



Friday, November 13, 2020

The Weekender

Grateful for Grace

November is one of those months in which it is good to pause and give thanks. That should be a daily practice, but it seems that November is that pause switch before Advent and Christmas which allows us to be grateful for much going into the holiday season. I am grateful for this congregation which continues to find new ways to minister to one another during these days. I am also grateful for those who ask tough questions. I am grateful for those who know when to listen and not impose their will upon the will of God. I am thankful for every opportunity we have to learn, to grow, and to change. I am reminded of the words, "God meets us where we are but he loves us too much to leave us where he found us."

Moving and growing with God involves being adaptable. We have certainly learned about that these last few months. With increasing cases of COVID-19, we must be mindful of caution. If you are choosing to worship in person, please make sure your mask is on and remains on throughout the duration of the service. Please observe social distancing guidelines while in the sanctuary. Please be mindful of your neighbor.

If you are worshipping with us through the live stream, we are glad you are being safe and cautious.

One of the greatest things for which I am grateful is the grace that has been shown to our members and guests in worship in person and online. I have not seen, nor have I heard, of anyone mask shaming someone else. I have no knowledge of anyone calling people names because they choose to wear a mask or stay at home. In other words, I am grateful that we are not only the church, we are extending grace to those who choose to affiliate with us at Fayetteville First UMC.

I am grateful for your taking the time to read this and your continued support of Fayetteville First UMC. With God's help, may we continue to be the people who received so much grace, we do not know what to do with it other than give it away.

Thomas Martin



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

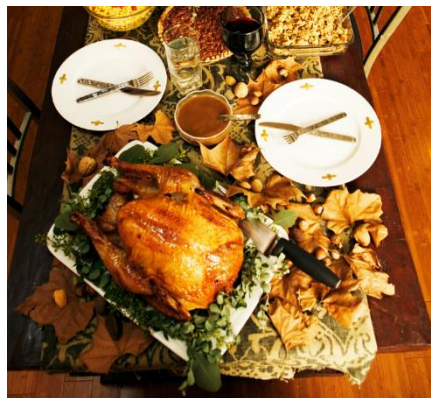
[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

"Abundance" Matthew 25:14-30

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Last Day to contribute to Thanksgiving Meals

We have much for which to be grateful. One of those centers around traditions that become important to us. Our Thanksgiving Meal drive to collect \$500 to buy Thanksgiving Dinner for families of our Summer Lunch Program ends today. If you would like to participate, please donate to Fayetteville First UMC, and put "Thanksgiving Meal" on the memo line and return it to the church by today, November 13. This will ensure that we have enough time to purchase the food.



The Season of the Nativity

The Season of Nativity begins the first Sunday of Advent. A gift is being prepared to lead our church family through the season. Starting Wednesday, November 18, you are invited to pick up your gift at The Drive-Thru from 10 a.m. to Noon. Other opportunities to receive your gift include church services and later drive-thrus. If you would like to have your gift delivered, please contact Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938 or leaagnew@bellsouth.net.



The Drive-Thru at Fayetteville First UMC

Wednesdays: 10 a.m. to noon

Menu:

Prayer with a minister
The Season of the Nativity gift bag
Food drop-off for Fayette Samaritans
Upper Room devotional guide
Encouragement in abundance!



What is sustaining you?

During these days of uncertainty, what brings you encouragement and hope? Is it a scripture, poetry, a special song, or relationships? The things that inspire you may be just what someone else needs. We'd love to pass it on through Informed & Inspired. Just contact Rev. Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com, to share and inspire!

Go from “Bah, Humbug!” to a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.



Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark and sad character? “The Redemption of Scrooge,” from Matt Rawle’s The Pop in Culture Series, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens’ Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will “bless us every one” and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

Buy your book from your preferred store, read the first chapter and join us on

November 30 for a fun journey into Advent. [You can register here](#) for meeting either virtually, through Zoom, or in person in the Fellowship Hall, room A-40. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com with questions.



The Seekers reading group starts with Advent

Are you looking for answers to some of life’s hardest questions? Do you wonder what can be done to deal with some of our most difficult problems? Come join **The Seekers** reading group!

