



## The Weekender

### Question Everything

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Revolutionaries, skeptics, doubters, believers--all are told to question everything. It is something that allows room for critical thinking. It allows space for us to hear and receive information, but also know that not everything we read on the internet is true. **Question everything** is great advice when applied to receiving information and what we do with that information. But how often do you question everything about yourself and your motives? Do you question everything because you want to be right or because you want to be loving?



I know that I have done damage for the witness of Christ when I spend more time trying to be right. I know that in the past my pursuit of being right means that I was not spending the emotional energy on my family, relationships, and seeking understanding of what it means to be like Christ. When I spend more time trying to be right, I am ultimately trying to win. I am trying to “not lose.”

In Matthew 16:25 Jesus says, “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

If my quest for being right is erroneously about not losing, but Jesus tells us to lose our lives for his sake, then maybe the goal of day-to-day living is not to be right. Our priority as people of the cross is not to spend our time trying to be right. In being right, we run the risk of missing out on loving others.

1 John 4:19-20 tells us, “We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.”

Question everything. But first, always first, question yourself. Maybe begin with this question, “Is my desire to be right greater than my desire to be loving?”



**4th Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 18, 2021, 11 a.m.**

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

***To the Other Side***

***Mark 4:35-41***

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

# CURRENT NEWS



## Many Mini Missions for Youth

July 12 -16

[Registration deadline: June 25](#)

One mission or educational project each day in the local community

Ready to GO out and serve others? God invites you, yes YOU, to partner with God in God's kingdom work here on earth. Join us in our Many Mini Missions Week this July! You can come all days or as many as you can. We'll have worship together before heading out into the community to serve

and be in relationship with our neighbors. Then, we'll come back to debrief and discuss our experiences together. And who knows, maybe we'll even grab some ice cream one, two, or maybe all days afterwards!! Full details and tentative schedule in registration link. Mission projects will be announced once they're finalized.



## Join in Summer Lunch Program each Tuesday

Pack lunches each Tuesday beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**Cookies are needed each week:** *Please provide only store-bought, nut-free cookies in boxes or bulk (such as vanilla wafers). The lunch packers will individually package them for you to reduce risk of transferring germs unintentionally.*

To participate, contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at 678-361-1722.

*Caroline, Mitzi, and Laura Gary make Summer Lunch packing a family affair!*



## Summer Table Group meets Tuesday evenings 6 p.m. at Gremlin Growlers

Join for any of the remaining Summer Table Group gatherings at Gremlin Growlers. Together we will dig a little deeper in our faith journey and meet new friends. No need to register - just drop in when you can on June 22 and 29. Contact Rev. Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) with questions.



## Grief Share begins in August

[Register or get more information here](#)

If you have lost a loved one you may feel isolated and have many questions about things you have never experienced before. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Our GriefShare group is led by people who have

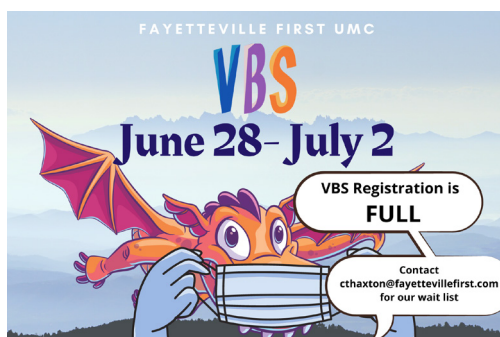
walked their own grief journey and understand the deep pain that accompanies loss. Please know, you don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Contact Carol or Bill Webb at [carolbass@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolbass@bellsouth.net) with questions. Cost for participant book is \$15.



## Love in Action

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator

In addition to packing lunches, 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.

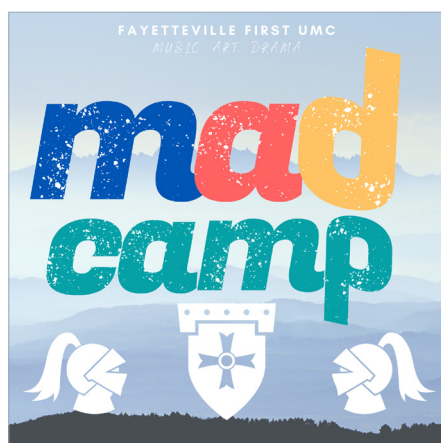


## VBS IS FULL June 28—July 2

We have reached capacity for students for VBS. If you would like to be placed on a VBS waiting list, please contact Rev. Carson Thaxton at [cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com).

**Volunteer a day or two or all week at VBS: [Click here for volunteer registration](#)**

Interested in volunteering? We would love for you to support this ministry for children and their families by serving at VBS. There are many ways to volunteer at VBS this year to fit your schedule, physical ability, and area of interest. Above all else, please pray for everyone involved in VBS this year as we learn to put on the armor of God and walk in the way of Jesus.



