



August 13, 2021

## The Weekender

### Being Right vs. Being Wise

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Ephesians 5:15-17

Usually, I spend a lot of my time reading stories in the Gospels. There, I find not what Jesus is thinking (that is unobtainable for Jesus is God, and I am not). What I do find is what the writers of the Gospels found important to remember about what Jesus said and how Jesus lived. Last week in worship, we read from the book of Ephesians that we are to be imitators of Christ. We are not to think like Jesus: we are to be like Jesus (remember that part about us not being God?)

Lately, in preparation for sermons and for my own personal devotion, I have been reading and studying the Epistles of the New Testament. There we find people trying to get through conflicts in their communities of faith and doing so the best they know how. They do this not by what they think that Christ thought, but by how they remembered Christ lived.

For us as Christians in today's world, there is the temptation to think that if we know what God thinks it will somehow make us better or earn our way into salvation. The Gospels and the Epistles and I would say nearly all of scripture points us to the fact that we don't have to be right about what Christ thinks as long as we surrender our lives to living more like him.

So what is wisdom? If you are wise, does that mean you are always right? If you are right all the time, does that mean that you are wise? I doubt it. At least, I don't think so. I think wisdom comes from a desire to be like Christ. Being like Christ will always be right for Christians, but it may not seem like wisdom for the world.

It seems to me that the human condition is prone to wander (as it says in "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"). It seems that our desire as flawed humans is to be right. It seems to me that there are people who would rather be right about something than imitators of Christ. It is ok to be right. It is better to be wise. It is best to try to do the impossible—to be like Christ. May we seek to understand the will of the Lord. I invite you to pray this prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr.

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

—Reinhold Niebuhr



## 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021, 11 a.m.

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

*Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58*

*Life Lessons: Be Careful*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

**MASKS  
REQUESTED**



### **Request: Please wear a mask in worship**

In an effort to provide as safe an environment as we can for all participants and to follow current CDC guidelines, we are requesting that masks be worn in worship. See you Sunday!

## CURRENT NEWS



*The Mayhews made last year's event a family thing.*

### **Rise Against Hunger Event NEXT SUNDAY: August 22**

**Fill a packing table with family, neighbors, friends ... all ages can help!**

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.

**Lunch reservations are due by August 15.** We'll move from the Fellowship Hall lunch at noon to the packing event at 1 p.m.

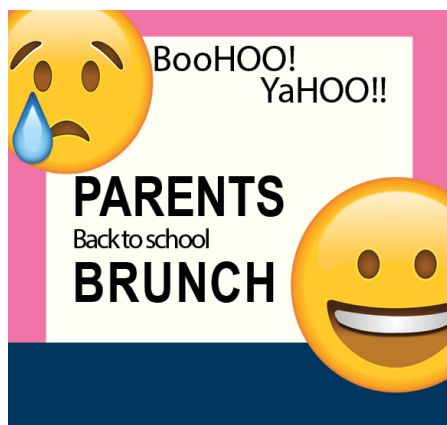
[See a VIDEO of last year's event and catch the spirit! CLICK HERE](#)



### **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.



## 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.



## GriefShare begins August 16

[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.



## September 13: Deadline for college addresses

UMW's Bethany Circle is sending Back to School care packages to the college students of our church. To ensure your student receives a package, please share your student's mailing address and cell number (if you would like your student to receive a text that a package has been sent) by Monday, September 13. The FFUMC church family is invited to participate in this project! Anyone wishing to take part in or support this effort, please contact Karen Neuner.

Contact details: Karen Neuner, [neunernotes@gmail.com](mailto:neunernotes@gmail.com), 404-538-4528



## 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 p.m. This is a great chance for your child to get to know 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!





## September 8th Kickoff — Let's Get Together!

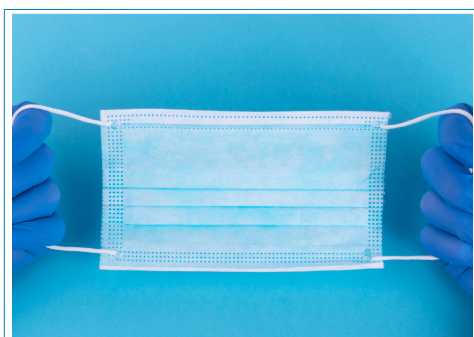
Join our church family for a night of food, fellowship, and celebration in Parking Lot C (the back lot near The Field). The Georgia Taco Truck will have food available for purchase (prices \$3 and up). The church will provide chips, dessert, and drinks (soda and water). This is a great time for fellowship, to invite a friend or a neighbor, and visit with each other as the body of Christ. Melissa Seagars Way will be closed to traffic at 5:30 p.m. to provide safety in crossing the street. **Those who desire to park very close are invited to arrive before 5:30 p.m. and park in Parking Lot C.** Tables and chairs will be set up in the parking lot as

well as chances for families to picnic and play on the field. Stop by anytime between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and community with our church family.



