

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Food for thought

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

We typically don't think of food as a subject. We think of it as an object. Yet, food seems to be the subject of our Gospel reading this past Sunday. Food is something we all need. Hunger is real for many people. Food insecurity is real. The Christian charity, Bread for the World, cites a study which says that nearly 15 percent of U.S. households — more than 40 million Americans, including 12 million children — struggle to put food on the table. That means that 1 in 5 children in our country are food insecure.

As we have continued to be the church over these past four months we have found ways to offer hope and love through food related ministries. Someone once said, "How can you care for my soul when you don't care first for my hunger and thirst?" Whether it has been through SafeHouse Outreach, Fayette Samaritans, the Summer Lunch Program, or individual actions that you--members of our congregation--have reached out to help and serve others in ways I will never know, you are providing food.

As we learn through Jesus' feeding of the multitudes in Matthew's gospel, we can approach a problem like hunger in one of two ways: we can say that there is never enough and that it's someone else's problem or we can follow Christ to the ways in which the world is fed. May we continue to give daily bread just as we are able to receive it.

*"Jesus said to them,  
"They need not go  
away; you give them  
something to eat."*

**Matthew 14:16**



## Rise up against hunger August 23

Let's Rise Against Hunger together on August 23 as we pack 30,000 meals to feed the hungry.

### Rise up to help at home

Aren't ready to come out and pack? No worries! [Donate online](#) or mark RAH on a check to the church to help us reach our \$10,000 commitment.

### Rise up to pack in person

Help pack 30,000 meals at the August 23 packing event. Two shifts are offered for 50 volunteers each following careful [COVID guidelines](#).

### Complete two-step reservations:

#### 1. Register at FFUMC

[Click here for 1-3 p.m. shift](#)

[Click here for 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. shift](#)

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

#### 1. Register at RAH

[Click here to complete the Rise Against Hunger registration and volunteer waiver.](#)

If this seems confusing, let us help! Call the church office at 770-461-4313 or contact Randy Riddell at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-6824.



## Want to know more?

Please join Lay Leader Bill Webb this Thursday, August 6, at 12 p.m. for a discussion around the gifts of the church during these times. [Just click on this link to access the meeting or join by phone.](#) All are invited.

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## Feeding the hungry close to home

**SafeHouse Outreach:** On July 30, FFUMC served more than 140 BBQ chicken meals along with PB&J sandwiches, cookies and a peach to clients at SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta. Food prep at FFUMC coupled with assistance from SHO staff and volunteers on the ground put hands to work in service.



*Hands busy at work: Randy Riddell at the grill, Jane Davis and Lea Agnew in the kitchen, clients at SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta, Faye Livingston sharing boxed meals and water.*

**Summer Lunch Program served Fayette County:** Our community's hunger needs were eased through the summer despite limitations on gathering and preparing food. We served 53 families with 145 lunches for 9 weeks in June and July which totals 1,305 lunches! With the generous donations of supplies from cookies to chips to fruit cups we were able to pack all of these lunches, and we were even able to send home several extras on the last day to hopefully carry families a bit further as they prepare for the school year. A special shout out goes to these faithful volunteers who helped pack and deliver each week: Lea Agnew, Jeffre Ray, Mike DeLisle, Randy Riddell, Linda Ladd, Faye Livingston. Thanks to all who contributed and prayed for the program.

*~ Valerie Mallon, Summer Lunch Coordinator*

