



## The Weekender

### Hopeful Decision Making

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

*Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 4:31-5:2*

There are some days I don't know what I'm doing. I'll be honest. I go about life, making what I think are the best decisions for myself, for my family, for this church, and hopefully, for the Kingdom of God which has no end. This year has amplified that necessity for that word "hopefully." John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, offered three simple rules for living that have been summarized in recent years as 1) Do Good 2) Do No Harm 3) Stay in Love with God. For people of faith, these three things should weigh heavily on us as we make decisions, even when we don't know what we are doing or who is the best person to listen to.

While I don't know the best options moving forward, I cling to those rules of John Wesley in decision making. As CDC guidelines have strongly recommended mask wearing in public settings, so shall we in the coming weeks in church until the time when it is safe to take them off. Wearing masks in worship allows us to gather intergenerationally. The church is one of those places where different generations are together in the same place for a greater purpose. My kids, and others', are not old enough to receive the vaccine. It is important to keep everyone safe, but this allows us the chance to gather together.

I realize this puts us at a crossroads. Our goal is to be of one mind in Christ Jesus. Perhaps the words of Ephesians would do well to guide us in our own attitudes, actions, and hearts in the days ahead. We will be following the CDC recommendation that even fully vaccinated adults and those who are unvaccinated should wear masks in public gathering spaces. Whatever you may or may not feel about that, I pray that you will hear the words from Ephesians as a directive not in what to believe, but in how to be more like Christ. That, after all, is in part what it means to be a Christian.



**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 8, 2021, 11 a.m.**

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

***Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51***

***Life Lessons: Put That Away***

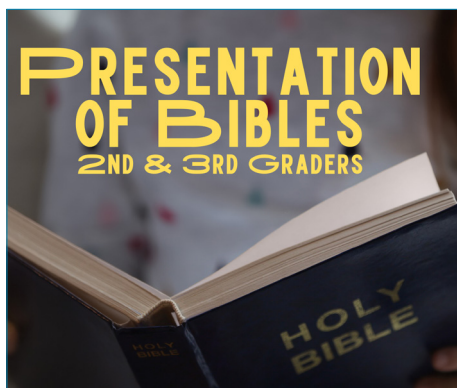
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS



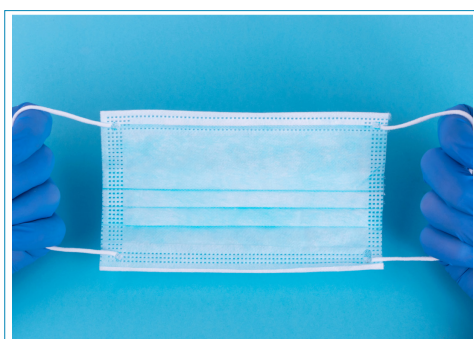
### **Request: Please wear a mask in worship**

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!



### **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.



FRONTLINE NEWS  
AUGUST 11

### **Cutting through the Fog: Information on COVID-19 from the frontlines with Dr. John Robert Walker**

Join us via zoom no Wednesday, **August 11** at 8 p.m. with Dr. John Robert Walker to hear updates on the spread and state of COVID-19 from a doctor on the frontline of the pandemic. This will be an opportunity to cut through some of the misinformation and ask questions about the current situation of COVID-19.

[Click here for the link.](#)

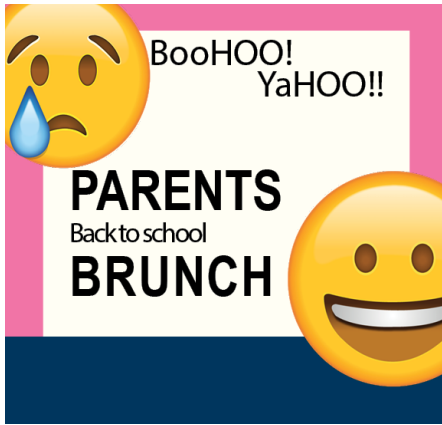
Meeting ID: 827 9325 7865

Passcode: 650004



### **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.**

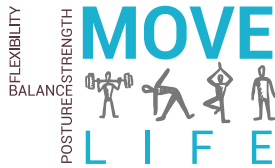
How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in the Fellowship Hall on 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](mailto:carolbass@bellsouth.net) with questions. Cost for participant book is \$15.



### **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.



### **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!



## Adult discipleship opportunities begin soon

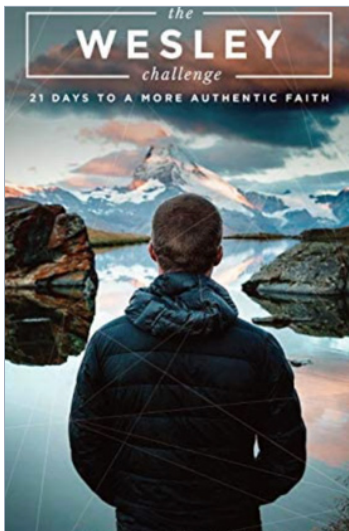
Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Sign up now or contact the office for more information.

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.



## 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](#).

# inspired ...

## Serving at SafeHouse

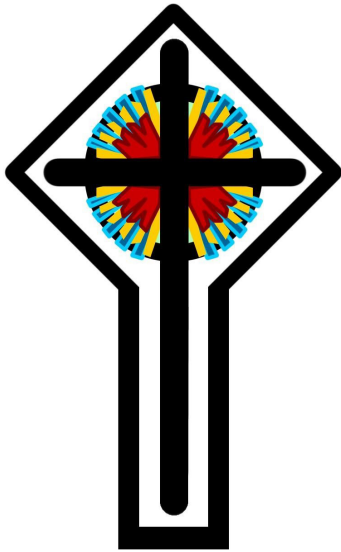
We had a great time serving at SafeHouse Outreach last week. It was an interesting evening for first-timers Sara and Ron Reams. When we arrived another church was plating up dinner! So...we plated up 160 meals and we served everyone two meals. In addition, a van-full of youth from a UMC in North Carolina helped with all aspects of service.

We served BBQ chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, homemade bread and peach cobbler. Thanks to grillmasters Mike DeLisle and Steve Nelson, driver Wayne Harris and all who prepared food and served.

Next SafeHouse Dates: September 30 & December 30



*Pitching in to serve at SafeHouse Outreach*



## August 4, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 736,657.77
Year to Date expenses	\$ 689,107.20
Difference	\$ 47,550.57

### Benevolence

Received this week \$953.00

53 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$20,762.86.

### 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

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