



July 30, 2021

## The Weekender

### Life Lessons

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

In his famous book *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulgham walks the reader through the simple life lesson and how they expand throughout a person's lifetime. Simple things emerge from the text like kindness in actions. Then there are things of wonder and mystery like growing seeds in a Styrofoam cup. There are important things to take care of oneself like an emphasis on nap time. The premise is a simple one—we have learned what to do and the rules are very simple.

It is very easy to stray from the known things that ground us. After all, these things that we were supposed to have learned in Kindergarten (like kindness and patience, which are also fruits of the Spirit) can sometimes be replaced with things like gossip and using knowledge as power or influence over others as we grow into adults. Thankfully, we do not stop learning. And even more joyously, scriptures give us something after which we can model our lives.

As we begin a new school year, I hope you will join us this Sunday as we take time to fellowship together, worship together, and celebrate communion together. We will also have a time of Blessing of Backpacks for students, teachers, administrators, and all those whose lives are wrapped up in the life and season of school.

Throughout the months of August and September, our worship and sermons will be focused on the life lessons we find in the books of Ephesians and James. I encourage you to read these on your own over the next few months and join us in worship as you are able. As Fayette County schools resume, may we all remember what is foundational for us as people of faith: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:16-17)."*



**10th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 1, 2021, 11 a.m.**

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

***Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35***

***Life Lessons: Get along***

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS



### Christmas Marketplace 2021: Save the Date!

November 6: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The fundraiser event will be a church-wide effort this year, similar to previous Great Day of Service, Rise Against Hunger and the Fall Festival events. It is our church's largest annual fundraiser, averaging over \$12,000 for local charities over the last 5 events.

The Christmas Marketplace offers:

- A tremendous outreach opportunity as we open our doors to the community, who come by the hundreds onto our campus for a glimpse of what FFUMC has to offer.
- Volunteers from our church family enjoy fellowship and get to know each other better as we work together to setup and cleanup, donate baked goods and household items, and welcome shoppers.
- Much-needed support for local small business owners, who depend on events of this type and have struggled over the past 16 months.

More information is coming soon. We hope you'll put the event on your calendar and are able to volunteer to help make the 2021 Christmas Marketplace the best one yet!



### Sign Ups Now Active for August 22 Event

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 encouraged for all but are not required for vaccinated participants.

[Sign up online for the packing 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. Packing is Sunday, August 22, from 1-3 p.m. in the gym.

Want to be part of a pre-event lunch? We will enjoy a prebagged light lunch: Turkey Sub/Chips/Cookie. Contact the church office, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) or 770-461-4313, to reserve lunches for you, your packing group, and your family by August 15. We'll move from the Fellowship Hall lunch at noon to the packing event at 1 p.m.



### Blessing of Backpacks (briefcases, Chromebooks+) Sunday, August 1 at 11 a.m.

Let's celebrate the new school year and surround it in prayer. All students, teachers, bus drivers, and educational staff – bring your backpacks, briefcases, Chromebooks, or keys to worship this Sunday, August 1, at 11:00 a.m. for a special back to school blessing and celebration.



## **Acolyte Training August 15 at 4 p.m.**

Acolytes are crucial worship leaders that help shape and order our worship time. Come find out more about this ministry and how you can be involved. All returning acolytes and any one interested in knowing more (rising third graders through seniors) are invited to come to our Acolyte orientation and training event. Contact Rev. Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) with any questions.



## **Children's Ministries Host "Meet The Shepherd Night" August 29 at 4 p.m.**

Parents and children, ages 4 through 5th grade, come and see what's happening in Children's Ministries at our Meet the Shepherd Night on August 29 at 4 pm. This is a great chance for your child to get to know their leaders, see our new rotation of activities and get oriented to the wonderful things we have in store as we continue to grow together. Our in-person ministry nights, called Life With God, begin Sunday, September 12. Be sure to join us on Sunday, August 29 to find out more!



