



Friday, October 23, 2020

The Weekender

Rules and relationships

Did you know that in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) there are 613 laws? That's 613 things that the people of God are told to do and not to do. 248 of those laws are things that the people of God are told to do. 365 of those laws are things that the people of God are told not to do. That's a lot of rules. That's a lot of words. That's a lot of structure.



There is some freedom within those 613 laws, however. There are things that we can do. Instead of thinking that 613 laws are arduous, what if we thought about the ways in which those were relationship building laws? I think it would allow us to see the world and all the restrictions we have in place not as arduous or oppressive, but it would encourage us to begin to think of new ways in which we can live and thrive.

Church can be like that sometimes. We are following recommendations from doctors and nurses in our community, from medical professionals who has studied virus transmission, as well as using common sense that cares for all members of our congregation who may or not be physically ready to join us for in-person worship. One of the ways in which we have found a way to connect is through our outdoor worship service. What has begun as an idea has turned into a time where people can gather to sing, pray, hear scripture, and be strengthened through worship in a safe, physically and socially responsible way.

We are doing the same on Sunday mornings as well, just differently in the sanctuary. In each case, we are following rules. But our faith is more than rules. It is relationship. I am grateful for the relationships of this congregation that have always been and will always be stronger than the rules that we live by—even when they help us live with humility and the love of God. Remember what Jesus said about all 613 rules when he was asked, “Which is the greatest commandment?”

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” As we follow the rules, may our love be greater and guide us in the way that we love our neighbor.

Thomas Martin



21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 25, 2020

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

"Disruption – Closeness to God" – Exodus 33:12-23

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

October 28, 2020

Outdoor Service on The Field, 6:30 p.m.

CURRENT NEWS



DJ Willy WOW Comes to FFUMC

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

5:30-6:15 p.m.

October Party with DJ Willy Wow!

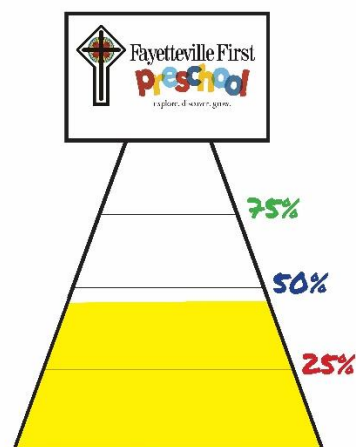
6:30-7:15 p.m.

Outdoor Service

William March (the real Willy Wow!) 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.

Reaching our Goal



Order your hams and gift cards by October 31

The FFUMC 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. To date, we have reached a little over 40 percent of our goal. One week remains as the fundraiser ends October 31. Think holiday meals, think gifts, think about the preschool and [click now!](#)



Let's bake cookies for SafeHouse Outreach

We serve the clients at SafeHouse Outreach on Thursday, October 29, and you can help. Grab the aprons and bake up cookies decorated for fall. Just mark them clearly for SafeHouse and drop them in the kitchen near the gym no later than 4 p.m. on October 29. Randy Riddell and team will share them with the homeless clients in Atlanta when they serve a meal to them.

Sharing with Summer Lunch families: Food and donations



We held a food bank distribution last Friday for our Summer Lunch families. The Fayetteville families came to FFUMC and the Peachtree City families picked up at the Mormon church. A total of 35 families were given food & drinks, which we pick up monthly from Mid West Food Bank. We are planning another distribution in December.

Volunteers loaded all the food for our church, took it to the gym and divided it up for each family. Then they loaded the food to take to the Mormon Church.



Donation opportunities

Do you have things you no longer need that you could share with someone who *really* needs them? You can donate them to our Summer Lunch families. How does donation work? Just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net or text the photo to 678-656-4117. Cindy and her team posts items for free on a group email to families who are on or have been on our Summer Lunch program. Some things that have been given away in the past are washers, dryers and other appliances, TVs, furniture of all types, framed decorative pictures, rugs, bikes, baby things, toys, towels & bed linens, sets of dishes, lamps and almost anything else you can think of. Beds are always needed due to other family members moving in.

THANK YOU! We got a microwave and bunk beds!

NEW SPECIAL NEEDS: Queen bed, twin mattress, baby bed, changing table, baby related items or clothing.



Youth News!

