



March 19, 2021

The Weekender

Fearful and Wonderful

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

I am sure we all have our favorite verses of the Bible. My hunch is that you might have several. I have one that helps when I encounter evil: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). I have one that encourages spiritual growth: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). I have one that I turn to in times of distress: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” (Isaiah 43:2).

Scriptures are there to assure and reassure us. Assurance, however, is one of those words that is allusive. It is allusive because so much of it is predicated upon what we think or feel. It is subjective to the person. One person’s assurance is another person’s militancy. One person’s assurance is another’s doubt. I have come to learn that I am assured of nothing but God’s love. And my verse of assurance is Psalm 139:14, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”

That verse is for me and it is not. That verse is for my assurance that when things are difficult or hard, when I’m weary or sad by the darkness of human nature, there is hope and possibility in my life. When I say that verse is not for me, I mean that it is not just for me. That verse is for everyone. Every person on this earth is fearfully and wonderfully made. Why would any of us who call ourselves Christians rob another person of the wonder and fear that goes into the complexities of a person? It is sin—that which separates us from God—when we are unable to see God’s fear and wonder and love in the form of another person. When we take violent actions against others in word, deed, or even thought (remember Jesus’ words about those who have those thoughts have already committed sin in their hearts in Matthew 5:22?), we sin.

In our hurting world, we are all looking for assurance. Assurance comes from God alone. Your verse of assurance may be different than mine. Your constant may be richer and bolder. But nothing is greater or more blessed than the assurance that Jesus loves you. If Jesus can love even us, then why can’t we see that Jesus loves everyone?

May God’s fear and wonder exude from our lives that we might point people to the assurance that no one exists outside of God’s love.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

Covenant Care Jeremiah 31:31-34

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Our Lenten Journey continues

Sermon Series: Signs of the Covenant — Rev. Allyson Lawrence continues the series with *Covenant Care* looking at Jeremiah 31:31-34 this Sunday, March 21.

Lenten Meditations — Ethel Taylor Circle shares this week's Lenten Meditation with a pre-recorded message from Danny Beck. Join in Thursday, March 25, any time wherever you are. There will be no in-person option this week. [Just follow the link on the homepage at FayettevilleFirst.com under Lenten Meditations or click here.](#)

Lenten Offering — Collect donations for our Rise Against Hunger packing event coming later this year when we pack meals for the hungry. Lenten bags with donations can be placed on the chancel rail on Easter Sunday or dropped off at the church office.

Holy Week Services –In-person and online ([links at FayettevilleFirst.com](#))

Palm Sunday, March 28, 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

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

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, The Field at FFUMC, no reservation needed

8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m. in sanctuary. [Please make a reservation.](#)

Easter Service Reservations

Easter is April 4. FFUMC is excited to announce that we plan to have three in-person Easter services in the sanctuary: 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m. We will be following COVID guidelines to protect our congregation. This includes social distancing and wearing a mask throughout the service to ensure safety for all. Following COVID guidelines we can only accommodate 120 people at each service. [Please register all persons attending in your party. Click here to register](#) or call the church office. Live stream will be offered at the 11 a.m. service.

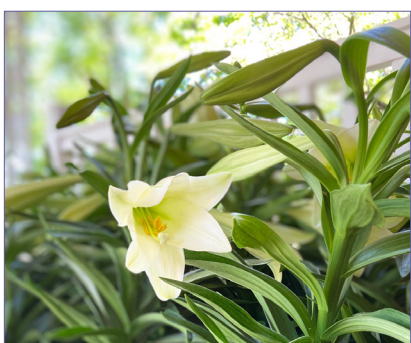
If you would like to reserve a spot in the nursery, call the church office at 770-461-4313 by Wednesday, March 31.

An outdoor Easter Sunrise Service will be offered at 6:30 a.m. with no reservations required. Bring your own chair and mask and practice social distancing at this service.

Easter Lilies may be placed in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one. [Click here to order.](#) See details below.

Say “You are LOVED” with an Easter Lily

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. Proceeds support the FFUMC Flower Ministry.





5 Steps to host your own Easter (mini) Palooza

- 1 Pick up an Easter (mini) Palooza Kit on Sunday, March 28, following Palm Sunday service, 12 to 1 p.m. outside the sanctuary for easy drive-thru access. Each kit will contain 250 Easter eggs!
- 2 Pick a date and time and place (your backyard, a park, somewhere with good egg hiding potential).
- 3 Invite your family, friends, neighbors, or anyone to join you.
- 4 Hide eggs.
- 5 Share the Good News of Jesus!

