



>> *connections*

UPHOLD

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

What does it mean to be a member of something? Do you pay dues? Does it give you a sense of belonging? Are you evaluated by how good you are or your social status? How often do we treat the church like the club? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

One of the main differences between serving the church and the church serving us starts with our mentality. The church exists for the maintenance of worship and the edification of believers. When we come to church with the mentality that we should only get something, we miss out on the opportunity to engage with others and hear Christ's invitation to us to go deeper in our faith and to do more than just be at church. We begin to *be* the church.

We are the church when we fully

participate in the life of the church. We are the church when we order our lives after the example of Christ. That is what it means to be a disciple. We do not come to church to only get something out of life; we come to church to make more of this life than we could on our own. We do so with God's help.

In worship during the season of Lent, we will look at the spiritual disciplines that we affirm whenever a member is baptized into or joins the life of the church. When someone does this, we renew our commitment to uphold the church, Fayetteville First UMC, with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

I hope you will think through what it means as we follow the disciplines—the work—of being a disciple throughout this holy season of Lent.

March 2020

March 6

Parents Night Out

March 15

Confirmation Sunday

March 18

Brown Bag with Thomas

March 28

Church Family Workday

March 29

Blood Drive

Bishop Town Hall



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

Our Church Family

Caring for each other and our community



In Memoriam: Jack Wheeler
January 22, 2020

Norma Simmons
February 5, 2020

Mary Pierson
February 11, 2020

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Margie Wheeler and family upon the death of Margie's husband, Jack Cox Wheeler, Maj. Gen., US Army (Ret.), on January 22.

Lynette McCullough (Allen) and Nancy Lindsey (Brian) and families upon the death of their mother, Norma Simmons, on February 5. Church family members include grandchildren Josh McCullough, Megan (Daniel) Vieira, Nicki (Jim) Kress, Amanda (Dustin) McDonald, Jason Lindsey, Eric (Jenny) Lindsey, and six great-grandchildren.

Henry Dickerson and family upon the death of his mother, Mary Pierson, on February 11.

In Our Prayers:

Billy Arnold
Carolyn Broady
Ken Broady
Annelle Burch

Quentin Cash
Richard Clayton
Suzan Cole
Margaret Grainger

Martha Hale
Doris Kerlin
Lurlene Perry
Martha Segars

Mabel Wilbanks
Brad Wilkinson

Notes of Thanks

This month our notes of thanks are included in the special section on Care Ministries. Look inside!



New Members

Andy and Katrina Barlow
290 Sidney Lane, Fayetteville, GA 30215
Sage, Layne and Reid

Evan Beroset
103 Quail Run, Peachtree City, GA 30269

Church Membership: 1537

Giving (as of February 25):

Year-to-Date Receipts: \$202,590.43

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$203,253.14

Difference: -\$662.71

Capital Campaign Update:

Received: \$252,136.90

Youth Room Complete: \$156,104.11

Fellowship Hall/Community

Courtyard Needs: \$43,967.21

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.

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

March 4 Entree: Fajita Bowls/Tacos

March 11 Entree: Baked Pork Chops, Yellow Rice, Vegetable

March 18 Entree: Chicken Tenders, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, French Fries

March 25 Entree: Spaghetti, Salad



FFUMC HOSTS TOWN HALL IN MARCH

District Meeting with Bishop Sue

Clergy and laity are invited to attend a town hall meeting with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson on the future of The United Methodist Church here in North Georgia and beyond. We host the Griffin and LaGrange districts here in the FFUMC sanctuary on Sunday, March 29, at 3:30 p.m. All are invited.



HELP US GROW!

