



>> connections

Do you see what I see?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Through the Season of the Nativity and beyond, do you see what I see?

What a delight to be part of a church that welcomes so many. We are truly in ministry to Fayette County and to all the world.

I ask you, friends, what do you see on the pages of this year-end, new-year Connections newsletter? You may see different programs, different events, different things for which we share different passions or perspectives or promises. What I see is the way in which our gifts and service and presence and prayers and witness shape the kingdom of God through

the ministries of Fayetteville First United Methodist Church.

I am inspired by the stars of light that you have filled out at home and on Sundays in which we name the ways we change the world together. Be inspired by what you see on these pages. It doesn't happen without you.

Then live in a way that the world looks at us and says with wonder and amazement: "Do you see what I see?" May the world continue to see the light of Christ through us this season and always, at Fayetteville First UMC.

The Light shines in the darkness...."

John 1:5



January 2020

January 5
Churchwide Epiphany Breakfast

January 12
Remembrance of Baptism Blood Drive

January 17-20
Renovatus Youth Retreat

January 24
Parents Night Out



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
Ephesians 3:18



growing in
outreach
Matthew 5:16



growing in
worship
Psalm 100:2

In Memoriam: Joan Alexander, November 22

Ilene Ayers, December 8

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Mack and Beth Alexander upon the death of Mack's mother, Joan Alexander, on November 22.

Mary Ann Jackson (Karlton) upon the death of her mother, Ilene Ayers, on December 8.

In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold
Carolyn Broady
Ken Broady
Annelle Burch
Richard Clayton

Kassandra Dzenis
Margaret Grainger
Rebecca Greenberg
Martha Hale
Harriett Hazelton

Doris Kerlin
Margaret Panter
Lurlene Perry
Mary Pierson
Norma Saunders

Martha Segars
Dorothy Swanson
Jack Wheeler
Mabel Wilbanks
Brad Wilkinson

Notes of Thanks

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They made my hospital stay more cheerful. — Harriett Hazelton

Thank you for the beautiful shawl. Any time I use it, I will feel the love with which it was made. I feel I am really going to need to feel the comfort and peace of it during the holidays. Thanks so much. — Sandy Holcomb

Thank you for thinking of Randy and me, Shawl Ministry Team. Your prayers and your beautiful handiwork are both so very much appreciated. We have been enjoying the warmth of the shawl and lap blanket. Knowing and "feeling" the love and care of our church family has made such a difference for us. We are able to keep moving forward with the support from all of you. It is so important. — Janet and Randy Baileys

I want to thank the Flower Ministry for the beautiful flowers and for all the expressions of sympathy over the death of my uncle. — Karen Davis

Church Membership: 1540

Giving (as of December 17)

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$1,265,630.86

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$1,338,233.85

Shortfall: \$72,602.99



With God's Help

2020 Commitments

To date, we have received 203 pledges for a total of \$937,845.80. Thank you for your support of your church.



Making a
Difference
NOW

Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$242,665.90

Needed for total goal: \$ 107,344.10

Fellowship Hall/Community

Courtyard Needs: \$57,344.10

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

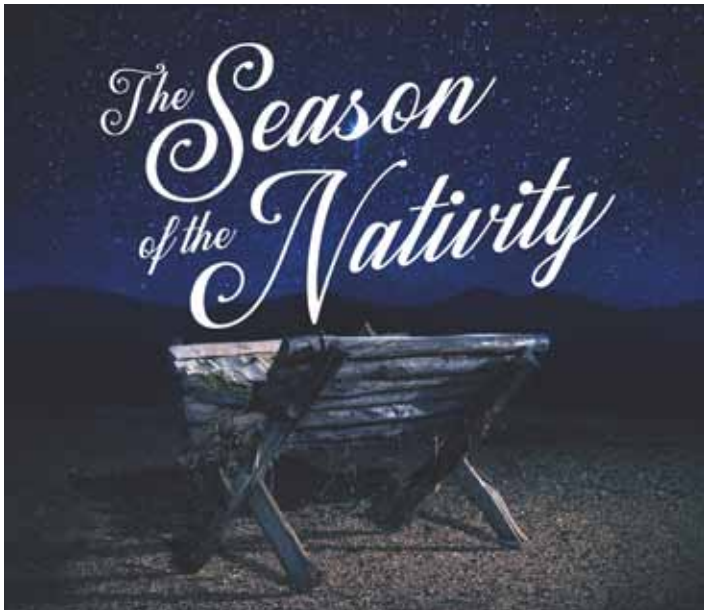
Thank you for taking part in the new FFUMC Church Family Directory. Free digital copies and printed copies (\$7 each) will be available in January.

