



## Where there is welcome

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

We all have had bad experiences before. One time when I was working on the Conference Youth Leadership team, we went to dinner as a group. We had tickets to an event after dinner, but the food we ordered wasn't coming. With somewhere to be, we were worried about how we would get our meal, eat, and still make it to the next destination as a group of 20 or so people.

When the manager came to check on us, we told her our dilemma and she broke down. Embarrassed and upset, she told us most of the staff had problems come up that day and couldn't make it in. She pleaded for forgiveness and made it up to us in numerous ways. It's not that the service was bad or that things weren't right, it's just that we needed our food faster than they were providing it.

The thing that saved this interaction was the conversation, the welcome, and the hospitality that we received from the manager. She did not assign blame. She took the blame herself, and she found a way for us to have a good experience together.

Now, think about how this applies to our Christian life. We all get hurt. We don't get our way. Things don't work out the way we want them to. However, when the welcome is genuine, when the host, Jesus, is the one who is in charge, we can begin to see more than just a bad experience. Where there is welcome, there is the church. We cannot always control the world around us, but we can control our actions and our attitudes and our behaviors.

*(continued on page 5)*

September 2019

### Upcoming:

**September 4**  
New Wednesday Nights  
at FFUMC

**September 15**  
Wellroot Special Offering

**September 22**  
UMW Celebration Sunday  
& Churchwide Lunch

**September 29**  
Connecting at FFUMC Class



175 East Lanier Avenue  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-461-4313  
fayettevillefirst.com

# Our Church Family

Caring for each other and our community



growing in  
nurture  
II Peter 3:18



growing in  
outreach  
Matthew 5:16



growing in  
worship  
Psalm 100:2

## Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Jon, Leslie, Caitlin and Shannon Wade upon the death of Jon's mother and Caitlin and Shannon's grandmother, Jane Trimble Wade, on July 23.

### In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold  
Carolyn Broady  
Annelle Burch  
Steve Cartwright  
Richard Clayton

Elizabeth Dunn  
Kassandra Dzenis  
Margaret Grainger  
Rebecca Greenberg  
Martha Hale

Jim Haymans  
Doris Kerlin  
Jim McCarten  
Lurlene Perry  
Mary Pierson

Evelyn Starling  
Dorothy Swanson  
Jack Wheeler  
Brad Wilkinson

### Notes of Thanks

*Thank you so much for the prayers, flowers, visits, food and calls during my illness. Also the cards were so uplifting. I am getting better each day. — Margaret Panter*

*Thank you for providing lunches to my boys this summer. It's one of the highlights of their day. We appreciated it and pray God will bless you all. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! — Note from family receiving summer lunches*



#### Nancy Dennis

340 Grand Teton Circle, Fayetteville 30215

#### Barry & Leslie Hester, Bruce & Ginny

150 Peeples Road, Fayetteville 30215

#### Matt & Kelly Coldiron, Parker & Jackson

170 Windham Way, Fayetteville 30215

**Church Membership: 1785**

**Giving (as of August 20)**

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$850,789.54

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$862,964.74

Shortfall: \$12,175.20



### Smile! We have a camera ready!

A new FFUMC Pictorial Directory is being made. Sign up for a Sunday or Wednesday photo session through October 13 at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com).

Making a  
Difference  
NOW

#### Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$233,068.90

**Phase 1: Completed! Youth Space Open!**

**Needed to Complete Phase 2**

**Fellowship Hall/Community Courtyard**

\$66,931.10



# GOD'S KINGDOM NOW IN 2019: NURTURE, OUTREACH, WORSHIP

Find a place and connect!



Growing in grace and connection

**Table Groups** Intentionally go deeper in faith and spiritual transformation through Table Groups, small groups that meet for an hour each week. Become increasingly aware of where and how God is at work in our lives in this shared experience. Contact Rev.

Allyson Lawrence to enter an existing group or find a new group.



*Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., C-200*

*Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at Gremlin Growlers*

*Thursdays, 10 a.m., Men's Group, C-200*

*Fridays, 10 a.m. at Gremlin Growlers*

**Wednesday Morning Study — Animate - Faith** Spark conversation and dig deeper into big issues of faith like God, religion, Jesus, salvation and church. Join in this non-traditional study for 7 weeks as we hear from well-known theologians like Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brian McClaren, and Lauren Winners. September 4 - October 16, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Cost: \$15.

**Jesus in the Gospels** Begin a 30-week study September 4 on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Go deep into Scripture and encounter the Jesus who is both hard to ignore and control.

**Topics with Thomas** Gather in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a weekly come-as-you-are session with Dr. Thomas Martin.

**Men's Bible Study** Gather every other Tuesday night (beginning September 10) for an hour of study. The group primarily is studying the gospel of John, with discussion based on thoughts, questions and Bible commentaries.

