



September 10, 2021

The Weekender

Meaningful Adjacency

Dr. Thomas Martin

Back in May of 2019, I got the opportunity to visit the 9/11 memorial in New York City. While there, I learned a new term—meaningful adjacency. The names at that space are not put on the memorial randomly, or even alphabetically, but next to other people that had connections with that person who also died as a result of the terrorist attacks that day. You have brothers who served as police or firemen in different brigades or divisions placed next to each other. You have friends and relatives and roommates and co-workers represented side-by-side. All were placed there with intention to remind those of us who visit about our interconnectedness.



It is hard these days to have a conversation with anyone about anything without someone thinking it is a political statement or judgment upon a way of thinking. In fact, the more I invite people into meaningful conversation, the more and more I find that we probably disagree. But that's not a bad thing. In fact, it encourages us to find meaning together in shared space—with meaningful adjacency.

In 2019, our son asked what happened on September 11, 2001, to make it a holiday (on the school lunch menu where he chooses whether to buy or take his lunch, it is called Patriot Day and that prompted the question). I fumbled through an answer about evil and fear and the resilience of people. I remembered that as Christians we are not to live in fear but in love. I tried to tell as honestly as I could to a then eight-year old, about the terror and fear I felt that day. In that moment of trying to find words, I remember meaningful adjacency. I was able to speak with certainty about the things in life that matter, the things that keep us together, that unite us, and that hold us even in the midst of terror and fear.

Lives were lost on that day. Families were forever changed. The world view that many of us held was changed in a matter of minutes. Yet we were drawn together. And as our country and our world pieced our stories together, as we struggled to see the light in the midst of darkness, as we emerged from the rubble of tragedy, we found meaningful adjacency in those closest to us in our darkest moments.

My friends, let us be of one mind in Christ Jesus. Let us live lives filled with meaningful adjacency grounded in the love of Jesus Christ. May we live in a way that our adjacency to God and to others, brings us a deeper meaning of this life and of the life to come.

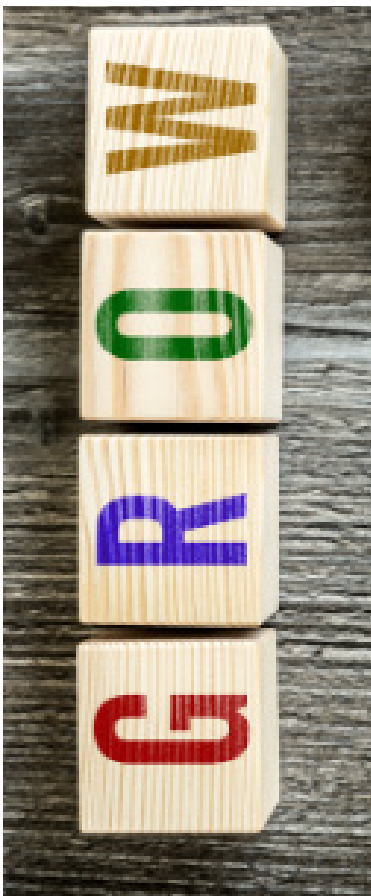


16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021, 8:45 a.m., 11 a.m.
Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
Life Lessons: If you can't say something nice...
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

New Beginnings Start NOW

We continue to grow into new opportunities in 2021. See details throughout the rest of this issue and contact the church office for more information at 770-461-4313.



Sunday Mornings Beginning September 12

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 Beginning September 12

Children's LIFE with God — 4 - 6 p.m.

Youth Encounter — 4 - 6 p.m.

Disciple I Bible Study — 4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesdays Each month beginning September 14

Titus II resumes - monthly meal and program for those 55+

Wednesdays

Dinner: 5:30- 6:30 p.m. Once a month: Next Dinner is October 13

Weekly Youth 8th Period: after school

Weekly Youth Worship: 6 p.m.

Throughout the week: Adult Discipleship, Study, and Table Groups

Disciple I Bible Study, Sundays 4 to 6 p.m.

Bad Girls of the Bible, Wednesdays, 12 to 1 p.m.

The Wesley Challenge, Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Table Groups — various times



September 13: Deadline for college addresses

UMW's Bethany Circle is sending Back to School care packages not only to undergraduate college students **but to graduate college students** of our church as well. 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, 404-538-4528



Update your church photo

Have you joined FFUMC recently? Have you been here but want to update your photo in our online database and directory? You can upload your own photo into our REALM database any time or send your photo to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, and she'll take care of it.

Don't have a photo you want to use? Come to the Fellowship Hall (A-40 kitchen end) on Sunday morning October 3 or October 24 between 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Photographer Wayne Harris will be glad to take your photo. There is no charge. You'll have the option to purchase individual prints at a low cost if desired.



Piedmont Fayette Support

Locally, our hospitals are crowded and in need of support. We have partnered with Piedmont Fayette in the past to supply food and other snacks to the hospital. Recently, we have been contacted to offer meals to those working. The cafeteria staff has been cut back and they are limiting visitors. The Finance Committee has approved a special offering to be collected to provide meals to hospital workers. If you would like to give, you may designate your gift to Hospital Support. We will take the collected donations and purchase meals for the workers as we are able. [You can give online](#) or in person.



