



People, Get Ready

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One of my favorite Advent/Christmas hymns is not in the hymnal or even commonly sung in churches. It is “People Get Ready,” written by Curtis Mayfield and made famous first by the Impressionists. Rolling Stone ranks it as the 24th greatest song of all time. There are a lot of great versions of it, but Curtis Mayfield’s is the best (send dissenting opinions to tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com). It seems that this time of year, all we do is get ready. Some places have been getting ready since before Halloween decorations came down.

I’m not here to argue about timing of holiday decorations. I am here to persuade you that we, as Christians, are always getting ready for what’s next. We are always getting ready for Christ. The season of Advent is designed for us to, as the Christmas hymn

says, “Let every heart prepare him room.” So yes, we are getting ready.

For the sake of argument, in the first of December, let’s jump to December 26. What happens next? We’ve made our hearts and homes ready for the birth of Christ. What do we prepare for now? Well, I think that as United Methodists, as Christians, we are striving for perfection (“*Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” Matthew 5:48). We are tasked with making Christmas—the gift of Christ and eternal love—every day. We are tasked with making Easter—God’s triumph over sin and death—every day. That is a lot of work, more work than decorating and cooking and cleaning and shopping.

My hope is that we will get ready. We will get ready for what God

(continued on page 5)

December 2019

December 7
Christmas Camp

December 15
Lessons & Carols
Blue Christmas

December 22
Christmas Pageant
Candlelight Concert

December 24
Christmas Eve: 4, 6, 11 PM

December 29
One Service: 11 AM



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
Hebrews 12:12



growing in
outreach
Matthew 5:16



growing in
worship
Psalm 100:2

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Dunn
October 30

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Doug Dunn & Keith and Anna James upon the death of Doug and Anna's mother, Elizabeth Dunn, on October 30.
Carol Taylor upon the death of her brother, Marvin DeVane, on October 31.

Jeff and Terri Wallace upon the death of Jeff's mother, Sarah Wallace, on November 7.

Julianne York and family upon the death of her mother, Melissa Lamb, on November 12.

In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold

Kassandra Dzenis

Doris Kerlin

Martha Segars

Carolyn Broady

Margaret Grainger

Margaret Panter

Dorothy Swanson

Ken Broady

Rebecca Greenberg

Lurlene Perry

Jack Wheeler

Annelle Burch

Martha Hale

Mary Pierson

Brad Wilkinson

Richard Clayton

Harriett Hazelton

Norma Saunders

Notes of Thanks

The flowers (delivered by Beth Jones) from our flower ministry were lovely with such happy, pretty colors and they brightened my week. I am pleased to have received this delightful gift of friendship and flowers. — Suzan Cole

Thank you so much for the lap robes you made for us and your prayers as we recovered from surgeries. May God bless your ministry and the hands that so lovingly made these garments. — John and Susan Simon

Thanks so much for the thoughts, prayers, and cards during my brother's illness and passing. It is great to have a church family and friends. —Carol Taylor

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. They were so pretty and really helped brighten my day. Thank you for the beautiful lap throw and shawl. We feel so blessed that you thought of us. —Martha and Richard Segars

This is the first shawl I have ever had and it is lovely. So is the lap robe; Bill is very pleased. Health is still an issue, but we both feel blessed. —Shirley Bowman

Thank you for the beautiful gift of shawls. We will be reminded of God's love each time we see this beautiful gift from the wonderful ladies of the shawl ministry. —Red and Linda Benefield

Thank you so much for the red, white, and beautiful roses. They made my day! —Robbie Burton

Church Membership: 1623

Giving (as of November 19)

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$1,149,806.12

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$1,226,229.77

Shortfall: \$76,423.65



With God's Help

2020 Commitments

To date, we have received 161 pledges for a total of \$786,577.80.

Thank you for your support of your church.

Giving Check Up

If you would like to check your 2019 giving, please log into your REALM account or call the church office. We will be glad to assist you.

