



Friday, January 17, 2020

The Weekender

Eyes Wide Open

I remember a song from youth group called “Open the Eyes of My Heart.” It was a favorite and a “classic” in its own time in church worship circles. It is also relatively easy to play on guitar which was nice for me as a beginning musician.

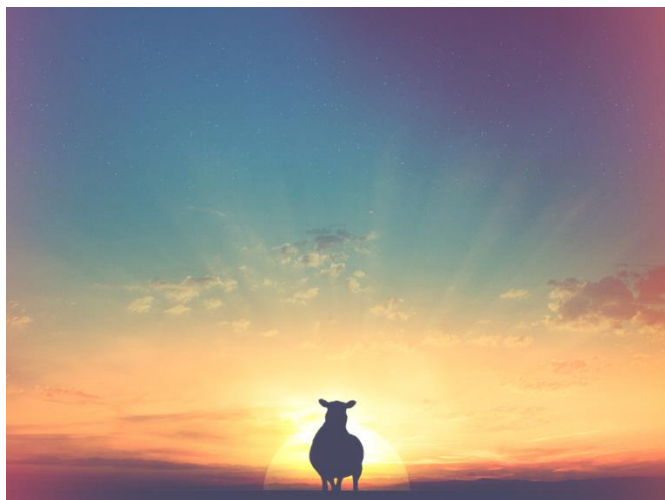
That chorus has stuck with me throughout the years. Perhaps it’s because of the song, or the prayer, but that simple phrase has often been something I find myself singing or praying at times of confusion or worry.

Sometimes life can be so troublesome, worrisome, lonely, or problematic that we cannot see which direction to go. We may not think we will get through this moment. Perhaps some of the problem is that we think we are the solution.

Pretend that life is a fill in the blank quiz. The question goes like this: “Life would be better if _____.” Often times I want to fill in the blank with “I ...” or “we....” As Christians, that is not where we start. We are not the answer. God is the answer. God is the question. God is everything.

As you go through this weekend, take heart from the saints in our midst, those who lived their lives with heavenly vision, who asked God to open the eyes of their hearts. Consider these words from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” May that open our eyes to God today and every day.

Thomas Martin



This Sunday in Worship

2nd Sunday After Epiphany
January 19, 2020

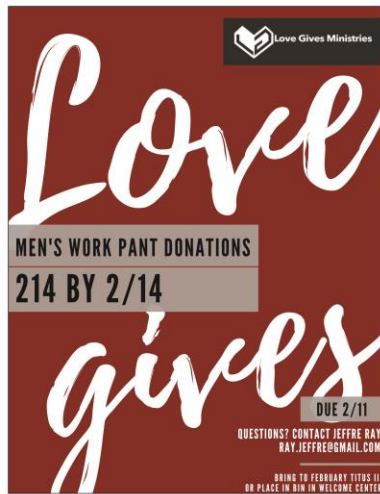
Sermon (8:30, 9:45 & 11 a.m.)

Lamb of God

John 1:29-42

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Titus II and YOU can help the homeless

The Titus II program on February 4 will feature Lynn Duncan of Love Gives Ministries, a non-profit that assists the homeless throughout communities in Georgia. **We can help!** Let's support their second annual **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 your donations to the next Titus II luncheon at noon on February 4 in the gym or place them in the collection bin in the Welcome Center by February 11. Donors are asked to 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.



SafeHouse Outreach

You can help prepare food, serve, or interact with clients at our next SafeHouse Outreach on January 30. Contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, to see what is most needed.



Thanks for giving blood

We exceeded our Red Cross goal of 60 units — 64 successful donations. Here's a recap:

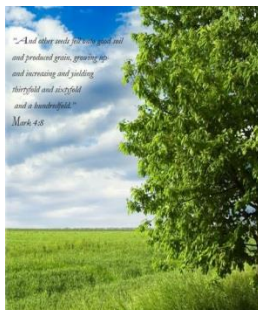
Goal: 60 units

Signed up: 61 donors, No-shows: 10, Walk-ins: 12

64 total units donated

53% of the donors were from our church.

Thanks FFUMC Blood Drive Team and donors. Save the date for upcoming FFUMC blood drives: March 29, July 19 and October 18.



Legacy Giving provides funds

Through the generosity and forward vision of our members, our Legacy Giving Endowment has 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 an application form. Funds cannot be used for operating expenses. The applications are due in the church office on Friday, February 14.



