



January 22, 2021

The Weekender

Changing God's Mind

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Have you ever been so sure of something that you were absolutely not going to change your mind? Have you ever felt something so deeply that you knew it was true beyond a shadow of a doubt? And then, have you ever come to the realization that you were completely wrong about everything that you knew or thought?

Here's a scenario that gets played out in our house more often than not on the weekend:

Kids at four in the afternoon: *"Can we watch a movie tonight and have popcorn?"*

Me and Leslie at four in the afternoon: *"Sure. That sounds like a great idea."*

Family from four to eight: Watches TV, plays outside, plays games inside, eats dinner, maybe a fire in the backyard, baths and showers.

Kids at nine at night: *"Can we watch a movie now."*

Me: *"It's too late to start a movie. Maybe tomorrow night."*

Kids: *"But you said..."*

There is disappointment when someone changes their mind and plans. There is also disappointment when you cannot keep your word, especially to kids.

In Jonah, we are told that God changed his mind. Why would God do that? Jonah was very disappointed that God would change his mind. I imagine that Jonah probably felt like our kids do when we postpone movie night. I can also imagine Jonah feeling much, much worse.

Know this. If God can change his mind, then so can we. No matter how sure we are of facts and truth and feelings. There is always room for change. It is not easy. It may make people angry. But it is possible.

Also, know this. Tonight, we will do a better job of managing our time so that when the kids ask, "Can we watch a movie tonight?" we can be able to say yes and mean it. We may even have popcorn...unless I change my mind.



3rd Sunday After the Epiphany

January 24, 2021

Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

"Fish Tales" Jonah 3:1-5; 10

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CURRENT NEWS



Youth: Last few days to sign up for Renovatus

Why come to Renovatus? It's a great way to connect with and experience God, grow in faith, make new friends, and be with old friends. It's also a way to get away from everything for a weekend, have fun, and build relationships with each other.

Join the Renovatus 2021 experience - Follow this link! **Deadline: January 25**



New: Lectionary Study Group

Join in a new "drop-in" style study any Tuesday at noon through Zoom. The Bible study will be centered around the Revised Common Lectionary Readings for the week. It will be an opportunity to see the threads of God's love and grace throughout scripture as we study selections from the Old and New Testament each week. For more information or questions, please email Thomas at tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com. Click here for [Lectionary Study Group Zoom link](#).

The Seekers Reading Group: February 4 - April 1



Join the book study group, The Seekers, as we read and discuss a variety of books to help us understand how we might be in community with each other while listening for God through these resources. The first book we will study is Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Taylor says, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me --- either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out But I have learned things in the dark that I never could have learned in the light, things that have saved

my life over and over again, so there is really only one conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light." How hopeful! What good news!

This group will meet on Thursday mornings at the church, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon, beginning February 4. It will be led by Suzanne Carter. We're using a hybrid format, where it will be possible for you to attend by ZOOM or in person, with socially distanced safeguards in place. Future books may include authors such as Sue Monk Kidd, Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr, Thomas Merton, and others. [Register here to let us know you are coming.](#)



Weekly Prayer

Working remotely? Can't make it to the drive-thru? On the road this week? Join us for MIDDAY Prayer at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. The service will follow the order for MIDDAY Prayer and Praise from the United Methodist Book of Worship. [Just follow this link each week to join in.](#) (Meeting ID: 844 7556 7875, Passcode: 202001) Questions? Email Thomas at tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Acolyte Ministry

Are you a trained acolyte and ready to get back into service and leading in worship? We are prepared and ready to have you as you are able. [Please click this link to sign up for your slot.](#)

We have made a few changes to our ministry to facilitate some important COVID-19 safety precautions. [Click here to view these.](#) If you are not currently trained to serve as an acolyte and you want to be, [contact Rev. Lawrence](#) to set up an appointment. This servant-leadership ministry opportunity is open to third graders through twelfth graders.