Making a
Difference
NOW

Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$238,943.90

Needed for total goal: \$ 111,056.10

Fellowship Hall/Community Courtyard Needs: \$61,056.10

The Season of the Nativity

Hope First Sunday of Advent

December 1: Isaiah 2:1-5
Intentional Advent Calendars
Sunshine Christmas Event: 6 PM

December 3
Titus II: Noon
UMM: 6:15 PM

December 7
Christmas Camp: 10 AM - 2 PM

Peace Second Sunday of Advent

December 8: Isaiah 11:1-10

December 11
Churchwide Bonfire: 6 PM

December 12
UMW Banquet: 6 PM

December 13
Southern Crescent Symphony
Orchestra Concert: 7:30 PM

Joy Third Sunday of Advent

December 15: Luke 1:46-55
Service of Lessons and Carols: 8:30, 11 AM
Blue Christmas Service: 9:45 AM

December 17
Preschool Christmas Program: 5 PM

December 18
Churchwide Caroling: 5 PM

December 19
Youth Foundry Event: 6 PM

Love Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22: Matthew 1:18-25
FFUMC Christmas Pageant: 9:45 AM
Candlelight Concert: 6 PM

Treasure Christmas Eve

December 24: Luke 2:1-10
Christmas Eve Services: 4, 6, 11 PM

Praise First Sunday after Christmas

December 29: Psalm 148
One Service in Sanctuary: 11 AM

Seek Epiphany Sunday

January 5: Matthew 2:1-12
All regular services resume
Churchwide Epiphany Breakfast

This Season of the Nativity begins with Advent, reaches a crescendo with Christmas, and moves forward into Epiphany. Prophets foretold that God would send a Messiah - yet God surpassed prophecy by sending Jesus as Emmanuel, God With Us. Throughout this season, let us experience God With Us through daily acts of kindness, devotion, and worship.

We invite you to find details for events and an Intentional Advent Calendar at fayettevillefirst.com.

NOW AND LOOKING AHEAD

Learning and Growing | Rev. Allyson Lawrence

READY FOR A TABLE GROUP?

Whether it's a coffee table, a kitchen table, or the communion table, Christians grow closer to God and to one another when they gather around the table. Table Groups are designed to help us grow as disciples of Christ through fellowship, sharing, and personal accountability. Each group develops its own personality, its own ways to express faith and to experience God. And yet, each group is centered on the same simple mission as Zacchaeus, the Biblical character who climbed up a Sycamore tree just so that he could see Jesus. Table Groups are about intentionally getting away from the chaos just so we can see Jesus in the midst of our everyday lives. Growing our relationship with Christ is the most essential aspect of our faith and it is lived out most fully through our relationships with others. Table Groups create that inspiring, encouraging, family-like connection with others that helps us connect with the Divine.



Let us help you find a group that meets at a time best for you. Go to fayettevillefirst.com and click on the Table Group link to let us know you are interested.

A DISCIPLE'S PATH | James A. Harnish

Coming Wednesdays, January 15 - February 19, at 10:45 AM, Room C-230, Orientation class January 8
Join in a six-week study that focuses on spiritual practices, your unique gifts, and transformational discipleship. \$20. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com by January 3.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Making Ready | Rev. Carson Thaxton & Kena Newkirk

Christmas Presence: Children's Event—Wednesday, December 4 @ 6 PM

A special Wednesday Night L.i.F.E. all about Christmas.

Christmas Camp—Saturday, December 7 @ 10 AM to 2 PM

Christmas ornament building, Christmas cookie creating, Christmas storytelling, and Christmas song singing for the kids while parents go do something else! Free if registered by December 2 (\$15/child after).



Share Christmas carols and cheer with our homebound friends this year on December 18.

Bonfire—Wednesday, December 11 @ 6 PM

S'mores, hot chocolate, music, togetherness, all around a bonfire in the field across from gym. Come and join this churchwide event!

Christmas Caroling—Wednesday, December 18 @ 5 PM

Share Christmas cheer on the go as we visit homebound friends. Adults must accompany any children for caroling.

Youth Christmas Party—Thursday, December 19 @ 6 to 9 PM

Games, White Elephant gift exchange (budget \$10), Ugly Sweater contest and more.

Christmas Pageant—Sunday, December 22 @ 9:45 AM

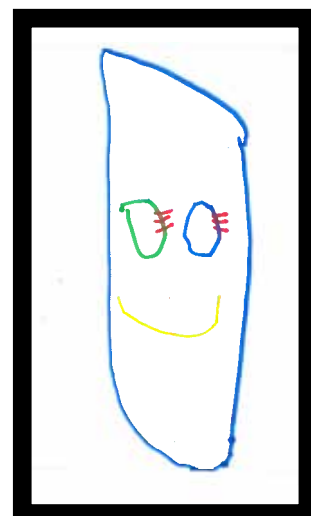
Join the fun as Bethlehem comes to the gym for this spontaneous and humorous retelling of the Christmas story where everyone is involved. Tell a friend and be a part of the story!

