



Friday, April 3, 2020

The Weekender

“Greetings in the name of Christ”

Paul, while writing his letters from prison or distant from the congregations he loved, would often greet his communities with these words: “Greetings in the name of Christ.” Though we are apart these days, I welcome you with greetings in Christ’s name.

Over the last few weeks when we have worshipped together we have tried to emphasize the bond we all share through our church family here at Fayetteville First UMC. We all commit to serve Christ through FFUMC through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These days, we are trying to find new ways to live into our commitment to the church as we uphold its ministries together.

I encourage you to make use of the church’s website in the coming days as the central hub for communication from the church. Here you will find information that we can share about ways that we reach out through our service and giving to others. You can find links to information about our ministry to children, youth, and adults. You can find numerous ways to stay connected. Go to our [website](#) often as you check on each other during these times.

As you notice the changes on the website, you will also see the link to give on the home page as we continue to make giving an important part of our spiritual discipline. It is a joy to give to and serve with God together during these days. Even though we may not know what to do when we are home, we know that God is with us.

If you see ways we can serve together or if you see a need, please do not hesitate to let us know. Be smart. Be safe. Take care of each other.

Grace and Peace,

Thomas



Worship Online This Sunday

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

This week’s message will be available
Saturday, April 4, at fayettevillefirst.com.

How Quickly Things Change in a Week

Matthew 26:14-25

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

Updates to our schedule will be posted at fayettevillefirst.com as they develop. Check often to know the latest news.



Church Office

The church office and church building will be closed until Georgia's shelter-in-place mandate is lifted, but rest assured that we are working behind the scenes to meet your needs. Staff members are available by phone or email. Giving may be made online, through the mail (Fayetteville First UMC, E175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214), or through direct deposit. Our locked mailbox and drop box will be checked often.



Worship Online Throughout Holy Week

Join in these services as we journey through Holy Week to Easter. Links will be available throughout the coming week to online worship fayettevillefirst.com or on our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) Channel at Fayetteville First UMC – Fayetteville, GA.

Palm Sunday: April 5

Maundy Thursday: April 9

Good Friday: April 10

Easter Sunday: April 12

A note from Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Bible Study begins April 14

Join in a Tuesday morning virtual Bible study from noon to 1 p.m. beginning April 14. This study will meet via video conference as we study the book of John with Adam Hamilton's study *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*.

The video sessions are available free through AmplifyMedia.com/faq. Buy your book through your preferred store. Our first meeting will focus on orienting ourselves to a virtual classroom. You will want to read the first chapter and watch the first video before our second meeting so that once we get the virtual kinks worked out we can jump right in. Let me know you want to join the conversations by registering at fayettevillefirst.com by Monday, April 13. You will get an email invitation to join the video conference the morning of the first session. Please note: While helpful, you do not have to have video call accessibility to join this class. You may dial-in on a land line or mobile device and still be part of the conversations.



Table Groups are open



Want to start a virtual Table Group with your friends? Short videos will be posted each week on the church webpage to get your conversations started. [Sign up here.](#)

Easter Lilies: Show someone you care



Come pick up an Easter lily for you or for someone you care about. Lilies are available on the side porch of the church office. Get one, two, three or more to share. Donations of \$15 per lily are appreciated. Complete the [online donation form and pay online](#) or leave your donation and complete an order/payment form in the drop box on the church office side door.

Your special tribute for your loved one will be provided in our Easter Bulletin.

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!

Prepare and celebrate Palm Sunday on 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 of yourselves 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.

Opportunities to Care & Share



Let's share some face masks! We have an opportunity to minister to our church family and our community by making homemade face masks. Can you can sew simple things? Do you have time on your hands and supplies stacked on your shelves? This may be a great project for you. Masks are needed at Piedmont Fayette Hospital to protect individuals coming into the hospital who are not in emergency situations but need to be protected. The Senior Center is in need of the masks as volunteers transport senior citizens to necessary doctor appointments and treatments. You

may know of those in the medical field who may not be on the front lines but still need extra protection. Your own family and friends could benefit from these as well. The [linked instructions from Piedmont Hospital](#) can be used as a guide, but other designs are accepted. Another link is "[The Sewing Room Channel](#)" - 10 Minute Face Mask. When your masks are ready, [follow these donation instructions](#). Contact Susan Burch at showburch@gmail.com if you have questions.



Need some help? If you have any **special needs** such as grocery shopping, pharmacy pickup, etc., please contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com. We are ready and willing to help, so be sure to reach out.