FFUMC Preschool | Kerry Bleil



Did you know that we are already registering for the 2020-2021 school year? We start early to make sure we are able to provide the best age-appropriate, loving, secure environment possible for the young children entrusted to us. Tours are happening daily and allow prospective families to see our play-based curriculum in action. We can show parents how playing with playdough translates to being able to write and how singing silly rhymes helps introduce children to letter sounds. We can explain how the conversations happening among children on the playground and in the pretend kitchen help build social skills. In short, we love sharing the amazing things happening in our preschool and would love your help in filling our classrooms for the coming school year. Have a friend with preschool-aged children or grandchildren? Talk about us and send them our way! Dabble in social media? Like our Facebook page and share our posts! Curious about why we do what we do? Give us a call and set up a tour for yourself!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW

FFUMC Capital Campaign

When our capital campaign began late in 2018, the goal was \$350,000.

This goal had three parts:

- to provide a dedicated youth space (\$160,000)
- to refurbish the fellowship hall and create a usable space outside the fellowship hall (\$140,000)
- to add funds to the trustee reserve account (\$50,000).

The funds were quickly raised for the youth space, The Foundry, which has been in use by our youth since last year. \$156,104.11 was the final cost, which was slightly under budget.

The trustees are in the process of seeking bids for lighting, flooring, and painting of the fellowship hall. Plans are also being developed for audio visual equipment and upgrades to the folding walls and kitchen. Just under \$44,000 is needed to meet our initial goal for the project; however, the total amount needed may require adjustments.

Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the capital campaign. With your help we can continue to keep our facilities safe, welcoming and inviting. For more information, please contact Joyce Mucha at [jmucha@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jmuchafayettevillefirst.com).

*Making a
Difference
NOW*

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Rev. Carson Thaxton

Wospel in the Gospel

Wednesday, March 4: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Experience the gospel according to Dr. Seuss as we focus on the book *Horton Hears a Who* and extract some surprising gospel lessons from the story.

Parents Night Out

Friday, March 6: 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Parents, let us watch the kids while you go out. Enjoy some time together or with other parents at this event designed to provide a much needed getaway. Kids will enjoy rotating through various activities like a one-night VBS. You can sign up now at fayettevillefirst.com

Cost is \$5 per family if registered by Monday, March 2. \$10 per child after March 2.

Passover Seder Meal

Wednesday, April 1: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

This traditional meal uses food to retell the story of the Exodus liberation from Egypt. What a great, tangible, and delicious way to remember that God has delivered and continues to deliver us even now with salvation.

Upcoming Events:

EasterPalooza: April 11, 3 - 5 p.m. — EasterPalooza 2020 is here! Ten age-specific egg hunts, DJ Willy WOW, inflatables, local vendors, a petting zoo, kindness rocks, selfie photo station, face painting, and so much fun all on the courthouse lawn in downtown Fayetteville. We hope you can experience this 100% free event just like the 100% free grace that God gives to us through Jesus Christ.

Special Needs EasterPalooza: April 11, 2 - 3 p.m. — We are adding a new component to EasterPalooza designed for those with special needs of all ages. This event will be indoors in the Fellowship Hall. We are so excited to welcome some new friends this year!

VBS: June 22-26 — Save the date now and get ready to register soon for Knights of North Castle VBS.

M.A.D. Camp: July 13-17 — Music, art, and drama camp for ages 5 to 12 returns to FFUMC this summer. Get ready to express yourself!

WE'RE BETTER BECAUSE OF YOU, JEANNIE CAUTHEN

The Children and Family Ministry is much better off because of Jeannie Cauthen. You may have met her in a church service, but more than likely at an event of service.

Jeannie loves to volunteer in various ways that truly help this church and this community. Jeannie served in the military and has been able to pivot those leadership skills to ministry. One of her most notable ways of church service has been her role at EasterPalooza where she manages the egg placement between each of the ten egg hunts. This fast-paced job requires an intention to keep everyone working together to stay on time. She will be at EasterPalooza again this year on April 11 making sure the over 30,000 eggs get where they need to be when they need to be there. No simple task, but she does it well. Jeannie is a wonderful benefit to the team, and we are so thankful for her dependability, responsibility, and obvious care for the children and families of this church.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Disciples in 2020 | Kena Newkirk

FFUMC eagerly anticipates the confirmation of nine students this year. In February, the group traveled to Saint Simon's Island on retreat. Together we celebrated the Methodist history found on the island. Our students also explored their spiritual gifts through team-building activities and personal discovery. "I learned that we all have different spiritual gifts; we can be good at different things," says Cezanne Lord. "We can also have the same spiritual gifts but use them for different good works."