## M.A.D. Camp: MADieval Times Music, Art, and Drama Camp July 12—16 **Registration open now. [Click here!](#)**

July 12-16 is Music, Art, and Drama Camp! This specialty camp is designed for elementary school kids to learn, experience, and further their artistic skills in the areas of music, art, and drama (acting). This year will feature a medieval theme at camp. Castles, dragons, princesses, knights, minstrels, jokers, and more! With specialized coaches in each area campers will get to experience each one as well as focus in a particular area based on their interest. Cost of this camp is \$100 for the week. (Savings for multiple campers). **ONLY 9 SPACES LEFT, so register NOW.**



## Just press, “mash,” or hit \*

Did you know we have a new phone system at the church office? You'll get a REAL human, our fabulous Dian Nelson, most often when you call during office hours. AFTER HOURS, press \* (the star key) to hear the extension options in numerical order and leave a message with the person needed. Also, “if you know your party's extension, you may press it at any time”!



## Summer clothes and tee shirts for Fayette Samaritans

Our local community food bank appreciates ALL your donations. [Click here for a list of most needed items for June.](#) Donations may be dropped off at the church office.

**Most Needed:** Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Canned Tuna, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent

**Normal operations for Fayette Samaritans will resume July 6. The Clothes Closet** will reopen in July. Bed linens will no longer be accepted; however, summer clothes and tee shirts of all sizes for men, women and children are needed.



## “I was in prison ....”

Donation Opportunity: The Jail Ministry of our Church has received a request from Deputy John Govaerts, Chaplain, Fayette County Sheriff’s Office for donations of books to be used in the jail.

The books must be paperback/soft covers with no metal or staples in the binding. Subject matter can be varied. Religious and inspirational as well as all types of subject matter; novels, mysteries, biographies, history, fiction and nonfiction, sci-fi, series, how to guides, self-help, etc. The Chaplain will be sure they are appropriate before they are loaned out on the library carts.

You can drop the books off at the Fayette County Jail at the front desk, or contact either Jo Springer, 770 461-3043, [garedleg72@earthlink.net](mailto:garedleg72@earthlink.net) or Danny Beck 770 461-4665, [danmci43@gmail.com](mailto:danmci43@gmail.com).

The Jail Ministry has not been able to meet for over a year due to Covid restrictions, however, we are planning for it to reconvene soon. Here’s how you can be prepared to serve:

The Jail Ministry can always use volunteers, men and women. The application process is easy and there is a training meeting to attend. The next training class will be held on July 8 at our church. Your application must be submitted before attending the class. (Contact Jo or Danny about applying.)

As a volunteer you might give an hour once a week to visit and minister to the inmates. You do not need to be a Bible scholar or clergy to make a difference in the life of someone. Sometimes they need someone to listen and encourage them and to show that someone cares and will be praying for them.

You may be thinking, “Maybe God can use me despite the fact that I am ill suited for the work.” Sometimes the fact that there is nothing about you that makes you the right person to do something is exactly what God is looking for.

Matthew 25: 36 *“...I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

## IN BRIEF



### Next FFUMC Blood Drive — July 18, 2021

A severe blood shortage (likely to continue all summer) has prompted the American Red Cross to offer a giving incentive. For all drives running July 7-31 donors will get a \$10 Amazon gift card by email a few weeks after the drive! You give ... they give ... We all win!



**Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event — August 22: 1 - 3 p.m.**  
Save the date! Details coming soon.

# inspired ...

## Spreading smiles for miles across Fayette County

How do you combine the efforts of volunteers with donations to get 265 lunches packed and delivered each week? Just ask someone in the Summer Lunch program! Sandwiches, chis, carrots, peaches and cookies are sorted, packed and delivered to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County while school is out for the summer. Coordination with other churches including Prince of Peace Lutheran and Inman UMC keep us busy! Your donations spread smiles for miles! To participate, contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at 678-361-1722, and she'll let you know what is needed.

