

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Wisdom in our worrying

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

In Luke's gospel, chapter 12 verse 25, Jesus says, "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" I wonder if Jesus was around today, what would he say?

Probably the same thing, to be honest. It may not seem like it, but the words for us fit. I've been pondering this verse for a while, using it as a prayer for myself when I wake up, at night, during the day, as we're looking at decisions for our children and school and those that are making the decisions for all students in our county and area. "How can you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"



What has been interesting to do is a deep dive into this particular verse. Most English translations of this text maintain some sense of time span and life. However, the most accurate reading is "can any of you by worrying add a cubit to your stature." The difference is measurement of time versus measurement of stature.

How many people worry about the present circumstance *in order* to be right? It seems that if we worry *in order* to be right, then we are seeking to add cubits to our stature—we are seeking to make more of ourselves than we are.

We all have things to worry about these days. It seems impossible to take Jesus' words seriously sometimes. But we must remember that there are things worth worrying about. If we worry, let us do so in an attempt to be more gracious, more loving, more hopeful, and more helpful to those that may be carrying more worry than others. May God give us the wisdom to worry about that which matters most to God—the people of God.

## Did you know...?

- You can get help with your technology concerns? Just call the church office or email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) and we will help or find someone who can.
- Can't hear the live streams as well as you would like? Try hooking up an external speaker to your device or use ear buds. Also, be sure to link directly to YouTube through the [link on the Worship Online tab at FayettevilleFirst.com](#). This link goes straight to our YouTube channel video and may offer the most consistent upload and sound.
- FFUMC will deliver and serve to-go boxes at SafeHouse Outreach on Thursday, July 30, with minimal volunteers. Contact Randy Riddell with questions at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-6824.

# inspired...

## Sharing shoes and more ...

Shoes, clothes, scarves ... Swapping and shopping in the church parking lot. While meeting Hannah Vickery, our new youth director, the 8th and 9th grade girls' small group shared their closet special "finds" with each other and donated to Bloom and Clothes Less Traveled.



## Exceeding goal at Blood Drive ... Thanks!

Thanks to all who donated and volunteered at this past Sunday's blood drive. The FFUMC Blood Drive Team exceeded its goal of 80 units by 8! Of the 114 who signed up, 90 donors presented with a total of 88 units received. Way to go above and beyond. Mark your calendars for next drive on October 18.



*Can you identify these masked donors and volunteers? [Find the answers here!](#)*