## **Adult Discipleship Opportunities For the Fall**

Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Be sure to watch out for more information on these upcoming opportunities:

Disciple I  
The Wesley Challenge  
Bad Girls of The Bible  
New Table Groups

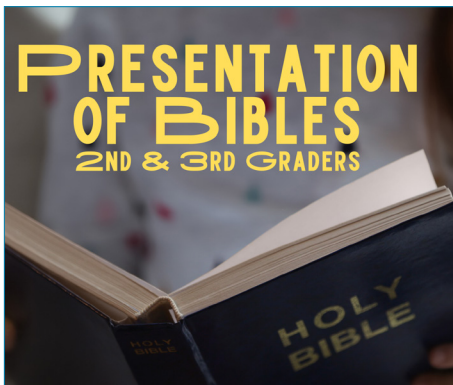


## **GriefShare begins in August** [Register or get more information here](#)

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

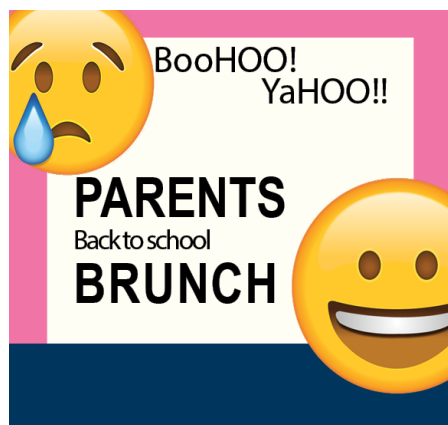
walked their own grief journey and understand the deep pain that accompanies loss. Please know, you don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Contact Carol or Bill Webb at [carolbass@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolbass@bellsouth.net) with questions. Cost for participant book is \$15.





## Bible Presentation Sunday: August 8

Studying Scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God. FFUMC presents personal Bibles to young students as a statement of their growing faith development and as recognition of their becoming old enough to study Scripture on their own. On August 8 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service we celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our second and third grade students as a gift from this congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God. Plan to attend this special service as we celebrate our Christian journeys together.



## 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.



## New Needs List 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 in August:** Canned Tuna, Beef Stew, Canned Fruit, Dried Beans, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Laundry Detergent, Toothbrushes

**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.

*Thanks, Nancy White, for taking our donations this week to Fayette Samaritans. We appreciate your service.*



## Youth Head to Braves Game Soon

Tickets are still available for a Braves game on Sunday, August 8, for our youth (\$15 each). To secure a ticket, contact Youth Director Hannah Vickery at [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com). The game starts at 1:20 p.m., and we will meet in The Foundry at 11 a.m. (after Breakfast at The Foundry) before departure.

# inspired ...

## Your gift makes a difference

Your gift of blood saves lives — literally. Check out these results from the July 18 blood drive held in our gym:

47 units collected

5 deferrals (low iron)

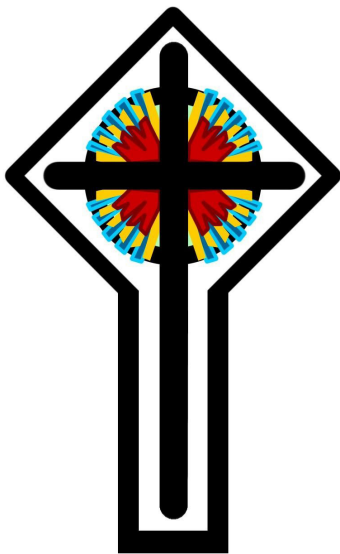
The American Red Cross expresses deep appreciation to Fayetteville First for our consistent blood drives (four times each year).

The FFUMC Blood Drive Team also sends out a huge thanks to all the donors and the faithful volunteers who help make this possible.

Next Drive: October 17 - Save the date!



*Some of the FFUMC Blood Drive Team at the July 18 event.*



## July 27, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 710,639.27
Year to Date expenses	\$ 625,178.99
Difference	\$ 85,460.28

### Benevolence

Received this week \$696.21

52 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$20,262.86.

### 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)