We hope this Easter (mini) Palooza is a blessing to you and anyone with whom you share the special day.



ZOOM to ffumcKiDs on March 24

See your friends and play an Easter Lamb escape room game, learn about Palm Sunday and Jesus washing the disciples feet, and pray together. [Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton for the link](#) if you need it, and be there at 6 p.m. on March 24.



Registration opens April 1

VBS 2021: June 28-July 2

MAD Camp 2021: July 12-16

Music, Art & Drama for rising kindergarten - rising sixth graders



Love in Action

NEW REQUESTS: Queen box springs and mattress (yes, another needed)
Queen bed frame. Queen headboard.

STILL NEEDED: Boys clothes: Pants/shorts - 12 husky or 16,
Shirts: Boys large

We appreciate your donations to our Summer Lunch families. 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.



DNOW 2021 on the way

DNOW is April 17-18. We will attend one of the Fayette County area wide sessions, work together on a mission project, and then split into small group host homes. We will meet back at church on Sunday to eat breakfast together and then attend the 11am service. Youth have the option of either spending the night at their host homes Saturday night OR going home Saturday night and coming back Sunday morning. Cost is \$40 per youth. [Youth can sign up online through this link.](#)



Ed Travis Scholarship deadline is Monday, March 22

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to a graduating senior at FFUMC entering an accredited college, university or technical school for the upcoming school year. [Get the details](#) and [registration form](#) at FayettevilleFirst.com. Completed applications are due March 22.



It's time to donate!

FFUMC sponsors a Red Cross Blood Drive in our gym Sunday, March 28. Protocols make it safe to give, so sign up today!

- Go to RedCrossBlood.org
- In upper right hand corner enter sponsor code: **ffumc**
- Select our drive and click **See Times**
- Select desired donation time and either "Blood" or "Power Red"
- Sign in or create account
- Confirm appointment

OR send an e-mail with your desired time slot to:
ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com.

Tip before donating: Anna Mayhew reminds us to drink LOTS of water! Iron deficiency is the cause of most deferrals. [Click here to see how the American Red Cross suggests boosting your iron.](#)



March request list from Fayette Samaritans

Our local community food bank appreciates ALL your donations. [Click here for their complete March request list.](#) Donations may be dropped off at the church office.

Needed: Dried Beans, Rice (2 lb. bags), Canned Pasta, Mixed Vegetables, Jello/ Pudding Mix, Laundry Detergent, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Feminine Products

Thank you, Church Family

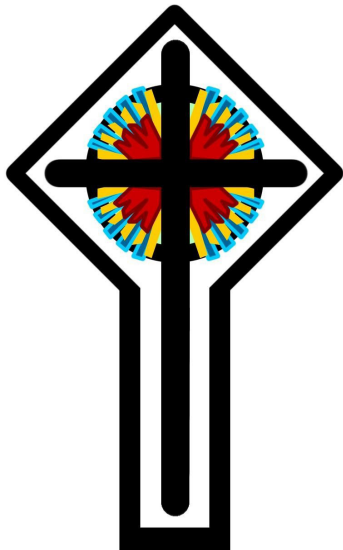


Thank you to our friends at FFUMC for the many comforting and healing prayers, your presence felt in your cards, calls and messages, your gifts of delicious meals, fruit, and flowers, and your service in driving us to doctor appointments and hospital visits and picking up prescriptions and groceries and everything else! Jon is doing well after his liver transplant, and we are so grateful to the donor family and to all of you. — Jon and Leslie Wade

On behalf of Thelma McMillan, The Collins Family would like to express sincere gratitude for all the messages, cards & gifts helping her celebrate her 100th Birthday. We are blessed to be apart of such a wonderful church family. — Collins Family

As I recover from surgery, thank you for the cards, phone calls, and most of all the prayers! Also, the beautiful shawl blessed by many hands has brought me much comfort. God has been with me every step of the way! Blessings to each of you. — Shirley Washburn

March 17, 2021 Financials



Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$255,095.65
Year to Date expenses	\$ 240,493.81
Difference	\$14,601.84

Benevolence

\$230.00 received this week.

25 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 9,934.51

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

FayettevilleFirst.com