

The Weekender

"While you're up..."

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Growing up, I learned one of our family's greatest traditions during the holidays. "While you're up..." My guess is that your family may have a similar game or tradition. If you're not familiar with it, it goes something like this. You're sitting around the dinner table, and you may have reached for the mashed potatoes one too many times, but you need some more sweet tea. The problem is, you don't want to get up from the table. So you make small talk. You may even push the asparagus around on your plate to avoid having to stand when all of a sudden your cousin gets up from the table and immediately you join the chorus of friends and family saying, "While you're up, will you get me some more sweet tea" or "While you're up, will you get me an extra napkin" or "While you're up, will you go ahead and bring the pie in here?"



It's always great to ask someone, "While you're up..."

It fills me with gratitude for the chance to serve, even when I'm the first one up and I end up becoming the one who helps others who are down, "While I'm up."

Let's face it, we've all been up in life at some point. We've all been down in life at some point. There have been times when we have helped those who are down and there are times when others have helped us when we're down. The key, I think is knowing when to ask for help and knowing when to be the helper. It won't always be the same, but the help will remain.

This Thanksgiving holiday, whether you find yourself "up" or "down," I hope that you will give thanks for God's blessings in your life and know that we are all in need of help. I look forward to worshipping with you as the body of Christ.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-36

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Confirmation begins in January

Confirmation is coming! Confirmation is the process of making one's faith personal and making a commitment to Christ. Fayetteville First offers a confirmation class for those seeking to make a profession of faith as they learn and grow together. Confirmands meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8 PM and are welcome to join with other youth from 6-7 PM. The first class meets January 10. There will be a retreat the weekend of April 19-21 and Confirmation Sunday will be May 19. [Please reach out to Thomas](#) to register your student or email him if you have any questions.



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.



Reach out at SafeHouse Outreach on November 30

You can be part of the FFUMC team to help those who live on the margins in Atlanta at our next SafeHouse Outreach night on Thursday, November 30. Volunteers are needed to fill the bus and help serve a meal. Please contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, to participate.



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.



Season of the Nativity begins December 3

We move deeper into the experience of God's presence with us through the Season of the Nativity. Opportunities to explore, reflect, and share the reality that "Jesus is..." in our lives will begin on December 3 when the 2023 Season of the Nativity packet will be available. We look forward to sharing this time throughout Advent and Christmas through to Epiphany as our practices, prayers, and activities deepen our devotion together.



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



Titus II welcomes Inman Elementary Chorus December 5

Christmas excitement and music will fill the air at Titus II at noon on December 5 when the Inman Elementary Chorus directed by Pamela Banks will present their Christmas program at Fayetteville First. Make your reservation by noon on Thursday, November 30, by calling Martha Turner at 770-461-2802. Lunch \$8.

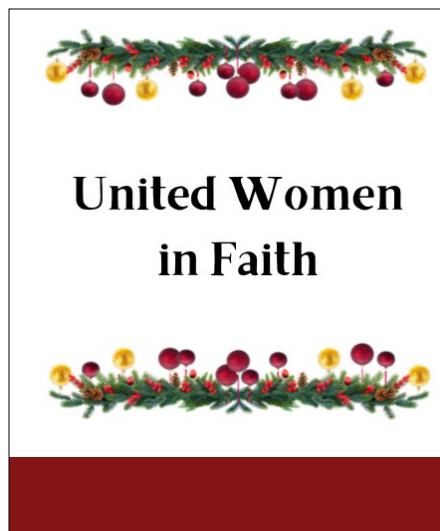
Menu:

Chicken with Cream Sauce, Creamed Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Key Lime Pie



Everybody gets a part at Christmas Pageant December 6

Let's tell the story together! Join in the FFUMC Christmas Pageant led by Danny and Julie Beck and friends on Wednesday, December 6, at 6 PM following our Wednesday night dinner in the Fellowship Hall. No preparation is needed! Just come!



United Women in Faith Christmas Banquet December 7

The UWF would like to invite women interested in learning more about our global charity organization to join us at our annual Christmas Banquet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 7, starting at 6 PM with warm cider and appetizers. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Please bring your favorite side dish to share. Turkey, ham, desserts, and drinks will be provided. Reservations are due by December 3: UWF members make reservations through their circle and all others contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net. Please indicate the number of children for the nursery. We are pleased to invite the United Methodist Men to join us again this year.

Special entertainment:

Peachtree Road Revival Band with Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin and friends



The Messiah Concert and Reception December 10

Join in this year's Christmas presentation on December 10. Music will be presented by The Chancel Choir with orchestra, harpsicord, organ and four soloists: Kristin Moye, Maria McDaniel, Jonathon Pilkington, and John Arnold. The program begins at 7 PM and a churchwide reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends and family.

