

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Those with ears to hear, let them hear

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Scripture is a gift to us. How we treat it can be instructive and helpful or harmful to our salvation. How we treat others based on our reading and use of scripture can be helpful or harmful to others' salvation. I encourage you to meditate on this scripture, not thinking of others with a heart that says, "AHA!!! Got 'em!" Instead, hear this in a way to contemplate our own view of God and humanity. Do not use scripture, unless you are willing to let the scriptures use you.

Those with ears to hear, let them hear.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

— Deuteronomy 30:11-20 NRSV

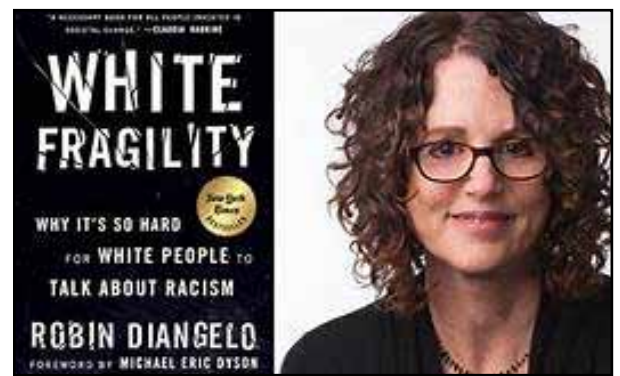


Preparing for worship June 28

We expect to resume worship on Sunday, June 28, with services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. Look for a packet in the mail this week detailing what the church is doing to prepare and guidelines to follow should you feel comfortable to return to in-person worship now. Not ready yet? That's fine! We'll be here when you are. Thinking you might be ready? Read through the packet to find out what to expect as we gather together. Guidelines will also be available on our website at FayettevilleFirst.com.

Did you know . . .

- FFUMC KiDS can use your help as Food Samaritans as they help stock the pantry at Fayette Samaritans. If you know any FFUMC KiDS, drop off food at their house and help them in their food drive. Donations may also be delivered at The Drive Thru weekdays between 11 a.m. and noon. In addition, Summer Lunch donations are appreciated (small bags of chips, cookies, and fruit cups).
- Mask making is going well as many are helping provide for those who may not have one at worship. We appreciate all donations and can especially use more small sizes for children. Please indicate if the size is not standard when you drop them off at The Drive Thru.
- Square Foot Ministry needs your help on June 27. A wall will be constructed in the FFUMC parking lot between 9 and 11 a.m. for a small house being constructed in Port St. Joe, Florida. The house is for an elderly man whose home was nearly destroyed almost two years ago. If you can use a hammer or assist someone who can, you'll find a job to do! Contact Maggie Clarke for more information.
- Have you sent in your Chalk Art creation? Submit photos of your work through June 26. This showcase is for the entire church. Winners will be announced June 29.



The book study of "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin Diangelo begins Thursday, June 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This first session will cover the introduction and first four chapters. The group will also meet July 16 and July 30 at the same time. Rev. Allyson Lawrence says, "If you feel inept at talking about racism or have difficulty understanding our racial tension in 2020 America, I hope you will join me in an ongoing discussion." Contact Rev. Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com if you want to join the ZOOM conversation. Please acquire the book through an ebook source or as an audio book if you are interested and can't find the printed copy.

inspired . . .

FFUMC is staying connected creatively during this long time of necessary social distancing. From UMW Circles to Sunday school classes to Bible studies, book studies and more, you've continued to be the church together — encouraging, supporting, praying, offering love and hope. Some have gathered through technology and others have met on a lawn, around a lake, on a porch, and even in a parking lot. We're all better together!



UMW Friendship Circle (far left) and Circle of Friends Class (left and above) are grateful for the beautiful weather that made outside gatherings the perfect setting for learning and fellowship.