



## Your Valentine

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

The month of February is very significant in many ways. Within the context of education, our children learn about Black History in schools. Within the context of the church, we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Within the context of the world, we celebrate Valentine's Day.

What I often gloss over and forget is that it is *St. Valentine's* day, marking one saint of the church (Valentinus) who was sainted because of his work with persecuted Christians in the 3rd and 4th centuries. He would perform weddings of Christians so that husbands would not have to go serve the emperor (married men did not have to serve the empire, but marriages were outlawed for a time).

He was persecuted and put in jail, but his ministry continued

to fellow believers. The legend goes that he was writing letters to those Christians who were to be put to death because of their belief in Jesus Christ as the savior rather than the Roman emperor. He would often sign his letter from his own prison chambers to others, "Love, Your Valentine."

Whatever the month of February may mean to you, I hope you will take a moment to pause between the chocolate, cards, flowers, memories of loved ones gone, and memories of loved ones present to remember that we share love. Not just love because of people like St. Valentine, but because of the love that God has for us. May we all share that hope for the world.

Love,

Your Valentine

February 2020

**February 4**  
Titus II, UMM

**February 8**  
Mission Study

**February 13**  
Valentine Celebration

**February 14**  
Confirmation Retreat

**February 26**  
Ash Wednesday

**February 28**  
DNow Begins



175 East Lanier Avenue  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
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fayettevillefirst.com

# Our Church Family

Caring for each other and our community



growing in  
nurture  
Ephesians 3:10



growing in  
outreach  
Matthew 5:16



growing in  
worship  
Psalm 100:2

**In Memoriam:** Sandra Choisnet  
December 24, 2019

Rebecca Greenberg  
December 31, 2019

Bill McKibben  
January 20, 2020

## Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Tedd and Tami Kemberling upon the death of Tami's brother, Wayne Anderson, on December 23, 2019.

Tom Choisnet and family upon the death of his wife, Sandy Choisnet, on December 24, 2019.

Gail Sparrow and family upon the death of her brother, Luther Nolan, on December 31, 2019.

Daryl Greenberg and family upon the death of his mother, Rebecca Greenberg, on December 31, 2019.

Betty McKibben, Linda Black and family upon the death of Betty's husband and Linda's father, Bill McKibben, on January 20, 2020.

## In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold  
Carolyn Broady  
Ken Broady  
Annelle Burch  
Quentin Cash

Richard Clayton  
Margaret Grainger  
Martha Hale  
Doris Kerlin  
Lurlene Perry

Mary Pierson  
Norma Saunders  
Martha Segars  
Dorothy Swanson  
Jack Wheeler

Mabel Wilbanks  
Brad Wilkinson

## Notes of Thanks

*Thank you for the many ways you continue to support the Baileys family as we walk this challenging road of dementia. I recently heard the song "Angels Among Us" and I cried as I thought about all the angels in my church. The song states, "They come to you and me in our darkest hours ... and guide us with a light of love." Thank you for always lifting us up. — Janet Baileys*

*Thank you, Season of Nativity Volunteers, for all of your hard work through this beautiful season. I'm sure we can't begin to know all the "behind the scenes" efforts, not to mention the services and Epiphany breakfast. It was all wonderful and special! — Kathy and Bobby Anderson*

*A little note with a huge "thank you" for letting us sing for the December Titus II program. We had so much fun! — Inman Elementary's Eagle Ensemble*

**Church Membership: 1537**

**Giving (as of January 21)**

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$70,245.15

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$58,393.00

Difference: \$11,852.15

Making a  
Difference  
NOW

**Capital Campaign Update:**

Received: \$248,341.90

Needed for total goal: \$101,658.10

**Fellowship Hall/Community**

**Courtyard Needs: \$51,658.10**



## Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Let's eat at church on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the gym. Sign up each week or get on the permanent reservation list at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com).

Choose the weekly entree **or** OZ Pizza **or** Chicken Tender Salad

All meals include drink and dessert

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

February 5 Entree: Meat Loaf, Fried Okra, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans

February 12 Entree: Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Vegetable

February 26 Entree: Chili, Baked Potato, Salad

## FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

### FFUMC Preschool | Kerry Bleil

February tends to find the preschool hallways covered in pink, purple, and red hearts with the children making a steady flow of valentines for family members and friends. They sit next to each other sharing ideas, glue, markers, and even glitter. They enjoy delivering their valentines as they pretend to be postal carriers. They talk, laugh, and enjoy each other's company.



