

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Playing it safe?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.” Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring.*

~ James 4:13-14b

*“If you stand for nothing, Burr, what will you fall for?”*

Lin-Manuel Miranda as Alexander Hamilton from the musical *Hamilton*

Lately, our situations have required us to make a lot of decisions for a future where we are less certain than ever about the outcome. Because of the uncertainty, I have often come back to this verse from James about making plans. It certainly seems that we do not know what tomorrow will bring, and those who are making decisions for large groups—administrators of schools, hospitals, organizations, companies—or those making decisions for small groups—households, families, small businesses—are doing the best they can based on the information given. I’ll admit that even I’ve taken the more passive approach at times to say, “Well, we’re not so sure about what will happen next, so let’s play it safe.” I don’t think Jesus ever wants us to play it safe.

So it’s strange then that an awakening would come from the musical sensation *Hamilton* which highlights the founding father Alexander Hamilton’s life. In an opening scene, Hamilton asks later assassin Aaron Burr, “If you stand for nothing, Burr, what will you fall for?” In other words, the time has come to not play it safe in decision making. Now, we are going to be safe and thoughtful in what we do as a church, but safe decision making that does not take risks or allow for failure may not be of God. So in the next few weeks you will see us making plans to continue ministry through Rise Against Hunger, SafeHouse Outreach, mission trips to South Georgia, new opportunities for worship and fellowship, and ways to serve our community and beyond.

Even in these opportunities, we know that plans can always change. We also know that we will follow the best agreed upon advice to gather in person that is available. Just because we are entering a time of risk taking does not mean we will be reckless. We have an opportunity to rethink church in a way that reaches more people than ever before. We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. As the song goes, “Life is worth the living just because He lives.” May we all stand for the love of God for all of us as we look boldly into the future.

Be smart. Be safe. Take care of each other.



# Did you know...?

- You can access worship online through our live stream beginning at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday (and anytime after). Go directly to YouTube through the [link on the Worship Online tab at FayettevilleFirst.com](#). You also are invited to in-person worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- FFUMC will deliver and serve to-go boxes at SafeHouse Outreach this Thursday, July 30, with minimal volunteers. Contact Randy Riddell with questions at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-6824.
- The congregation is invited to ZOOM with Bill Webb, lay leader, at noon on Thursday, August 6. The link to this opportunity to get updates and engage in what's going on at FFUMC will be published in next week's August 4 edition of Informed & Inspired. All are invited.

# inspired . . .

## Rise Against Hunger 2020 is ON!

We are excited to announce the 2020 Rise Against Hunger Packing event to help feed the hungry around the world. Working closely with RAH and following their careful COVID guidelines to provide volunteer and food safety, we are ready to get our hands busy.

### Pack 30,000 meals! August 23

Two shifts: 1 – 3 p.m. and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

50 volunteers per shift

[See the COVID precautions plan online](#)

### Reservations required (\$5 per volunteer: \$20 max/family)

Two –step reservations begin July 31:

FFUMC Packing Event Registration

Rise Against Hunger Registration

For now, just SAVE THE DATE!

### Overall cost: \$10,000

Paid through mission budget, Lenten offering, and donations.  
You do not have to participate to donate!



*You looked GREAT in these scenes from the 2019 event. This year we add masks to our style.*