



The Weekender

We begin Advent with HOPE

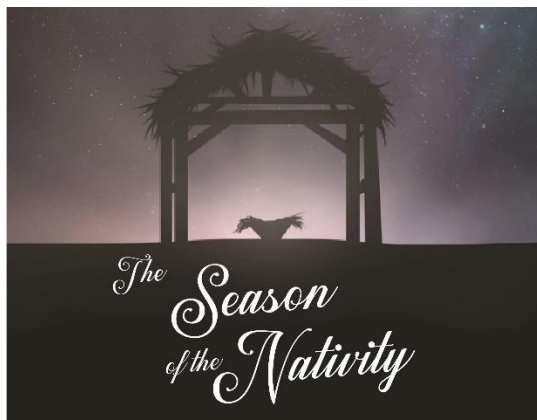
Growing up, Advent has always been one of those times of the year that I understood yet I didn't understand. I often knew that Advent meant that we got a calendar that had something to do each day until Christmas. We would read a short scripture that was part of the story. It would help us get ready. As kids, it helped us count down the days.

I have since learned and practiced and even begun to understand that Advent is the start of the Christian year. It promises hope and newness. Much like when we count down the New Year on December 31, Advent is a time for us to be filled with memories of Auld Lang Syne but more importantly it is a time that we can let hope begin to speak to us. There will be much waiting in our house until the right time to celebrate and open the gifts under the tree, but it will be worth it.

Waiting, however, is one of those words that has been used quite a lot this year. At least it seems that patience has been tried a few times. Hope is not lost on us as people of faith. It is a word to start off a new Christian year on this first Sunday in Advent. We not only hope that better days are coming, but we as Christians know that better days are coming. Sometimes, it begins with the smallest act imaginable. Hope surprises us and comforts us.

This season, we begin a new year with Hope. We begin Advent with Hope. The Season of the Nativity is designed to help us find hope in the things of God's Kingdom (think about when we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven"). This earth may not be our final destination, but for now it is our home and we would do well to share the Hope during this year. If you have not picked up your Season of the Nativity Gift bag, we encourage you to do so in order that you can join with us in preparing, celebrating, and sharing in this season.

Thomas Martin



First Sunday of Advent: Hope

November 29, 2020

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

"Carry the Light: Wake Up" Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Dr Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Season of the Nativity Gift Bag for YOU

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.

Pickup or delivery options:

Church office Pickup:

Mon.- Thursday., 9 AM - 3 PM; Friday, 12 AM to 1 PM

Drive-Thru: Wed., 10 AM to noon

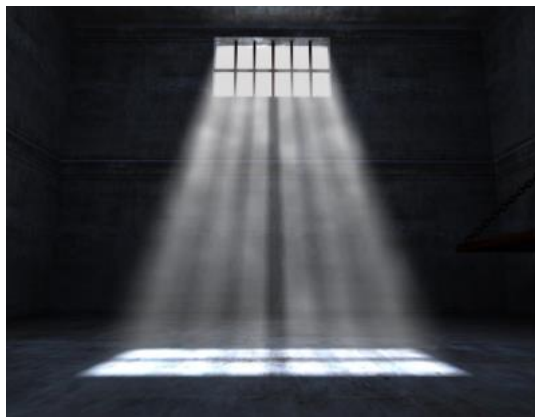
Sunday Worship Service: 11 AM

Request Delivery: Contact Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938,
leaagnew@bellsouth.net



[What's in the bag?](#)

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



Jail Ministry Training Soon

Teams from our church have regularly visited the men's and women's wings of the Fayette County Jail for Bible study, conversation, and prayer. It can, and has, made an amazing difference in the lives of inmates. Is God calling you to join this ministry? We are looking for new team members. The next county-led training class (required for the ministry) will be held early next year with dates announced soon. Applications and fingerprinting must be completed before training. Contact Danny Beck, danmci43@gmail.com or 770-461-4665, for more information.

INFORMED

&
inspired

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!



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.



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 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.



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.



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) 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 or 770-280-7218.

Donations needed for families: Thanks for your help!



