

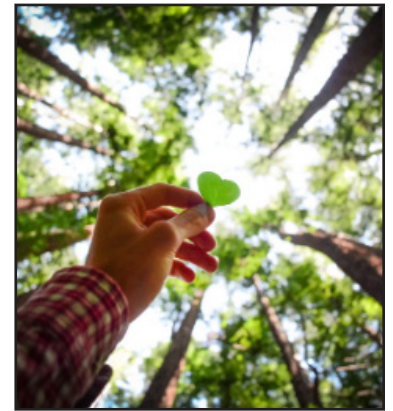
# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## God's presence in disruption Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Over the last three weeks in worship, the sermons have focused on the word *disruption*. Three weeks ago we read from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah was composed over a 200 year period. It was intended for people whose lives were disrupted by forces beyond their control. God's presence was constant.

Two weeks ago, we read from the book of Exodus. Exodus is a book of disruption and salvation. It is a book of human frailty and God's faithfulness. It is our story. In Exodus we read how Moses requested to see God's face, but instead of showing Moses his face, God let Moses behold his glory because no one has ever seen the face of God and lived.



This past Sunday, we acknowledged that the only way out of disruption is to move into the places that God has already prepared for us in ministry. He does so by making the rules so simple to follow. **Love God. Love others.** If we want to live as Christ's disciples, we have to ask ourselves "Is everything that I'm doing helping me love God and love my neighbor better?" For me it's an annoying question because if I'm honest, not everything that I do helps me love God and love my neighbor better.

The point is not to make us feel bad or guilt us into following Christ, but rather to joyfully move into the moments of disruption. For in the disruption we find that God's presence is there. It was there from the beginning when God spoke into the chaos of creation and brought out order. It was with Moses and God's people in Exodus. It was spoken as a word of comfort through the prophets. It was there when Christ was baptized and it is here for us today. For our church, I pray that we would acknowledge the disruption and in the same breath give thanks to God that God's love remains steadfast in the disruption.

## Weather and outdoor plans ... remaining flexible!



### No Outdoor Service October 28

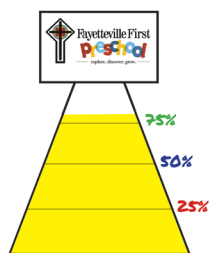
**Due to expected weather disturbances from Hurricane Zeta tomorrow, October 28, we will have no outdoor service or activities for children or youth.**

Because hurricanes and outdoor activities and services don't mix, we regret the need to cancel the special October 28 party and our outdoor service. We will reschedule DJ Willy WOW! and look forward to hearing William March, the real Willy Wow!, in the future. We'll keep you posted on a date.

We look forward to meeting you back on The Field on Wednesday, November 4, weather permitting. Text @ffumcfield to 81010 for updates and cancellations.

# What's happening at FFUMC?

Reaching our Goal



## Preschool HoneyBaked Ham fundraiser ends October 31

You can help our preschool reach some long-term goals such as the purchase of new hardwood blocks, a light table, outdoor easels, and more through this 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! The fundraiser ends this Saturday, October 31. We're 80 percent to our goal. Can you help us go over the top?



## The 2020 way to support Christmas Marketplace Fund for local charities

Our UMW is raising funds for local charities. You can help!

1. **Buy pecans:** Fresh pecans are delicious to eat, 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 go to local charities. Orders and payment are due by **November 4**.

2. **Give a donation and join the Matching Gift Challenge!** Gifts of up to \$4,000 to the UMW Christmas Marketplace Fund will be matched by an anonymous donor. Yes! You can double the impact of funds you planned to donate to local charities by giving through the UMW. Simply mark your donation "Christmas Marketplace Fund." This fund is usually filled with proceeds from the Christmas Marketplace booth rental, Timeless Treasures sale, baked goods sale, and more. These funds are crucial to local charities and ministries right here in our community, so we're excited to have this way to contribute to their ministry to others, even when the very popular Christmas Marketplace which typically raises more than \$11,000 could not be held.

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## Building on love's foundation

Square Foot Ministry dedicated its newest home in the Fairmont community in Griffin this past Saturday. This week, Brian and Ann Guider will move into their home. This couple has been married for 30 years and are raising their 7-year-old special needs granddaughter, Vanessa. Ann works at a local company in Griffin. Brian is partially disabled from a stroke but that won't keep him from managing the house and yard.

YOU are part of the Guider's achievement of home ownership and becoming a part of the community through FFUMC's financial commitments to Square Foot Ministry throughout the year. Simultaneously, those who are helped by this ministry work diligently in their lives, often enduring personal hardships, while contributing to others in their community. Givers and receivers in Square Foot Ministry become entwined in this labor of love — creating, repairing, and building homes and relationships as everybody works together.

Square Foot Ministry puts hammers, paint brushes, and screwdrivers into action to live into our commitment to love God and love others. For more information on this ministry and ways you can support it financially and as a volunteer on projects, visit [squarefootministry.org](http://squarefootministry.org) or contact FFUMC Missions Committee Chair, Maggie Clarke, at [maggielclarke@comcast.net](mailto:maggielclarke@comcast.net).



*New homeowners Brian and Ann Guider celebrated with FFUMC members and Square Foot Ministry Board Members Tim Aycock and Judy Reynolds at the recent dedication of their home in Griffin.*