**Singles Night Out** Join in the fun with friends at the Peachtree City Night Market on Saturday, September 14, 5:45 p.m.

**Small Groups on Sundays** Sunday school classes offer opportunities for connection, fellowship and growth for all ages.

**Connecting at FFUMC** Interested in knowing more about the life and ministries of Fayetteville First UMC? This one-time class will give you a chance to enjoy lunch, meet the staff, explore our children, youth and adult ministries, and learn about our passion for missions and connection. September 29, Noon to 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall. RSVPs for lunch are appreciated.



Events and service that take us outside ourselves

## Celebrations & Opportunities

Summer Lunch - 250 weekly lunches

Rise Against Hunger - 30,000 meals

WellRoot Offering - September 15

ColorPalooza: October 2

Parent's Night Out - October 4

Blessing of the Animals - October 6

Blood Drive - October 20

Fall Festival - October 26



Looking in and looking up

## Sundays

8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.

## Wednesdays

Youth 6 p.m.



*Get more information.  
Register for events  
& classes.*

FAYETTEVILLEFIRST.COM



I'm Katie Pace, a senior in the FFUMC program. Recently in July, several students in our youth program attended a leadership

conference in Indiana. This conference impacted my life in many different ways. I was able to get closer with students in my youth program who I wasn't close with before. This showed me that there were other kids in the youth program who were more like me than I thought. It also showed that there were kids my age that had the same love and passion for Jesus like I did. Through one-on-one discussions, I also learned how to live my life better for Jesus and for other people in my youth program. It was an incredible opportunity to finally sit down with our youth pastors and talk about how we can better our youth program with the things we learned during this conference. Sending more students to this conference next year in 2020 will not only keep the leadership roles in the youth program continuing, but it will also give other students just like me an amazing chance to grow in their faith and learn how to love Jesus and love others around them, which to me, is what being a Christian is all about.

*Katie along with four other students attended a leadership conference this summer through a grant from our church's endowment program, Legacy Giving. Thank you for this investment in them and our future together!*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Fall plans | Kena Newkirk

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. - 1 Timothy 4:12*

We are eager to begin a new season of ministry this month! To prepare, five students traveled to a leadership conference outside Chicago this summer to train as leaders for ministry. We set goals, discussed possible challenges, and ultimately our students developed a detailed action plan for how to improve ministry among their peers. Exciting new ministries include a Big/Little Program, a Prayer Ministry, and a Welcome Team. At the beginning of August, we prepared our students for a new school year by hosting worship for the LaGrange District Lock-in in our renovated youth space, The Foundry. We then bonded during an all-night skating event.

Last month we gave 14 Bibles to sixth grade students, with many of them starting Confirmation class this fall on Wednesday nights. Sixth-grade students are invited to be a part of 8th Period after school, Wednesday night dinner at 5 p.m. and youth worship at 6 p.m. before going to their Confirmation lesson and small groups in a separate classroom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

As our youth have leaned into leadership within our ministry, we are thrilled to offer support and training events for our adult Shepherds. To enhance training begun last month, our church is participating in the National Day of Volunteer Youth Ministry Training on September 21. Anyone interested in volunteering with youth is encouraged to attend this free training session hosted at Dogwood Church from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The event features 8 TED Talk-style training sessions, discussion breaks, speaker Q & A, prizes, and more. A church vehicle will be departing from the office at 8:15 a.m. for those who want to ride together. We hope you will consider deepening your commitment to youth by attending this fantastic event.

### Fall Opportunities

September 4: Wednesday Kickoff\*

September 14: Atlanta United Game\*

September 18: Parent Open House

September 21: Volunteer Youth Ministry Training

*\*Register Online\* Get Fall Calendar in Welcome Center!*

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Connected in relationship, purpose, and ministry here and around the globe



In both quiet and bold ways, we all are affected by the work of the United Methodist Women. What began as the Women's Mission Society 150 years ago is now a global network with connections around the world. From seven small groups here at FFUMC come relationships where more than 150 women support each other through life, bound by faith and love. Individually these groups branch out in service, united in focus to help others, especially women, youth and children. Together they form a strong, active unit of United Methodist Women that offers education, hospitality, and ministry opportunities to engage the church and community.

Our current UMW president, Kathie Hansen, stands in awe of the group's reach. "When we support UMW, we become part of transformation all over the world, partnering with more than 800,000 other women to bring hope, healing and justice to our communities. As women in every age and stage of life are drawn together, we foster relationships that become lifelong bonds of support and care. We seek to know God, experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus, develop fellowship, and expand mission."

