

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Faith and Grief Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I have listened to friends who have gone through the grieving process about what it feels like to return to normal. Those conversations have been popping up in my head a lot lately. We talk and think about the things that we have missed a lot during this time of waiting. Some are silly. Some are not silly. But until this week, I've never really thought about the grief that we associate with loss.

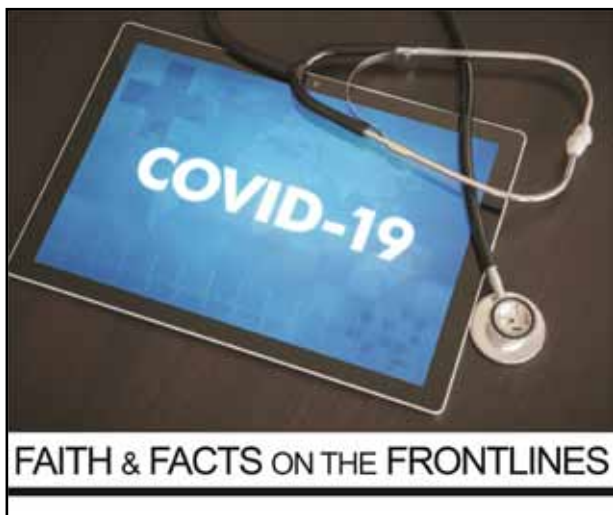
Grieving makes way for healing. Scars may leave us bruised but they serve to remind us that we heal even though we may be changed.

I am not sure what normal will look like for us as a community of faith. I am certain it will be different. I am also certain it will be worth it.



Are you grieving because you are fearing change? Are you grieving because you are missing something? Are you grieving because you know you will never be able to go back to the way things were?

Hear the good news: *"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning."* Psalm 30:5 We may be in a long night; we may be already experiencing that joy. Whether you are in the darkness of the night or the joy of the day, we know that God is with us. As we move through these days ahead, we will find ways to connect, serve, and find the joy of the Lord even in the midst of the dark.



Faith and Facts on the Frontlines

This past Sunday, Pastor Thomas held a conversation with Dr. John Robert Walker, Anesthesiologist Division Chief at Gadsden Regional Medical Hospital, about Faith and Facts on the Frontlines. Dr. Walker, a long-time friend of Pastor Thomas, discussed his experiences in the hospital he serves as well as how faith influences us during this time.

[Just click here to view the conversation on our YouTube Channel.](#)

Did you know..

- **Bethany Circle** raised \$940+ for Promise Place and Bloom through its Mother's Day Recognition last Sunday. Thanks for participating!
- **Fayette Samaritans** has updated its MAY MOSTED NEEDED ITEMS list. You can drop off donations at the church every weekday from 11 a.m. to noon at The Drive-Thru.
- **Our Church Family 2020 Directories** are here. Pick yours up at The Drive-Thru. Cost is \$7 (please bring exact change or a check). Also, one can be delivered to you - just sign up here.



We'll be extra ready for adventures at the castle in 2021!

inspired . . .

Please share your stories and pictures with Thomas at tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com. Your acts of kindness and care may inspire others.



Cards, Cookies, Masks ... Lenora Farr is busy!

In addition to 80+ cards mailed and baking cookies for SafeHouse Outreach, Lenora Farr is making masks from spare material that she and her daughter, Len Blalock, have on hand. So Len and Lenora are busy making masks and care packages!

You have encouraged our church family — Thank you!

Thank you for all the prayers for my granddaughter Shannon during and after her surgery. " — Nancy Weinmeister

To all Care Ministry Teams: My words are at a loss to express how much all your ways of showing love, care, support, understanding and remembrance helped me through a tough milestone. Thank you for "caring." — Trudy Whittington

Throughout the week and Sunday mornings we feel as if we are "gathered in his name." Thank you. And enjoy the beauty around us— as in this special season, we look forward to the new life after the "Good Fridays" that we are continuing to experience. God's promise is beautiful! — Debbie Pace

How delighted I was to receive the bouquet of lovely flowers while I was house-bound. This church has always meant so much to me and I do appreciate your thoughtfulness. I hope we can all be back in our pews soon. — Sara Johnston

To Shawl Ministry: Thank you so much for the beautiful lap robe which you sent me. I love the prayer and I will cherish the love and labor which was put forth to make this such a special gift. — James Watkins

God is good; so are His people. You have made a time of sorrow into a praise. The prayers, thoughts, calls, cards, food, so many acts of love — We thank you and send our love to all of you. — Linda Black, Greg, and Betty McKibben