[Want to share the event with others? Here's a link for social media.](#)



Churchwide Christmas Caroling...Wednesday, December 13

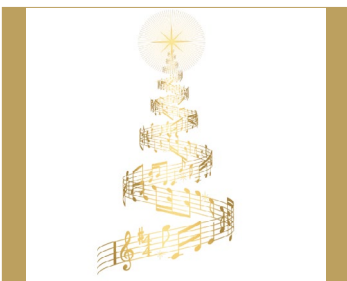
Let's spread Christmas cheer to our church family and friends on December 13. The night begins with Wednesday Night Supper from Anthony's Pizza. Be sure to make your reservation like normal. Note that dinner begins at 5 PM this night! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM to arrange in caroling teams. Then we'll head out to spread good tidings. All ages are encouraged to be a joyful part! You don't even have to sing. Your presence will be appreciated. Help us plan caroling routes by letting us know you'll be caroling. Contact the church office at admin@fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.



Poinsettia orders due Thursday, December 14

Your purchase of poinsettias has at least 3 benefits this year:

1. Poinsettias enhance our worship space through the season.
2. You may give plants in memory or honor of family or friends. They'll be listed in the Christmas Eve Order of Worship. Ordered poinsettias are available to take from the sanctuary following the Christmas Eve service.
3. Proceeds from poinsettia orders benefit the FFUMC Flower Ministry. This group makes flower arrangements to encourage others throughout the year.
4. [Click here to complete the Poinsettia Order Form for honorariums/memoriums and payment online.](#) Alternately, complete a form available in the narthex on Sunday or anytime in the church office. (Cost: \$15 each) DUE DECEMBER 14.



Service of Lessons & Carols December 17

You are invited to hear the story of God with us through scripture and song on December 17 as the Chancel Choir presents the Service of Lessons and Carols. This beautiful worship service will be offered at 8:45 in the chapel and at 11 AM and online in the sanctuary.



December 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: Canned Beef Stew, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Canned Beans (Black, Pinto, Navy, Black-eyed Peas, etc.) Jelly, Feminine Products, Bar Soap, Toothbrushes and Tooth Paste

Urgent needs: Women's socks, Women's and Men's Underwear



Let's eat together on Wednesday Nights

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together at 5:15 PM.

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.

November 29: Tim's Country Kitchen

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert

Gratitude

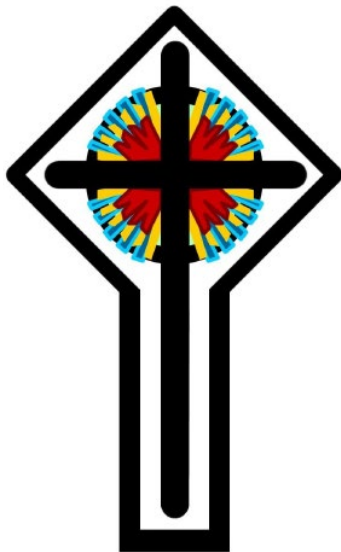


Thank you, Flower Ministry:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for the Veteran's Day Remembrance. They look so pretty on our dinner table. I was in the Army 6 years. — Bill Trice

I am grateful for each of you that participate in this very gracious ministry. Thanks so much for remembering me on more than one occasion. — Janie Raines

We are grateful for the bountiful and beautiful Thanksgiving presentation provided by Sam Burch on the altar table this past Sunday (pictured on front). We are blessed!



November 21, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,071,728.07
Year to Date expenses	\$1,054,304.08
Difference	\$17,423.99

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,024.00

155 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$45,790.60

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

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 ...

Serving love (and chili!)

SafeHouse Outreach offered a respite for those experiencing homelessness in downtown Atlanta this past Saturday at the Philip Bray Chili Outreach. Ellis Street was closed to provide space for medical services, sanitized showers, prayer, and connection together. Randy Riddell represented FFUMC with crockpots of chili and interaction with SafeHouse Outreach clients.

You can help those who live on the margins by joining the FFUMC SafeHouse Outreach night on Thursday, November 30. Assistance with meal preparation, delivery, food service, and client interaction is needed. Contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, to offer your hands and heart.

Thank you so much for coming and serving at the Chili Outreach. I love seeing how our people who have known you for a long time light up when they see you. We are forever grateful for your, and Fayetteville First UMC's, support and prayers! Thank you, sincerely!

*Chuck Wilbank
SafeHouse Outreach*



Thanksgiving 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