WORSHIP AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

With Intention | Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I love to worship with you all every Sunday here at church. From the beautiful music, to the prayers, to the visits we share before, during, and after the service, it moves and inspires me to be a better follower of Christ. The worship we do is intentional. Everything from our singing to our giving is an act of worship—something we do with God as the audience. I am grateful that we worship for God's glory and not our own.

I want to challenge you to something throughout this year. Worship fully with us through your presence and invite others to do the same. January 12 will be a meaningful service as we worship together and remember our baptism. It is a great way to start the year as we continue to worship God on Sunday mornings here at Fayetteville First UMC. Pray and think about who you can invite—personally—to worship God with us.



THE SEASON OF THE NATIVITY

Continuing through Epiphany

Epiphany Sunday, January 5

Celebrate the Epiphany

Worship — 8:30, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary
9:45 AM, Chapel

Epiphany Breakfast — 9:30 AM to 11 AM
Gym

A special thanks to the nearly 30 volunteers who worked with Carol Webb and Lea Agnew to plan and present *The Season of the Nativity* this year. Their work began last summer and continues through the Epiphany Breakfast. We appreciate all of you!

SENIORS TOGETHER AT FFUMC

Lunch and programs here and adventures away

Titus II The senior lunch and learn program invites special guests to provide helpful information while the group enjoys a meal together. All meetings begin at noon in the gym. Lunch reservations are due by noon the Thursday before each lunch. Cost \$7. Call Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.

January 7 — Debbie Walker, accompanied by Penny Brown, presents a combination of Patsy Cline favorites and Gospel songs. Lunch: Soup, Baked Sweet Potato, Grilled Cheese. *Reserve by January 3*

February 4 — Jim and Lynn Duncan describe the mission of Love Gives (helping the homeless) including "214 by 2/14." Lunch: Smothered Chicken, Rice, Green Beans. *Reserve by January 31.*

Senior Adults Going Everywhere That's SAGE! Take a day-trip with friends. Sign up in the church office.

January 9 — Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. Lunch together and then tour at 1 p.m.

February 20 — Saint Luke's Episcopal Church Stained Glass Tour which concludes with music and an English Tea to cap off the trip. Enjoy lunch together before the tour.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

The Future | Rev. Carson Thaxton

We are in year 2020! Sounds futuristic, doesn't it? As a ministry we hope to move into the new year with a renewed sense of hope, peace, joy and love. Christ has shown us the way; now we get to follow in his footsteps into the future. We have many weekly opportunities to get involved in children's ministry.

KiDS Sunday School 9:45 AM Check in: Room B-225

Series: At Home with God: a Deep Blue Kids series.

KiDS Wonders of Worship 11:00 AM service

Worship wiggle-free :) after the Children's Moment

KiDS Wednesday Night LiFE 6:00-7:30 PM

Work through scripture and the big themes all about God's love with fun activities, games, worship, and mission marketplace projects to serve others! *Resumes January 15*

KiDS Choir Wednesdays 5:30-6:00 PM

Children add to their suitcase of songs that will stay with them all their lives. They share songs with us in worship throughout the year. *Resumes January 15*

The nursery is available for 0-3 years during all weekly programming.



Save the date for these big 2020 events:

EasterPalooza: Saturday, April 11, 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Vacation Bible School: June 22-26, *Knights of North Castle*

M.A.D. Camp: July 13-17, Music. Art. Drama. Theme *Medieval Times 2020*

Parents Night Out January 24

Join us Friday, January 24, for our Parents' Night Out! Parents can take time to enjoy a night off while the kiddos play, watch a movie, and make a craft.

