



Friday, November 20, 2020

## The Weekender

### The Season is upon us

I know Christmas is not yet here. I know we have not yet gone through the Thanksgiving holiday. However, I want to make you aware of how we are going to be celebrating the Season of the Nativity here at Fayetteville First UMC. The Season of the Nativity begins in Advent and ends on Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany Sunday is the day of light where we celebrate the complete Revelation of Jesus Christ as a baby, celebrating it with the arrival of the Three Kings.

The Season of the Nativity is an important season because it helps us prepare for Christmas, celebrate the birth of Christ, and ushers us out into the world once the decorations begin to come down in our homes. This year, we are obviously wanting to be together in fullness of worship. However, we know that for many, caution is still a priority when it comes to social distancing and gatherings. Because we want to find ways to celebrate together, we have put together packets for the Season. In the packets we have a "make your own" Advent wreath with candles, prayers for each week of Advent, an intentional daily calendar with prompts for spiritual guidance, a "do it yourself" nativity scene, as well as a special ornament. You'll also find a book of devotions from our youth and a calendar.

It is our way of trying to stay connected during these days. It is a way that even though we are physically apart, we do not have to be spiritually separated. I am grateful to those who have contributed to make this happen so that everyone can participate. I want to invite you to participate by coming by the church or church office to pick up your packet (one per household). A more detailed schedule and delivery option is offered in this newsletter. Our goal is for everyone to have one starting the first Sunday in Advent (November 29th) and to let these spiritual practices help you during this season as we draw closer to the nativity and the light of Christ draws closer to us.

Thomas Martin



### Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2020

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

**In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.**

*"Who was it?" Matthew 25:31-46*

*Rev. Allyson Lawrence*

## CURRENT NEWS



### Get your Season of the Nativity bag now

It's almost here. The Season of Nativity begins November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. We have a gift to lead our church family through the season. You are invited to pick up your gift or request a special delivery. You'll want to have yours in hand before Advent begins November 29.

#### Pickup or delivery options:

**Church office:** Mon.- Tues., 9 AM - 3 PM

**Special Drive-Thru:** Mon.-Wed., Nov. 23-25, 10 AM to noon

**Sunday Worship Services:** 11 AM

**Request Delivery:** Contact Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938,

[leaagnew@bellsouth.net](mailto:leaagnew@bellsouth.net)



#### What's in the bag?

[Lea Agnew explains the contents in this short video. Check it out!](#)



### 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](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com), to share and inspire!



### Angel Tree opens November 29

Would you like to provide Christmas for a child this year whose family needs our help? Just look for the display in the Narthex on Sunday, November 29.

Instructions and signup will be there. Questions? Contact Dr. Thomas Martin at [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com).



### Nursery opens – reservation needed

Our nursery will be open now on Sunday mornings for children birth through pre-K. **Advance reservations are required.** Safety protocols are in place with a limited number of children allowed. Call the church office at 770-461-4313 by noon each Wednesday to reserve for the upcoming Sunday service.

## 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. This class meets for four weeks from November 30 – December 21 on Mondays, 12 – 1 p.m. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto: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](mailto:3d4zan@gmail.com).



### 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: 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.



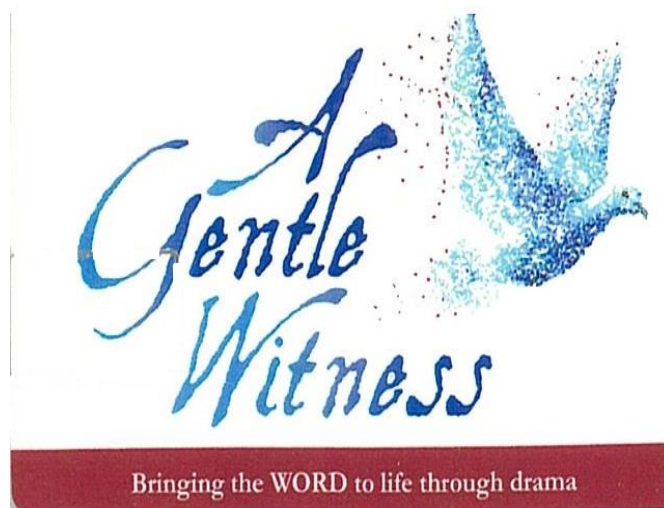


## Matching Gifts:

### 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) by 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

#### RESERVE BY NOVEMBER 30

The UMW will hold its annual Christmas Unit Meeting on December 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](mailto:chyder1@me.com)) by November 30 (note earlier reservation date).



## Another Scout Round Up – Check it out!

Troop and Pack 76 welcome you! Boys and girls from kindergarten (age 5) through 5th grade (age 10) can come check it out at the Cub Scout Round Up at FFUMC on December 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Our scout troop will also be at the roundup and accepts boys and girls from ages 10 to 17.

For more information, contact Bill Engel, [engelw@hotmail.com](mailto:engelw@hotmail.com) or 770-280-7218.



## Donations needed for families

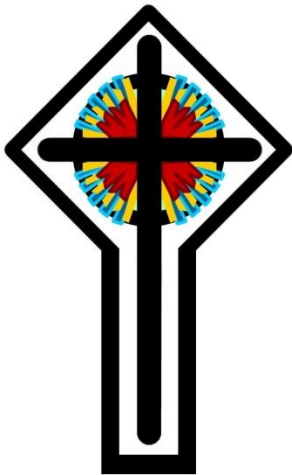
Our Summer Lunch families still need our help. One twin bed has been donated, but more is needed. If you have any donation, just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at [harvecin@charter.net](mailto:harvecin@charter.net) or text the photo to 678-656-4117. Cindy and her team post items 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.

## Church Conference is Monday, November 30

We have a church conference scheduled for Monday, November 30, at 7 p.m. A link to this ZOOM meeting will be in next week's Weekender. Questions? Contact Dr. Thomas Martin, [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## November 17, 2020 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,0096,554.35
Year to Date expenses	\$1,006,773.05
Difference	\$89,781.30

### Benevolence

\$590.00 received this week.

90 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$24,102.65 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.

Regular 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.

**Thanksgiving Holiday Office Hours:**

Monday – Tuesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Office closed Thursday & Friday, November 26-27.