



Friday, July 10, 2020

## The Weekender

### We are the body of Christ

Throughout Jesus' ministry, whenever he sends his disciples out into the world he never does so as individuals. When ten are healed, he tells all ten to go and share what God has done. When he sends the disciples, he sends them out two by two into the surrounding areas. When Jesus goes to people's houses for dinner and fellowship, he never sets a table for one. The only time there is solidarity is when Jesus goes off to pray. There is strength in numbers.

Of course we know this from the Old Testament as well. Moses, tired of leading, is reminded that no one asked him to be a lone ranger. He always had Aaron by his side. Then he creates a group of 70 to help him lead God's people. Even in the book of Acts we read of groups that are leading together. The body of Christ, which is a metaphor for the way in which we work, live, and serve together, is better when we all know our part and play to our strengths.

This week, I want to acknowledge that the body is not in agreement over the decision made to not meet in person. I offer no correctives and I am not here to argue over whether the correct decision was made or not. What I want to encourage us to do is continue to be the church, to be the body, and serve in the ways that Fayetteville First has always done--leading by example.

Our example is not one based on being right: it's based on being loving. If there is anything that our world needs now is people who are less certain of themselves and more certain of Christ's love. As we continue to learn about our spiritual gifts, I am reminded of the scripture that we will be reading in worship from 1 Corinthians 12:27, "*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*" Below you will find information about watching the services on-line. Please know that we continue to try and improve upon what we are sharing with one another. Please know that we may not always be right in the decisions that we make, but we are striving to be loving to God and our neighbor. I am grateful for each and everyone one of you in this congregation. We are the body of Christ.

Thomas Martin



### Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2020

[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)

*Spiritual Gifts: What do I do with them?*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-31*

*Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin*

## CURRENT NEWS



### In-person worship suspended July 12 and July 19 – Live stream begins

Due to current coronavirus infections in our area and measured caution, we are suspending in-person worship for July 12 and July 19. Online worship will be available as live stream ***beginning at 11 a.m.*** each Sunday.

To access the live stream simply click on the **event-specific link** each week provided on our [Worship Online tab](#) at [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com). This link will become active on Sunday at 11 a.m. when we begin the live stream and at any point after that time.

You also can find active links on our YouTube Channel. Go [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and search for Fayetteville First UMC - Fayetteville, GA. Subscribe to the channel for easy access any time.

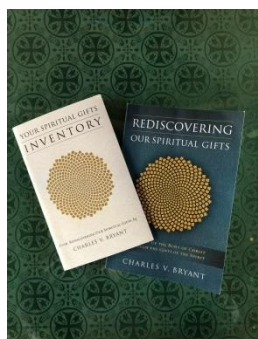
Our leadership team will continue to monitor the situation and determine best practices based on updated guidance from sources such as [www.globalepidemics.org](http://www.globalepidemics.org) paired with prayer.

When conditions allow us to worship together again, we will resume safety guidelines as detailed here and will continue offering an online option. If you have any questions, please call the church office or email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



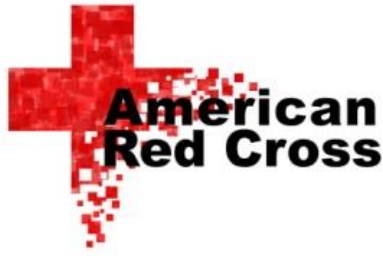
### Need help with technology?

Do you need a little help to access our online services, emails, or online meetings? We understand! Anyone who wants to participate more in the virtual life of the church and just needs a little help with technology can contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or contact Wayne Harris directly to set up an appointment for training and technical assistance ([wgh770@gmail.com](mailto:wgh770@gmail.com) or 770-855-1453).



### 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 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.



## **Give blood July 19 at FFUMC**

Donating blood is one thing we CAN do! Sign up now to give blood at FFUMC on July 19. COVID precautions will be in place so you can safely give.

### **Important Notes:**

Hours extended! July 19, **8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

New scheduling procedure:

- Go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)
- In upper right hand corner enter sponsor code: ffumc
- On left side it will bring up drives and select the correct drive and click “See Times”
- Select the blood donation time you request and select either “Blood” or “Power Red”
- Sign in or create account
- Confirm appointment.

If you need assistance, there is a pop-up window that will have a Red Cross agent call back, or you can contact the FFUMC Red Cross Blood Drive Team at [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) and have them schedule you.

No more Mad Cow restrictions! This had affected many in our congregation who had military service during 1980 to 2001.

New 3-month deferral time for tattoos.

Potential testing of blood donations for presence of COVID-19 antibodies for donation process (This is not a screening test, but an additional service).

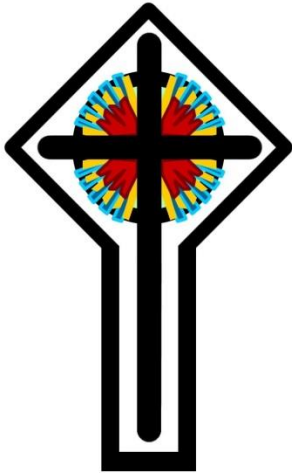
Questions on all guidelines? Go to [redcross.org](https://redcross.org), see the FFUMC Blood Drive post, or contact our team at [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com).

## **Did You Know ... ?**

### **Outdoor Family Worship offered this fall**

FFUMC is planning for outdoor family worship gatherings starting this fall on Wednesday evenings. Anyone is invited but gatherings will be designed for families with students and children. Look for details and dates soon. Questions? Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton: [cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com).

## July 7, 2020 Financials



### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$673,581.17
Year to Date expenses	\$526,267.91
Difference	\$147,313.26

### Benevolence

\$295.00 received this week

45 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$12,027.19 in assistance.

You can continue your financial support of the church in many ways:

Online giving: [Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Thank you!

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-461-4313

### Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.