

INFORMED

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CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

There are, at times, no words to express thanks or gratitude. The Charles Wesley hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," written in 1739 and traditionally placed as the opening hymn in Methodist hymnals throughout the world, uses older English. What it means is that we *wish* we had a thousand tongues to sing our great Redeemer's praise. Sometimes, we just don't have enough goodness in us to give back to God or to express our thanks.

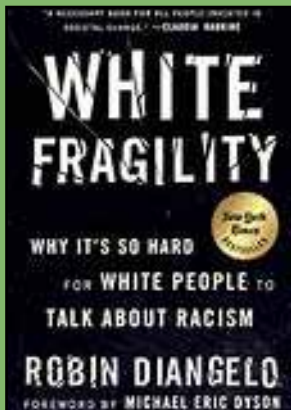
I feel that way sometimes. There are things we do as a church that would not be possible in civic organizations, private clubs, social groups. It has to be the church and God's presence in our lives that makes things possible. The staff has done tremendous work to make the church the church. The congregation has spent time checking in on one another. We have raised funds, brought canned goods and food for summer lunches, made masks, sent cards, worshipped in new ways, shared fellowship in different ways and extended God's love.

You could do these things other places, but the church means more because God's love means more than we could ever understand. If we had a thousand tongues to sing about God's goodness, it might get us close to expressing our thanks, but I think that it may not be enough. Thank you for being the church.

*"O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!"*

Preparing for worship June 28

We expect to resume worship this Sunday, June 28, with services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. Be sure to check over the [attendance guidelines](#) sent in the mail and available at FayettevilleFirst.com. Not ready yet? That's fine! We'll be here when you are.



The book study of "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo begins this 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.

Did you know . . .

- Our church-wide Chalk Art Contest ends this week? Showcase your work or a creation of another artist in your household and submit photos to Carson Thaxton by June 26. This showcase is for the entire church. Winners will be announced June 29.
- We have a new suggested donation list from Fayette Samaritans as they prepare to expand their operating capacity soon. Donations may be delivered to FFUMC at The Drive-Thru this week between 11 a.m. and noon.
- 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.



Kara Thaxton showcases her chalk art. Join the contest!

inspired . . .

We know about some of the things you've been doing over the past few months of uncertainty. You've gone Easter Caroling and helped finish out a year of preschool complete with a celebration parade. You've distanced in yards or over the internet to encourage each other and delivered the results of extreme cookie-baking for SafeHouse Outreach clients. From sharing music for online worship, to donating, packing and delivering lunches to kids, to _____ (fill in the blank...then call and tell us about it. We want to know!), many continue living out faith in very active ways.

