



The Weekender

The end of times ...

Years ago, when I was serving as an associate minister in Atlanta, it was time for our afternoon nap. Also, we had a two month old. It seemed like we needed a lot of naptime then. I remember being asleep on the couch and our alarm system went off (our alarm system was two loud barking dogs weighing a combined 30 pounds wet). I rushed to silence the alarms then answer the door.

Waiting for me at the door were two great big smiles. I checked to make sure that our two month old at the time didn't wake up. Hearing no other movement in the house, I went outside on the front porch in order to keep the peace. The strangers introduced themselves and began to ask questions about God and faith. I knew where this was going. They asked, "With all the political unrest, hurricanes, flooding, fires, and natural disasters, don't you think that the end of times is near?"

I grinned a little bit too much at this invitation to respond.

"Maybe," I responded. "It's hard to say. Was Revelation written as an allegory or as an exact prescription of final events? What about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem happening the same time it was written? And doesn't Jesus even say that the angels do not know the hour of which the Son of God will return?"

"Oh, you're a believer," one of them said.

"Yes ma'am. In fact I work at that church right there," as I pointed to the church from which the parsonage was two houses down. "Thank you for what you do and be safe out there." It was time for me to get that last bit of nap in.

That question that was asked could really be asked at any time. "With all the political unrest, hurricanes, flooding, fires, and natural disasters, don't you think that the end of times is near?" I think for us as Christians, we might improve our faith journey and might seek to love God and neighbor better if we lived like it. In other words, if we believed that the end was near, would our lives reflect that hope and love of the world to come or would people think that we represent this present age? My prayer for us is that we live like we know who holds the future as we seek to be more like Christ.

Thomas Martin



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2020

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

Envious Generosity

Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

Outdoor
SERVICE
FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM
THE FIELD

**New! Outdoor Worship begins October 7
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

The Field

For all ages – everyone welcome!

Follows Lectionary

Rev. Carson Thaxton

We continually need encouragement, a time for worship, an anchor for the soul, and each other. These mid-week worship services will follow the lectionary scripture readings of the church year. This offers us a chance to safely meet outdoors with distant socializing and still be together and worship regularly. John Wesley and the early Methodists used to meet in fields; we can too.

Let's worship together as we move through this pandemic with purpose.

God is still with us. God still has a word for us.

God still loves us.

Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton with questions:

cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com.



Blessing of the Animals, October 3, at Fayette Love Your Pet event

This year, FFUMC will offer a Blessing of the Animals in conjunction with the Fayette Love your Pet Event. The Fayette Humane Society (FHS), in cooperation with Main Street Fayetteville, and the HELP Spay/Neuter Clinic, will hold its third annual Fayette Love Your Pet event on Saturday, October 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse Square in Fayetteville. See details here on all the FREE services and samples offered.

The Fayetteville First United Methodist Church will present its annual "Blessing of the Animals" at 9:30 a.m. and a minister will be on hand afterward until 11:30 for prayers of blessing.

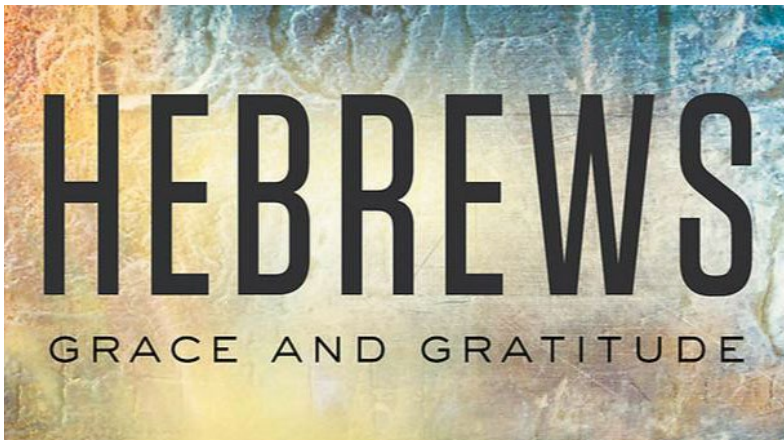
Everyone must wear a face covering, hand sanitizer will be offered, and social distancing guidelines will be followed. To receive the free services, pet owners must show identification and proof of Fayette County residence. Cats must be kept in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Supplies are limited and first come, first served. All creatures of our God and king are welcome!



