



August 20, 2021

## The Weekender

### A personal public prayer for today (or any day for that matter)

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Dear God,

I do not know enough about foreign policy. I do not know enough about viruses, antibodies, and variants. I don't know enough about what it means to serve our country through military service. I do not know what it means to survive an earthquake or live in a country where my economic status and safety can be undone by natural disasters. God there is a lot I do not know in this day and age.

But I foolishly and humbly identify as a Christian. As such, I hopefully and boldly believe you have given us the Word made Flesh. The Word made Flesh which calls us to love our neighbor. And when we get the courage to admit in our own ignorance that we do not know who our neighbor is, we ask you, like the lawyer, "Who is my neighbor?", and you refuse to answer. Instead, the Word gives us a story of one who showed mercy and a follow up command to "go and do likewise."

God of wisdom, I don't understand a lot but I understand this: if I am to be more like you then I am to show mercy. God, I am not praying that you make me an expert on foreign policy or military service so that I can make up my mind about what is happening in Afghanistan. God, I am not praying that you make me an expert on viruses and variants so I can make up my mind about vaccines and masks. God, I am not praying that you make me an expert in tectonic plates and meteorology so I can understand what is happening in Haiti. God save me from speaking as an expert in that which I am not.

God, I do pray that you would make me an expert in your mercy, not only in that I receive it, but that I might be so bold as to give it away out of the abundance of what you give to me. I pray that you would turn my search for understanding of mercy into something that calls me to action, more than a feeling. Help me to be an expert in that which I have received: love, grace, and mercy. This I pray not in the name of wisdom or the quest for knowledge, but in the name of the Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 22, 2021, 11 a.m.**

*Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after*

*Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69*

*Life Lessons: Be Prepared*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



## 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.*

### Putting feet on our prayers to end hunger

#### Rise Against Hunger Event This 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.

Just now getting your weekend plans firmed up? You can still come help pack on Sunday at 1 p.m. Just show up and sign in at the event. ALL are welcome and needed, so bring a friend along too!

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



### Wear your name tag!

An extremely helpful thing we can do as we begin our new fall season together is to wear our name tags. [If you have misplaced yours or don't yet have one, click here](#) to order it. The deadline for ordering name tags is September 1 and they should be available by September 12. [Email Rev. Allyson Lawrence at \[alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com\]\(mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com\)](#) with any questions. Cost is \$7.

**NEW**  
BEGINNINGS  
September 12

### September 12: new beginnings

We continue to grow into new opportunities in 2021. Check out the new Sunday morning worship schedule and discipleship opportunities beginning Sunday, September 12.

#### Sunday Mornings:

**Worship in Chapel** — 8:45 a.m.

Coffee & Conversation — 9:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.

Youth Breakfast at The Foundry — 9:45 a.m.

Adult Small Groups/Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.

**Worship in Sanctuary** — 11:00 a.m.

#### Sunday Afternoons:

Children's LIFE with God — 4 - 6 p.m.

Youth Encounter — 4 - 6 p.m.

Disciple I Bible Study — 4 - 6 p.m.

## LOVE IN ACTION



### Love in Action

**CURRENT NEEDS:** lawn mower, iron, chest of drawers , curtains for 3 windows.

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.



### 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.



### 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!





## UMW Meets in September

September 14, 2021, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

All are invited to the next United Methodist Women Unit Meeting at 11 a.m. on September 14. The presentation is on "Mothers of the Church" and the mission project is collecting food items for Fayette Samaritans. Questions? Contact Connie Hyder at 770-310-6115.



## 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 no 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.



## 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

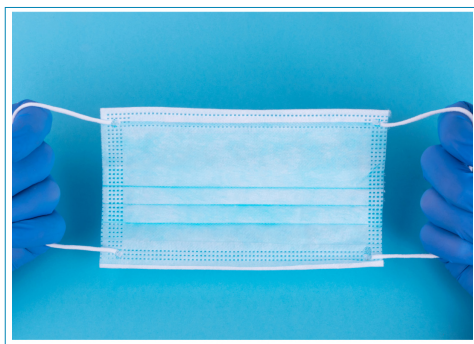
**Normal operations for Fayette Samaritans have resumed. The Clothes Closet** is now open. Summer clothes and tee shirts of all sizes for men, women and children are needed.