If you want to **lend a helping hand** please [click this link](#).



Donate food for your community at **Fayette Samaritans**, our community food bank. Fayette Samaritans is ready to receive your food donations Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Just drive by and drop it off. [Find out their most needed donations here.](#)

Fayetteville First Preschool: A note from Kerry Bleil



This week the Preschool Advisory Board made the difficult decision to close Fayetteville First Preschool for the remainder of the school year. We know that this is the best thing to do for the safety of our children, families, and staff. Our teachers will remain in contact with their children via email, videos, and phone calls. A big thank you to our families for their patience, our teachers for their continued love of the children, and to FFUMC for your unwavering support!

ffumcYouth: A note from Kena Newkirk



We know that times are difficult. The adjustment to a "new normal" of social distancing is especially challenging to young Christians used to the constant social stimulation of going to school. Until things settle back to the old way of life, I want to make sure we have tons of opportunities for everyone.

Throughout the week, we will host **small groups via Zoom**. Times are listed below; please reach out to (919) 306-1157 for log-in information. ***Parents, please note that these meetings will be moderated for safety.*** All participants will be put into a waiting room when they log-in and must be approved by the moderator before they can enter the chat. Small group leaders are of course encouraged to join!

- 6th Grade Girls - Tuesday 4 p.m.
- Guys Meeting – Tuesday 5 p.m.
- 7th & 8th Grade Girls - Wednesday 4 p.m.
- 9th Grade Girls - Wednesday 5 p.m.

- 10th Grade Girls - Thursday 5 p.m.
- 11th & 12th Grade Girls Thursday 4 p.m.

Something unique is offered each weekday and on Sundays. Check it out at fayettevillefirst.com. Contact Kena Newkirk at KNewkirk@fayettevillefirst.com if you have questions.

ffumcKiDS: A note from Rev. Carson Thaxton



Happy Palm Sunday!

Be sure to get your palm leaf ready to use on Palm Sunday as you participate in the service online. [Follow this link](#) for a printable page, create your own or find a branch in your yard. We want to have our hosannas ready!

Below is the new weekly link for age-specific Bible lesson videos.

Week 14

URL: hillsongstore.com/bigweek14

Password: bigmarchweek14

Materials that go along with these videos are available as well at fayettevillefirst.com.

Holy Week is next week and offers many opportunities for you and your family.

Be sure to be on the lookout for these services as they become available:

Maundy Thursday –a service of invitation into the Upper Room (Pastor Carson preaching)

Good Friday –a service of special music and scripture all about the cross

Easter Sunday –He is Risen!

Communications: A note from Joan Aycock



Want the **BEST** way to stay up-to-date? All of the following links are easy to find on our FFUMC homepage at fayettevillefirst.com. Check it out!

Watch for it.... It's coming each week!

Tuesdays: Informed and Inspired

Wednesdays: Thomas Talks

Fridays: The Weekender

Sundays: Worship @ FFUMC

If you have information to share about your group and their activities, please contact me at jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com.

Questions about REALM?



So, are you hesitating to make use of all the resources on our church database? Wait no more! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at admin@fayettevillefirst.com. We'll lend you a hand to connect with your church family the 24/7 way! It's easy.

GRADUATES! Take note!

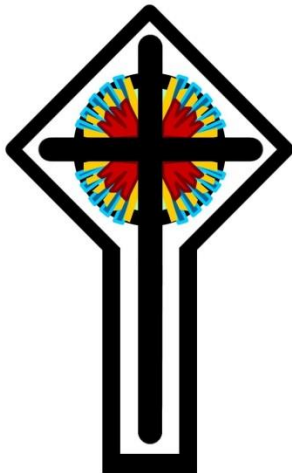


We celebrate you! We aren't yet sure how or when, but we DO know we will have a church family graduation announcement like always. So gather your best photo and graduation information and send a jpeg to Joan Aycok, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com. Please make sure your photo is not copyright protected.

High School Graduates: Full Name, High School, Further education/Employment, Degree you will likely pursue

College/Graduate school: Full Name, College, Degree earned

March 31, 2020 Financials



Operating Budget

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date receipts | \$319,120.21 |
| Year to Date expenses | \$324,016.12 |
| Difference | -\$4,895.91 |

Benevolence

27 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$6,856.23 in assistance.

The Conference Board of Pension voted to cover the church portion of HealthFlex insurance premiums for three months beginning April 1. This is one way our United Methodist connection is helping through this unusual time.

You can continue your financial support of the church in many ways:

Online giving: [Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Thank you!