



The Weekender

Always here

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Often times, I get caught up in the throes of Easter and preparation that I miss the impact of Good Friday. That spiritual hymn "Were You There?" never answers the question directly. "Were you there?" If you read the story of the trial, denial, and crucifixion, the most direct and honest and unimaginative answer to that question is no. We were not there. We weren't present at the Passion of Christ.

However, if we use our theological imaginations, we can certainly see ourselves there as friends and family weeping. Do we also acknowledge that we would have been caught up in the crowds screaming, "Crucify him"? Do we also see ourselves in the crowds shouting on the street as Jesus passes by? Do we also admit to our own egos which think that we know better? Do we take time to realize that our sins, not the sins of others, are the reason that Jesus is there?

I hope so. I also hope we realize that it is because of love that Jesus is there. In the darkness of this Good Friday, let us realize that it is love that led Christ to Jerusalem. It was love for the whole world that Jesus came.

"Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?" We were there. "Were you there when the sun refused to shine?" We were there. "Where you there when they laid him in the tomb?" We were there.

"Sometimes, it causes me to tremble." May we tremble in our wonder and amazement as we encounter Christ's love for us on this Good Friday so that we may rejoice on Easter. May we be there with Christ because Christ's presence is always here with us.



Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after
Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m., The Field at FFUMC
Sanctuary Services, 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.

Covenant People Mark 16:1-8

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Good Friday Service at 7 p.m. tonight

Walk these final steps of our Lenten journey to the cross tonight as the choir offers a service of music and scripture at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service will be in-person and live streamed.

[Follow this link to view the service online.](#)

Click here for [The Good Friday Order of Worship](#).



Celebrate Easter this Sunday

Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m. The Field at FFUMC

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. You may also need a flashlight before the sun rises. [Click here for an online bulletin of this service.](#)

Sanctuary Worship: 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.

Join in-person worship in the sanctuary (masks and social distance). Livestream and nursery offered at 11 a.m. service.

[Order of worship for 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m. services](#)

[2021 Easter Lily List](#)



Lenten Offering presentation this Sunday

Our Lenten offering goes to 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. Checks and [online donations](#) should include Lenten Offering in the memo line.



Let's decorate the Easter cross this Sunday.

You are invited to bring flowers to the courtyard before the service you attend.

Remember your cameras!



Thank you for your BLOOD

The American Red Cross collected 45 units at our blood drive on Sunday with only one deferral! There were 12 no-shows, but 8 walk-ins helped. Thanks to all the volunteers and donors!

Upcoming Blood Drives at FFUMC:

July 18

October 17



VBS: Knights of North Castle

June 28-July 2

[Registration opens Easter Sunday: Click here!](#)

Each day will be a different age group for in-person activities:

Monday—Rising PreK4 and Kindergarten

Tuesday—Rising 1st

Wednesday—Rising 2nd

Thursday—Rising 3rd and 4th

Friday—Rising 5th and 6th

9:00 a.m. arrival -12:15 p.m. pickup using drive thru.

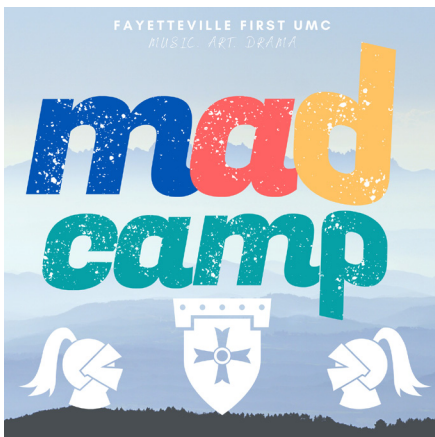
Each assembly time (each morning) will be live streamed.

All are invited to in-person VBS Celebration on Sunday, July 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Cost is FREE before June 1st.

Only 30 campers per age group so sign up early!

Each age group of campers (knights) will represent their “family house” and the Bible theme they bring to slowly reveal how they are all connected to God’s Family House together. Looking at Ephesians 6:10-17, the knights will learn to “armor up with God” and to put on a very different kind of armor (like “belt of truth” and “shield of faith”). Hope you can join in on the epic castle adventure as we learn to love God and others. Armor up!



M.A.D. Camp: MADieval Times

Music, Art, and Drama Camp July 12-16

[Registration opens Easter Sunday: Click here!](#)

Yes, that’s right, this year it’s a medieval theme we are calling “MADieval Times.” MAD Campers will learn, experience, and further their skills in music, art, and drama (acting) with specialized coaches in each area.

Cost is \$100 for the week.

Each day is 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Only 30 campers admitted so sign up early!



Bible Story Time for Kids

Live, in-person, and in the church, we have a time for kids on Sundays!

Starting Sunday, April 11 (week after Easter) at 10 a.m. in the gym. As some adult groups are starting to meet before the 11 a.m. service, now whole families with children can have a place to go—church! All sign-in, activities, and sign-out will be from the gym.

As we prepare each week, it will be very helpful if you would email Rev. Carson Thaxton, cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com, or call the church office at (770) 461-4313 by the Wednesday before Sunday to let us know your child(ren) are attending. Nursery available during the 10 a.m. hour for children 3 and under.



Outdoor Worship on April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Come out to The Field and enjoy the evening together. Bring your own chairs, picnic dinner if you want, and worship together outside at 6:30 p.m. Come out early for some activities and organized games for the kids to run around and play together at 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now!



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 in our area last week. After initial efforts by first-line responders clear the way, we will join in the effort where most needed. Our efforts will be in cooperation with our District Early Response Team coordinator.

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."



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

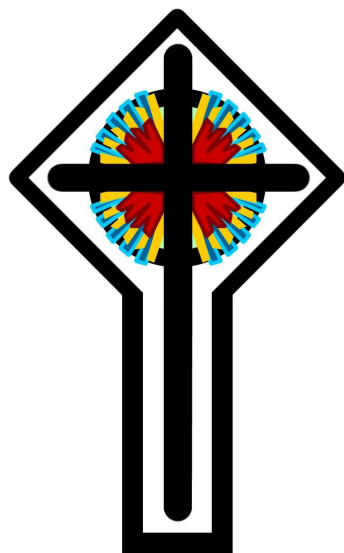
We appreciate your donations to our Summer Lunch families. If you have an item to donate, just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net or text the photo to 678-656-4117. Appliances, TVs, furniture, bikes, toys, home décor, kitchen items and more have been given in the past. Beds are always needed.



Thank you, FFUMC

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to each of you for your love and support, not only now but through the years. The calls, emails, cards, visits and gifts have been overwhelming and humbling. My time here at FFUMC has been a true blessing. You have always made me feel welcome and have accepted me as one of your own. I am taking with me into retirement many friendships and wonderful memories. The members of this church will always hold a special place in my heart. Know that you will be in my prayers and I hope that you will keep me in yours. With love and much gratitude.

— Joyce Mucha



March 31, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$319,148.82
Year to Date expenses	\$277,853.13
Difference	\$41,295.69

Benevolence

\$190.00 received this week.

28 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 11,209.73.

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 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

Closed Fridays

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-461-4313

FayettevilleFirst.com