PRESCHOOLERS TALK CHRISTMAS

Helping Children Learn | Kerry Bleil, Preschool

Most preschoolers LOVE to talk about pretty much anything. This time of year we hear their excitement about holiday happenings and celebrations: looking at Christmas lights, drinking hot chocolate while watching a Christmas special, or helping light the Advent candle in church. In preschool these real-life experiences provide age appropriate opportunities for children to connect speech with written language. Our two-year-old friends may create a classroom book with photographs of holiday traditions contributed by each family. Our three-year-olds may draw or paint pictures of an event they attended and dictate a few sentences about it to their teacher. To their drawings or paintings, our four-year-old students may write some words on their own. As children share these things with friends and family they are making sense of the world around them, learning that everything they say has value and that they are worth listening to.

So when a young child taps you on the leg and starts talking a mile a minute about how he helped pick out the perfect Christmas tree, take a moment to truly listen to what he has to say. Let him practice speaking about something he is excited about. You will be helping the children of today become the well-spoken and well-written adults of tomorrow. And you just may catch a bit of their joy!



"Christmas trees are fun because they light up. It's a face, my face, and it's big!"
— Mia, preschooler

THE SEASON OF GIVING IS ALL YEAR

Benevolence at Work | Joyce Mucha, Administrator



FFUMC recently hosted a breakfast and forum for organizations in our community who are offering benevolence assistance. Participants included representatives from Fayette Samaritans, St. Vincent de Paul, FFUMC, and the Real Life Center.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who work along with other organizations in our community to assist those in Fayette County who are experiencing financial difficulties. We rely on the Fayette Samaritans, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Real Life Center to properly check out the situations of those seeking assistance. If they qualify, the church will assist once a calendar year up to \$300. Benevolence funds are collected each communion Sunday on the altar rail, and ongoing donations to the fund are always appreciated. Please mark your donations as "Benevolence Fund." Contact Joyce Mucha, Administrator, if you have any questions.

(continued from front cover — Dr. Martin)

has in store for us as we share a meaningful Season of the Nativity that stretches from Advent into our celebration of Epiphany (Sunday, January 5). My hope is that we will be ready for the joys of Christmas, the preparation of Advent, and the light that comes to us throughout this season. So, in the words of Curtis Mayfield,

"People, get ready! There's a train a-coming. You don't need no ticket; you just get on board. All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming. Don't need no ticket; you just thank the Lord."

THE SOUNDS OF WORSHIP AND JOY

Music of the Season I Rick Massengale

Music ushers in the Season of the Nativity in a unique way. As we sing our personal songs of devotion and receive the exceptional talents shared by others, we radiate the light shining in the darkness. Enjoy every moment.

Southern Crescent Symphony Orchestra: Friday, December 13, 7:30 PM.

Rarely do we hear a full orchestra in person, but for several years now the SCSO has chosen our sanctuary for its Christmas concert. This year's concert features Bethany Hayes Smith, owner of the Legacy Theatre in Tyrone. The Rick Massengale Jazz Trio will perform, and Bethany will sing some Christmas favorites along with the trio. This FOR Fayette event is free. Please make plans to come and bring a neighbor or a friend.



Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 15, 8:30 AM and 11 AM

The Chancel Choir presents the Service Lessons and Carols twice on this Sunday. The first formal service of Nine Lessons and Carols started in Cornwall, England, in 1880 and was performed traditionally on Christmas Eve. Readings tell the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. Between each of the readings is a carol sung by the Chancel Choir accompanied by wonderful instrumentalists.