Help Wanted in South Georgia

FFUMC is looking for 8-10 people willing to help repair homes in Southwest Georgia the week of October 11-16. Projects tentatively planned are repairing floors and walls in two homes. The group will travel to the Bainbridge area on Sunday afternoon, October 11. Work will be done Monday through Thursday and possibly into Friday morning. Bring any power tools and hand tools that you have. Other details are being worked out.

Contact Thomas Martin (tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com) or Maggie Clarke (maggielclarke@comcast.net) to sign up!



Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude

Meeting Thursdays at 10 a.m. beginning October 1 for seven weeks, Fellowship Hall Room A-40

How do you show gratitude to God for God's grace? The sermon found in Hebrews argues that the answer to that question is by investing ourselves in God's

mission. Join FFUMC in this hybrid (in-person and virtual) Bible study as we study with Dr. David deSilva's book, Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude. In-person spaces are limited and participants are required to adhere to [FFUMC small group guidelines](#). Virtual participants will be included through the Zoom platform. There is no cost for this course, but participants are asked to bring their own books. [Register here on Realm](#) or go to fayettevillefirst.com. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alanrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.



New Sunday Morning Virtual Table Group starting October 11, 9:45 a.m.

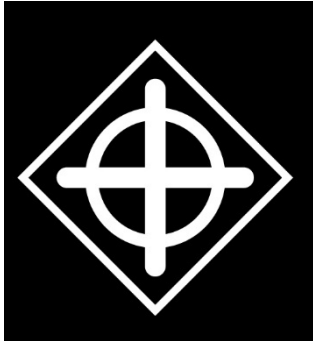
You can find new ways to talk about God and explore God's activity in your life by joining our newest Table Group. This Sunday morning Table Group will meet through Zoom for six weeks. There is no cost to participate. [Sign up here on Realm](#) or at fayettevillefirst.com. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alanrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.



We're OPEN!



Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m. in sanctuary
Chapel Prayer: Weekdays 12 – 1 p.m.
The Drive-Thru: Wednesdays 10 a.m. – Noon



Youth Go LIVE on September 27

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.



Outdoor Movie Night

Relax and watch “The Sandlot” with family and friends from a safe distance on The Field on Saturday, September 26. Popcorn and snacks are provided. Gather at 6 p.m. for food and fun. The movie starts at 7ish p.m. [Order a Partners II pizza or two in advance through us if desired by Friday, September 25.](#) Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton, cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.

FFUMC KiDS and Parents



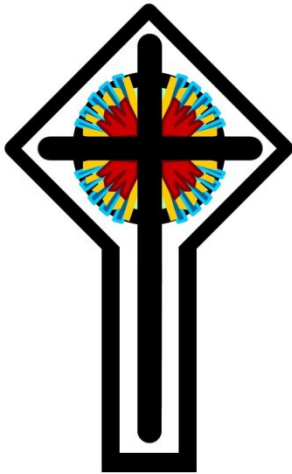
- [Children’s Moment Video for September 20](#)
- Next Wednesday Zoom meeting: September 23 at 6 p.m.: So Long, Summer “Why do we have seasons, God?”
- Parent Table Group meets on Zoom every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. God-centered conversation with other parents.
- NEW! FFUMC KiDS time on Wednesdays in The Field beginning October 7 from 6 – 6:30 p.m.

For details or to get links, contact Rev. Carson Thaxton at cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com.



UMCOR helping in US disasters

Did you know the United Methodist Committee on Relief is on the ground with help for our neighbors affected by the recent storms and fires? We can help by donating to UMCOR. Administrative costs are met through other special offerings, so 100% of your donation now goes directly to relief. To donate, simply mark "UMCOR" on your check or [online donation](#) to FFUMC.



September 15, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$884,633.05
Year to Date expenses	\$769,366.49
Difference	\$115,266.56

Benevolence

\$140.00 received this week.

63 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$16,223.22 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.