Are you ready to explore the opportunities of UMW? Find out more at the next UMW Unit Meeting and lunch on September 19. Learn even more as we celebrate their ministry in all services on September 22. On this UMW Sunday, these women will take an active role in worship, briefly present the scope of their ministry, and sponsor a churchwide lunch at noon. You also can contact Kathie Hansen, [hansen.kathie@comcast.net](mailto:hansen.kathie@comcast.net), anytime. You're sure to find your place in an established or new circle.

Throughout the year we all are invited into the many opportunities that UMW makes possible. Did you know the UMW's Christmas Marketplace raised more than \$11,000 last year for local missions? UMW-sponsored Lenten Lunches challenge and nourish us from Ash Wednesday to Easter. From reading and education programs to active mission to fundraising projects that support local and global ministries that matter, the United Methodist Women inspire us to make a difference in our world.



*Volunteers gathered to pack UMCOR Christmas boxes at a recent UMW-sponsored missions event.*

*Pictured at top, the FFUMC UMW Executive Board brings together the work of groups within the church and develops focus and direction for local and global ministry.*

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*("Where there is welcome" by Dr. Thomas Martin, continued from page 1)*

I am proud to serve a church that welcomes children as we did this past month with Bibles and promotions, with backpack tags and prayers. I am proud to serve this congregation that welcomed people we may never meet by packing over 30,000 meals. I am proud to serve where people not only come, but people stay because they feel welcome here.

In the coming months, I want you to pray about the ways we can welcome others. I want you to think about the ways you make people feel welcome and invite others to this place of welcoming service. I want you to not only be or feel welcomed, but also to extend welcome to those who want to walk in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. May we all welcome others in the way that Christ welcomes us.



## MINISTRY FOR MEN AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST

Growing and serving | Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Men find connection and service in growing ways at FFUMC. Discover your place in the mix!

**Men Only Table Group** — Thursdays at 10 a.m. “We share our spiritual journey through discussion of what we’re learning, how we’re growing, where we’re struggling, and how we’re doing with prayer, Bible study, and efforts to be doers, not just hearers. There are funny moments. We instituted fun fines of \$1 for those who interrupt or bring up a topic which the group thinks is fineable. We steer clear of partisan topics, but sometimes we can’t resist talking about football! Fines go to the benevolence fund. In the Wesleyan tradition, this small group gels. We listen. We become better friends. We strengthen each other’s efforts to be more like Jesus and more attentive to the Holy Spirit. We share good humor and purpose. Our goal is for members to start new Table Groups in the near future.” — *Bill Webb*

**Men’s Bible Study** — Study various topics and the gospel of John, with discussion based on thoughts, questions and Bible commentaries. A group meets every other Tuesday night on campus at 6:15 p.m.

**United Methodist Men** — Men share a monthly potluck meal as they enjoy time together and plan their focus on missions throughout our community.



*Enjoy time together in study at the Men’s Bible Study meeting every other Tuesday night.*

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

For the WHOLE family | Rev. Carson Thaxton

**FFUMC KiDS Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., PK3 through 5th Grade**

We dive into the Bible through the Deep Blue Kids Curriculum with exciting animated videos, music and worship, science experiments, active games, and more. This awe-inspiring children’s curriculum helps children discover what it means to follow Jesus today with the theme *Loving God and Loving Neighbor*.

**Wednesday Night L.i.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday) 6-7:30 p.m. PK4 - 5th Grade**

Get ready for new challenges each Wednesday this year! KiDS work out the wiggles with recreation challenges, worship, crafts, and mission projects all designed to help us grow and live out our faith everyday! The new season begins September 4.



## FIRST DAYS OF PRESCHOOL

Where traditions begin | Kerry Bleil

The first few weeks of Preschool and Mother’s Morning Out were full of excitement as the children transitioned from their summer at home to our preschool environment. Some met this change with trepidation while others bounced through the doors ready to face the world! Our staff of experienced teachers met each of them with a smile and instantly began forming relationships to help the children feel safe and secure. This feeling of safety and love forms the base of a young child’s learning experience and helps them, through the actions of their teachers, sense the unconditional love of God. We are looking forward to spreading God’s love as we guide our preschoolers through the year!

*Kids look happy about the start of a new year in their classroom and parents are smiling at the annual BooHOO! YaHOO!! Parent Brunch.*



# What's Happening @ Fayetteville First UMC

Get specific information on happenings and times at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com) or 770-461-4313.

## Regular Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice: 7:50 a.m.  
Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee & Donuts: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Small Groups: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship in Chapel: 9:45 a.m.  
Choir Practice: 10:30 a.m.  
Worship in Sanctuary: 11 a.m.  
Kids Wonders of Worship: 11:30 a.m.  
AA: 3 p.m.

## Regular Monday Schedule

GriefShare: 10 a.m.  
Move 4 Life: 2 p.m.  
AA: 7 p.m.

