

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

HOPE ON EASTER JOURNEY Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

As we move through these days, we are invited to see things a little differently. When we confront the world during Holy Week, we see the worst in human nature as we betray, deny, and crucify. We also know that the greatest of humanity is made possible through God's love and Christ's resurrection.

I invite you, as you see the world, to see the good in the crisis. See the holy in the brokenness. And as we get closer to Easter, don't be shocked when you find hope in the middle of an empty tomb.

Holy Week Services

Three services will be available online this week. Links will become active on the day of each service on the [worship link](#) of our website at FayettevilleFirst.com.

Maundy Thursday: We remember the Last Supper and the Lord's Commandment with Rev. Carson Thaxton.

Good Friday: Music and scripture lead us through the passion of Jesus, the Christ.

Easter Sunday: We celebrate the resurrection of the Lord — He is Risen, indeed!

Practicing Resurrection

Your hands may be busy during these days living out your own commitment to new life. We want to share where you are finding hope and inspiration through a pictorial presentation on Easter. Are you or your family busy making protective masks for yourself or others? Are you sharing an extra Easter Lily with a lonely neighbor? Enjoying some fun art created for your refrigerator or driveway? Did you wave some palms on Sunday? Please send photos, snapshots and selfies of you or your projects to Joan Aycock at jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com by noon this Friday. On Easter, you'll see your church family practicing the resurrection in practical ways.

CELEBRATE EASTER



The Easter Cross will be in place by Easter Sunday morning in the courtyard. You are invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross and take family photos. Please be very careful to practice safe distancing should others arrive simultaneously. Alternately, you could [print this photo](#) of the cross to hold in an Easter snapshot.

The lilies are blooming! Be sure to get yours before they are gone. Contactless pick up is available at the church office side door. Access an [online order form](#) or complete a form when you pick up your plant. To place a special tribute to someone in our Easter bulletin, please complete the form by Friday, April 10, at noon.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE — REACHING OUT

GET HELP

If you have any special needs, such as grocery shopping, pharmacy pickup, etc., please contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com. We're ready and willing to help you so reach out!

GIVE HELP

If you would like to help by running errands, delivering supplies, or staying connected with people in our congregation, [click this link](#) so we can better connect you with those who have a need.



Lenten offerings may be placed in the church office side door or you may donate online or by mail. Just mark "Lenten Offering" in the memo line.

inspired . . .

We are inspired by ways our church family is reaching out to others.



"Our neighborhood has recently organized an updated Neighborhood Directory including emails and a neighborhood Facebook page. A neighbor with an autistic child reached out to everyone last week saying that her son wanted to go on a bear hunt Saturday afternoon. Many of us placed our stuffed animals, including bears, pigs, a wolf, and a camel, on our porches and in the bushes near the street where the child could see them. One neighbor even put bear claw prints on their driveway and several others next door to the child's home! We all came together to brighten the life of the boy, and in this way to brighten ours as well." — Carol Key

You'll find Carol every year at Christmas Marketplace, a year-long event for her since she coordinates all the vendor spots. Thanks, Carol, for your service!

I am a flight attendant, so I am not working from home like so many are these days. Blessed to be among people who need to travel, I have had an opportunity to spend more time with our passengers, as there are fewer to serve.

One man had just experienced what will most likely be his final visit with his ill, elderly father. He got to him as soon as he could after learning of his dad's condition. I am glad Delta was able to accommodate him. He spent four hours with his father one day and planned to return the next day; however, by then the nursing home/hospice had closed for visitors. He shared with me how the director there went to his father and helped them have a FaceTime visit. I was thankful to have time to chat with this man and offer my prayers.

Others I interacted with had been on mission trips, family vacations, etc., and were headed home. It felt good to help them with their journey.

I also met a doctor who was deploying to help with the Coronavirus. He enthusiastically shared facts versus rumor. His message was one of hope, not doom. — Sandy Arrington