Cost: \$5/FAMILY before January 24 and then \$10/CHILD after.

Register and pay at fayettevillefirst.com.

Available for ages 0-12 years old.



WE LOVE OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

College student care packages from Bethany Circle

UMW's Bethany Circle wants to send love and care packages to our college students. To ensure your student receives a package, please share your student's mailing address and cell number (if you would like your student to receive a text that a package has been sent) by Sunday, February 2.

Contact Frieda Everritt (feverritt@gmail.com, 404-219-0635)

or Laurie Brooks (blbrooks92@gmail.com, 404-402-4859).

PLAYING FOR OUR FUTURE

Helping Children Learn | Kerry Bleil, Preschool

When you think of preschool, many images may come to mind. Along with paint, puzzles, and blocks you may envision children learning how to be a good friend, how to control impulses, and how to be a problem solver. You wouldn't be wrong. Helping children gain these "soft skills" is a huge part of what we do in preschool.

Notice I didn't say that we teach these things. We give the children the opportunity to practice these skills in real-life situations. We let them learn how to negotiate, communicate, and collaborate when they play "house" together. When they choose to create something at the art table, they are having to make decisions, plan, and organize. And when they comfort a friend that is upset, they practice problem-solving and exhibit compassion. Play is VERY powerful! So if your images of preschool involve only alphabet flashcards and rote counting, I urge you to consider the power of play. If we allow our children to play today, they will be successful in all areas of their future!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Retreat | Kena Newkirk

This year the FFUMC Youth are ready to hit the ground running! Renovatus is January 17-20 at Epworth by the Sea in St. Simon's Island, Georgia. This trip is the can't miss, profound impact, life-changing spiritual retreat of the year. We will explore the stories of courage and faith found in the Book of Daniel with the theme FEARLESS. Look for updates on our blog at FFUMCYouth.com and our Instagram page [@FFUMCYouth](https://www.instagram.com/FFUMCYouth).

Wednesdays at The Foundry will focus on an exciting four-week "Can I Ask That?" series. We will take write-in questions over the retreat and address them during the following month. DNOW 2020 is approaching with a registration deadline of February 6 to ensure your student gets a t-shirt. This year's theme is TOGETHER. Be sure to follow [@FAMA.GA](https://www.instagram.com/FAMA.GA) on Instagram to learn more and for the chance to win amazing prizes!

Mark your calendars:

January 17-20: Renovatus 2020 - FEARLESS

February 14-17: Confirmation Retreat

February 28 - March 1: DNOW 2020 - TOGETHER

March 13 - 14: Lock-In

March 29: LaGrange Worship Event



INTO 2020 WITH PURPOSE

Moving Ahead | Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Move into the new year at FFUMC! Sign up and get more information at fayettevillefirst.com.



Six for Supper groups forming

Meet new people over a meal and get to know your church family better through Six for Supper. Groups meet three times over a three-month period beginning in February. Why participate? Here's what Rebecca Stevens shared: "We had a wonderful time with Six for Supper. It was amazing how easily conversation flowed and how quickly the evenings passed. We had the chance to get to know folks who we now realize we frequently cross paths with and it's fun when we have those quick moments along the way to catch-up." Sign up right away at fayettevillefirst.com to be included!

New GriefShare Sessions

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays starting February 17 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B-355. Follow the GriefShare link at griefshare.org for session topics and descriptions. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com. For more information, contact the Webbs, 404-234-1056 or carolbass@bellsouth.net.



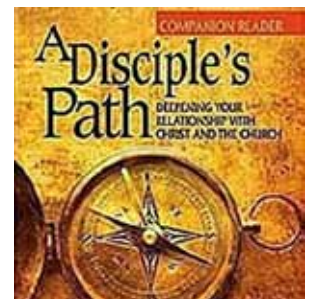
Table Groups

Table Groups – a small group meeting with the goal of spiritual transformation...a place for real, honest, and deep conversations about life and faith. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com to let Rev. Lawrence know of your interest in joining a group.

