

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Saintly giving Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This past Sunday, we read the names of our saints, lit candles, and remembered. We remembered that we are children of God, recipients of a great inheritance. It is up to us to go and live lives worthy of that inheritance. One of the ways we do that is by being the saints for others through our stewardship of what God has given us. When you give to the church through a tithe or offering you are being a saint in someone else's life. It may be someone you never know. Not only are you sharing your inheritance, you are living a life of generosity to Christ. Giving to the work of the church is a spiritual discipline. It brings us closer to God and to others.

I encourage you to pray over what you might be able to pledge to the mission and ministry of Fayetteville First UMC and return your pledge card to the church. I know that many people are waiting, wondering, and anxious over what the future might hold. If there is anything that you would like for us to pray over, please do not hesitate to tell me. Know that I am grateful for what we do together because of God's love and because of the people of FFUMC. You are all children of God. Let us live lives worthy of our inheritance.



ELECTION DAY Prayer Stations

Today brings a myriad of emotions — anxiety, excitement, or maybe exhaustion. Wherever you are and however you are feeling, center yourself in prayer. Each station offers scripture to read, thoughts to reflect on, and words of prayer to begin your own conversation with God.

*created by Rev. Missy Jenson
UMC pastor at FUMC, Goliad, Texas*

PRAYER
STATION
#1

BREATHE



READ

John 20:19-23

REFLECT

Breathe deeply focusing on your breath. As you inhale, imagine Christ coming close to you. As you exhale, imagine yourself going toward Christ. (Repeat as you like) Now on your inhale, name a place - in our community, in our nation, or in our world - that needs to know and experience God's peace. With your exhale, repeat Jesus' words: "Peace be with you." (Repeat as you like)

PRAY

Prince of Peace, draw near to us. Calm our fears and anxieties. Help us to share your peace with others.

PRAYER
STATION

#2

PRICKLY
PRAYER



READ Matthew 5:43-48

REFLECT

Throughout this election season, surely there have been folks who have pricked your nerves. Perhaps it was a particular candidate or party... or an opinionated friend or family member... or someone who wouldn't speak up at all. Take a moment to name who or what has been a thorn in your side. Acknowledge the pain. And then lift them up to God.

PRAY

God of us all, we praise you for your creative work in the world. We give thanks that each human bears your image. We confess that it's difficult for us to recognize you among prickly personalities. Remove our blind spots and help us love one another better, even when it is hard.

PRAYER
STATION

#3

LOVE
WINS



READ Romans 8:38

REFLECT

Consider this quote by Archbishop William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-1944):

"If we choose wisely, God reigns. If we fail to choose wisely, God reigns."

What fears do you have regarding our nation's future? What hopes do you have regarding our nation's future? Do these have a place in the Kingdom of God?

PRAY

Sovereign God, help us to remember that regardless of the election results, you are the one who rules our lives. Our primary identity is as a citizen of your Kingdom and our allegiance belongs to you. In you, there are no winners and losers. All belong. Your love reigns. Always. Thank you, God.

PRAYER
STATION

#4

UNITY



READ Ephesians 4:1-6

REFLECT

Read these instructions from the founder of Methodism. Then reflect: Which of these is the easiest to follow? Which is the hardest? What is one practical step you can take to be intentional about living in unity those who vote differently than you?

PRAY

Jesus, we pray for the fruit of your Holy Spirit to be evident in our lives—in the words we speak, in the things we do, and even in the posts we make on social media. Help us to put relationships with people over our opinions, the policies we support and our disagreements. May we seek unity in Christ above all.

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I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them.

- 1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy;
- 2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against;
- And 3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

—John Wesley, October 6, 1774

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PRAYER
STATION

#5

SOUND OF
SILENCE



READ Psalm 62:5

REFLECT

Our world has been so LOUD - political ads, debates, news stories, yard signs, memes. So, take a moment to sit in silence and settle the voices within. Savor being in the presence of God.

"Silence is not absence, but presence. It is a 'something,' not a nothing. It has substantiality, heft, force. You can lean into it, and it leans back. It meets you; it holds you up."
— Cynthia Bourgeault

PRAY

I'm here, God. I am yours.

Last call for pecans



Tomorrow, November 4, is your last day to place an order for fresh pecans with the UMW.

Think munching...

Think baking ...

Think giving ...

[Click here for an order form](#) or stop by the church office by tomorrow. You can even drop your order and payment at The Drive-Thru from 10 a.m. to noon. Proceeds go to local charities.

inspired ...

Together is better

Our youth gathered at the Hansen Homestead for a fall retreat in October. Thanks, Jeff and Kathie, for sharing your space, and for UMW's delicious chili. Rain thwarted some of their fun, so the Hansens are having them back! Youth and their friends are invited for an evening of hayrides and a bonfire, complete with cornhole, football, s'mores, pizza, hot chocolate, and cider this Saturday, November 7, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. This will be a great time to gather again in fellowship with one another.



*Rain or shine ...
Summer or fall ...
It's good to be together!*