



The Weekender

Well done, Faithful Servant

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This time two years ago, as I was receiving calls from former pastors of this church congratulating me on the appointment to Fayetteville First UMC, the first thing they spoke of was the generosity and kindness of the congregation here. The very next thing that everyone said was, "You're going to love working with Joyce Mucha." I discovered very quickly that both statements were true.

Joyce was one of the first people I interacted with as she helped me get "set-up" here. She walked me through the administration pieces of the church, assisted in thinking through things, and offered wisdom far beyond the words we shared. This past year, as we have all thought through things differently about what church means and how we relate to one another, Joyce's presence has been steadfast. She has done amazing work here, not just by virtue of her professionalism, but by the nature of her character. I know that you will join me in wanting to wish her well as she continues on this next path of the journey into retirement.



This Sunday, Joyce will be with us as we honor her during the 11 a.m. service, which will be live streamed. Following the service until 12:45 p.m., she will be on the porch of the church office to visit and talk with people not yet comfortable returning to in-person worship. I hope you will find a way to reach out to her to show your appreciation if you have not already done so.

We are grateful for Joyce, for her work, for her time, for her talents, and for the way she has helped us as a congregation be the church. We will miss her, but we know that God will be with her as she begins this next phase of her life. I will miss her, but I give thanks to God for the opportunity that this church has had to share in ministry with Joyce Mucha. As Jesus says, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Palm Sunday **March 28, 2021**

[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)
In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

***Covenant Crowds* Mark 11:1-11**

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

ALL THE BEST

YOU HAVE TOUCHED OUR LIVES

Joyce Mucha

On staff since 1995
Church administrator
Leader extraordinaire
Friend to all



As you go...

"You never realize just how you might touch others' lives," Joyce Mucha recently reflected. The truth of that statement comes home to us as we remember the countless ways Joyce has blessed our lives over these many years at Fayetteville First UMC.

Joyce came to Fayetteville in 1994 from Pennsylvania with her husband, Chris, and three children: two teens and a middle schooler. After a few months of temp work, she accepted her first and only full-time job here at Fayetteville First. She says, "I got my initiation to the South right here. I was amazed at how people from the beginning accepted this Catholic girl from the North. The warmth of this congregation has always been a highlight."

After her start in the finance area, Joyce progressed to administration and took the finance role with her. Through the years she has thrived in the work. "I've loved the fact that every day was different. Dealing with whatever came up on any day always kept things interesting," she says. Enjoying her time working with committees and all the different people in the church has been rewarding. "I've met so many wonderful people I can call friends. I feel like I've had the best of both worlds with having two church families."

Heading into retirement, Joyce is glad she'll continue to have structure to her days as she'll be completing projects around her house and garden, helping her son with his business, and most of all spending time with her husband and family. She'll enjoy visiting her daughter Kim (Darren) in Nevada and granddaughter Karlee. She'll pop up to Tennessee to see daughter Jackie (Luke) and grandsons Milo and Lincoln. On a regular basis she'll continue spending time with her son Chris (Jessica) in Senoia and grandkids Callie, Avery and Christopher III.

We will miss you, Joyce, but we'll never forget the many ways you touched our lives ... always with kindness and a loving spirit. Our blessings go with you!

CURRENT NEWS



Our Lenten Journey continues

Lenten Meditations — Tabitha Circle shares our final 2021 Lenten Meditation with a message from Rev. Carson Thaxton in-person and live stream. Join in Thursday, April 1, at noon. [Just follow the link on the homepage at FayettevilleFirst.com under Lenten Meditations or click here.](#) You'll also find links to any meditations you may have missed (or want to view again).

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, Covenant Crowds, Mark 11:1-11

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m., Rev. Carson Thaxton, This Table, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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.

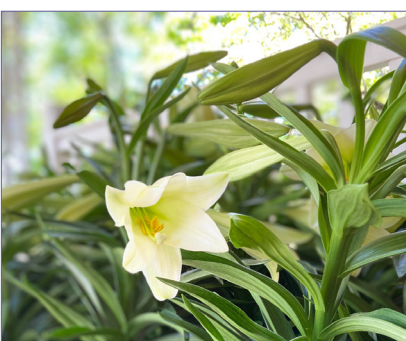
If you would like to reserve a spot in the nursery, [call the church office at 770-461-4313 by Wednesday, March 31.](#)

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: Due March 30

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.





Blood Drive is THIS SUNDAY

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](https://www.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.](#)



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!

PALOOZA TIME!

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



Trustee Work Day tomorrow - Help us look our best!

Thanks for helping spruce up our campus last week. Let's finish up this Saturday, March 27, between 8 a.m. and noon. [Sign up here to let us know you're coming.](#) Questions? Contact Kathe Anderson, Trustee Chair, 470-725-7607.



Registration opens on Easter

VBS 2021: June 28-July 2

MAD Camp 2021: July 12-16

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



Love in Action

STILL NEEDED: Boys clothes: Pants/shorts - 12 husky or 16,
Shirts: Boys large
or Gift Card for clothes
Queen headboard and frame

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.