These enthusiastic young people also bonded together and made memories to last a lifetime. "In the beginning, we were all spread apart and individuals," says Bella Neal. "And then in the end we were all bonded together and not one person was left out."

We invite the whole congregation to be in prayer for these young people as they conclude their confirmation journey. Please join us in worship on March 15 at 11 a.m. for our service of confirmation.

Also, all youth are invited to celebrate that weekend with a Black Light Lock-in. Drop-off at the church at 9 p.m. on Friday, March 13, and pick-up at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14.



Confirmation students get creative on their retreat.

MISSIONS AND MORE

Get out your calendars... find your place to serve!

Great Day of Service: Saturday, April 25

Let's do some good together FOR Fayette! Projects already committed are Southwest Christian Care; BLOOM; cards and goodies for Fayetteville's first responders; Fayette Samaritans; and Promise Place. We expect confirmation on other projects soon. Some team captains have been selected, but others are needed. If you are interested in being a team captain, please contact Raymond Mitchely, 770-314-2035, rlmitche@bellsouth.net; Mike Leonard, 770-461-9590; or Wayne Harris, 770-855-1453, wgh770@gmail.com. Volunteer worker sign-up will begin Sunday, March 29.

Church Family Workday: Saturday, March 28

Let's join forces with the trustees for spring cleaning and preparation of our church grounds for Easter. Work begins Saturday morning, March 28, at 8 a.m.

Blood Drive: Sunday, March 29

As always, your blood is needed! Come to the gym on Sunday, March 29, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and donate to the American Red Cross. Sign up for a specific donation time at ffumc.blooddriveteam@gmail.com.

March Food Pantry Needs

Fayette Samaritans, our local food pantry, has particular need of these items this month; however, any donations are welcome and appreciated. Leave donations in Welcome Center bin. Needs: Canned beef stew, boxed macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, Jiffy cornbread mix, dried beans, rice, cookies, crackers, toothpaste, bar soap. Clothes closet needs: women's underwear sizes 6, 7 and nine and men's underwear sizes small and medium.

CARE MINISTRY TEAM TRAINING AND LUNCHEON

Showing Love to Others | Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Ready to learn more about caring for others through our Care Ministries here at FFUMC? Join us for a Care Training Luncheon on March 30 at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we hear from guest speaker Betsy Luntz, a lay leader in Congregational Care ministries at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Ms. Luntz will provide valuable guidance on visitation dos and don'ts and basic information for being a part of a Care Ministry Team. If you are part of any of our care ministries or if you are interested in learning more, we hope you will join us. Let us know you are coming so we can plan for lunch. Register at fayettevillefirst.com. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.



These notes of appreciation highlight the impact of the FFUMC Care Ministries:

Funeral Ministry: *We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and thoughtfulness in bringing food for my dad's visitation. Not only did you save us before the service, but the leftovers fed family that stopped by our home after the funeral. We hope you all know how much my dad loved his church family. You surely showed your love for him in caring for us in the days after his passing. I know he's looking down and smiling. May God continue to bless you all as you have blessed us.* – Fondly, LeighAnn and Margie Wheeler

Shawl Ministry: *My mom is living at Hope Memory Care in Fayetteville. There are only a few activities she enjoys but she does play Bingo from time to time. She "won" a lap blanket from your ministry. I am writing to thank you for giving to our seniors! I'm sure you rarely know who receives these gifts. You touched my mom and her family appreciates all you do.* – Karen Mobley

Prayer Ministry: *Thank you so much for all the prayers for my granddaughter, Shannon. She has finished her chemo and now is cancer free. She will have follow-up surgery in March. Shannon and I send our love and thanks for your many prayers and concern.* – Nancy Weinmeister