Youth are invited to a Fall Day Retreat at the Hansen Homestead on Saturday, October 24, from 2:30 - 8:30 p.m. for a time of rest and Sabbath, along with games, time to hang out with friends, a bonfire, and hayrides. UMW will be providing chili and are asking youth for a \$3 donation at the retreat to go toward fundraising efforts to support our local community. Contact Hannah Vickery, hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com.



You gave... thanks!

Thank you to all who gave blood this past Sunday. And a big thanks to all FFUMC volunteers -- especially the ones who brought food.

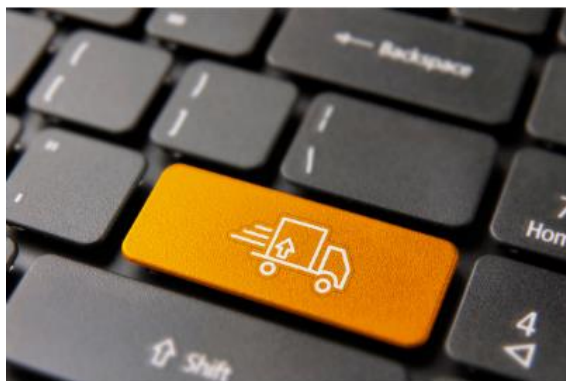
RESULTS:

44 productive units (35 whole/5 doubles)
6 donors deferred
2 insufficient quantity
7 walk-ins



UMW Pecan Sale underway

It's pecan time... what a delicious and great way to raise funds for local charities. You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans and all profits are donated by our UMW to charities. Even though Christmas Marketplace will not be held as normal this year, UMW is still committed to raising funds for others. With pecans, everybody wins! [Fill out this pre-order form \(complete with details\) and drop it at the Welcome Center on Sunday or in the church office before November 4.](#)



A few more delivery drivers needed

Want to make some special deliveries? Rev. Allyson Lawrence is looking for up to ten volunteers to do just that. If you can dedicate a few hours one day between now and November 1 to make some special deliveries contact Allyson at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com to reserve your delivery route.

College Students' Scholarship Connection and More

Did you know that the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's vision is to make it economically possible for any qualified United Methodist student to be educated at a United Methodist-related institution of higher education? If you are college student and want to know more about the financial opportunities available at United Methodist colleges and universities go to <https://www.umhef.org/>. Also, no matter where you go to school, [take a minute to fill out this form here](#). This will enable your college's United Methodist campus minister to connect with you as you continue to grow in your education and your faith.

Reserve your meeting space ... and get together!

Did you know lots of small groups are meeting outside at the church? You can too! We have identified five outdoor spaces along with indoor meeting spaces you can reserve with the church office. This will ensure everybody's needs are met, inside spaces are properly cleaned afterward, and nobody is surprised! Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

Let's say, "We appreciate you!"

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to express gratitude to FFUMC's Pastors who graciously share encouragement and hope, especially during our current pandemic challenges. Our words of gratitude may be just what they need through these uncertain days.

Will you please prepare an individual card or expression of appreciation and place it in the designated drop box at any Wednesday night outdoor service or in the Sanctuary Narthex on Sunday mornings through October 28? You also may mail cards to the church office or place them in a drop box there.

Please mark your envelopes:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Pastor

Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Associate Pastor

Rev. Carson Thaxton, Children and Family Ministry Director

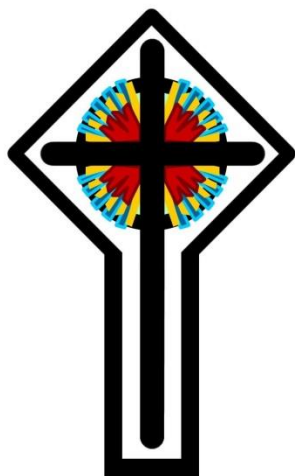
Hannah Vickery, Youth Director

We will present these expressions to our pastors as we celebrate their ministry on October 28 following the Wednesday Outdoor Service at 6:30 p.m. on The Field.

In gratitude for each of you,

Bill Webb

Lay Leader



October 20, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$988,934.47
Year to Date expenses	\$907,736.25
Difference	\$81,198.22

Benevolence

\$220.00 received this week.

76 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$19,415.76 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.