



July 16, 2021

## The Weekender

### Getting away

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One thing I have noticed from last summer to this is the question, "Are you going anywhere this summer?" has shifted to "Where are you going this summer?" There is an importance for many people in getting away, in taking time off, in breaking from the routine of life.



I once heard a retired Bishop say that when he was a pastor, he asked his congregation if they got a chance to get away that week. He knew that they weren't in any position to take vacations on a weekly basis. However, he did understand the need to get away. He would even encourage his congregants to simply close their eyes for about thirty seconds, just to take a break.

In Mark's Gospel, chapter six, Jesus encourages his disciples to take some time to get away. They were invited to get away from the crowds, from the demands, from the people. It is hard to live into that command to take time away, even if it is brief, because too often we think we are more important than we really are. The most important thing in our lives is being needed. The most important thing in our lives is being loved by God.

The reality is that not everyone has the luxury of beach vacations or mountain homes. But we all have the gift of being loved by God who cares enough for us that we are invited to get away for a moment and spend time in God's presence. That means spending time in prayer. That means spending time reading scripture. That means spending time in service. That means spending time in worship. It means spending time with other believers.

I hope that you have been able to get away physically to visit loved ones. I pray that you have been able to get away to experience rest and renewal. I pray that you will take every opportunity to "get away," even if it's just for a few moments, to know that you are loved by God. May we all find rest in knowing that we are loved just as we are.



### 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 2021, 11 a.m.

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

*Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*

*Finding Peace*

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS



### Blood Drive this Sunday, July 18, 2021 Donate and get a \$10 Amazon Gift Card

Help relieve the severe blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC on July 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve a specific donation time and help plan for workers, please schedule at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com). **Masks are not required for vaccinated participants.**

The shortage 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 after the drive. You give ... they give ... We all win!



### Help grill for SafeHouse Outreach July 29

Are you ready to serve those experiencing homelessness on Thursday, July 29, at SafeHouse Outreach? We are looking for help grilling chicken, and preparing and serving a meal for the homeless in downtown Atlanta. Contact leader Randy Riddell at [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-6924 for more information.

*Randy Riddell was last year's grill master. Mike DeLisle could use some help on the grill this year.*



### Only a few weeks left in Summer Lunch Program

Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

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

### No more cookies needed.

Thanks for all your donations. We have plenty for our remaining weeks of packing.

*Meal packers get it done each week for the kids in our county.*



### Love in Action

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Electric Stove

**THANK YOU:** Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator - all recently donated!

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.



## GriefShare 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.



## Summer clothes and tee shirts for Fayette Samaritans

Our local community food bank appreciates ALL your donations. [Click here for ongoing needs.](#) Donations may be dropped at the church office.

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

**Normal operations for Fayette Samaritans have resumed. The Clothes Closet** is now open. Summer clothes and tee shirts of all sizes for men, women and children are needed.

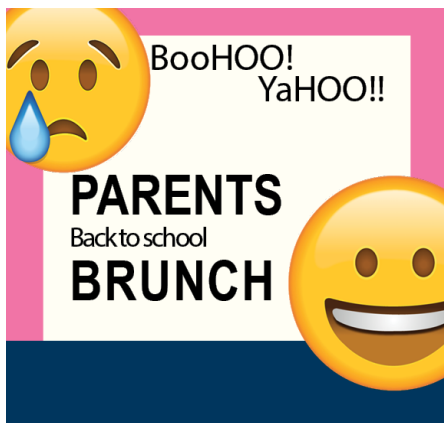


## Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event — August 22: 1 - 3 p.m.

Prepare highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event. Masks are encouraged at this year's event but are not required for vaccinated participants.

[Sign up online for the event](#) or contact the church office for assistance. Our packing event is fully funded to prepare 30,000 meals (cost \$10,000). Thank you for your donations.

A pre-event lunch will be offered. Look for details soon.



## BooHOO! YaHOO! August 16 at 9 a.m.

How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 16, from 9 to 10 a.m. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) for more information.

# inspired ...

## Kids land in MADieval Times at M.A.D. Camp

This has been an incredible week of music, art, and drama with elementary age campers. With the help of youth volunteers and specialized adult leaders in each area we have had a blast learning about the arts as an expression of our faith. Just as God is the ultimate Creator who continues to create, we, as bearers of God's image, are made to create (and continue creating) as well. We can use our God-given ability to create and do many wonderful things, tell many stories, and solve many problems. Creativity and imagination and wonder are all aspects that are God-given. Sometimes, however, it is easy to lose our sense of awe, wonder, and creativity. Pouring ourselves into music, art, or drama can help unlock that embedded creativity and relationship with God. Faith and creativity are beautifully interwoven throughout the week of M.A.D. Camp.

*"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well."  
— Psalm 139:14*

We are loved for who we are and not just what we can do.  
Through that uniqueness we can help spread God's love  
through the world all the more.



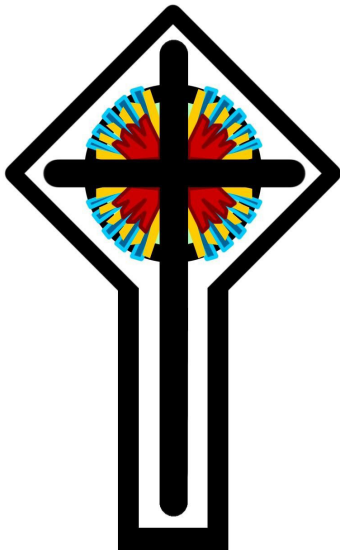
*"The human body has many parts,  
but the many parts make up one  
whole body. So it is with the body of  
Christ." — 1 Corinthians 12:12*

Each camper, and each person for  
that matter, is inherently gifted by  
God with a uniqueness and care  
that comes from the great Creator.



Our camp theme this year was MADieval Times, a fun medieval theme filled with knights, castles, princesses, kings, and all for the glory of the One True King who created and loves us all.

— Rev. Carson Thaxton



## July 14, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 673,603.05
Year to Date expenses	\$ 609,063.72
Difference	\$ 64,539.33

### Benevolence

Received this week \$476.00

50 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$19,412.86

### 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

[FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)