



December 8, 2023

The Weekender

Deeply Grateful

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Matthew 25:37-40. *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' "*

Those who do the Lord's work aren't entrepreneurs, even though they must always be thinking about good business. They are not innovators even though they are adaptive leaders. They are not the ones leading a new charge on one end or even stewarding an old guard. They are the ones who see a need and respond. They are, in the best sense, maintenance workers. Maintenance workers of a vocation are trusted with what they are given. They nurture it. Grow it. They hopefully leave it better than they found it. They pay attention; they care deeply; and they act appropriately.

When I got the call to serve Lagrange First UMC, I was honored to be thought of as someone who could be a servant for God's kingdom. Maybe it's because I see how hard entrepreneurs, innovators, and business owners must work. After all, when your name is on the building, you care more.

But the name on the building will always say "church." It is for this reason I go with joy to serve the people of LaGrange First UMC, just as I have sought to serve the people of Fayetteville First UMC.

But to me, it is more than that. It is not serving people but serving with people — the people who are the "co-workers," "maintenance workers," and those who faithfully served before me and will continue to serve after me. The people of Fayetteville First UMC serve with joy. You serve with passion. You serve with kindness and humility.

My family and I are ever grateful that you let us serve with you over the last four and a half years. I know that you will welcome Rev. Kaylen Short and work with him as he works with you. Remember in Matthew 25, we are not the judge. It is not our job to separate good from evil, righteous from unrighteous. We are to serve the Lord by serving the world and serving with each other. Fayetteville First United Methodist Church, your best days are ahead. You have let us serve with you and I look forward to celebrating this Season with you, knowing that best of all, God is with us.

For each and every one of you, I am and will always be deeply grateful.

In Love,

Rev. Dr. G. Thomas Martin



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45 and 11:00 AM

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

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Reception to honor Dr. Thomas Martin and Family December 17, following 11 AM service

You are invited to a church-wide reception to honor Dr. Thomas Martin and the Martin family following the 11 AM service on Sunday, December 17, in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to write a letter or card to Thomas and the Martin family and drop it by the church office or in the offering plate before December 17. A basket of notes will be presented to Dr. Martin at the reception.

A love offering for Dr. Martin and family will be collected through December 24, which will be the Martins last Sunday with us, to send them off with our prayers and blessings to their next appointment which begins January 1 at LaGrange United Methodist Church. Please mark gifts "Thomas Martin love offering."



The Messiah Concert and Reception this Sunday

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.

[Livestream Link](#)

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



Season of the Nativity continues

We move deeper into the experience of God's presence with us through the Season of the Nativity with opportunities to explore, reflect, and share the reality that "Jesus is..." in our lives. Pick up your copy of a daily Intentional Journal and a calendar for the season in the narthex or church office. We look forward to sharing this time throughout Advent and Christmas through to Epiphany as our practices, prayers, and activities deepen our devotion together.



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.

December 13: Anthony's Pizza NOTE TIME: 5 PM

Pizza, Salad, , Dessert

Note: Dinner on December 13 (Anthony's Pizza) begins early at 5 PM to accommodate Christmas Caroling which begins at 5:30 PM.



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. [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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meet December 16: Note changes

G3 will be having our December get together at Karin Shah's home on Saturday, December 16, at 4 PM. Please reach out if you need a ride; we have quite a few people willing to stop by and pick you up/drop you off. We will resume meeting at Partners Pizza in January.

Please plan to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. The entree will be Honeybaked ham/rolls with sweet tea and water. If you'd like to bring a donation for Fayette Samaritans, we will be collecting these items: Laundry Detergent, Canned Fruit, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Feminine Products, Jello

Sure hope you can come and share this time of support, laughter & good cheer! Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaileys11@gmail.com.



Hat and Glove drive for SafeHouse Outreach

Sponsored by our FFUMC KiDS

Our children have been learning about giving to others for the last month and they want to give needed winter supplies to SafeHouse Outreach. If you would like to join their efforts, you may bring your donations of hats and gloves to the red box in the children's room, B-225, by Sunday, December 17. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with any questions.



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 AM in the chapel and at 11 AM and online in the sanctuary.



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.



