



The Weekender

In faith, hope, and love

Rev. Carson Thaxton

I have been involved with VBS many times here at FFUMC. You would think by now I would “have it down” and “know all I need to know,” but the truth is I learn something new about God and God’s kingdom each VBS. This year I have learned about the household of faith. We have five VBS “Houses” that have been represented throughout the week. We also have learned about five armors of God from Ephesians 6: Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Justice, Shoes of Peace, Shield of Faith, and Helmet of Salvation. We talked about the difference between putting “on” and God working “in.” We don’t physically wear the armor of God; we let the armor of God work in us and through us. We all have our households and we come to know God as family. We are also a bigger household of faith as a congregation, and we come to know and love God as an even bigger family together. Then there’s the even bigger Church of Christ which stretches across the globe and across time. The Church represents all the followers of Jesus from anywhere and anytime. This is one, big household of faith! When we celebrate, sing, make crafts, do science projects, dance, play games, experience Bible stories, eat snacks, and generously give in mission to Bloom, we are acting as individual households of faith (Families), bigger household of faith (FFUMC), and even the biggest household of faith (Christ’s Church all over the world). This is what living in faith and living out our faith is all about. We live it out in small and big ways at the same time. Each time we spread a little more love to one another the kingdom of God grows all the more.

Thank you for showing me something new each time I serve in VBS. You have represented your household, your church, and, if I may say, Christ well through your actions. Keep on loving one another the way Jesus loves us.

And finally, July 4 will be our last official Sunday at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church. As my family and I move to Cokes Chapel UMC, we go in faith, hope, and love that you all have shown us. Thank you for living out the gospel of Jesus Christ through your words, actions, and lives, and thank you for loving me and my family. FFUMC, we love you too.

In the name of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

In faith, hope, and love,
Rev. Carson Thaxton



An update from Thomas

Being resurrection people means being able to know that we are not complete. There is always room to grow. So as I share with you some changes that we are anticipating, please know that these are designed with the idea of growth in mind.

With the appointment of Rev. Carson Thaxton to Coke's Chapel UMC, Rev. Allyson Lawrence will be taking over children and family ministries. For the remainder of the summer, we will continue to offer Bible Story Time for KiDS in the gym with plans for Children's Sunday School to break out into age groups in the fall. Children's Discipleship—and I choose the word discipleship very intentionally—will begin to take place on Sunday evenings in the fall with children's music led by Justin Maxey, a lesson time focusing on spiritual disciplines, and a time for snack and fellowship.



I choose that word ***discipleship*** intentionally because we want to be disciples of Jesus.

Also, some of the favorite events that we looked forward to will be returning, like Titus II and our Wednesday evening dinners. We will be eating together again. And yes, we will be celebrating communion again with real bread and grape juice.

To help facilitate some of our nurture ministries like Titus II, Seasoned Singers, Wednesday night fellowship, and some visitation, we will be adding Rev. Joe Watson to our staff. Rev. Watson is a retired elder in the United Methodist Church who has served churches faithfully. In the coming weeks, you will be introduced to him and he plans to begin with us in a part-time capacity in August.

We anticipate resuming two services on Sunday, September 12. Remember, we are leaving room to grow. Children's Moments will be added back into worship in July and Wonders of Worship during the worship service will resume in September.

Our Wednesday night fellowship will resume with once a month programming beginning September 8 with a focus on fellowship. If there is one thing that our church family has consistently said is that they miss being together. The goal for us as a congregation is to continue to create those moments to be together in fellowship, but not lose sight of the call of discipleship, which is following Jesus. It is good to gather together. It is better to follow Christ. It is best if we can try to be like Christ. That is the goal.

As we make our way through these changes, we are leaving room to grow because we know we need God's presence in our lives. We know that Jesus is not done with us yet. We see this in the small details of the gospel stories. But we have to look for them. We have to be ready for them. We need to allow ourselves to be interrupted by Christ.

As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am grateful for this congregation and the grace that you show to one another. May that grace continue to grow in our lives, our homes, and our church home here at Fayetteville First UMC.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021, 11 a.m.