Valentine Celebration: Save the Date

On Thursday, February 13, the United Methodist Men are sponsoring a Valentine Celebration for all adult church members and their guests. Beginning with a meal at 6 p.m., the celebration will include special musical entertainment. Save the date and watch for details soon.



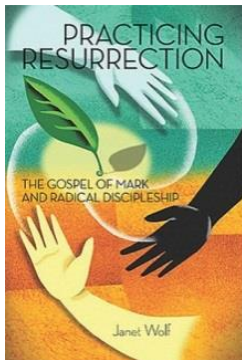
Sign up now: Parents Night Out

Enjoy time away during the next Parents Night Out on January 24 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Kids stay at church for crafts, a movie and playtime while parents do something else! Cost: \$5 per family if registered by January 20; \$10 per child after January 20. [Register now!](#)



Last few days to get in Six for Supper

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 to be included!](#)



Register by February 2 for 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: 1) Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship led by Mary Ann Brannon and 2) Women United for Change: 150 years in Mission led by Cindy Campbell. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m. with coffee and juice. Classes run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a light lunch provided. Registration deadline: February 2. To register contact Kathie Hansen, 678-592-5177, hansen.kathie@comcast.net or Cindy Hall, harvecin@charter.net.



SAGE Lunch Trip: January 30

Meet at the church on January 30 at 10:45 a.m. and enjoy lunch together at Southern Pit Barbecue. Reserve transportation in the church office.



New GriefShare Sessions announced

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.



We love our college students

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. **The FFUMC church family is invited to participate in this project!** Anyone wishing to take part in or support this effort, please contact Laurie Brooks.

Contact details: Frieda Everritt (feverritt@gmail.com, 404-219-0635) or Laurie Brooks (blbrooks92@gmail.com, 404-402-4859).



January Food Pantry Needs

Fayette Samaritans has particular need of these items this month; however, any donations are welcome and appreciated. Leave donations in Welcome Center bin.

Needs: Canned beans (black, pinto, kidney, etc.), spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta, boxed macaroni and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, boxed cereal, rice (2-pound bags), jelly, toilet paper.
Clothes closet needs: All sizes of boys and girls coats and jackets



Wednesday Night Supper January 22

Gather for food and conversation at 5 p.m. **in the gym.**

Spaghetti, Salad or OZ Cheese Pizza (adult 2 slices, child 1 slice). All meals include dessert and drink.

Children 10 and under: \$4, Adults: \$7 Family Maximum: \$22.
[Reserve each week](#) or get on the permanent list.



Green Team welcomes you to January meeting

Join the FFUMC action team to care for our environment. Come to the next Green Team meeting on Thursday, January 23, at 1 p.m. in Room 200.



United Methodist Women Schedule for February

Contact leaders for information and to confirm meeting times:

Bethany: Laurie Brooks, 2/13, 6:30 p.m.

Ethel Taylor: Claudia Rhodes, 2/4, 7 p.m.

Faith: Dee Sharp, 2/3, 10 a.m.

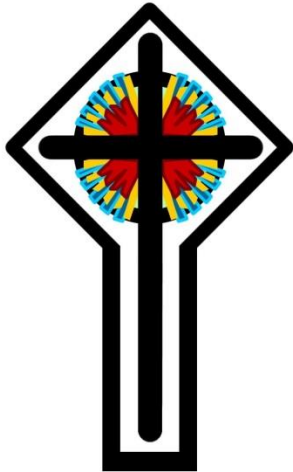
Friendship: Clara Martin, 2/10, 9 a.m.

Joy: TBD, 2/11, 5 p.m.

Marie Lamb: Deb Cole/Lynn Porter, 2/6, 6 p.m.

Mary Martha Hope: Cindy Hall/Tami Kemberling, 2/3, 10 a.m..

Young Women Circle: Nicki Neal/Kathryn Thaxton, TBD



January 15, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$48,034.33
Year to Date expenses	\$47,793.80
Difference	\$240.53

Benevolence

Benevolence receipts this week: \$23.00

4 families assisted in 2020 with total of \$ 807.62 in assistance.

*Making a
Difference
NOW*

Capital Campaign Update

Goal:	\$ 350,000
Received this week:	\$ 5,100
Total Received:	\$ 249,616.90
Needed to reach total goal:	\$ 100,383.10
Needed for Fellowship Hall/Courtyard	\$ 50,383.10