Flower Ministry & More: *There are no adequate words to express my appreciation for the cards, food, and prayers during all my health issues.*—Doris Kerlin

Hospitality: *Thank you to the United Methodist Men's team and leaders during the LaGrange District Training Event held at FFUMC. "They were fantastic, and the breakfast was just right, plus a little more (!)." – Rev. Susan Landry, District Superintendent*

TABLE GROUPS CONTINUE TO GROW



Have you been wanting to join a small group but schedules just don't ever seem to align? Here are more opportunities! The goal of a Table Group is to help us all on our Christian journey as we seek to experience God and see God's activity in the world. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions: alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com.

Tuesdays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. (except on first Tuesdays/Titus II days)
Sundays, 9:45 to 10:25 a.m. starting March 8

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.
Table Group: 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.

**Begins March 8*

Regular Monday Schedule

GriefShare: 10 a.m.
AA: 7 p.m.

Regular Tuesday Schedule

Card Ministry: 10 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.
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 Worship: 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.
Lenten Lunch: 12 p.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.

Other Dates:

Titus II: 3/3, 12 p.m.
United Methodist Men: 3/3, 6:15 p.m.
Parents Night Out: 3/6, 5:30 p.m.
Square Foot Ministry: 3/12, 6:30 p.m.
Legacy Giving: 3/10, 6 p.m.
Share a Song/Azalea Estates: 3/15, 5:45 p.m.
Trustees: 3/16, 6 p.m.
Brown Bag with Thomas: 3/18, 12 p.m.
Finance: 3/24, 6 p.m.
Church Council (Chapel): 3/24, 7 p.m.

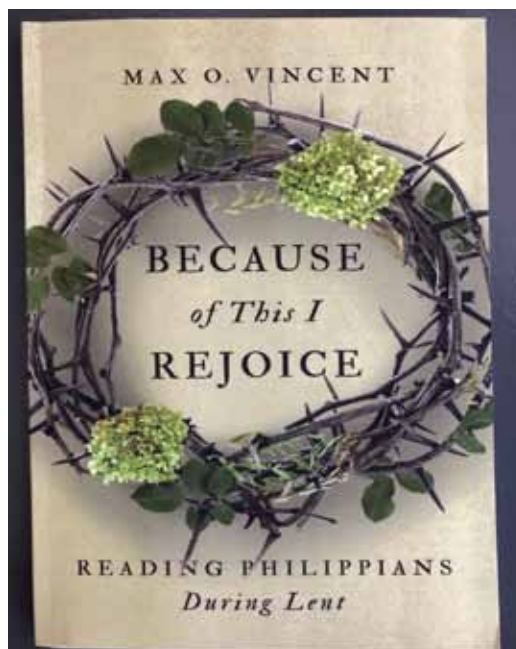
Exercise Schedule:

Check with church office for morning yoga and Move 4 Life class schedules.

Sharing Love and Care



Thank you for reaching out to show love and care to those we know and to those we will never meet. Last month the UMW Bethany Circle sent care packages to our college students. A new UMW circle for young women prepared purses with hygiene items which were distributed by Love Gives Ministries to homeless women along with the nearly 200 pairs of men's pants FFUMC collected. Thanks!



LENT — OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER

Spiritual renewal and repentance

Lenten Lunch Schedule:

February 26: Faith Circle - Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
March 5: Ethel Taylor Circle - Florence Prine
March 12: Friendship Circle - Dr. Dave Lee
March 19: Marie Lamb Circle - Rev. Allyson Lawrence
March 26: Mary Martha Hope Circle - Virginia Pope
April 2: Bethany Circle - Christie and Jay Burton
April 9: Joy Circle - Danny Beck

Palm Sunday — April 5

Maundy Thursday — April 9

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae — April 10



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
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Communications

Joan Aycock
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Financial Assistant

Julie Harp

Church Hostess

Jane Davis

Facilities Manager

Gary Sampson

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