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

In Dependence Days

Psalm 48

Rev. Carson Thaxton

CURRENT NEWS



Reserve your spot at the next FFUMC Blood Drive — July 18, 2021

Help relieve the severe blood shortage (likely to continue all summer) 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 and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email 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 a few weeks after the drive! You give ... they give ... We all win!

Holiday schedule adjustments

No children/youth gatherings before 11 a.m. this Sunday

We will NOT offer Bible Story Time for Kids at 10:00 this Sunday as we invite all to come to worship at 11:00. We will feature a song from VBS (as part of sermon). Youth as well do not have Sunday school this week either.

The church office will be closed Monday, July 5, for the holiday.



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 with questions. Cost for participant book is \$15.



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.

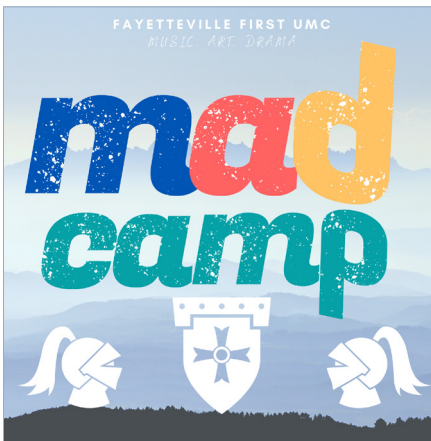
Faye Livingston gets lunches ready for one of the routes headed to spread love and satisfy hungry tummies!



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 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.



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).



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”!



Training for Prison Ministry: July 8

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 or Danny Beck 770 461-4665, danmci43@gmail.com.

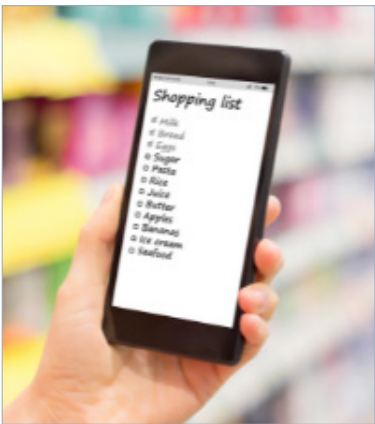
The Jail Ministry has not been able to meet for over a year due to Covid restrictions, however, we are planning for it to reconvene soon. Here's how you can be prepared to serve:

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."*



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 July.](#) 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.

IN BRIEF



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



Church Office closed: Monday, July 5

The church office will be closed Monday, July 5, for the holiday.



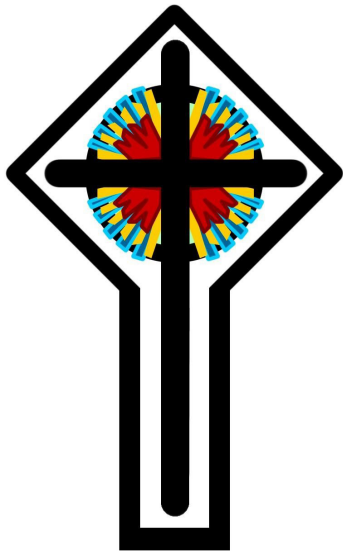
Thanks for the Father's Day Recognitions

Mary Martha Hope and Tabitha circles of UMW are grateful for your support in recognizing those who have shared their fatherly attributes with us. Your contributions enabled us to share the \$2,124 raised with Square Foot Ministries as our local mission and UMW Global around the world. God's love covers the world and so can our ministries. Together Mary Martha Hope and Tabitha circle worked on honoring and memorializing fathers for the bulletin on Father's Day Sunday. On behalf of the UMW Tabitha and Mary Martha Hope circle we wanted to say thank you so very much! — *Tami Kemberling & Nikki Neal*

Tabitha Circle members Nikki Neal (and her children, Bella, Malachi, and Scarlett) and Kathryn Thaxton helped with the Father's Day Fundraiser. [See those who were recognized: Father's Day Recognition 2021.](#)



See VBS Review at end of The Weekender!



June 30, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 611,744.88
Year to Date expenses	\$ 547,920.43
Difference	\$ 63,824.45

Benevolence

Received this week \$60.00
48 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$18,378.49

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

inspired ...

Knights of North Castle — VBS recap!

A big thank you to the nearly 100 VBSers and volunteers who ventured at North Castle this week. We had a great time of fun and learning!



