

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Being the church

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

There is a lot to be grateful for in our world. Sometimes, we don't take the time to recognize the things and people for which we are grateful. The busy-ness of life happens and we forget to take stock of where we are or where we have been. So let me take a moment today to give thanks to this church for all it has done to be the body of Christ over the last few months. When I say things like "be the body of Christ" or "be the church," it could mean a myriad of things. Let me tell you what I think it means. I think it means that we offer a different way of living from the rest of the world which is divisive, prone to gossip, filled with fear and anger and hatred, bitter, and seeking to prove someone else wrong rather than offer someone else hope. To me, that's what I mean when I say, "Being the body of Christ." Everything that we do from there, stems from that.

One of the greatest challenges that we have in a world filled with information is to make sure that we are filling ourselves with the good information and information that encourages. Words that inform and inspire.

Speaking of inform and inspire, it is time to give thanks for Joan Aycock. I and the Staff Parish Relations Committee as well as the congregation would like to recognize her for her efforts in keeping us updated and sharing the communication of the church with us whether it be through emails, newsletters, bulletins, or helping plan worship in its various forms over the past few months. Joan has been a tremendous resource to us as a congregation and I know you are grateful for her efforts in keeping us connected. I am grateful for keeping us going internally so that we can stay filled with the good news of what it means to "be the body of Christ."

Thank you Fayetteville First UMC and thank you Joan Aycock for helping us be the church throughout these unique days.



**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 at FFUMC?

**More Table Groups forming** — Are you ready to go deeper in scripture and in your relationship with God and others through small groups? New groups will meet Sundays at 9:45 a.m. (ZOOM) and Wednesdays (in-person) at 5:45 p.m. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com). to find the group just right for you!

**Share a Story — Connecting older adults and youth:** Are you an older adult (or do you know someone) who would like to get to know one of our amazing youth members at FFUMC? Our care ministries want to connect our young people with our seniors as they swap personal stories and even share a fun and inspirational book together. Please fill out this form and let us know of your interest (click here). Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com).

**Hebrews: Gratitude and Grace study begins this week** — Meet in a seven week hybrid study (in-person and virtual) at 10 a.m. on Thursdays beginning this week. Sign up now (click here) or contact Rev. Lawrence for more information.



**All creatures welcome!**  
Bring your pet to the Blessing of the Animals this Saturday, October 3, at FFUMC and on the historic courthouse square. A service will be held at 9:30 a.m. and blessings will be offered by a minister until 11:30 a.m. as we participate in the community-wide Fayette Love Your Pet event.

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## We do flood buckets right!

Thanks to our missions committee, a bunch of flood buckets will be making their way to the United Methodist Committee on Relief and on to people in need. After worship one Sunday this month and before the outdoor movie night last week, more than 40 volunteers of all ages took the donated and purchased cleaners, scrub brushes, clothespins, gloves, and other specific supplies and filled 100 bright five-gallon buckets. These will make their way to disaster areas as UMCOR carries them to places in need.

You can still be a part! Donations are welcome to offset the necessary purchases. Each bucket costs around \$75 to fill. Gifts in any amount are appreciated. Make out a check or donate online to FFUMC and designate "Flood Buckets" in the memo. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need.

