

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Behind the Scenes

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One of the things that I appreciate about our Methodist system is the decision-making process. There's a joke that goes something like this, "How many Methodists does it take to change a light bulb? First you have to form a committee to determine whether or not it needs to be changed, then you form a committee after that to change it, one to dispose of the old light bulb, and one to decide on which type of light bulb to install." It's a bit self-deprecating, but it is also appropriate because it prevents any one person (or pastor) from deciding something on his or her own.

Over the last few months, the committees of the church have been "meeting" to discuss and decide what comes next in a lot of areas. I am grateful for all those who have given their time and feedback through these uncertain times. Last night, the trustees met to begin to look at what steps are necessary to reopen. Later this evening, our lay leader, Bill Webb, will have a time to update the congregation. Over the next two weeks finance and church council groups will meet to discuss what we as a church can do to reopen and develop new avenues for service as we have never stopped being the church.

I encourage you to reach out to us if you have questions or concerns. I hope you will attend Bill's "meeting" online. If you aren't able to be there, it will be recorded if you want to watch it later. Most important, I hope that you are well, being safe, being smart, and finding the grace and love of God in all that you do.



You're invited to tonight's ZOOM session with Bill Webb

Everyone is invited to attend a special information session tonight, May 19, at 7 p.m. hosted by Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin and Bill Webb. Below is the login information for ZOOM.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 849 6690 7516

Password: 471068

Bill Webb, pictured above with Caden Thaxton, shares his love of music through many outreach opportunities, including events with children. He and his wife, Carol, have led GriefShare sessions at FFUMC for many years as well.

inspired . . .

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

Thank you for your service, senior acolytes

I wonder how many of us reading this right now can say we have volunteered to do something for eight or nine straight years? You would have to be really committed to something to stay at it for that long! And yet that's exactly how long many of our acolytes have served this congregation.

Acolytes lead us in worship as they bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary. They then lead the way for us at the close of worship, carrying the light out of the sanctuary and into the world to serve Christ. These servant leaders fulfill a tradition that reaches back to the early years of Christianity. They remind each of us of God's presence with us as well as our charge to go into the world and share the good news of Christ.

This year, we celebrate these nine **graduating high school seniors** who have served faithfully for so many years. You are all inspirations. Thank you for your servant hearts. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your commitment. Thank you for sharing your love of Christ with all of us. May God continue to bless you as you find new ways to serve in this church and beyond. ~ Rev. Allyson Lawrence



Becca Baileys
Future plans:
Georgia Southern Univ.
Acolyte for 9 Years



Allyson Barron
Future plans:
Kennesaw State Univ.
Acolyte for 8 Years



Jane Benefield
Future plans:
Georgia Institute of
Technology
Acolyte for 9 Years



Laura Gary
Future plans:
University of West
Georgia
Acolyte for 9 Years



Andrew Goodwin
Future plans:
Kennesaw State Univ.
Acolyte for 9 Years



Jenny Goodwin
Future plans:
Georgia College & State
University
Acolyte for 9 Years



Turner Hasty
Future plans:
Kennesaw State Univ.
Acolyte for 9 Years



Katie Pace
Future plans:
Georgia Southern Univ.
Acolyte for 9 Years



Logan Williams
Future plans:
University of West
Georgia
Acolyte for 8 Years