Virtual UMW Unit Meeting: Save the date

The UMW never stands still. [To stay connected and join in the February 9 Unit Meeting for all circles at 6:30 p.m., just click this ZOOM link.](#) This meeting's special project is collecting baby items for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Their most needed items are diapers (large sizes 3 and 4, no pullups, please), baby wipes and baby clothes (new or gently used). Just drop your donation by the church office. Contact your circle chair or Connie Hyder (770-310-6115) if you have questions.



Parent Table Group meets on ZOOM each Thursday

Need some encouragement and conversation after the kids are in bed? Join in the Parent Table Group each Thursday evening from 8:30-10 p.m. Share joys and concerns and life together! [Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton](#) for the link and ZOOM on in.



Standing in the need of prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of prayer? Let us know. Prayer requests may be private or shared with the congregation if you desire. You may call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email a minister or the church office. A new way is now available through an online form: [Click here to share your concerns.](#)



Giving in Action!

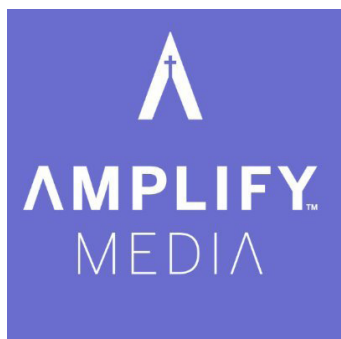
Please note these needs from our Summer Lunch families:

CURRENT REQUESTS: Queen bed, twin mattress

Recent gifts from FFUMC — Thank you!

Beds (5), love seat & chair, kitchen table & chairs, Christmas gifts, Christmas meals, waffle iron, washing machine, clothes & shoes, Christmas dishes (2 sets), TVs (2), lamps (5), rugs (2), towels, electric teapot, framed art (6), framed mirror, boy's bicycle and boy's shoes, Christmas ornaments, lights and decorations

If you have an item to donate, 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. Appliances, TVs, furniture, bikes, toys, home décor, kitchen items and more have been given in the past. Beds are always needed.



Amplify Media FREE to you!

Amplify Media is a streaming service allowing churches large and small unlimited video access in order to discover, customize, and share diverse resources that encourage deeper discipleship and greater impact.

Create an account:

- Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/sign-up>.
- Put in Fayetteville First UMC Access Code: CPWHBS
- Follow prompts to set up your free personal account

Access our channel:

Once your account is created, you can access the content we have made available through your

- personal computer
- smartphone
- tablet
- TV using Roku or Amazon

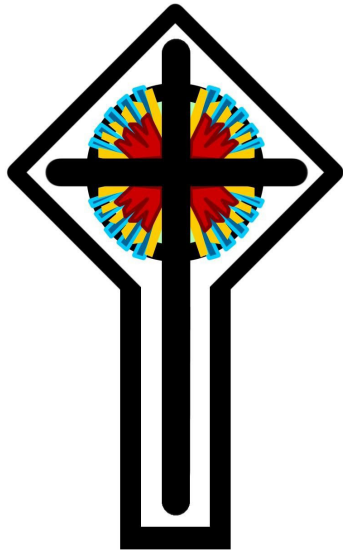
Contact Allyson, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions on how to access this great resource.

Thank you, Church Family!



I would like to thank our church family for all the cards, phone calls, baked goods and especially prayers concerning my recent knee surgery. My family is truly blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. — Gary Wood

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia plant and the “Weekender” which were left at my house. I am enjoying the beauty of the plant at my breakfast table. It is lovely! I thank the one who delivered it to me. ... My church means so much to me. God bless you all! — Vivian Wilson



January 21, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$55,027.29
Year to Date expenses	\$56,042.99
Difference	\$-1,015.70

Benevolence

\$450 received this week.

Three families assisted in 2021 with a total of \$1,343.95 in assistance.

You can continue your financial support 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.

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