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



## Titus II Returns on September 14, Noon, Family Life Center

It's time for Titus II again. Come enjoy fried chicken (\$8.00) and a musical program by Danny Beck, Bill Webb, and friends. Also meet Rev. Joe Watson, Minister of Nurture, at his first Titus II event. Reservations should be made by calling Martha Turner (770-461-2802) by noon on Thursday, September 9. We look forward to gathering together again.



## 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](#).



## Adult discipleship opportunities begin soon

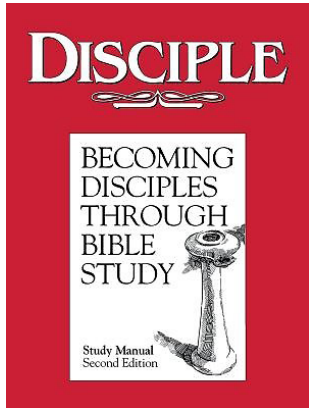
Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Sign up now or contact the office for more information.

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).

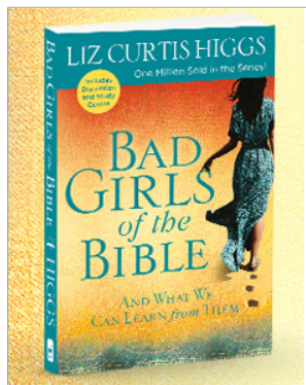


## Going beyond the ordinary: The Wesley Challenge Saturdays: September 11 - October 23 10-11 a.m. C-270

*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.

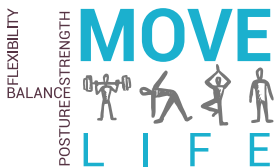
You can order your own book by Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs from Cokesbury or your favorite book seller. [Let us know you are coming by registering here.](#) Read Chapter One: All About Eve for the first meeting on September 8 in room A-40.



## 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.





## 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 Everritt looks forward to working with returning participants and welcomes new faces. Please call Frieda with any questions about the class at 404-219-0635.



## FFUMC Youth are in action

In just a few days, 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.

## Wednesday dinners

Every Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m., FFUMC Youth will gather for our Youth Worship night. Sign up by yourself or with a group of people to provide dinner for Youth Worship one Wednesday. The Youth Director will then contact you with details the week before your sign up date. Examples of food include homemade or restaurant - spaghetti, salad, tacos, lasagna, pizza, subs, etc.

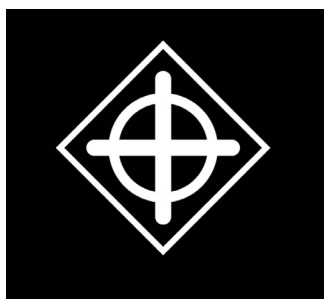
## Mini Missions Project with Squarefoot Ministries: August 28

[Here's the Realm link for all the details.](#)

## Youth Kick Off, September 1, 6-8 pm in Parking Lot C

Let's kick off a new year of FFUMC Youth with games, prizes, food, and worship! Youth who bring a new friend will be entered to win a \$25 Visa giftcard for both themselves and their friend.

[Contact Youth Director Hannah Vickery, hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com.](mailto:hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com)



## Thank you, Church Family

The family of Ann Walton would like to thank you for your many prayers and cards at the time of the sudden death of Ann's daughter, Connie Cates. Thank you for your love, support and kindness.

— Ann Walton



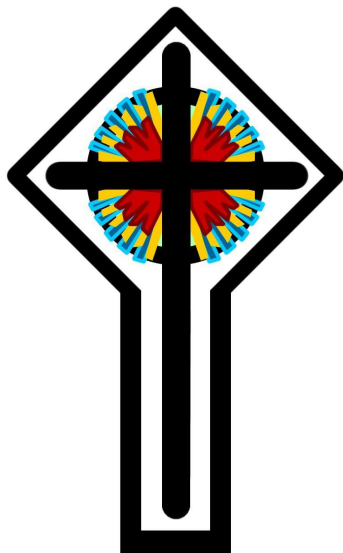
# inspired ...

## A GREAT place to start: FFUMC Preschool

The halls are buzzing with activity, learning and fun as the 2021-2022 preschool year kicked off this week. These smiles are always inspiring!



In the classroom, on the playground, in specials classes ... everywhere ... our youngest learners are ready for the year!



## August 18, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 780,802.72
Year to Date expenses	\$ 707,222.08
Difference	\$ 73,580.64

### Benevolence

Received this week \$219.00

56 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 22,298.86

### 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)

