

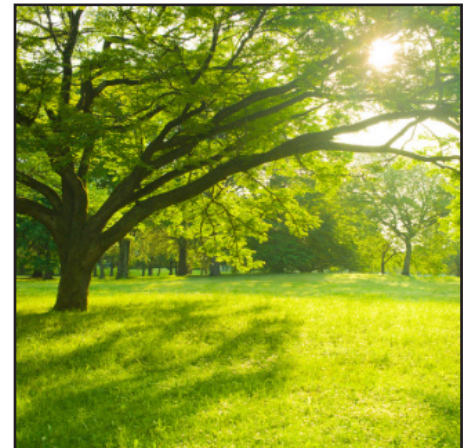
# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Our refuge and shelter Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Over the next two weeks in worship, we will continue to look at the theme of disruptions. Last week, we read from the book of Isaiah and began to understand the life that surrounded his time. We learned the historical significance of the time in which the book of Isaiah was compiled and saw that life changed, empires rose and fell, but the love of God called people to look to a better future.

The role of a prophet is to hold the people of God accountable for their actions and behaviors. The role of a prophet is to help people deepen their relationship with God and neighbor. The role of a prophet is to always look toward a better day.



In the verses from Isaiah 25 we read last week in scripture, the only time the prophet looks back is when the prophet is searching for the goodness of God throughout all the trying times. That is a good lesson for us. When we look back, do we do so to assign blame or do we find the threads of God's goodness?

Isaiah looks for the goodness of God. In verse 4, we hear exactly what God has been up to: *"For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat."*

My guess is that for many of us, these are still uncertain times. Many people are feeling the pressure and worry of job security. Many are feeling anxiety around the spread of the virus because of family members with pre-existing conditions and others have so much empathy for their neighbor, they are able to feel the worry of their fellow brothers and sisters. Whatever the worry or anxiety we face, we are sure and certain of God's presence in our lives. My hope for us, as we move through this unique time together, is that we won't wait until everything is over to learn about God's prevenient grace. May we learn to praise and give thanks to God for being a present help in time of need.

## We need your BLOOD!

**This Sunday — October 18 — 8 AM to 1 PM**

Make plans now to donate blood if you can this Sunday. Donations across the country are currently very low, but you can safely give at FFUMC. The American Red Cross promises a full staff, so wait times should be very minimal, even if you are unable to make an advance reservation. Follow the directions at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com) to reserve your place or contact [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com). Every donation can save up to three lives. Thanks for your support!



Can you identify this masked donor?  
Email your guess to Joan Aycock,  
[jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com).

## Connected through the week at FFUMC ...

**Sunday Worship:** Sanctuary in person at 11 AM or online any time

**Outdoor Worship:** Wednesdays on The Field at 6:30 PM

**Church office:** Monday- Thursday 9 AM -12 PM; 1-3 PM & Fridays 9 AM to 1 PM

**Chapel Prayer:** Open weekdays 12 - 1 PM

**Campus Prayer:** Outdoor prayer guides available at chapel door or online

**The Drive-Thru:** Wednesdays at church office porch, 10 AM to noon

**News:** Informed & Inspired on Tuesdays & The Weekender on Fridays

**Small Groups:** Sunday school classes, UMM, UMW, Table Groups, FFUMC KiDS, Youth, and more

**FayettevilleFirst.com:** Our website keeps children, youth and adults up to date with opportunities to gather and connect.

**Need help connecting?** Reach out! We're here to help! Just call 770-461-4313 or email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



**Youth Fall Day Retreat** is Saturday, October 24. Contact Hannah Vickery, [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com) for details.

# inspired ...

## Outside ... together ... can't get any better!

Our new outdoor service on The Field has kicked off! You're invited every Wednesday to open space, fresh air, and a chance to safely be together for worship. Here's Rev. Carson Thaxton's response to some questions:

**Who is this service designed to reach?** *"As always God's church is open and continuously here for anyone and everyone! This particular service has opportunities for worship and participation by all ages ... children, youth, and adults ... and for expression of many spiritual gifts ... liturgy and scripture readers, music, hospitality ... so many ways to simply be together in worship and participate on a regular or occasional basis."*



**What are your hopes for this time?** *"I want us all to meet God and meet other people. It's important to be around people you know well and people you don't know at all in order to ultimately see and experience God's lovingkindness. This setting gives us space to get together and share."*

**How can the community and church be involved?** *"We have a place for rotating, occasional participation as well as weekly opportunities. Everything we ask of you is not out of obligation or expectation but as an **invitation**. From greeters to set up and clean up, from liturgists to singers to tech team, from young to mature ... we invite your help. Just let me know if you want to be involved and I'll help you find a place."*

**How can we stay informed?** *"We want to keep you in the know each week. If you'd like to stay informed about each service and weather-related concerns, just send a text to **81010** and type **@ffumcfield** in the message field. This will set you up with our text service. We'll keep you in the loop. Also, you can email me at [cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com)."*

