

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## Different Points of View Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

We have a problem. It's not an American problem. It's not a political problem. It's not a church problem. It is a human problem. We have a problem seeing other people as children of God. Plain and simple.

For years as a species, our animalistic instinct kept us alive by seeing a threat and entering into a fight or flight mode of survival. We have moved beyond that with a wealth of safety measures. To be like Christ is to see other people not as a threat. To be like Christ is to not see people in categories or silos. To be like Christ is to live into Paul's ministry of reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5. He begins describing that ministry with these words, "From now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view."



Think of all the ways that we regard each other from a worldly point of view. A small sample size might include words like republican, democrat, progressive, traditionalist, conservative, liberal, single, married, divorced, in-towner, out-of-towner, retired, student, entrepreneur, curmudgeon, elitist, and the list goes on and on and on.

How much of our lives do we interact with others from a worldly perspective? How much of our lives do we follow the teachings of the world rather than the teachings of Christ? I fear that the answer is too much. To take Christ seriously means that we have to acknowledge the way in which Christ sees all of creation--drawing it unto himself.

Do you draw others to yourself? If not, do you take the time to ask for God to make that possible for you? I guess the question that we really have to ask ourselves is this: Do I really want to do the work to love my neighbor, to see them as God sees them? Do I really believe the love and forgiveness that Christ gave us on Easter? Do I really want to love others as I love myself?

My hope, my prayer, and my confidence is that we do want that. So let's do it together. Let us live and love in a way that does not regard people from a worldly point of view, but instead offers the love and peace of Christ in all that we think, say, and do.



## Living our faith: The Season of Easter

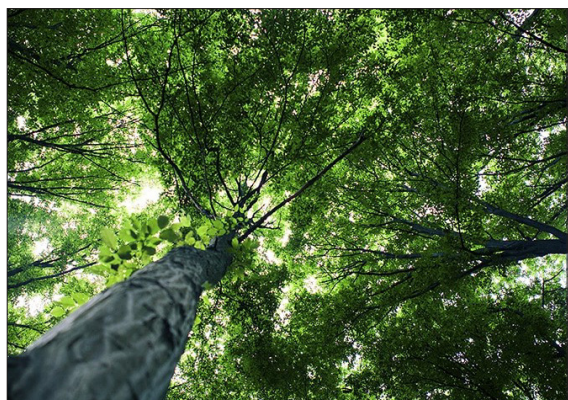
As we continue through the Season of Easter, we will explore the book of Acts in Sunday worship. What example do we see from the early church? In what ways are we transformed by the resurrected Christ?

April 18 11 a.m. Sanctuary & Livestream

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Becoming Like Christ: Repentance

Acts 3:12-19



## Called to Put Love into Action for Climate Justice

The United Methodist Women offers "Climate Justice: We Are Called to Put Love Into Action!" as an online ZOOM event on Saturday, May 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. [Click here for speaker information and a registration link \(deadline is April 23.\)](#)

## Want to help our earth right now here in Fayetteville?

Recycle glass and electronics and use a shredding service on Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon in the City Hall parking lot. Some restrictions apply. [Click here for details.](#)



## Knights of North Castle: VBS 2021

[Why register NOW at FayettevilleFirst.com?](#)

Great way to learn and have fun with friends this summer

Free before June 1 (\$10 after)

Availability limited this year - save your spot

# inspired . . .

**Even in the little things...**

*"Let all that you do be done in love."*

***1 Corinthians 16:14***

Living out faith in love ... sometimes even smallest of kindnesses make a big difference. It's so great to see how you respond in whatever way is needed ... both the big and the small.

We appreciate the reusable bags you have donated for supply distribution in Newnan. Virginia Pope sends a huge "thank you" to those who have dropped bags by the church office. More can be used, so drop off any gently used or new bags you have to share. They'll go to our neighbors. That's inspiring!

