



March 5, 2021

## The Weekender

### Do and Don't

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

There are 613 commands in the Old Testament. There are 1,050 commands in the New Testament. That's a lot of rules and regulations. They include the "Dos" to the "Don'ts." I do not know all of them. I'm guessing you don't either. I'm also guessing you don't keep all of them. I certainly know I don't keep all of them either. Avoiding eating shellfish, avoiding wearing garments of mixed material, and stoning adulterers come to mind as things I do not do. How do we decide which rules to follow and which ones to not follow?

Is there a way to make it simpler to follow all of those commands? Is there some formula that we can hold up to see that which is important, necessary, outdated, informative, or holy?

Stop. That's not the question we should be asking. We shouldn't be reducing the complexities of scripture, of God's story into a list of what's wrong and what's right by our standards. God gave commands to God's people throughout history, including us. Simplifying might make us lose some of the beauty of the complexity, the intricacies, and the uniqueness of who God has created us to be as beloved children of God.

We are too complex as people to be reduced to one thing. Why would we take scripture and use it for one thing only? God did not give us the scriptural revelation so that we might reduce it, simplify it, or use it. Rather, God gives us revelation through scripture so that God might use us for the Kingdom of God. The Bible passages are words on a page. Those words on the page tell us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This Sunday we will look at ten commands of God's covenant people with an eye to the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.



### Third Sunday in Lent

**March 7, 2021**

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

In-Person Worship Offered at 11 a.m.

***Covenant Commands Exodus 20:1-17***

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS



### 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](https://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](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com).

Tip before donating: Anna Mayhew reminds us to drink LOTS of water!



Boys  
Pants/Shorts  
Shirts

### Giving in Action!

NEW REQUESTS:

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

ONGOING REQUESTS:

Queen bed (another one!),  
Diapers: newborn and small sizes

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](mailto: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.



### March ffumcKiDs Newsletter

March toward Easter in this latest issue of The Monthly Lifeline. Our ffumcKiDs get ideas and a kit for putting on their own Palooza this year! See that and more in the March edition. [Check it out here](#) or at [FayettevilleFirst.com](https://FayettevilleFirst.com).



### The Lenten Journey Continues

**Sermon Series: Signs of the Covenant** — Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin continues the series with *Covenant Commands* as we look at Exodus 20:1-17 this Sunday, March 7.

**Lenten Meditations** — Marie Lamb Circle is guiding us through the March 11 Lenten Meditation. They will offer an in-person gathering with speaker Rev. Allyson Lawrence in the sanctuary that also will be livestreamed, so come to the sanctuary at noon or watch remotely anytime. The online link is posted each week at [FayettevilleFirst.com](https://FayettevilleFirst.com) under **Lenten Meditations** or [click here](#).



## Save the date: VBS and MAD Camp 2021

**VBS 2021: June 28-July 2**

**MAD Camp 2021: July 12-16**

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



## Let's play ball

"Coach" Jack Gilson is looking for a few more softball players for the church's team. The Spring/Summer season begins soon. Games are usually played on Thursday evenings at McCurry Park in Fayetteville. If interested, contact "Coach" Gilson at 770-845-6037 or [jackgilson47@gmail.com](mailto:jackgilson47@gmail.com).



**SAVING  
GRACE**

## 20-Somethings Creating and Achieving Financial Goals

March 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25

How do we create intentional and healthy associations with money and possessions?

If you are in your 20s and want to start or improve your financial plan of action, you are invited to join Rev. Allyson Lawrence on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. for a hybrid (Zoom and in-person), 6-week program called **Saving Grace**.

**Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being** addresses the topics of saving, earning, giving, spending, debt, and advice for how to achieve a sustainable financial life. There are lots of resources to choose from including weekly videos, a financial workbook, a devotional book, and a virtual peer group to foster ideas and conversations. Join our meetings and pick one or all of these resources to help you reach your personal financial goals.

Email Allyson at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) or text her at 770-601-8135 to get your book. Zoom links will be provided soon.



## 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



## Cooped up?

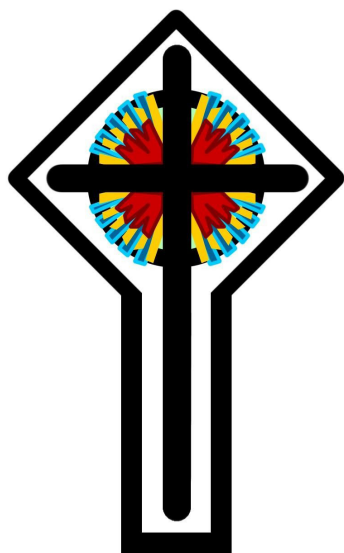
Are you feeling cooped up? Tired of Fayette County? Then what about a Southwest District mission trip to El Salvador August 2-9, 2021! More information will be available in the days to come.

If interested, please contact Maggie Clarke at 404-395-8161 or [mwclarke195@gmail.com](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com).



## High School Seniors: Apply for Ed Travis Scholarship NOW

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.



## March 3, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$213,894.09
Year to Date expenses	\$214,343.86
Difference	-\$449.77

### Benevolence

\$476 received this week.

Sixteen families assisted in 2021 with a total of \$5,873.76 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  
[FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)