Our Summer Lunch families still need our help. 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. **Thank you for the winter clothes** you

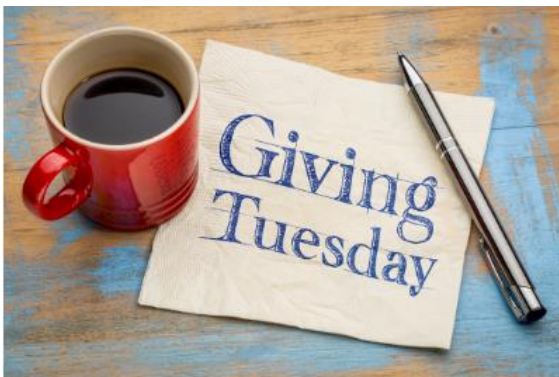
provided for a family who asked for our help. Their needs were graciously met, they are thankful.

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

NEW REQUEST: Washing machine (used is fine) for a family of a single mom with four children

Church Conference is Monday, November 30

We have a church conference scheduled for Monday, November 30, at 7 p.m. If you wish to attend, please contact Dr. Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com, for a [ZOOM link by Monday at noon](#).



December 1 is Giving Tuesday

If one of your traditions has become Giving Tuesday, we encourage you to consider a gift to the ministries of Fayetteville First UMC. You can give online by [clicking here](#). As a reminder, all donations are tax deductible. We also encourage you to consider a gift to other United Methodist Ministries. *Reminder: Amazon donates to FFUMC at no cost to you (FREE \$!) when you designate Fayetteville First UMC as a charity while shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. [Contact Joan Aycoc](#) to find out how.*



Notes of gratitude...

These notes of gratitude have been received from our church family. What you do makes a difference and means so much!

Dear Friends: Don Saunders asked that I express the deep appreciation Norma and he feel for the lovely shawl. Norma is doing better. They are members of the Murphy Lighthouse class and greatly loved by all of us. – Lea Agnew

Dear Shawl Ministry Members: Paul and I want to say a big thank you to whoever made and sent us the beautiful blue shawls. They are lovely and blue is my favorite color. We will both remember your kindness and prayers each time we use them. Your faithful service to God through helping others is greatly appreciated. May there be many stars in your crowns. – Barbara and Paul Condon

Shawl Ministry: Thank you so much for the beautiful lap robe. It was a very pleasant surprise and will be put to good use. My mother would have really cherished it; she loved having them. While the lap robe is very nice, I truly appreciate the card, the thoughts and prayers. Please know that efforts put into this gift mean a lot to our family. – Mike Leonard

We cannot thank you enough for all the care, concerns, and love we have felt from you for the past couple of months. The cards, the phone calls, the visitation, and especially the prayers are humbling. Especially the prayers! There is no way we can ever express how grateful we are. Our church family is special. We oftentimes take it for granted, but when the occasion arises, it's a WOW! Thank you again and hugs to all! – Mark and Diane Martin

Dear Shawl Ministry: What a wonderful surprise to receive a lap blanket from you during my recent recovery. You ladies are so special to our church and share such love and support to those in need. Your talent is definitely a precious ministry, and I will always treasure it. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a recipient of your love. We are so blessed that I am slowly healing and will be up and at it soon, but we are even more blessed with you, our church family. – Mark and Diane Martin

Your loving heart is a beautiful reminder of God's goodness. Thank you for the beautiful handmade shawl. You are really a blessing from God. – Kayo Gilmore

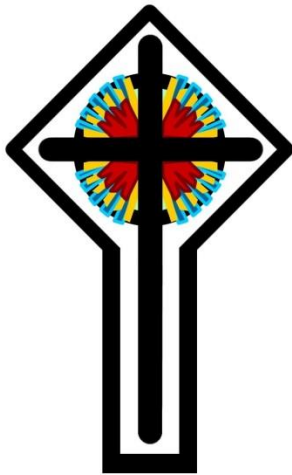
Your support and help and compassion during this most difficult time of COVID has meant the world! If I'm ever needed, please contact me. If there's something I can do to help your church, please don't hesitate to call on me! – E.B. (benevolence recipient)

Just wanted to thank you for all the well wishes that you send my way. I am currently doing physical and speech therapy and doing my best to get stronger every day. Hope to see everyone again soon. – Jim Mason

I want to thank you very much for the lap robe that you gave me and for thinking about me. It really does keep me warm. May God bless you all for what you do. – Nonnie Perkins

God pour His deep blessing on all who keep our church running and thriving – Margaret and Jerry Whitaker

Thank you for all you do to keep us informed and moving forward during these crazy times. – Minta Mueller



November 24, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts \$1,112,590.76

Year to Date expenses \$1,029,378.38

Difference \$83,212.41

Benevolence

\$270.00 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.

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

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:

Office closed Friday