

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## What does it mean to be like Jesus?

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

For me, that is the question that tries to guide everything I do. In order to answer that question, I look to scriptures to actually see what Jesus did. I don't spend a lot of time trying so see what Jesus thought. Scripturally, I remember the words from the Prophet Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord (55:8)." It's not up to me to know what God thinks, even in human form. Furthermore, I have come to the conclusion that God doesn't need my protection. The Psalmist reminds us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1)." God protects us. God doesn't need our protection.

So what are we to do, then? Better yet, how do we spend our Christian energy? Do we do it trying to know the mind of the Almighty, Triune God? Or do we simply do our best to live a life that becomes worthy of the Gospel?

I think we frustrate ourselves--and we frustrate others--when we try to know exactly what God is thinking. It is an impossible feat. Anyone who claims to know God's divine plan for today should be suspect to us. We know God's desire is to reconcile all people unto God's self. Paul writes to the church in Corinth regarding what it means to have the mind of Christ, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us (2 Cor. 5:18-19)."

Those who make their lives about winning obviously want losers. Those who seek to be as one may be closer to being like Jesus. What does it mean to be like Jesus? Is it right thinking or is it right living? Right thinking may lead us on a good path, but until we step out of ourselves and into the possibility of being made new, our lives may not catch up with where Jesus leads us. May our living be better than our thinking, now and always.

Be smart. Be safe. Take care of one another.

## Two Events on Lawn

Thanks to UMM and volunteers, the open space past Parking Lot C is ready to be used. Check out two upcoming events!

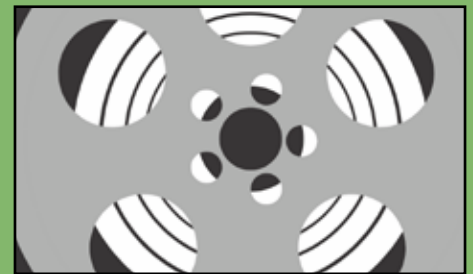


### Youth Kick-off September 9

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

T-Shirts, Games, Worship, Food...

Let's kick-off the new year!



### Family Outdoor Movie Night

September 12, 6 p.m.

Join us for "The Sandlot" on family movie night on in the open green space next to Parking Lot C. More movie details coming soon. UMW will provide pre-packaged dessert items. You can also reserve a boxed pizza from Oz Pizza to enjoy with your family during the movie. [Click here to order.](#)



## Did you know ... ?

- FFUMC Kids meet on Zoom every other Wednesday at 6 p.m. Get in on the next event: A Summer Scavenger Hunt where you search for VALUABLE things. Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton for link information.
- The Drive-Thru at FFUMC continues every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Just stop by the church office porch for prayer, to drop off a donation to the church or Fayette Samaritans, or to just see a friendly face!
- Join a mission trip to south Georgia on October 11 - 16. Contact Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com), or Maggie Clarke, [maggielclarke@comcast.net](mailto:maggielclarke@comcast.net), for more information.

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## Rise Against Hunger Event Packed 30,000 meals - Thanks!

In our 8th Rise Against Hunger packing event, we prepared over 30,000 meals with only about 40 volunteers in each of two shifts. We hit our goal with 11,000 meals packed in shift 1 and 19,000 meals in shift 2. Many worked both shifts, and we had a great day of working together to fight hunger. We'll let you know when we hear where our meals will be sent. A big thanks goes to Randy Riddell for organizing this event and for all the helping hands. We did it together!



How many masked volunteers can you identify? Send your guesses numbered 1-10 to [Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:Joan_Aycock,jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com). Here is #6 for you: Rise Against Hunger representative, **Laura**, and **Randy Riddell** demonstrate how it's done.