

# INFORMED & inspired

## CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

### MOVING FORWARD Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Greetings in the name of Christ.

I want to thank you all for your patience as we continue being the church. I am reminded of Jesus' words when he was a boy and his mother found him in the temple. He said, "Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" Other translations have him saying, "Did you not know I would be about my Father's business?" We are being about God's business even when we are apart.

On recommendation from the president and the leadership of the North Georgia Annual Conference, we will be postponing all gatherings through April 30. We expect to have more information on May plans as we get closer to that date. This does not mean that Easter is cancelled or worship is not happening. We will continue to be about God's business. Stay tuned for special worship opportunities during Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Check our church website frequently at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com) for information about what's going on in the life of the church.



### TABLE GROUPS - VIRTUALLY CONNECTED Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Want to start a virtual Table Group with your friends? I'll post short videos each week on our webpage to start the conversation. Sign up by clicking [here](#).

## PREPARING FOR PALM SUNDAY & EASTER

### Palm Sunday — April 5:

As Jesus made his way toward Jerusalem and ultimately the cross, people laid their cloaks on the ground and waved palm branches joyfully praising God. They shouted, "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.*" Prepare for worship this Sunday and for the coming Holy Week by fashioning your own palm branches. Click [here](#) for a template if you want one or make your own design. Spend time coloring it, decorating it, and cutting it out. Then this Sunday, while you worship from home, take pictures waving your palm branches and singing praises to God. We'll call them Palm Selfies! Post your pictures to Facebook or send them to [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com).

### Easter Sunday — April 12:

Honor someone with an Easter Lily this year. Let them know that even in the middle of our social distancing you are thinking about them and love them. Your special tribute to your loved one will be in our Easter bulletin. Click [here](#) to order yours now or email [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com). Purchased lilies will be available in the courtyard for pickup on Easter Sunday and Monday. Additionally, the frame for our Easter cross will be in place Easter Sunday for your family photos. Bring a flower or two to decorate the cross and snap a momento!

*Fun Fact!! Did you know, our Visitation and Flower Delivery Ministry is largely funded through your purchases of Christmas poinsettias and Easter Lilies? What a great way to honor someone AND share love all year.*

## DO THE GOOD ... HERE'S SOME IDEAS

- **DONATE IT!** We had a successful American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday with 68 pints collected. Thank you, FFUMC Blood Drive Team! Other drives are open in our area this week. Find out where and donate at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).
- **MOVE IT!** With a mission to restore children and families from trauma through Jesus Christ, Wellroot Family Services wants to bring people together to raise awareness of the foster care system, while still maintaining social distancing, so it is sponsoring the **Stay Away 5K**, the first social distancing 5K to bring biological, kinship, and foster families together. Find out more and register here.
- **SHARE IT!** Fayette Samaritans is once again open to receive donations. See what they need and their hours for donation drop offs.
- **GIVE IT!** How's your Lenten offering collection coming? This year we are collecting for Rise Against Hunger. You can donate online(indicate Lenten Offering) or drop a check or your purple Lenten offering bag in the dropbox at the church office.

# inspired ...

I am grateful for those who have shared their inspiring moments of where they have seen God at work.



Tami Kemberling,  
Recycle Queen, at  
EasterPalooza 2019.

**Jane Gough** shares a quote from her friend, **Tami Kemberling**: *"These experiences are a gift from God. For those of us who go non-stop all the time, this is a 'respite.' It's an opportunity to do things we think about doing but never have the time, such as a hand-written note or a comment like this one. Or a chance to learn something new, like ordering groceries on line!"*

Jane says, *"My analogy is this. On a cloudy day, if we take the time to look, there may be all kinds of colors and shapes that the Lord has made. Yes, there is the chance of rain and with clear blue skies there isn't, but His view is so much richer than ours."*



Jane Gough shares a  
story every year at  
Sunshine VBS.

**Leo Carter** shares words from a song, *Kyrie Eleison*, which means *Lord, have mercy*:



Look around you, can you see?  
Times are troubled, people grieve.  
See the violence, feel the hardness,  
All my people, weep with me.

Walk among them; I'll go with you.  
Reach out to them with my hands.

Suffer with me and together  
We will serve them, help them stand.

Forgive us, Father, hear our prayer;  
We would walk with you anywhere;  
Through your suffering with forgiveness,  
Take your life into the world.

**Carol King** has seen these days as an opportunity to take time to see God in new and fresh ways without the distractions of the world which sometimes vie for our attention.



In times of worry and uncertainty, we are invited to see God moving through us and throughout the world. May we each take the time to see the boldness and courage of Christ moving in and through us. *Be smart. Be safe. Take care of each other.*

— Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin