

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Connected Business Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



One of the things that I have begun to have over the last few months is a love-hate relationship with ZOOM. Technology has definitely been a blessing but at times I recognize that it falls inadequately short to in-person gatherings and meetings. Please understand, I am not saying it is bad. I'm just having difficulty with it at times. So how do we maintain that which is good while living into that which needs modification?

I recently attended a class on ZOOM etiquette. Some things were very interesting to consider: presentation, appearance, mic control. It reminded me of mock job interviews we did in high school. Just as there are certain ways to present yourself in a job interview, there are best practices for presenting yourself on a ZOOM call. It was fascinating and eye opening. I learned some good tricks and habits not just for the world of online meetings, but ways to consider others in the process. There is a presentation present in everything.

One of the treats of ZOOM calls is when the screen is filled with faces of people. To see interactions of people who are listening, watching, and participating is fun. It's also fun to see pets, kids, spouses, and TV programs that may be occupying the background. Last night was one of those nights as our Charge Conference—held over ZOOM with FFUMC, Cornerstone UMC, Providence UMC, Newnan First UMC, Griffin First UMC, and Peachtree City UMC—met with some 100+ people represented from those churches.

In that meeting we affirmed our budget for 2021 and our Leadership. We affirmed that we are called to be God's people even during these times. Rev. Susan Landry, our District Superintendent, quoted my friend Rev. CJ Harp who is the Wesley Foundation Pastor at Valdosta State University who said, "*Different is better than cancelled.*" Things are certainly different, but we do not fear. God's love is not cancelled. We are still connected... even through the business of the church on ZOOM.



Please return commitment cards to the church office as soon as possible to help us plan for the upcoming year.

FREE \$\$ makes us all SMILE:

Designate FFUMC as charity

Did you know Amazon will donate to FFUMC at no cost to you when you select us as your preferred charity?

During the past year so far, our church has received \$260.37 from Amazon through this program. You simply log into your Amazon account, choose the charity and shop at smile.amazon.com. It offers the same selection as amazon.com but will donate a percentage of qualifying purchases to the charity of your choice.





December 13

Lessons & Carols

In Sanctuary: 11 AM & 5 PM
Online: 11 AM
Service of Word and Music

December 16

Storytime with Santa & Bonfire

The Field: 6 PM
Story, Photo op, Bonfire, Carols

December 21

Blue Christmas

Online Service
Encouragement and hope for this "longest night"

December 24

Candlelight Services

The Field: 4 PM
In Sanctuary: 6 PM & 11 PM

More Current Happenings ...

Advent Reading Group — Join Suzanne Carter in a hybrid in-person/ZOOM reading group December 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Enjoy any or all three sessions on Advent selections from Barbara Brown Taylor's *Home by Another Way*. Get more details at fayettevillefirst.com.

Virtual Movie Night - A Muppets Christmas Carol — Show time! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 9, at 6 p.m. for the virtual showing of *A Muppets Christmas Carol*. Catch show time instructions in *The Weekender* this Friday.

UMW Unit Meeting Goes Virtual — The scheduled December 10 *UMW Christmas Unit Meeting* will be held virtually at 6 p.m. with no in-person gathering. Get the link from Kathe Hansen or your circle chair and join in!

The Field December schedule — Two outdoor worship experiences are scheduled for December (no regular Wednesday night services will be held):

December 16 - Storytime with Santa & Bonfire, 6 p.m.

December 24 - Outdoor Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m.

inspired ...

Thank you, Season of the Nativity Team

You have inspired us with a beautiful guide through this season. Thank you, volunteers, for preparing our Season of the Nativity Gift Bags and offering them so graciously.

Sandra Watson
Jim Haymans
Gerry Haymans
Linda Brannon
Larry Brannon
Glenda Martinez
Ruth Ogletree
Deb Cole
Pat Dunn

Faye Livingston
Tami Kemberling
Karen Davis
Kay Walters
Jeffrey Ray
Janet Gazaway
Bill Webb
Carol Webb
Lea Agnew

It's not too late to get your Season of the Nativity Gift Bag. They are available in the church office or you may schedule a delivery if needed with Lea Agnew, 404-697-1938 or leaagnew@bellsouth.net.



Please snap a photo of your wreath or nativity and send it to jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com.