanks for our Potluck Chefs Bill Webb, Randy Riddell and Gil Cook who provided delicious turkey and ham for our Thanksgiving Potluck Feast this week. We are grateful they shared their culinary talents!



### Save these dates

Churchwide Christmas Pageant - Wednesday, December 6, 6 PM

The Messiah - Concert and reception, Sunday, December 10, 7 PM

Churchwide Christmas Caroling - Wednesday, December 13



### Called Church Conference

### Called Church Conference November 26

There will be a special called Charge Conference held on Sunday, November 26, following the 11 AM service. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the sale of the .223 acre lot located at 100 Church Street. Anyone can attend, but only church members are allowed to vote. There will be time for discussion followed by a vote. [For a document that lists all information, please click here.](#) If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Martin.

### Treats for Troops - Last chance to donate

To show our troops how much we care, this Veteran's Day the United Women in Faith is taking up a collection of unwanted, leftover candy to donate to Treats for Troops, a collection organized by Soldiers' Angels, an organization dedicated to assisting military and their families in a number of different ways. If you have extra leftover candy that you would rather

donate than throw away, please **simply drop it in the box in the welcome portal near the Sanctuary by Sunday, November 19.** If you would like to contribute but have no candy, please consider donating a few dollars to help pay for shipping costs. Make your donation directly to "United Women in Faith" and designate "Treats for Troops" in the memo. You may place it in the offering plate. Questions? Contact Kimberly Parr, 850-293-4294. Thank you!





## SafeHouse Outreach Chili Event is Saturday, November 18

The annual Philip Bray Chili Outreach by SafeHouse Outreach is tomorrow, November 18. Randy Riddell will represent FFUMC and invites you to join him and experience the special event. Ellis Street will be blocked off in Atlanta to provide safe access to medical care, sanitized showers, and other services including FREE chili for SafeHouse Outreach clients. Contact Randy, [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-3824, if you'd like to participate with him in this half-day of service to those who live on the margins. Those who donate chili get a cool shirt!



## New November needs from 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:** Laundry Detergent, Canned Fruit, Soup (not Cream of Chicken or Mushroom), Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Rice - 2 lb. bags, Coffee, Feminine Products, Jello

## December 2 is our Christmas Messy Church

Sign up to serve at Messy Church on December 2 from 11AM – 1 PM. You won't want to miss this great fresh expression of church as we share in the birth story of Christ with old and new friends alike.

[Click here to see where you can serve.](#)

Thanks for the many donations of Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cakes. We think we have plenty of cakes thanks to your quick and generous donations. And now, we need something a bit different. We would like to get **40 empty and clean oatmeal, panko or coffee containers**. A variety of shapes and sizes is fine. Messy Church participants will be making drums as we learn more about the many ways that people in other cultures celebrate the birth of Jesus. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with any questions.



## See "3 Redneck Tenors" with SAGE on December 3

'Tis the season to enjoy music and comedy with friends! Go with our Senior Adults Going Everywhere to see "3 Redneck Tenors" at The Nixon Centre in Newnan on Sunday, December 3. Reserve your place at the church office.

Gather at church by 1:45 PM; Bus departs at 2 PM; Show begins at 3 PM

Cost: \$17 (payable in advance at the church office),

plus dinner after the show at Partners II Pizza in Newnan around 5 PM



## Pickup Pecans in the Church Office

If you haven't yet picked up the pecans you ordered from the United Women in Faith, they are ready for you in the church office.





## Respectful Honor

Would you like to help with placing flags on our church campus on special occasions? A group currently puts them out for Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4, September 11, and Veterans Day. If you would like to help the team, please contact Jo Springer, 770-378-7876.

## Gratitude

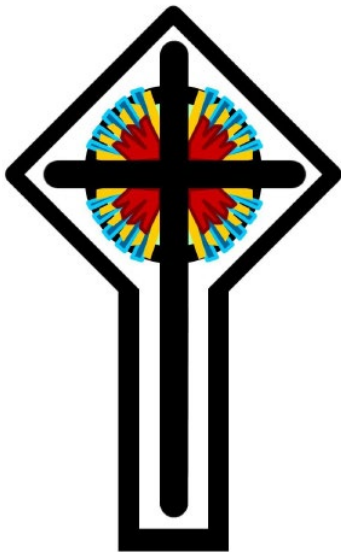
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### Thank you, Flower Ministry:

*Thank you very much for the pretty flower arrangement you brought me yesterday. I appreciate it very much with the Veterans Day theme.*

— James Watkins



## November 15, 2023 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,049,857.02
Year to Date expenses	\$1,052,642.98
Difference	-\$2,785.96

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$696.00

154 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$45,590.60

### 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)

Closed Fridays until further notice

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 ...

## Celebrations in the Family Class

The Family Class celebrated the 175th anniversary of Fayetteville First UMC this past Sunday with a display of church memorabilia. Sharing photos, stories and memories, the class remembered old and personal events that represent the place FFUMC holds in their hearts.

In addition, the Family Class celebrated teacher Florence Prine on her 70th birthday with \$100 contributions to 7 different charities. Looks like they love this lady who has taught the class for 29 years! What a beautiful way to honor and celebrate Florence and her faithful service.



CHURCH BUDGET YEAR 2018 FAYETTEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH	
<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT</b>	
Parish & Sequester	\$5,700.00
Parish - Trinity, U.S.	100.00
Diocesan Support/Ministry	500.00
Diocesan Fund	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
<b>CURRENT NEEDS</b>	
Operating Expenses - 175th Anniversary	200.00
Operating Expenses - 175th Anniversary	1,200.00
Operating Expenses - 175th Anniversary	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>WORLD SERVICE &amp; MISSIONS</b>	
World Service - World Service	200.00
World Service - World Service	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	
Debt Service - Debt Service	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>NET OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Net Operating Expenses	1,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	
Net Operating Revenue	1,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	
Net Surplus	5,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>

Want to see more? Follow Fayetteville First United Methodist Church on Facebook for more photos or contact the Family Class.

