

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Watching and waiting, looking above

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

To say that the last three months have been difficult might be an understatement. I don't want to sound despondent or depressing, but I have spoken with many people in our congregation who have been just getting by emotionally, spiritually, or personally. There are others who haven't stopped a beat yet. I share this with you to remind you of the complexities we all face. I share this to remind you that while we may all be going through this together, not everyone experiences it the same way. Be patient with each other. Be kind. Be like Jesus.

The hymn, "Blessed Assurance" offers us the words, "Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love." We have been doing a lot of watching and waiting. We have been doing a lot of planning and prepping. While we have resumed in-person worship, we are also keeping an eye on Fayette County and the surrounding areas to make the best choices going forward. We want to do the right thing but we also want to share the love of God with others. We are doing our best to get it right and make decisions for the congregation. We will not always get it right, but we watch and wait and look above.

Tonight, the leadership team of the church (the chairs of committees) will be meeting to discuss some potential best options moving forward. We will keep you updated as we do our best to serve God and follow the Spirit's lead based upon what we think is best for our church and our community. Our goal is to stay connected as best we can as we all chart new territory together. Please keep our church in your prayers. Please keep those who work in the healthcare industry in your prayers. Please keep God's children in your prayers. We can and will get through this together. It may not always feel comfortable but with God's help, we will be reminded of the Blessed Assurance as we tell our story and sing our song.

Office Hours

Drop off donations, meet a minister for prayer, or pick up a free copy of "Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory" or a new Upper Room. We're open!

Monday through Thursday:

9 a.m. to noon; 1 to 3 p.m.

Friday:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Exploring Spiritual Gifts

Our sermon focus through July is on spiritual gifts and how they might be used for the kingdom of God. To help us discover our unique gifts, a FREE copy of "Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory" is available after worship services or in the church office. This easy-to-use workbook also pairs well with its companion in-depth study book "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant, helping us learn, grow, and serve as the body of Christ.



What can you do?

- Sign up now for July 19 American Red Cross Blood Drive (go to redcrossblood.org) hosted right here at FFUMC! You can give safely with the drive's [guidelines and procedures](#). An extra bonus: The Red Cross has announced that it is testing donor blood for COVID-19 antibodies. Need help registering? Contact our own FFUMC Blood Drive Team at ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com.
- Drop off donations for Fayette Samaritans and the Summer Lunch Program at the church office. Both groups need our help in order to help others.

inspired . . .

Hannah Vickery joins FFUMC staff as Director of Youth Ministry

Welcome to our new Director of Youth Ministry — Hannah Vickery. We are excited to get to know her as she serves here at FFUMC.

Hannah graduated with a degree in Public Relations and Journalism from Lee University in 2016 and is now a graduate resident of the Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT). She is seeking a Masters in Youth Ministry from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary while serving with us. She is passionate about walking alongside youth in their faith journey and empowering teenagers to use their gifts and strengths to serve and lead in their communities as part of God's kingdom here on earth.

Hannah has spent the past eight years serving as a youth volunteer in various capacities through camp counseling, SWAT Ministries, The Gathering Place, YoungLife, and The Village UMC in Nashville. She also spent three months in the region of Shiroles, Costa Rica, as a volunteer with Experience Mission, living with a host family and building relationships in the community. She interned with World Vision USA and spent a semester abroad in the U.K. while in college.

She enjoys adventuring outside on hiking and camping trips, traveling to new places and experiencing new cultures, relaxing with a good book in her hammock, and game nights with friends. She grew up in Nashville, Tennessee and is the proud aunt of a niece and two nephews.



Stop by the church office next week during office hours to introduce yourself and say hello. Hannah is ready to meet you and to begin her ministry here.



***Welcome,
Hannah!***

***Hannah's parents,
Phil & Rosemary,
helped her move to
Fayetteville this week.***