

INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Resurrection People Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



My favorite gospel ending has always been the end of Mark's Gospel (the shorter version). The NRSV version ends with the women departing from the tomb because "terror and amazement had seized them." To me, that has always been one of the most honest reactions to this story. Terror and amazement. There would be something terrifying about going to visit a grave and not seeing the body. There would be something amazing about being prepared to anoint a person only to find that not only the grave is opened, but that the person is gone.

I think one of the most refreshingly honest things we can say about the Resurrection is that if you're not afraid, you don't understand.

I do not understand the Resurrection. But I believe in it. I believe in it everyday when the sun comes up. I believe in it when my kids forgive me when I lose my temper. I believe in it because I have made it this far in life surrounded by God's love.

What makes the Resurrection so hard to believe is our action. Because if the Resurrection is to be believed, it means that everything that Jesus did in his earthly ministry was true. He forgave those who betrayed him. He loved those who hurt him. He was patient with those that didn't understand him. He went to places where he wasn't supposed to go. He loved people who he wasn't supposed to love. He lived a life that causes terror and amazement in my life.

We are resurrection people. That not only means that we live in the power of the Resurrection, but we live into the invitation the Resurrection places on our lives. The invitation is this: to love others the way that Jesus loved us. Resurrection people, if you are feeling terror and amazement, know that maybe you are on the path to living out the Resurrection.



Easter Lily Pickup

Still need to pickup the Easter Lily you ordered in honor or memory of a loved one? If you didn't get yours this Sunday, you'll find it on the church office side porch through Thursday at 12 p.m. Just drop by and get yours.

Thank you for your donations. The sanctuary was beautiful, and proceeds benefit the Flower Ministry at FFUMC.





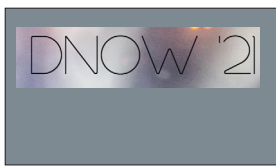
Helping our neighbors in Newnan

As the trained first response teams complete the early cleanup of recent tornado damage in Newnan, we are following their direction as we put together our second wave response. Contact **Maggie Clarke** or **Thomas Martin** to be on the FFUMC response team, ready to move in when they are ready for us. **What can we do now?** Contribute any extra two-handled sturdy carry bags for those affected by the storm's impact to use for donated supplies (not regular plastic bags; only strong, reusable bags needed). Drop them off in the church office as soon as possible.



New issue of The Monthly Lifeline is out

Our FFUMC families are staying connected with ZOOM KiDS, parent time, outdoor worship and more. See what's in store this month in **The Monthly Lifeline April Edition** from FFUMC Children and Family Ministry ... including signups for Vacation Bible School and MAD Camp.



Youth connection continues

Our youth are meeting on Sunday mornings, alternating between in home small groups and worship in The Foundry on Wednesdays, and participating in group events — all with guidelines to keep them safe. Be in prayer for them as they experience DNow April 17-18.

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Living as Resurrection People

Our church family celebrates the resurrection in service, learning, and fun. Do you have a photo to share? Send it to Joan Aycock right away at jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com,



- Easter(mini)Palooza exploded beyond even Fayette County. One member held a Palooza for the Newnan storm victims. Others spread love with parties in their neighborhoods.
- Our preschool and church families celebrated by making Resurrection Eggs and decorating the last piece in their beautiful Lenten Journey Box. These hands-on activities make an impact.
- Your flowers spectacularly adorned our Easter cross in the courtyard. Then you posted and celebrated on Facebook to bless others.