When children play with each other they are building and strengthening relationships. By providing varied opportunities for children to play together we are encouraging social skills and emotional development. The children grow in empathy and self-esteem. They are learning to be a light of happiness and joy for each other and the adults around them. What more could we want from our youngest learners than for their light to shine like Jesus? *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* — John 1:5

## FFUMC'S FISCAL YEAR 2019 IN REVIEW

### Finance Committee | Phil Mallon, Chair

As we enter 2020 it is appropriate to review how FFUMC finished the previous fiscal year. In 2019, both actual revenue (income) and expenses were approximately 94% of the budgeted amount, and expenses exceeded revenue by nearly \$20,000 (1.35% of our 2019 budget). The difference between expenses and revenue is shown as only \$6,209 because approximately \$14,000 was transferred from reserves in 2019 to assist with cash flow at key points during the year.

For comparison, 2018 year-end revenue and expenses were \$1,468,331 and \$1,497,942 respectively. Below are other take-aways from the 2019 fiscal year:

2019	Revenue	Expenses	Difference
Budgeted	\$1,486,276	\$1,486,276	\$0
Actual	\$1,399,895	\$1,406,104	-\$6,209

- Conference Apportionments were paid at 100% of the budgeted amount, totaling \$139,225.
- Staff expenses (salary and benefits) are the largest budgeted account. The actual expenses for staff in 2019 were \$840,643.
- The Ministries account (includes Discipleship, Missions, Worship, Music, Children, Youth, Adults and other subcategories) had \$86,222 in expenses. The Ministries account had a 2019 budget of \$106,075.
- The Property account includes Utilities, Insurance, Facility Maintenance, Vehicles and Supplies, and it had \$263,031 in expenses. The Property account had a 2019 budget of \$289,550.

The Church enters 2020 with \$88,450 in cash reserves and over \$900,000 in total current assets (excluding fixed assets). We also enter 2020 with a budget guided by faith that revenue will equal or exceed what we had in 2019. The Holy Spirit is working in many ways throughout our Church and we are all responsible to support these efforts through our time, resources, prayer, hope, faith and love! As Peter instructs us:

*"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:2-3*

The Finance Committee will provide updates on revenue and expenses throughout 2020.



## SENIORS AT FFUMC

### Fellowship and service together

**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.

**February 4** — Jim and Lynn Duncan describe the mission of Love Gives (helping the homeless) including “214 by 2/14.”

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

**February 20** — Lunch at Mary Mac’s and Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church Stained Glass Tour which concludes with music and an English Tea. The stained glass based on major events in the life of Christ contains windows from Germany, England and the US. No prolonged standing. Enjoy lunch together before the tour. Cost: \$2 plus lunch.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Disciples in 2020 | Kena Newkirk

“Perfect love casts out fear...” 1 John 4:18. Our theme verse from Renovatus 2020 encourages us to allow the Christ-like values of love to reign in our hearts destroying the power of fear in our lives. This year we studied the Book of Daniel, tracing the fearless examples of faith as they pointed to the reign of Jesus on earth. Epworth by the Sea created a rejuvenating backdrop as we dove deep into studying God’s word and conquering the limitations of our own fears.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming Confirmation Retreat on February 14-17. Please pray for our 6th grade class as they explore their own spiritual gifting and how they fit into the ministry of the church. Confirmation Sunday is March 15.

Finally, we encourage your family to register online for DNOW which will take place the last weekend in February. This year’s theme - Together - is a very helpful topic for our church. In our culture today, there is more division than there is unity. Some division is trivial. Some is life-changing. And yet, into this landscape, the Gospel speaks a profound truth: in Christ, we are united. We are together.

## CONNIE LITTLE &

### FFUMC NURSERY STAFF

Many of you already know her. She is the Nursery Coordinator and she loves you and your children. Connie Little (“Mrs. Connie”) is absolutely awesome. She and her amazing nursery staff do such a great job. While many ministries or services are going on, Connie can be found with the 0-3 year-olds in the nursery. Her dedication, care, and love have helped make the ffumc NURSERY a warm, safe, and fun environment for our littlest kiddos. Please help us thank Connie and the nursery staff for all they do. We appreciate their part in the Children and Family Ministry Team and continue to look forward to the new year in ministry together. THANK YOU!!