A Disciple's Path – James 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. A Disciple's Path is akin to a short-term adult confirmation class. Come learn more about our faith tradition and how we engage with God everyday of our lives. \$20. Sign up at fayettevillefirst.com by January 3.



Mission trip to South Georgia

Hurricane Michael caused major devastation throughout the southeast region near the gulf coast. Our brothers and sisters in Southwest Georgia continue recovery through UMCOR, which estimates that teams will be serving the area until the year 2021. We are taking a team, led by Maggie Clarke, February 16-21 to work. No prior experience is necessary, but there is a questionnaire available to be able to anticipate the work that our teams will be doing. If you have any questions, please contact Maggie at 404-395-8161.



Plan now for February mission study

FFUMC is hosting a UMW spiritual growth mission study for churches in the LaGrange district on February 8, 2020. Everyone is welcome: men, women and children! Two studies are available: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* and *Women United for Change: 150 years in Mission*. For registration information, contact Kathie Hansen, 678-592-5177, hansen.kathie@comcast.net.

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.
Gremlin Growlers Table Group: 6 p.m.

Regular Monday Schedule

AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Tuesday Schedule

Card Ministry: 10 a.m.
Move 4 Life: 10:30 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.
Bible Study: 10:45 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.
Move 4 Life: 10:30 a.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Saturday Schedule

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

United Methodist Women

Contact leaders for information and to confirm meeting times:

Bethany: Laurie Brooks, 1/9, 6:30 p.m.
Ethel Taylor: Claudia Rhodes, 1/7, 7 p.m.
Faith: Dee Sharp, 1/6, 10 a.m.
Friendship: Clara Martin, 1/13, 9 a.m.
Joy: TBD, 1/14, 6 p.m.
Marie Lamb: Deb Cole & Lynn Porter, 1/14, 6 p.m.
Mary Martha Hope: Cindy Hall & Tami Kemberling, 1/2, 6 p.m.
Young Women Circle: Nicki Neal & Kathryn Thaxton, TBD

Church office closed
January 20

Other Dates:

Churchwide Breakfast: 1/5, 9:30 a.m.
Titus II: 1/7, 12 p.m.
United Methodist Men: 1/7, 6:15 p.m.
SAGE Trip: 1/9
Square Foot Ministry: 1/9, 6:30 p.m.
Blood Drive: 1/12, 8 a.m.
Share a Song/Azalea Estates: 1/12, 5:45 p.m.
Trustees: 1/27, 7 p.m.
Finance: 1/28, 6 p.m.
Church Council: 1/28, 7 p.m.
Parents Night Out: 1/24, 5:30 p.m.



Blood Drive

January 12

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Find out more:

fayettevillefirst.com



Wednesday Night Suppers resume January 15

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

January 15 Entree: Chicken Tenders, Grilled Cheese, French Fries, Ice Cream

January 22 Entree: Spaghetti, Salad

January 29 Entree: BBQ/Brunswick Stew or Chicken Tenders or



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
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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
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Communications

Joan Aycock
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Financial Assistant

Julie Harp

Church Hostess

Jane Davis

Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson

FFUMC
175 E. Lanier Ave
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Return Service Requested

STAY CONNECTED at FFUMC

Website: fayettevillefirst.com

Facebook: "Like" us at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

"Connections": Monthly church newsletter available through website, email and postal service

"The Weekender": Worship and opportunity highlights by email.

Church Concerns: Timely information including prayer concerns and funeral arrangements through email

Audio Sermons: Follow Worship links at fayettevillefirst.com

Welcome Center, E-Boards & Kiosks: Get information on small groups, ministry opportunities, programs and events at the Welcome Center in the hallway behind the chancel and through e-boards and kiosks throughout the church

Contact the Church Office: Call 770-461-4313 or sign up at fayettevillefirst.com to be placed on e-lists and mailing lists or for more information.