Candlelight Concert: Sunday, December 22, 6 PM

The first Candlelight Concert started as a violin and piano concert with Sonia Squires and Rick Massengale in the chapel surrounded by candles. This much anticipated concert is now in its 19th year. This year we feature the wonderful Candlelight Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Richard Bell, and our guest soloists will be soprano Lianna Williams and the always popular baritone Bill Killmeier. The soloists, instruments, and candle-lit sanctuary have created a tradition that always brings the Christmas spirit to all those who attend.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL NOTES

CONTRIBUTIONS

- All contributions that are to be credited to 2019 MUST be physically received in the church office before January 1, 2020. Checks sent via mail must be dated AND postmarked in December 2019. The church finance office will be open December 31 from 9 a.m. to noon to assist you.
- Contributions can be made online by credit/debit card or through electronic funds transfer. Click "Donate Now" on the church website and follow the instructions or log in to Realm and set up your contributions under the Giving tab.
- New offering envelopes for 2020 will be available in the Welcome Center on Sunday, December 15. If you do not currently have offering envelopes but would like them, please contact the church office at 770-461-4313. Please do not use the new envelopes until 2020.

WITH GOD'S HELP: OUR 2020 COMMITMENT

To date, we have received 161 pledges for a total of \$786,577.80. Pledges to the 2020 operating budget are still accepted and appreciated.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW

Our Making a Difference NOW strategic capital funds campaign has funded the new dedicated youth space. Now we have the opportunity to enhance the Fellowship Hall and Community Courtyard and to replenish our maintenance reserve. We need \$111,056.10 to reach the total goal of \$350,000. To complete the Fellowship Hall and Courtyard phase, \$61,056.10 is needed. To contribute, indicate "Capital Campaign" on your donation.

What's Happening @ Fayetteville First UMC

Get specific information on happenings and times at 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

Move 4 Life: 2 p.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Tuesday Schedule

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.

**Study meets every other week*

Regular Wednesday Schedule

Table Group: 9:30 a.m.
Move 4 Life: 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.
Children's Choir: 5:30 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.

United Methodist Women

UMW Christmas Banquet: 12/12, 6 p.m.
Check with circle chairs for individual circle holiday gatherings.

Other Dates:

Jail Ministry Orientation: 12/2, 6 p.m.
Titus II: 12/3, 12 p.m.
United Methodist Men: 12/3, 6:15 p.m.
Christmas Camp: 12/7, 10 a.m.
Church Council: 12/10, 7 p.m.
Square Foot Ministry: 12/12, 6:30 p.m.
SAGE Trip: 12/14, 7 p.m.



FFUMC Seasoned Singers Perform at Festival of the Nativity December 15, 4 p.m.

*Hosted by Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-Day Saints, Peachtree City*
Hear them sing and view nativities
from around the world.

Season Schedule

No regular programs December 18
(Let's go caroling!), December 25,
January 1, or January 8.
Wednesday night programs
resume January 15.
Church office closed
December 24-26
and December 31
(finance open til noon)
and January 1.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Thank you for taking part in the new FFUMC Church Family Directory. Free digital copies and printed copies (\$7 each) will be available in early January.



Get together at WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Let's eat at church on Wednesdays. Sign up each week or get on the permanent reservation list at fayettevillefirst.com.

Choose the weekly entree *or* OZ Pizza

All meals include drink and dessert

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

December 4 Entree: Chili, Baked Potato, Salad

December 11 Entree: Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Vegetable

Holiday Break! Wednesday Night Suppers resume January 15.



God's Kingdom NOW at FFUMC

Your church on the square

Pastoral & Program Staff

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
TMartin@fayettevillefirst.com

Associate Minister

Rev. Allyson Lawrence
ALawrence@fayettevillefirst.com

Director of Youth Ministry

Kena Newkirk
KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jordan Hart
JHart@fayettevillefirst.com

FFUMC
175 E. Lanier Ave
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #20

Return Service Requested

Director of Children & Family Ministry

Rev. Carson Thaxton
CThaxton@fayettevillefirst.com

Assistant Director of Children & Family Ministry

Allie Hansen
AHansen@fayettevillefirst.com

Music Director / Organist

Rick Massengale
Rick.Massengale@gmail.com

Nursery Coordinator

Connie Little

Pianist

Sonia Squires

Pre-School/ MMO

Kerry Bleil
KBleil@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative & Support Staff

Administrator

Joyce Mucha
JMucha@fayettevillefirst.com

Administrative Assistants

Janet Gazaway
Dian Nelson
admin@fayettevillefirst.com

Communications

Joan Aycock
JAycock@fayettevillefirst.com

Financial Assistant

Julie Harp

Church Hostess

Jane Davis

Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson



Candlelight Concert

December 22 6 pm

Rick Massengale & Sonia Squires

Candlelight Orchestra

with Dr. Richard Bell

Featured Soloists

Leanna Williams

Bill Killmeier