## Coffee and Conversation Beginning September 12

Discipleship and fellowship are essential to growth as a Christian. Several groups meet on Sunday mornings between 9:45-10:45 a.m., and we encourage you to join one of them. However, if you are not in a small group on Sunday morning, you are invited to coffee and conversation with Rev. Thomas Martin. There is not formal curriculum. Maybe you are new to the church and have questions about Methodism. Maybe you are new to the area and have questions about Fayetteville First. Maybe you want to stump the pastor (it's really not that hard to do). Whatever the case may be, you're invited to meet in the Family Life Center Gym for an informal time of gathering together beginning September 12. Coffee will be provided.



**FRONTLINE NEWS**  
[Watch the Video](#)

## Cutting through the Fog: Information on COVID-19

If you missed the conversation with Dr. John Robert Walker and the Bluff Park and Fayetteville First UMC, you may watch a recording of it here. In the chat we discuss the current status of COVID-19 in our country and areas, the efficacy of the vaccine, and a Christian perspective of how to respond during this pandemic. Simply access the video through the church's YouTube channel at Fayetteville First UMC - Fayetteville, GA or [click here](#).



## Ready to Sing? Rehearsals begin September 8

Share your voice and get ready for worship services and special music presentations with the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals resume after the summer break on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. starting September 8. Questions about the schedule, safety guidelines and expectations? Contact Justin Maxey, Music Director and organist, at [jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Adult discipleship opportunities begin soon

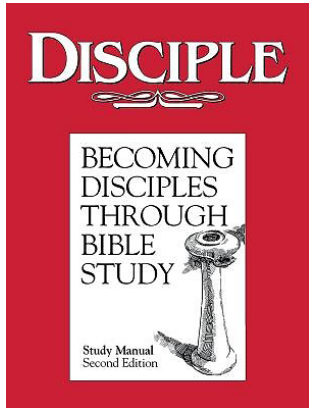
Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Sign up now or contact the office for more information.

Disciple I - Sundays, 4 - 6 p.m., September 12 - May 2022

The Wesley Challenge - Saturdays, 10 - 11 a.m., September 11 - October 23

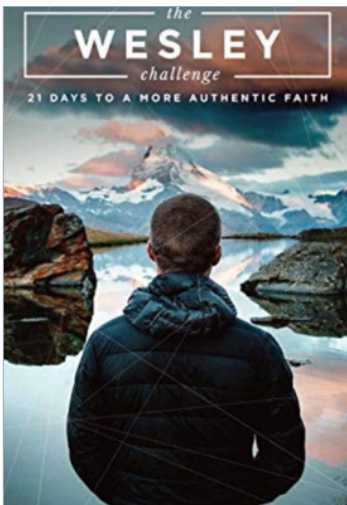
Bad Girls of The Bible - Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., September 8 - November 10

New Table Groups - Days and times vary. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.



## Disciple Bible Study: Sundays, 4 to 6 p.m.

Disciple Bible Study is a 34-week study in which participants read almost 90% of the Bible. It is focused on small group and individual study, personal discipline, and fellowship. Participants are encouraged to miss no more than two sessions. This study, led by Thomas Martin, begins Sunday, September 12, from 4-6 p.m. Children's Ministries offers programming for children 4 and up and childcare is available by request. The materials needed are a Bible and a study manual available for \$40 through the church office or registration here. If you would like to know more about Disciple Bible study or have questions, please reach out to Thomas at [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com).

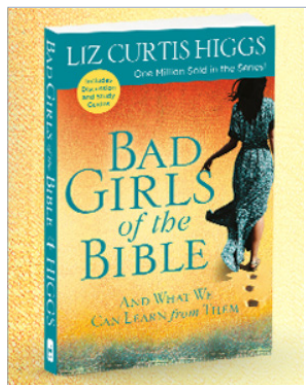


## Going beyond the ordinary: The Wesley Challenge Saturdays: September 11 - October 23 10-11 a.m. C-270

*Do you want to open your mind, your heart and your hands to develop a lifestyle of practicing the disciplines of our Christian faith?*

Join Len Blalock as she leads a fall study, The Wesley Challenge, by Chris Folmsbee, for those who seek to go beyond words in developing spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead toward a thriving Christian life. As part of the study, the group will decide on a local service project where they can share the love of Jesus with others. Get your book from Cokesbury or your favorite bookseller.

