

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Ready for Easter? Rev. Thomas Martin

Last year at this time, the Easter service was already taped and ready to go. We did a lot of stuff last year before it happened. At this time last year, we were recording the services four days to a week beforehand. We were prepared for Easter, but it was certainly different.

Just because we are prepared for something, doesn't mean we are ready. I prepare for a walk, but if an afternoon thunderstorm shows up out of nowhere, I might not be ready. Last week, people prepared to encounter storms across our nation. As they bore down close to home in neighboring counties, we were not ready for their full impact.

We have seen neighbors in need and people responding. No one wants to prepare for the worst. And no one can ever be fully ready.

Every year we prepare for Easter and Holy Week. Yet there is something about the way in which we remember God turning the world on its head for us that we can never be ready for. We can prepare for Easter; we can even prepare for the worrisome death of Christ on a cross. We can never be ready for God's overwhelming love that comes to us at Easter. May you find blessings in this Holy Week.

*Note: Contact Maggie Clarke, [mwclarke195@gmail.com](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com), or Thomas Martin, [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com), for updates on our plans to help cleanup efforts in Coweta County. Details will be available soon.*



## Holy Week leads to Easter Celebration

**Holy Week Offerings** –In-person and online ([links at FayettevilleFirst.com](https://www.fayettevillefirst.com))

**Lenten Meditation:** Thursday, April 1, 12 p.m., Tabitha Circle, Rev. Carson Thaxton

**Maundy Thursday:** April 1, 7 p.m., Rev. Carson Thaxton

**Good Friday:** April 2, 7 p.m., Service of Word and Music

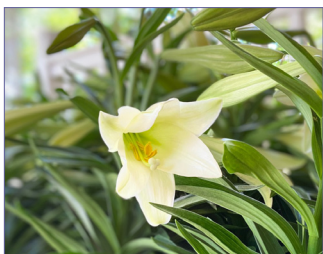
**Easter Sunday — April 4**

**Easter Sunrise Service:** 6:30 a.m., The Field at FFUMC, Bring your own chair and flashlight; no reservation needed.

**Sanctuary Services:** 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m. [Please make a reservation.](#)

Nursery will be available at the 11 a.m. service. Livestream is at 11 a.m.

*Let's decorate the Easter cross this Sunday. You are invited to bring flowers to the courtyard before the service you attend. Remember your cameras on Sunday!*



## Last chance: Reserve Easter Lilies today!

Express your love with the gift of an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of someone. Recognitions will be included in the April 4 Easter Sunday Order of Worship. Lilies will enhance worship on Easter and will be available for pickup following the 11 a.m. service. [Just follow this link and order by March 30 to be included in recognitions.](#) Cost: \$15 each.



## Our journey through Lent ...

**Lenten Offering** — Our offering supports the Rise Against Hunger packing event later this year. Place Lenten Bags on chancel rail on Easter or designate "Lenten Offering" on check or online donation.

**Lenten Meditation** — Tabitha Circle shares this week's Lenten Meditation with a presentation from Rev. Carson Thaxton in-person and live stream on Thursday, April 1, at noon. [Just follow the link at FayettevilleFirst.com under Lenten Meditations or click here.](#)



**Inspiration from Lenten Journey** — Did your journey through Lent offer new insights or connections with God or others? We'd love to know about it! Simply contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) or 770-461-4313, to share your thoughts and photos. Ideas: *Our family used our Lenten Journey Box for prayer and reflection ...* (photo from the Hester family shown); *The Easter(mini)Palooza Kit helped our family spread love, celebration, and joy in our neighborhood ...* (30 kits have been distributed with 250 eggs each. That's means a lot of Paloozas are in the making, right? We'd love to see how your celebration turned out!)



## Please take note ...

**New Office Hours** — Beginning in April, the church office will be open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on Fridays). We're here to help, so just give us a call at 770-461-4313, email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) or drop by.

# inspired ...

## How many helpers does it take to put up a solar light?

Apparently it only takes four if they know what they are doing! A new outdoor solar-powered light has been installed at The Field at FFUMC. This is just in time for an early morning sunrise service this Easter. It's still a little dark at 6:30 a.m., so our new light will keep early risers safer in the dark. Along with your own chair, you may want to bring a flashlight to guide you until the sun rises. An online bulletin will be provided for this service.

