

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

God's face and glory Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Think of all the things that you would ask for if you had a one-on-one with God. Think of all the silly things you would request: like winning the lottery, or thinking that the Braves could win the National League Series, or that the Georgia Bulldogs could beat Alabama or Georgia Tech could put up double digits in a football game in the same weekend. Those aren't all that important in the scheme of life. Now think of the serious things for which you have asked: healing from an illness, safety in times of uncertainty, closeness with others that you miss and love.

Now consider Moses. He could have asked God for anything. He could've asked for a quicker route to the promised land. He could've asked to not be the leader. He could've asked for the people to be more faithful. Instead, Moses said to God, *"If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."* (Ex 33:15-16)

In the moment of disruption, Moses wanted to see God's face. Moses instead got to behold God's glory. We can show the face of God by loving others in a way that the world does not. We can show God's glory by being more generous in loving and living. Both a face and glory, however, show the presence of God.

All Moses wanted was an assurance that God's presence would go with him. Why? Because Moses knew that God's presence would see them through. That is what it means to be a people of disruption: to know that God's love never fails. Maybe instead of asking God for the things we want, we would do well to follow Moses' request to God: show us your face. Only then, God would turn to us, hide our face, and reveal to us God's glory.

We may not be able to see God's face, but we can show God's love when we love others. *"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."* (1 John 4:12). We see God's face and allow others to see God's face when we love. We may never be able to see God's glory, but we find that God's glory is revealed in God's generous spirit. We see God's glory through our generosity and allow others to see God's glory when we are generous. May we live with that glory. May we live with that hope. May we live with that courage to face the future unafraid from one disruption to the next. God will be with us.

October 28 PARTY

DJ Willy WOW —
the BEST kids DJ in the
world — is coming to our
church October 28!



5:30-6:15 p.m.
October Party on The Field

6:30-7:15 p.m.
Outdoor Service
Willy will stay for worship this evening and he and Pastor Carson will share about faith, hope, and love and how we can all participate in God's kingdom together.

We hope you, your family, and anyone you invite will be able to attend this evening together.

What's happening?

Youth Fall Day Retreat: Saturday, October 24.

Contact Hannah Vickery, hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com for details.

FFUMC Preschool online fundraiser: Our preschool is partnering with HoneyBaked Ham for an online gift card fundraiser. [When you use or share this link, you and your family and friends can purchase HoneyBaked Ham gift cards \(e-cards or plastic\) to be used for instore or online purchases.](#) Gift cards will be mailed or emailed to the purchaser. EASY! Proceeds will help the preschool reach some long-term goals such as the purchase of new hardwood blocks, a light table, outdoor easels, and more. The fundraiser ends October 31.

UMW Pecans for sale: Place your order now for holiday pecans. Delicious to eat fresh, to use for holiday baking or to share as gifts. [Click here for an order form](#) or get one in the sanctuary or church office. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Pastor appreciation opportunity: Would you like to extend appreciation to Thomas, Allyson, Carson, or Hannah with a card or note? Just drop them in the collection box in the church office, sanctuary or outdoor service by October 28 when they'll be presented at the outdoor service at 6:30 p.m.



Delicious Fundraisers!

See details to left for ways to help our preschool and local charities.

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Preschool Chapel Time *By Kerry Bleil and Carson Thaxton*

Chapel Time is a dedicated time for us to share the love of God with our preschoolers. We use Bible stories, joyful singing, and prayer to help the children understand how precious they are to their Creator. It is our hope that they use these experiences to begin a lasting relationship with God and to shine His love on others.

This year, with life disruptions and changes at almost every turn, preschool chapel has been a continual and steady source of encouragement and worship. We have been memorizing a key Bible verse for this fall. *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure"* (Hebrews 6:19a NIV). This hope is not just any old hope. Hebrews 6:19 hope, like our hope, is rooted in Jesus Christ. This is what makes the hope actually hopeful. Jesus, with his life, death, and resurrection, shows us what this hope is really made of. Each preschooler and teacher signed the anchor as a sign of being connected together in this hope. Some names are legible, and some

are not; but each kiddo knows where and that his or her name is on the anchor of Christ's hope; that's what is most important anyway.

We have been learning to sing the Doxology and use sign language for "God" the Father, "Jesus" the Son, and the "Holy Spirit."

As little preschooler hands and voices sign and say "Amen" and "Hallelujah" at the closing of Chapel Time, it might just give you a hope for your soul as well—and a lot of smiles.

