



Friday, November 6, 2020

The Weekender

A better way

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

Those are hard words to live by for some these days. For others they are easy words to live by. I want to acknowledge, for me, what has been the hardest thing about this week. It has been seeing the divisiveness that is at work in our country. It has been seeing the hatred and animosity from some. It has been in seeing the numbers come in and although while I'm writing this, no official winner has been declared, the loser seems to be the American people who are actually trying to make a living, to get along, to live as if all people are created equal.

Then I am reminded that as much as people love this country, we are to love God more. We are to love other people more. We are to love the people that do not necessarily agree with us or vote like us or think like us.

So where do we go from here?

First, I don't pretend to think that this whole congregation thinks alike. I am humbled when people share their opinions with me and trust me enough to still be their pastor. I hope that you would do the same. If we can share honestly with each other and still share fellowship over the body of Christ, then we have a chance. That means we are listening to God's Spirit.

Second, we have to seize on the opportunity. Sometimes, but not always, the best thing that the church can offer the world is something other than what the world says is happening. If you still watch the news, you see reports of Americans yelling at each other. You hear of families that don't know how to be in a relationship anymore because they have let someone else define them. Sadly, you see churches dividing not because it is the right thing to do, but because it's easier that way. The church has the opportunity to show the world a better way. Sharing fellowship with God and one another is the better way. Maybe what the world needs is someone to show how to live together in peace.

Third, try to live by the verses from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Ask yourself with every thought, every word, every interaction, "Is this showing joy? Is this in the spirit of praying? Will this bring honor and glory to God?" Ask yourself, those questions, share true Christian love with the world, and ask the question that John Wesley asked, "Although we may not all think alike, may we not all love alike?"

Thomas Martin



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

"Moochers and Busybodies" 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



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.



Thanksgiving Meals for others

We have much for which to be grateful. One of those centers around traditions that become important to us. Our Thanksgiving Meal drive is underway and our goal is to collect \$500 to buy Thanksgiving Dinner for families of our Summer Lunch Program. 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 next Friday, November 13. This will ensure that we have enough time to purchase the food.

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.



Cub 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 November 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We also need some experienced adults.

The group is selling Popcorn. [Click here for our Facebook page](#) for prices and sales.

Christmas wreaths are also available. [Click here to order online](#) or contact William Engel, Troop and Pack 76 Committee Chair, at 770-280-7218.



Fayette Samaritans Food Pantry Needs

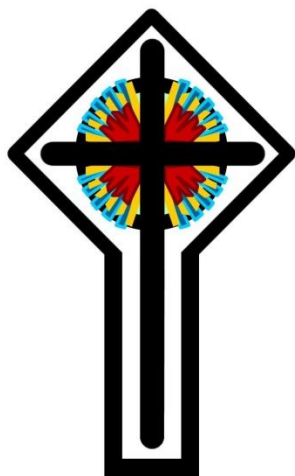
Our donations are always important to Fayette Samaritans. They are open for financial assistance by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Food is available on those days without appointment. Here's what the pantry needs most: canned chicken, corn, green beans, canned 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 still needed

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.

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



November 3, 2020 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$1,040,352.32
Year to Date expenses	\$970,393.98
Difference	\$69,958.34

Benevolence

\$705.00 received this week.

80 families assisted in 2020 with a total of \$20,905.76 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.