

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

On the learning curve

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One of my favorite movies growing up was the movie “Hook” starring Robin Williams. The plot is that Peter Pan grows up, begins a life, marries, has kids, and has forgotten how to fly. When Captain Hook feels emptiness because he has no one to fight, he kidnaps the grown Pan’s kids and takes them back to Never Never Land. Peter has to go back and relearn how to fly, how to imagine, and in one of the movie’s most climactic moments--how to crow. He has to remember who he was—as he lost himself but at the same time fight for who he has become.

To me, this is a great illustration of our present circumstances. During these times of distancing, we have moved into a different realm and reality of living. We miss the good ol’ days. We miss the things we used to do. We want things to go back to the way they were.

However, we also have the opportunity to look at the good work that we have been doing in our lives, homes, church, and world. Even as things have gotten harder and more difficult and knowing that the road ahead is uncertain, we have adapted, loved, and served in ways we did not know we could five months ago. Change has forced us to change. It is not all bad.

Where we go from here is up to us. Much like the adult Peter Pan, we have to relearn some things that we may have forgotten along the way. Maybe it’s taking the time to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 22:37-38). Maybe it’s taking the time to recognize another’s needs and humble ourselves (Ph. 2:3). Maybe it’s finding new ways to slow our anger or our speech (James 1:19). Whatever the learning curve may be, like the adult Peter Pan, we are asked to remember the things that we learned along the way that have allowed us to live and grow into the people God would have us to be. May we relearn to fly. May we relearn what it is to imagine. May we relearn what it means to crow.

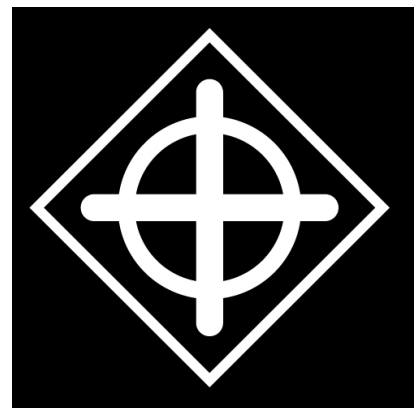


Outdoor Worship
Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
The Field at FFUMC

Led by Rev. Carson Thaxton
For everyone — *all ages!*
Church-wide & Community-wide
Follows Lectionary scriptures

So, what's happening?

- What do you think about **food and fellowship** at the church? Let us know! [Please click here](#) and take about 5 minutes to complete this survey about food and fellowship at the church. Thank you for helping us mindfully prepare for what lies ahead.
- Join a **mission trip** to south Georgia on October 11 - 16. Contact Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com, or Maggie Clarke, maggieclarke@comcast.net, for more information.
- New! **Parent Table Group** meets virtually every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. for encouragement, engagement and prayer. [Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton](#) for details and the link.
- **Outdoor Movie Night Rescheduled for September 26:** Join in distant socializing and "The Sandlot" movie on The Field at FFUMC. UMW will provide pre-packaged snacks and desserts. Reserve a boxed pizza to enjoy with your family during the movie. (Pizzas are only offered pre-ordered by the box by September 25). [Click here to order](#).
- Parents of youth: You're invited to a **Youth Parent Meeting** on Sunday, October 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. in The Foundry (note new date). Come to engage in youth plans for this year and interact with Youth Director Hannah Vickery and the youth shepherd team.



New! **The Foundry YouTube Live**, a virtual worship

experience for teens, premieres Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. on September 27. From games and prize giveaways to a fun baking experiment to engaging worship and scripture messages, youth won't want to miss this weekly new event. Wait for it...it's on the way!

inspired . . .

Superheroes & So Long, Summer

FFUMC KiDs Wednesday ZOOM

Kids showed off their superhero status at a recent **FFUMC KiDs Wednesday Zoom meeting**. Many made their own costumes and even created their own superheroes. They played Superhero Trivia and also looked at Exodus 6:28-30. Moses was not a confident or perfect hero, yet God saw something valuable in Moses and Moses saw something valuable in God. Turns out, that relationship can be very powerful and that relationship is ever available between us and God!

So Long, Summer is up for September 23. Are you ready for the heat of summer to depart? Isn't it nice that weather changes? The kids will discuss the wonder and power of seasonal changes and how we might find hope discovering that life does not stay the same as it did last season. Through all the seasonal changes, does anything stay the same? What remains stable and what changes? Kids will discover what things in our lives are constant, reliable, and never-ever-ever-ever going away.

Get your Zoom link from Rev. Carson Thaxton, cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com.