**Register by September 1 online.** Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, or Len Blalock, [lenblalock@bellsouth.net](mailto:lenblalock@bellsouth.net), for more information.



## Bad Girls of the Bible Wednesdays: September 8 - November 10 12:10 - 12:50 p.m.

Grab a lunch and join Rev. Allyson Lawrence and others on your lunch hour from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. each Wednesday as we study ten unforgettable women of the Bible and what they can teach us today.

You can order your own book by Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs from Cokesbury or your favorite book seller. [Let us know you are coming by registering here.](#) Read Chapter One: All About Eve for the first meeting on September 8 in room A-40.



## Table Groups: Be real, stay honest, go deep

Connect with others in small groups and grow deeper in faith through Table Groups at FFUMC. [Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) to find out more and get connected to a group just right for you.





## Parents & Kids: Check out August Monthly Lifeline

Stay up-to-date with FFUMC Children's Ministries with the [latest edition of Monthly Lifeline](#).

Hello from Rev. Allyson Lawrence

New program schedule

Activity: Time capsule family fun

More!



## August 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.*



## 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:

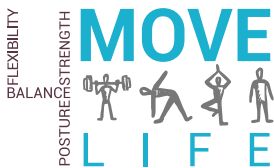
- A tremendous outreach opportunity as we open our doors to the community, who come by the hundreds onto our campus for a glimpse of what FFUMC has to offer.
- Volunteers from our church family enjoy fellowship and get to know each other better as we work together to setup and cleanup, donate baked goods 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!



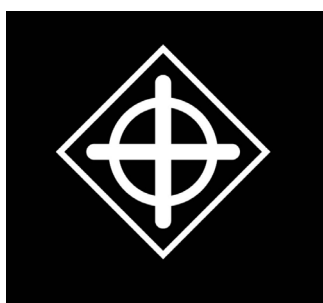
## What's happening at FFUMC -- LOTS!

On Tuesday, July 27, the church council met to hear updates about staffing, the fall, worship, and the future of Fayetteville First UMC. A portion of that meeting was recorded. [You are invited to watch the video here.](#)



## Get moving with Move 4 Life

Move 4 Life is on the move again to help us be our best. A monthly calendar is given to all participants for planning purposes. Instructor Frieda Everitt looks forward to working with returning participants and welcomes new faces. Please call Frieda with any questions about the class at 404-219-0635.



## Want to help feed our youth?

In just a few weeks, FFUMC Youth will be starting back for the school year. We're very excited for this upcoming year and are extremely grateful for your continued support and prayers for our youth.

How can you help? Every Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m., FFUMC Youth will gather for our Youth Worship night. We want to provide dinner for our youth, as many of them come directly from sports practice or other extracurricular activities after school. Would you be interested in signing up for one Wednesday night this fall to provide dinner for our youth?

If you would like to sign up to feed our youth for a Youth Worship (minus our monthly churchwide fellowship nights), you can email me at [hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com) and we'll talk details from there.



## Upcoming service and events for youth

**Mini Missions Project with Squarefoot Ministries: August 28 - [Here's the Realm link for all the details.](#)**

**Youth Kick Off in Parking Lot C: September 1, 6-8 p.m.** - Georgia Taco Truck will be there, and we will have games, prizes, and worship. Youth who bring a new friend will be entered to win a \$25 giftcard each for them and their friend. Our youth worship band is also back. Join in!

## Thank you, Church Family

The family of Lurlene Perry would like to thank our church family for their ongoing prayers, outreach, cards, love, and support during her illness and recent passing. Please know how touched we were by this outpouring of love.

— Mike, Tricia, and Todd Perry, Linda and Jim Rudolph



# inspired ...

## A Lamp and a Light

We celebrate with these students who received a Bible as a gift from this congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God.

**Our promise to these young disciples:**  
*The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your classes, and in our worship.*



2nd & 3rd Grade Bible Recipients: (l-r) Luke Stevens, Mila Van Splunter, Dani Scaffa, Joey Travis, Patrick Mayhew, John Poston, Jake McDaniel. Conner Hansen and Alexander Thompson are in the side panel. Not pictured: Grace Fernandes, Brinleigh-Monet Kennedy, Shelby Smith.

## August 11, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 759,250.77
Year to Date expenses	\$ 705,769.67
Difference	\$ 53,481.10

### Benevolence

Received this week \$326.00

54 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$21,362.86.

### 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)