Sign up now for DNOW

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.](#)



April request list from Fayette Samaritans

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

Needed: Beef Stew, Mixed Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit, Coffee (no K-cups), Tea Bags, Cookies, Jelly, Bar Soap

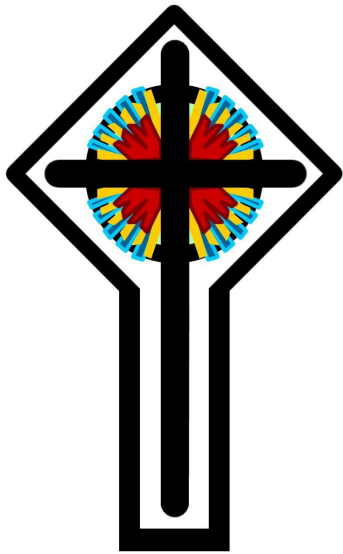
EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Area Storm Emergency Response

Our prayers are with those affected by the severe storms Thursday night/Friday morning in our area. In the coming days we will be gathering information about what we can do to help our neighbors. If you are interested in helping when the opportunity arises, please contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com, or Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com, and we will let you know how we can help.

if you would like to donate we recommend a donation to UMCOR through their website or by [giving to FFUMC](#) and noting the gift, "UMCOR."



March 24, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$284,271.35
Year to Date expenses	\$ 242,661.46
Difference	\$41,609.89

Benevolence

\$2,150.00 received this week.

27 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 10,759.73

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.

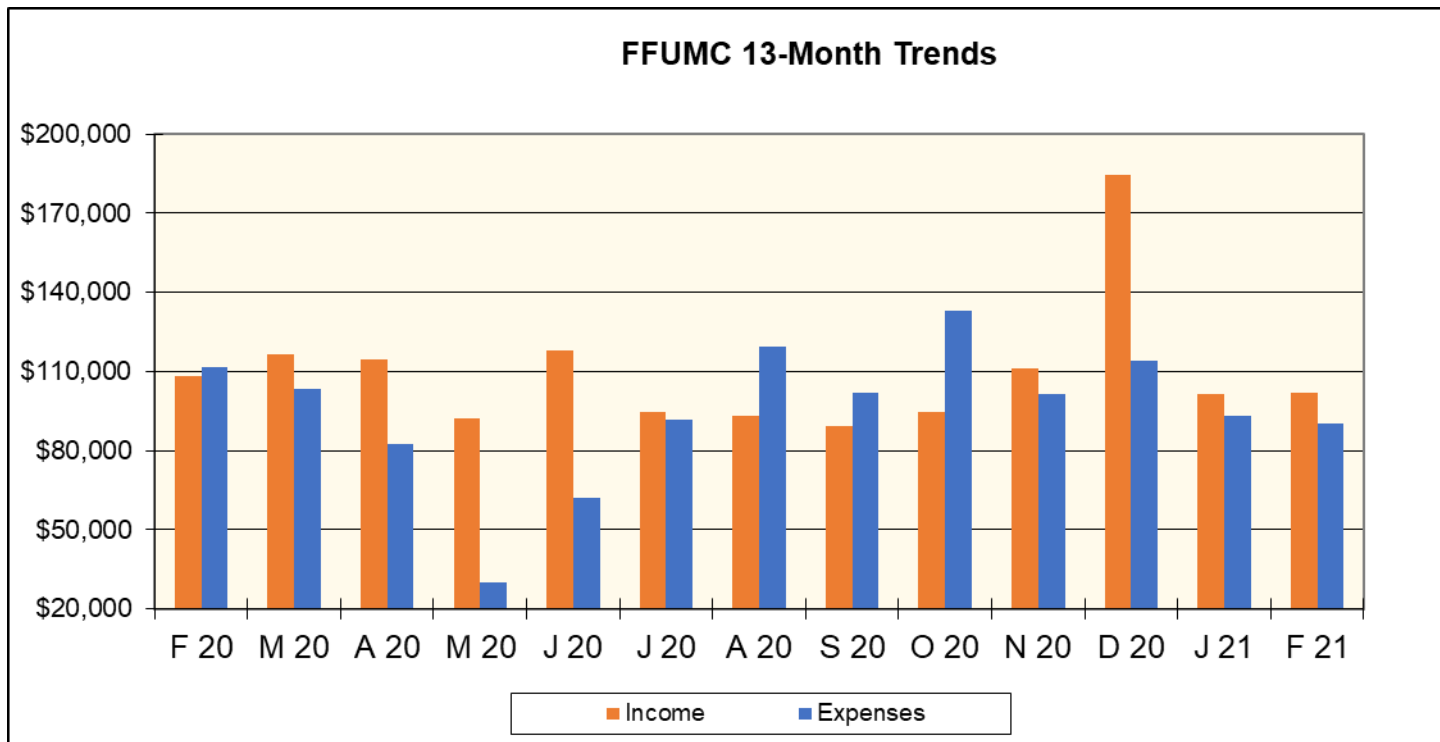
Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

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.

What's Happening Fiscally at FFUMC?



FFUMC is a Church that believes in the power of giving. This month Finance celebrates things we do!

We give of our time, our talents, our witness, our tithes to share the love of Jesus. We care about others and it shows! We send cards of encouragement, for connection, just to say I'm thinking about you, I'm praying for you, thank you, to let people know we care. We give food and supplies to Fayette Samaritans to help many people feed their families. We help ensure that children less fortunate have lunches when schools are not in session. We also help some of those same families with other needed items such as furniture, lamps, a mirror, whatever we can donate to help someone else. We give generously to Benevolence. We work together to Rise Against Hunger and feed thousands of people around the world. We provide days of service to our community non-profit organizations, help with needs of our Seniors, and work together to take care of our church. We deliver flowers, produce, and notes of love to brighten someone's day. We study the Bible. We build flood buckets to support those experiencing disasters, and we work together with other organizations to build homes, playparks, and provide help through our benevolence fund. We stay in touch.....we pray for each other.....we provide meals.....we rally together to ensure our youth, children, Seniors, adults, young adults, and staff know they are loved.

We share Jesus' love!