We're Hiring

Fayetteville First UMC is looking for some part time help on Thursdays and half a day Friday to assist with front desk and administrative duties. If you are interested, please email admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

Gratitude



Thank you, Church Family:

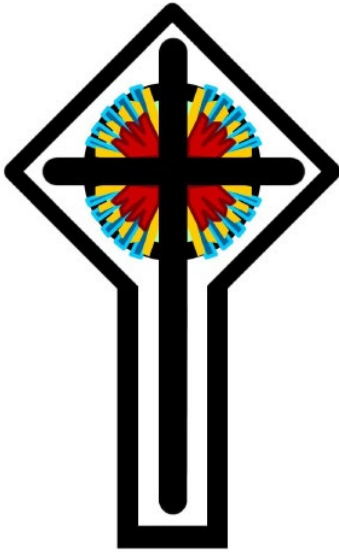
There are no words to properly express our gratitude for the prayers, calls, meals, and other gifts that we have received during Robbie's cancer treatments. We will continue to treasure the beautiful prayer blanket. We are blessed to be members of FFUMC.

— Robbie and Dottie Gray

Thank you, Shawl Ministry:

Thank you so much for the pretty shawl you sent me. I will cherish it and think of all the work that went into it each time I use it.

— James Watkins



December 6, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Year to Date receipts | \$1,114,277.01 |
| Year to Date expenses | \$1,122,040.64 |
| Difference | -\$7,763.63 |

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$2,909.00

162 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$47,445.13

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

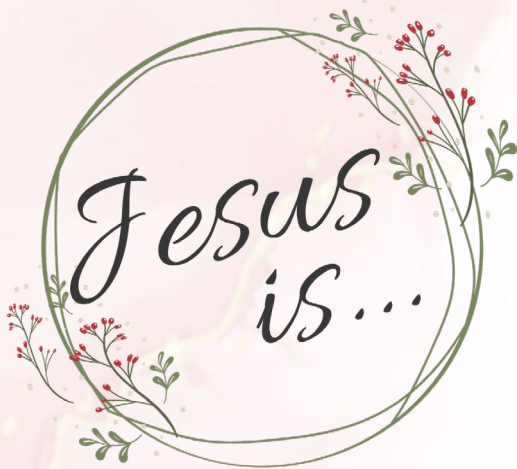
NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

inspired ...

Troup 74G gives back to FFUMC

Have you noticed the new landscaping near the Fellowship Hall? Thank you to Kate Johnson and team from Troup 74G for donating your time and Eagle Scout Project to Fayetteville First. Sit a spell and enjoy the scenic view of our historic location!

(Pictured: Kate Johnson, back left, and Frieda Everritt, back right, with team)

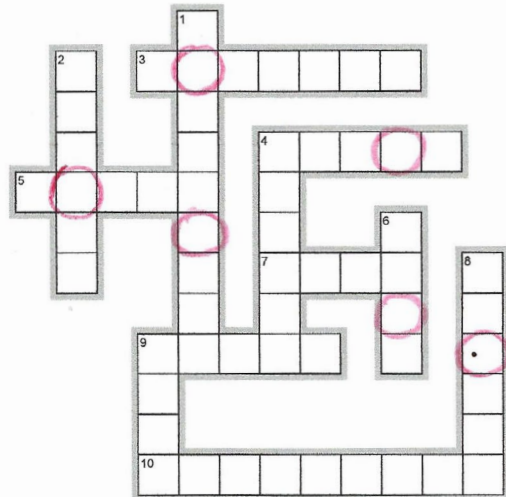


2023 SEASON OF THE NATIVITY

The Season of the Nativity continues with the Second Sunday of Advent on December 10 as we move to the theme Jesus is PEACE. This week's music selected by Nick Bowden is [Sweet, Sweet Spirit](#).

Work this week's crossword and add the letters circled in red to collect all 23 letters eventually to unscramble a special Christmas message:

Week 2



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. The angel who appeared to Zechariah, Mary and Joseph
4. It is used to make perfume
5. A plant with red berries
7. Another word for a present
9. _____ Christmas!
10. The manager of a lodging establishment

Down

1. A striped sweet treat
2. Songs we sing at Christmas
4. A box used to feed animals hay
6. Ball of gas
8. The head of the whole Roman world
9. Those who came from the east