As God’s people we know we are supposed to be set apart. But this is the world we live in, and we must be Christ’s hands and feet in the middle of

brokenness. We’re calling this group **The Seekers** because we will read and discuss a variety of books to help us understand how we might be in community with each other while listening for God in these resources. Come check out The Seekers through a short Advent study based on Barbara Brown Taylor’s book “Home by Another Way.” This three-week study on Thursdays from 10 to noon December 3 – 17 will be held as a hybrid class: in-person in the Fellowship Hall and concurrently through Zoom. [Click here to register](#) or contact leader Suzanne Carter for more information at 3d4zan@gmail.com.

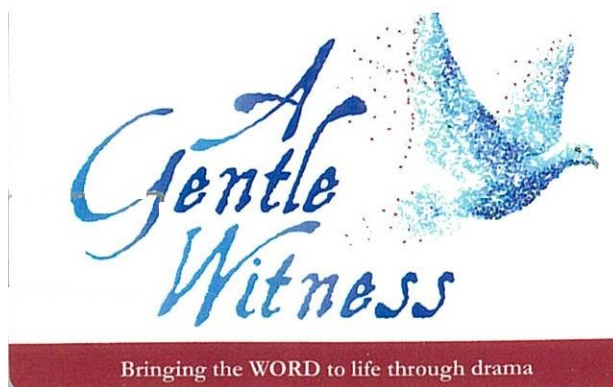


Matching Gifts:

Christmas Marketplace Fund

The UMW is excited to present an opportunity to our congregation. Would you like to express love and appreciation to family, friends and neighbors while supporting designated local charities? There's a way to do just that! When you make a contribution to the Christmas Marketplace Fund 2020 (CMP Fund) between November 8 and December 15, you can get a special notecard to present to your honoree.

Although we didn't hold the annual CMP event, the UMW continues with the tradition of supporting local charities and ministries with the proceeds from the CMP Fund. A generous matching gift has been offered of up to \$4,000.00. With God's blessing and your willingness to share what God has given you, we could very well go beyond any of our past Christmas Marketplace results. To donate, please write a check to "United Methodist Women" and designate "CMP Fund" in the memo line. Gift notecards are available in the church office.



UMW Christmas Meeting Reservations

The UMW will hold its annual Christmas Unit Meeting on November 10 with no meal/drinks this year but plenty of Christmas cheer. Gathering in the gym (temp checks, social distancing, masks) at 6 p.m., the UMW will feature recognitions and installation of officers plus a unique story-telling presentation on Mary by Carla Cloud of A Gentle Witness. A love offering for A Gentle Witness will be taken. Make reservations with Connie Hyder (770-310-6115 or chyder1@me.com) by December 6.



Fayette Samaritans Food Pantry Needs

Our donations are always important to Fayette Samaritans. They are open for financial assistance by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Food is available on those days without appointment. Here's what the pantry needs most: canned chicken, corn, green beans, canned fruit, Hamburger Helper, soup, cereal, instant oatmeal (single serving), peanut butter, jelly. You may drop any donations at the church office or during The Drive-Thru on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and noon.

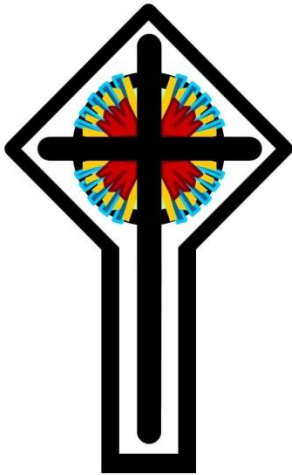


Donations needed for families

Our Summer Lunch families still need our help. One twin bed has been donated, but more is needed. If you have any donation, 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 post items for free on a group email to families who are on or have been on our Summer Lunch program. Past donations include 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.

ONGOING NEEDS: Queen bed, twin mattress, baby bed, changing table, baby related items or clothing

NEW REQUEST: Shoes and winter clothes for two boys **Age 13:** Shoes, sneakers (Size 9.5), Adult Medium winter clothes, shirts, hoodie, jacket, Tech fan. **Age 16:** Adult Large Shirts, pants, jacket, hoodie, GA fan. Family needs blankets.



November 10, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,071,976.25
Year to Date expenses	\$982,962.20
Difference	\$89,014.05

Benevolence

\$560.00 received this week.

86 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$22,809.65 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.