*“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”*

Matthew 19:14

## CARE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

### Worship flowers: More than just a pretty bloom

Did you know that you can purchase flowers in honor or memory of someone special and those flowers will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday morning? Did you know that those flowers do more than just provide a beautiful backdrop? These flowers, if donated as such, are divided into smaller arrangements and hand delivered with love and care each week to people within our church who are homebound, hospitalized, grieving, or just being thought of in a special way. Recipients have often let us know how much they feel the presence of God through the thoughtful visit and colorful bouquets. Nancy Dennis, a new member on this ministry team, had this to share:

*How did you get involved?* As a new person to the community I had been prayerfully seeking ways to be in ministry through this church, just as I was in my previous one. Then as if an answer to that prayer Phyllis Williamson invited me to Titus II and also asked me to join the flower ministry team. I told her, "I can't arrange flowers!" She let me know that wasn't necessary: just willingness to deliver and visit with people.



*Nancy Dennis, flower ministry volunteer*

*What do you love about this ministry?* Having been in volunteer hospice ministry for twenty five years, I had been missing that one-on-one connection with people. I do find such pure joy in that time with others. One of the things I love about this ministry is renewing old friendships from when I lived here before and going to places where I meet new people, sitting with them and simply loving on them!

*How has it impacted your faith?* I see Jesus in others as well as being able to be his feet and hands.

*What might someone want to know who is considering this ministry?* People might want to know that we usually go in pairs. That might be a help to someone who doesn't want to go on their own.

How can you support this amazing ministry of our church? Here are some suggestions:



- Purchase worship flowers in honor or memory of a loved one and donate those flowers to the flower ministry team.
- Purchase Easter Lilies or Christmas Poinsettias (money raised during these seasons directly support the flower and visitation ministry).
- Arrange flowers into smaller vases to be delivered.
- Deliver flowers and visit one-on-one with other amazing people.

Interested in joining this visitation ministry and want to know more? Come meet other members of the team and preview a flower arranging workshop by Marilyn Harris on Sunday, February 2, at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com), for more information.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

### Rev. Carson Thaxton

Join us February 26 for a special Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Beforehand, children and their families are invited at 6 p.m. to the Kids Worship Room for a brief activity and explanation about Ash Wednesday. This can be a powerful time of renewal for all of us as we seek what we might need to let go so that more of Christ can be illuminated in and from us.

#### Upcoming:

Wospel in the Gospel  
March 4, 6-7:30 p.m.

Parents Night Out  
March 6, 5:30-9 p.m.

EasterPalooza  
Saturday, April 11, 3-5 p.m.

## LEGACY GIVING GRANTS AVAILABLE



Through the generosity and forward vision of our members, our congregation has a Legacy Committee which oversees funds designed to assist ministries, outreach opportunities, and capital expenses. The Legacy Committee has had its first meeting of 2020 and wants to celebrate the fact that there are grant funds available.

If you have a ministry, outreach, or capital opportunity that you would like to see our congregation prayerfully pursue, please contact a staff person to share your ideas and request a form. Funds cannot be used for operating expenses. The applications are due in the church office by 12 p.m. on Friday, February 14.

## STAYING INFORMED ABOUT GENERAL CONFERENCE

### Forward Together | Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

As we draw closer to The General Conference of the United Methodist Church, May 5-15, a lot of attention has been given to recent press releases of a protocol put forth by a very diverse group of United Methodist leaders. I am still piecing together the information and interpreting it as it comes out. I do, however, want to share with you the information we receive as pastors so that you are aware of what is going on.



Here are points of information from the Cabinet of North Georgia that were shared with Clergy:

- The participants in the mediation represent centrist, progressive, and traditionalist perspectives, and come from the United States, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. These leaders came to unanimous agreement on the Protocol.
- This Protocol offers a path for The United Methodist Church to continue to be a denomination for those with traditional, centrist, and progressive perspectives. The post-separation United Methodist Church will continue to have room for divergent perspectives and value diversity as an essential component of our faith.
- The Protocol also offers a path to separate for those whose convictions do not allow them to continue to be United Methodist.
- The mediation participants are now developing legislation that mirrors the Protocol. This legislation will be considered in May by the 2020 General Conference. It is expected that this legislation will be considered ahead of all other legislation.
- What we hold in common, above all else, is our call to reach those who do not yet know Christ's love.

