



Friday, August 7, 2020

## The Weekender

### Planting Seeds

This past week our church council met to discuss the state of things in the church. We acknowledged that things are going relatively well, but we also noted that we could do more. For a while now we have operated out of the mindset that things would get back to normal soon. In many ways that has dictated what we did and did not do. So putting on the table everything that we could do and everything that we couldn't, we began to think about what comes next for us as a congregation.



One of the agreed upon things by all medical professionals throughout the COVID-19 response is that social distancing is best done outside. As we begin to make plans for the fall, we began to look at options for where we might meet outside. Then something happened when we shared a "What if we could..." scenario.

What if we could begin to meet outside in a sheltered/covered space? What groups might be able to use it in our church? In our community? In our programs? The possibilities seem to be endless. After much discussion and sharing of ideas, the Church Council approved a motion to allow Trustees to begin to research what it might look like to create a covered pavilion on the eastern most lot past the gym. There is great excitement because it would be a versatile space to be used as we navigate the future. Small groups could fellowship safely. Preschool could have additional space to have interactive learning. Youth and children could meet. Families could fellowship. UMM and UMW could hold small group meetings in that area. We could expand our worship opportunities as the weather cools off.

This is the chance to explore and plant a seed. The Trustees will begin to price and get quotes and work with Finance. I want you, the congregation of Fayetteville First UMC, to know that while there is excitement around this project, there is also an eye to the stewardship of our resources. As we get information, we will share it with you. While this is just an idea, think of what it can do for us not only as a safe place to fellowship but also as a visible presence in the community beyond the brick and mortar of our beautiful space.

I invite you to join me in prayer as we pursue options and share them. I invite you to share thoughts and ideas or concerns as it relates to this endeavor. I invite you to hold one another in love as we pursue this as a chance for us to share in ministry in our church and in our community. Let us plant the seeds so that for generations to come others may be able to sit in the shade of that which we planted.

Thomas Martin



## Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2020

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

**In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.**

*Where are you looking?*

*Matthew 14:22-33*

*Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin*

## CURRENT NEWS

### Register NOW!

### Rise Against Hunger August 23

Pack 30,000 meals! August 23

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

50 volunteers per shift

[COVID precautions will apply](#)

Overall cost: \$10,000 paid through mission budget, Lenten offering, and mostly donations. You do not have to participate to donate! ([Donate through FFUMC online](#) or send a check to the church. Be sure to indicate “Rise Against Hunger.”)

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

### TWO-STEP RESERVATION

Step 1: FFUMC Packing Event Registration

- Register for a specific shift at FFUMC

[1-3 p.m. Shift Registration](#)

[3:30 – 5:30 p.m.. Shift Registration](#)

- Donate \$5 per volunteer (\$20 family max) through FFUMC at this site.
- Donate more to the event at this site to have your donation recorded with your FFUMC Giving Statement. All funds donated to the event will go to Rise Against Hunger.

Step 2: Rise Against Hunger Registration

- [Submit Rise Against Hunger registration and volunteer waiver here to complete your registration.](#)
- You may donate toward our \$10,000 goal here; however, donations will go directly to Rise Against Hunger and will not be reflected in your FFUMC Giving Statement. The total giving



goal on the RAH site may not be a current reflection of all FFUMC funds designated for RAH.



### GriefShare Begins August 17

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays starting August 17 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056.



### Chalk Art Celebration

Thanks for your submissions! [Click here to for the video celebration!](#)

*We are community ... We are FOR Fayette!*



### Ready for YOUTH

We are ready for all things YOUTH as we begin a new season at FFUMC. We've welcomed our new youth director Hannah Vickery and are getting set to begin new things. Contact Hannah ([hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com)) if your teen is not yet in a small group.

*Scene from Youth Scavenger Hunt on August 2.*

### We want to connect with you!

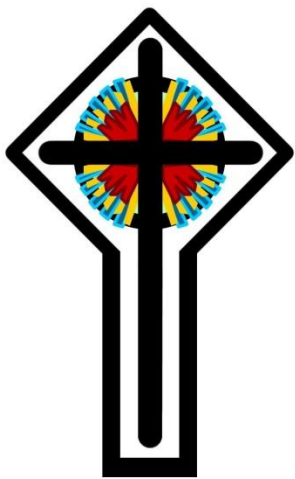
Do you (or someone you know) need assistance with technology? Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) and we will do our best to help!

## On-campus small group space opening

With options of in-person or online worship and on-campus, off-campus and virtual small groups, we want to connect with you!

We are moving toward opening more spaces for ministry and connection on campus, but we want to do so safely. These small group gathering guidelines provide practices to respect the needs and security of all those entering and using the FFUMC campus. While necessary now, these guidelines will likely not be permanent. They will, however, need to be followed until further notice. Contact the church office if you have questions: 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).

### [On-Campus Small Group Guidelines](#)



## August 4, 2020 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$756,473.35
Year to Date expenses	\$636,936.81
Difference	\$119,536.54

### Benevolence

\$572 received this week.

52 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$12,923.22 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.

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.