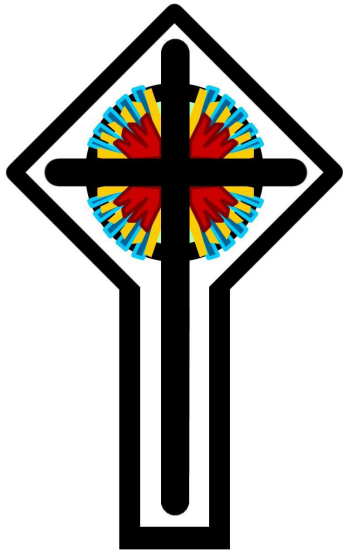


*Coordinator Virginia Pope (above right) keeps the parts moving smoothly to get lunches to families each week. Thank you, Virginia!*



*Dear Friends,*

*Your expressions of sympathy have overwhelmed us with love and support during the last days and passing of our beloved son David. He was truly God's miracle to have lived so long with such a serious illness. We thank all of you who prayed for him during those years. You'll never know how fortunate we feel to be part of this wonderful church family. Our love to each of you. — Eleanor and Ralph McDuffie*



## June 15, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 569,838.12
Year to Date expenses	\$ 527,691.89
Difference	\$ 42,146.23

### Benevolence

Received this week \$380.00

45 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$17,154.28

### 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.

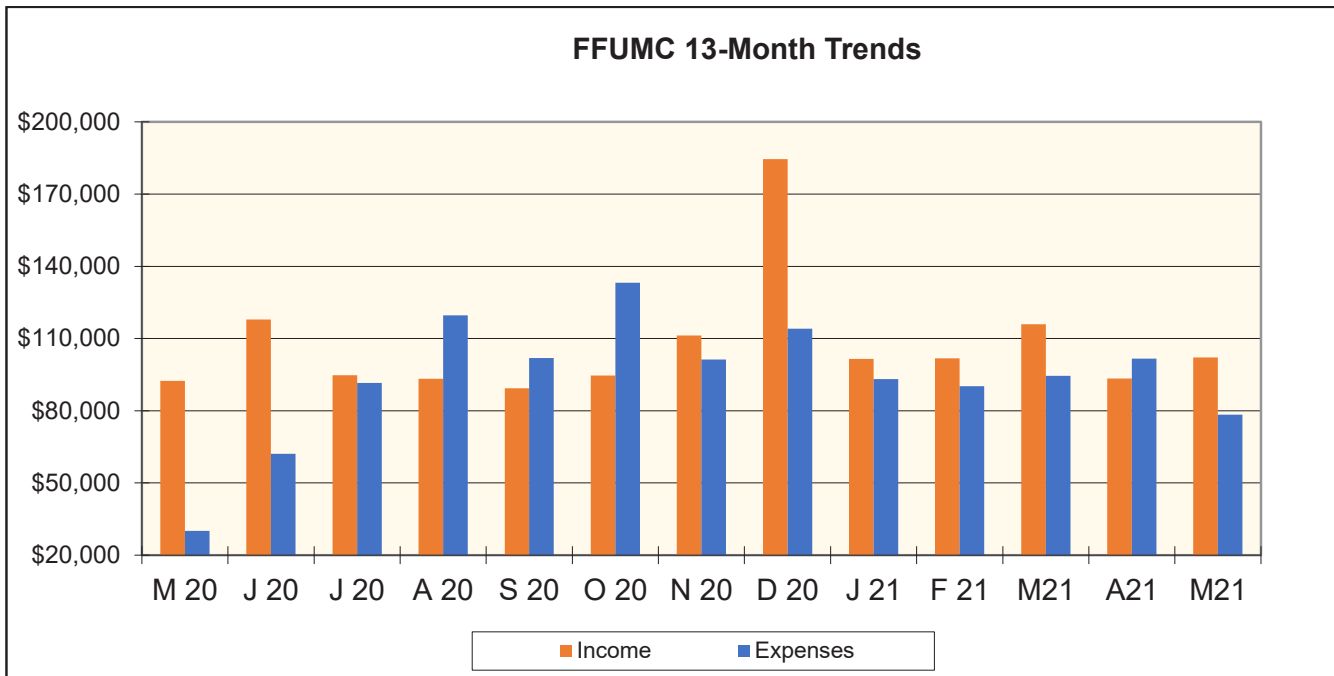
### Church Office Hours:

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

## What's Happening Fiscally at FFUMC?



Did you know there are many ways to give to Fayetteville First United Methodist Church?

- Cash and checks can be given to the Church during Church services. These gifts are collected by members of the Finance committee and deposited in a safety deposit box for processing on the next business day.
- Checks can be mailed or taken to the Church Office (175 E. Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214).
- On-line payments using a credit card, debit card, or electronic fund transfer (EFT) can be made using Realm. Access Realm at <https://onrealm.org> and go to "Giving." If you need a Realm sign-in or have questions, simply contact the Church Office at 770-461-4313 and someone will assist you. With a Realm sign-in, you can see your pledge for 2020, review gifts already made, manage future payments, or schedule new gifts.

Some people prefer the intentional act of giving during a Church service. It is a time and act that can be directed toward God. Others prefer the convenience and reliability associated with scheduled gifts. Chose the method that works best for you.

Prayer, love and encouragement are accepted anywhere, anytime!

The FFUMC Finance Committee