In addition, we have helpful links at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com) that I hope you will continue to resource and reference including The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, Video: Panel Interview of Participants in the Mediation Process, FAQs, and Podcast: At The Table With Bishop Sue - Episode 3.

As I referenced in the letter I addressed to our congregation here at Fayetteville First UMC, let us commit ourselves to doing these four things:

1. **Pray.** Pray for the church and pray for our church.
2. **Read** the information from the sources above as level-headed and rationally as possible. Then re-read them. As you **seek out** other information, ask yourself these questions: Who is the author? Who is the audience? Am I reading this to confirm my bias or suspicion or am I reading this with charity and love?
3. **Be present** in worship with us as we make our priority sharing the light of Christ through Fayetteville First UMC. When we worship together, we do not worship ourselves, but we worship in order to give glory to God.
4. **Reach out** to me to find a time to talk if you have questions. I am receiving this information on the same timeline as you and am dealing with the implications and emotions of what this entails while also sharing ministry with you at this wonderful congregation of the United Methodist Church. We will create space and time to talk through what this all means together.



# 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.  
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.  
Table Group: 12 p.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.

\* All Tuesdays except Titus II days

\*\*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.  
Topics with Thomas: 6 p.m.  
Youth Groups: 6 p.m.  
Jesus in the Gospels: 6 p.m.  
Confirmation Class: 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.

## Other Dates:

Titus II: 2/4, 12 p.m.  
United Methodist Men: 2/4, 6:15 p.m.  
Church Council: 2/9, 12 p.m.  
Square Foot Ministry: 2/13, 6:30 p.m.  
Share a Song/Azalea Estates: 2/16, 5:45 p.m.  
Trustees: 2/17, 7 p.m.  
SAGE Trip: 2/20, 9:45 a.m.  
Finance: 2/25, 6 p.m.  
Lenten Lunch: 2/26, 12 p.m.



## Valentine Celebration Thursday, February 13

UMM-sponsored Valentine Celebration for all adults and their guests. Meal at 6 p.m. Includes special musical entertainment. Save the date and watch for details.

## FFUMC 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. Contact Kathie Hansen, 678-592-5177, [hansen.kathie@comcast.net](mailto:hansen.kathie@comcast.net).



## Titus II and YOU can help the homeless

The next Titus II program will feature Lynn Duncan of Love Gives Ministries, a non-profit that assists the homeless throughout communities in Georgia. We can help by supporting their **214 BY 2/14 project** which seeks to collect 214 men's work pants, men's jeans or men's sweatpants (new or gently used) by February 14. Bring donations to Titus II on February 4 or place them in the collection bin in the Welcome Center by February 11. Please tuck a note in the pocket of the pants with encouraging words or a Bible verse as a special gift of hope and love for the recipients. Questions? Contact Jeffre Ray, [ray.jeffre@gmail.com](mailto:ray.jeffre@gmail.com).



## New GriefShare Sessions Begin February 17

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Mondays starting February 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 13 weeks. Sign up: [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com). Contact: Bill and Carol Webb, 404-234-1056 or [carolbass@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolbass@bellsouth.net).



## Edward N. Travis Scholarship Available

It's time to apply for the Edward N. Travis Scholarship, a one-time \$2,500 scholarship awarded to a FFUMC high school senior. The due date is March 16. Applications are in the Welcome Center or online at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com).



# 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*

## 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

FFUMC

175 E. Lanier Ave  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

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## LENT — OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER

*Spiritual renewal and repentance*

### Ash Wednesday — February 26

First Lenten Lunch: Fellowship Hall, 12 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Ash Wednesday Service: 6:30 p.m.

### Lenten Lunch Schedule:

Ash Wednesday and subsequent Thursdays

February 26: Faith Circle

March 5: Ethel Taylor Circle

March 12: Friendship Circle

March 19: Marie Lamb Circle

March 26: Mary Martha Hope Circle

April 2: Bethany Circle

April 9: Joy Circle

### Palm Sunday — April 5

### Maundy Thursday — April 9

### Good Friday Service of Tenebrae — April 10