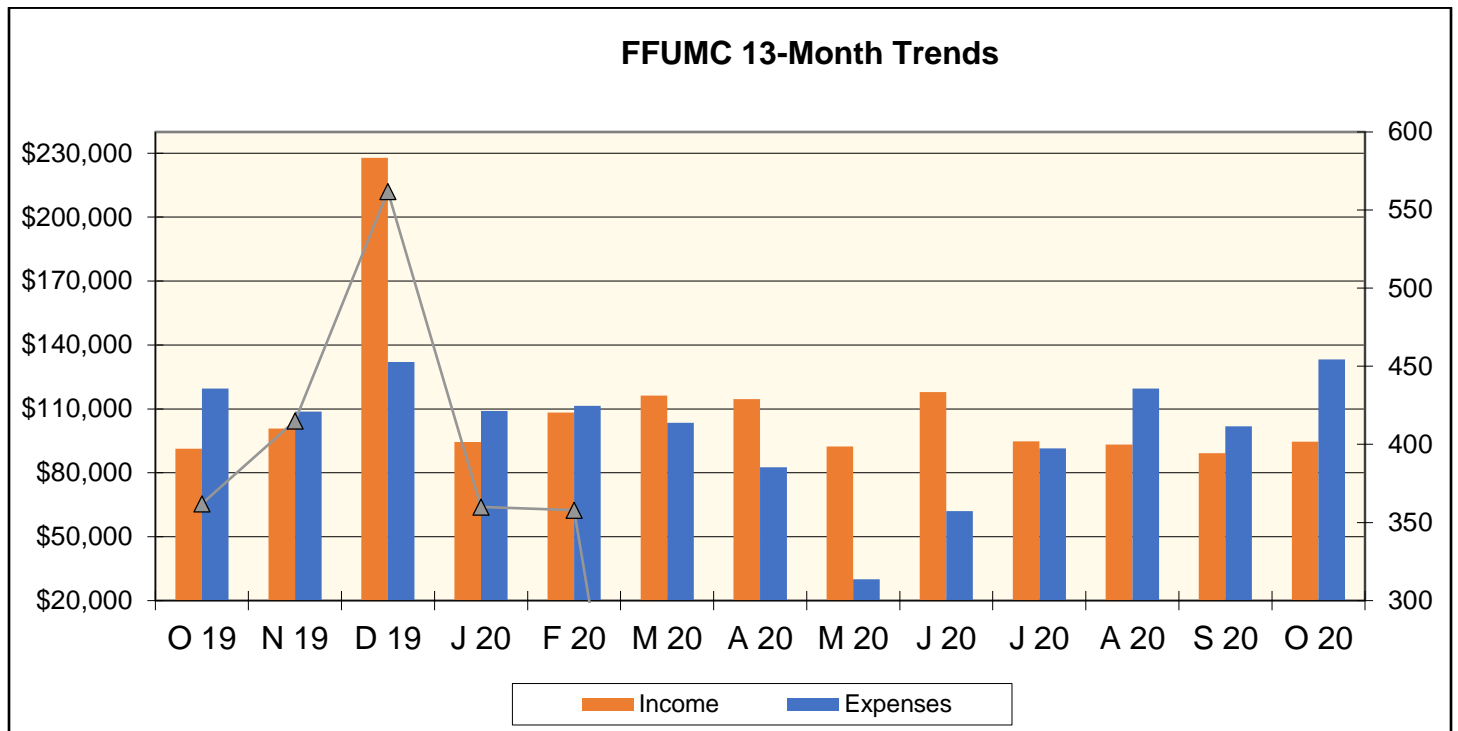
Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-461-4313

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.

What's Happening Fiscally at FFUMC?



This graph shows new data for September and October.

“This wonderful hope makes us feel like speaking freely.” II Corinthians 3:12

Borrowing from St. Paul, let us speak freely (some translations say “boldly”) now that the season of stewardship focus is upon us.

As we look toward the gradual renewal of full congregational life, Fayetteville First has faith in the brilliant opportunities ahead. While the methods must be flexible right now, our purpose remains firm – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Transformation tends to happen when normal life is turned upside down. Pastor Thomas has preached recently on “disruption” and the possibilities it brings. The pandemic’s disruptions have opened doors for each of us to be transformed in our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

How will a transformed discipleship show up? Speaking boldly, it will be apparent in our individual commitment to be faithful stewards of God’s abundance. It will show clearly in the time, talent, energy, ideas, compassion, encouragement, prayer support *and financial blessings* we invest to make Fayetteville First UMC an instrument of transformation for our community and each other.

These monthly Finance Committee messages on income and expense trends confirm that we have ground to make up. The great news is that there is new ground to gain.

More is coming on the transformational opportunities of a recommitment to stewardship. This is a wonderful hope that deserves to be spoken of freely and boldly.