## Regular Tuesday Schedule

Yoga: 9 a.m.  
Card Ministry: 10 a.m.  
Seasoned Singers: 1:30 p.m.  
Men's Bible Study: 6:15 p.m.\*  
Cocaine Anon.: 7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

## Regular Wednesday Schedule

Table Group: 9:30 a.m.  
Move 4 Life: 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Morning Study: 10:30 a.m.  
Overeaters Anonymous: 12 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer: 12:30 p.m.  
8th Period Youth: 3:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Supper: 5 p.m.

Gremlin Growlers Table Group: 6 p.m.  
Children's Groups: 6 p.m.  
Youth Groups: 6 p.m.  
Jesus in the Gospels: 6 p.m.  
Confirmation Class: 6:30 p.m.  
Topics with Thomas: 6:30 p.m.  
Music Rehearsals: 7:30 p.m.  
AA: 8 p.m.

## Regular Thursday Schedule

Table Group (Men): 10 a.m.  
Yoga: 9 a.m.  
Yoga: 5:45 p.m.  
Narcotics Anon.: 7:30 p.m.

## Regular Friday Schedule

Gremlin Growlers Table Group: 10 a.m.  
AA: 7 p.m.

## Regular Saturday Schedule

Narcotics Anon.: 7 p.m.  
AA: 8 p.m.

*\*Study meets every other week: 9/10, 9/24*

## United Methodist Women Circles

Ethel Taylor: 9/3, 7 p.m.  
Marie Lamb: 9/5, 6 p.m.  
Friendship: 9/9, 10 a.m. off campus  
Joy: 9/10, 5 p.m.  
Bethany: 9/12, off campus  
Mary Martha Hope: 9/26, 10 a.m.  
Faith: 9/26, 10 a.m.

## Other Dates:

Office closed, Labor Day: 9/2  
Titus II: 9/3, 12 p.m.  
United Methodist Men: 9/10, 6:15 p.m.  
Square Foot Ministry: 9/12, 6:30 p.m.  
Green Team: 9/16, 1 p.m.  
Trustee: 9/16, 6 p.m.  
Youth Parent Open House: 9/18, 6 p.m.  
UMW Salad Lunch: 9/19, 11:30 a.m.  
Staff-Parish Relations: 9/23, 7 p.m.  
Finance: 9/24, 6 p.m.  
Church Council: 9/24, 7 p.m.  
SAGE Cyclorama Trip: 9/26  
Connecting at FFUMC: 9/29, 12 p.m.



## Brown Bag with Thomas

September 18  
Noon, Fellowship Hall  
Vision and Q&A session



## WELCOME BACK TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Let's eat at church on Wednesdays. Sign up each week or get on the permanent reservation list at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com).

Choose the weekly entree **or** OZ Pizza **NEW!**

All meals include drink and dessert

Adults: \$7 Children 10 and under: \$4 Family Max: \$22

September 4: Hotdogs/Hamburgers, Chips, Chili, Baked Beans

September 11: BLTs, Wings, Chips

September 18: BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Salad

September 25: Low Country Boil



## SENIOR ADULTS: GET READY FOR A FULL SEASON

A full schedule of learning, service and activities is in place for our senior adults. Get a 55+ brochure from the Welcome Center or go to [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com) for details and registration information.

Titus II Lunch & Program: September 3, Noon, Gym. Danny Beck & Friends

SAGE: September 26, Swan House, Atlanta History Center & Cyclorama



# God's Kingdom NOW at FFUMC

*Your church on the square*

## Pastoral & Program Staff

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
[TMartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:TMartin@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Associate Minister

Rev. Allyson Lawrence  
[ALawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:ALawrence@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Director of Youth Ministry

Kena Newkirk  
[KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jordan Hart  
[JHart@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:JHart@fayettevillefirst.com)

## Director of Children & Family Ministry

Rev. Carson Thaxton  
[CThaxton@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:CThaxton@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Assistant Director of Children & Family Ministry

Allie Hansen  
[AHansen@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:AHansen@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Music Director / Organist

Rick Massengale  
[Rick.Massengale@gmail.com](mailto:Rick.Massengale@gmail.com)

### Nursery Coordinator

Connie Little

### Pianist

Sonia Squires

### Pre-School/ MMO

Kerry Bleil  
[KBleil@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:KBleil@fayettevillefirst.com)

## Administrative & Support Staff

### Administrator

Joyce Mucha  
[JMucha@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:JMucha@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Administrative Assistants

Janet Gazaway  
Dian Nelson  
[admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Church Hostess

Jane Davis

### Communications

Joan Aycock  
[JAycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:JAycock@fayettevillefirst.com)

### Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson

FFUMC  
175 E. Lanier Ave  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

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Return Service Requested

Welcome  
here

Connected in ministry  
together!

