

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

What can I do? Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

That's a question that often seems on the tip of my tongue these days. In the face of so much uncertainty, I wonder, "What can I do to help the situation?" Maybe you ask that question too. I am humbled, however, that whenever there is a request, this congregation responds.

For instance, since we started the drive-thru prayer and pantry for Fayette Samaritans, you have responded bringing food and necessities. When we requested 50 dozen cookies for our SafeHouse Outreach mission night, you responded with over 170 dozen cookies. (We have frozen some of them and will use them next time and find other ways to share them). When there is an ask, you as a church have responded.

While that question "What can I do?" looms, we have seen ways that we can respond. In our worship services throughout Lent, we talked about ways we can uphold the ministries of the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. This congregation once again continues to step up with the prayers, notes, service, and giving — even when we cannot be present together.

In the coming days, we will be preparing for ways in which we can gather together safely. We must be aware of precautions. As we outline those and identify them, we will be asking. The first thing we will ask is for masks. When we return, everyone will be required to wear a mask in church. Many of you have been graciously making them for others. If you have the ability and skill to make masks, that is our first ask: "ask for masks." The plan is to have them available for people to use on Sunday mornings and have as their own. What we don't want when we return is for someone to come to church, forget a mask, and not be welcomed in.

If you cannot sew, there will be other asks that we will be making ranging from anything to volunteering time to clean to additional worship and pew duties. If you can sew, please let us know. Remember, as of now, the goal is to return to in-person worship on June 28. There is a lot to do and plan between now and then so stay tuned. In the meantime, as we ask the question "What can I do?", I'll answer with this: "Uphold the church with your prayers, gifts, service, and witness until we can be present together again."



Ask for Masks

Can you make masks to help us prepare for our return to worship? Every person will need to wear one, and we don't want to turn anybody away who forgets to bring one from home. Just use your favorite mask pattern or follow these links as easy guides for your donation.

[Pattern 1](#)

[Pattern 2](#)

Drop off any prepared masks at The Drive-Thru, open weekdays behind the church office, 11 a.m. to noon. Thank you!

Did you know..

- You can find **Upper Room** daily devotionals online, pick up a printed copy at The Drive-Thru or ask for one to be delivered to your home. Other Upper Room resources are available for free online.
- Today is **GivingTuesday**. You can make a donation to our benevolence fund, Fayette Samaritans, and church budget and other funds all in one transaction online at fayettevillefirst.com - today and any day!
- **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 honor high school and college graduates on May 17! Please send your graduate's information to [Joan Aycock](mailto:Joan.Aycock) by Monday, May 11.



Did you know Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 10? It's not too late to donate to missions and recognize those who mother us in a special section of the May 10 bulletin. Just complete this form and drop it off at The Drive-Thru or church office drop box.

inspired . . .

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



Serving up of cookies and love

Mike DeLisle and Randy Riddell served more than 140 meals to SafeHouse Outreach clients last week in downtown Atlanta. FFUMC teamed with another church and served each person a hot boxed meal, our boxed meal (chicken salad sandwiches, slaw & chips), our bags of pb&j sandwiches and homemade cookies, Dasani and another goodie bag SHO had on hand. Wow!

Thanks to Jane Davis for making the chicken salad and to Mike DeLisle and Lea Agnew for helping organizer Randy Riddell prepare and box the food ... and a huge thank you to the many cookie bakers. "Let me tell you about cookies," exclaimed Randy. "We asked for 50 dozen — we received over 170 dozen! I'm thinking loaves and fishes here! 20 bakers were identified, plus 14 anonymous bakers. We used what we needed for this project and are freezing some for later. Thanks for your support!"

We're all in this together - Thank you from our School Superintendant

FFUMC helped Fayette FACTOR fill a gap in providing meals to children in our community who in normal times receive free or reduced lunch at school. When the kitchen at Fayette County High School needed to close for a time due to COVID-19, our church joined with restaurants, other organizations, and individuals to provide food and monetary donations to deliver and distribute meals.

"So much has changed in a short period of time - the world around us, our neighborhoods, gathering spaces, the places we work and call home," stated Dr. Joseph Barrow, Fayette County school superintendent, in a thank you letter to our church. "What has not changed is the unquestionable strength and character of our community. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support that you have given. ... We are truly all in this together."