Gather round the Table: New Sunday group forming

Table Groups bring us deeper in connection with each other, scripture and our personal spiritual experience. Ready to participate? Randy Riddell is leading a new Table Group meeting Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room C-200. Following a scripture guide with intentional questions, you'll dig deeper into how your faith actually touches your reality. For more information on this Sunday group which starts September 12, contact Randy, randyhr8@gmail.com, (770) 365-6824. For more Table Group options meeting throughout the week, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence,



Confirmation Class begins September 15

All sixth and seventh graders and any youth who have not been baptized or confirmed are invited to attend an orientation and information session on Wednesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in room B-345. The confirmation process is an opportunity for our young people to explore what it means to become a professing member of the United Methodist Church by expressing their faith in Jesus Christ. If a student chooses to participate, they will learn more about God, the Bible, faith, the history of the UMC and the story of Christ in their everyday lives. We have some great plans including weekly classes on Wednesday evenings, a retreat in January, and other special events that all lead toward Confirmation Sunday, May 1, 2022. Please contact Rev. Lawrence (alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) with any questions or to RSVP for our first session on September 15.

2020 Confirmation Class at Epworth by the Sea on retreat



Fall Discipleship Opportunities

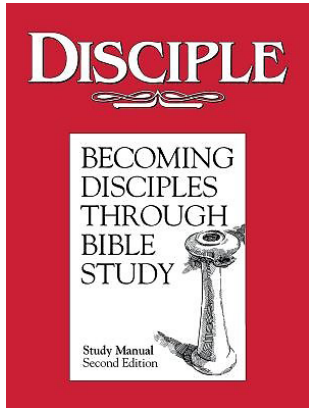
Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Sign up now or contact the office for more information.

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.

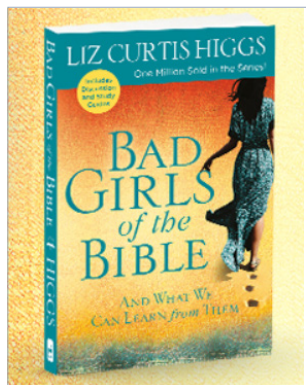


Going beyond the ordinary: The Wesley Challenge Saturdays: September 11 - October 23 10-11 a.m. C-270

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 online.](#) Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, or Len Blalock, 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.



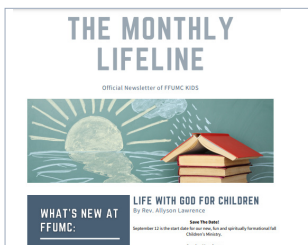
Coffee and Conversation Beginning September 12

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.



UMCOR Giving

UMCOR (which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. If you would like to give to [recovery efforts in America from Hurricane Ida](#), for [relief in Haiti from the earthquake](#), or for assistance to [those in need from the Afghanistan crisis](#), you are invited to do so through giving at www.umcmission.org. Or you may [give through the church](#) and designate your gift appropriately in the memo section online or by check.



What's happening in FFUMC KiDS?

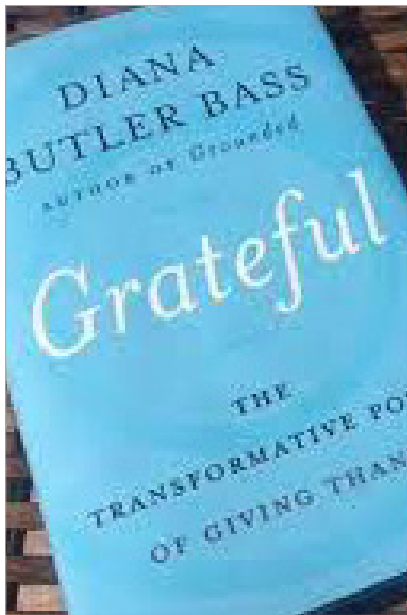
Read the [September issue of The Monthly Lifeline](#) and find out what's going on with FFUMC KiDS. Sunday morning and afternoon offerings, a new Parents' Night Out just for preschool parents, mission opportunities ... and more. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with any questions.



New door codes

Our access door codes are being "cleaned up" as we prepare for all the new fall activities. If you discover a door code that no longer works, please contact the church office. The general door code will change on the first day of each month.

If you need the code for the month, please contact Dian Nelson, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Study Class begins new series

The Study Class will begin their next study, “Grateful - The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks” by Diana Butler Bass. Zoom class begins Sunday, September 26 at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Tim Aycock, timaycock@gmail.com.

Diana Butler Bass invites readers to understand new dimensions of American spirituality in *Grateful*. Although most of us know that gratitude is good — and good for us — there is a gap between our desire to be grateful and our ability to behave gratefully. The implications of the gap are bigger than we realize, affecting both our personal and public lives. In *Grateful*, Bass weaves together social science research, spiritual wisdom, and contemporary issues as she calls for a richer understanding and practice of gratitude. What emerges are surprising insights about the power of thankful living to change how we treat one another, and how we might transform our world.



Honor others with flowers and spread some joy

Birthdays, anniversaries or memorials can be made special with flowers. Have you considered celebrating a loved one by donating worship flowers? After the flowers enhance the service, you can take them or donate to the flower ministry to be made into arrangements for our church family and others. Contact Dian Nelson, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, to schedule a date to donate flowers. To participate in the flower ministry and help arrange fresh flowers for delivery to our connected church family, contact Marilyn Harris, elegmimi52@gmail.com, 770-313-4646. A free flower arranging class will be offered soon as well.



UMW Meets September 14: Remember Fayette Samaritans

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 ([see needs list here](#)). Questions? Contact Connie Hyder at 770-310-6115.



Thank you, 2019 Watering Team

As I was leaving church Sunday, I couldn't help but notice the beautiful flowers and send up thoughts of gratitude for the watering team which kept the newly planted landscaping alive during the drought of 2019. Without their tireless effort, dragging those heavy water hoses all around the building in the early morning and late evening hours, we would not have this welcoming flower garden. Thanks, again, to the faithful watering team of 2019. Your love and care lives on!
— Carol Webb (and your FFUMC Church Family)

2019 Watering Team: Bob Dunn, Ruth Ogletree, Lamar McEachern, Phyllis Williamson, Lea Agnew, Bobby & Kathe Anderson, John & Donna Kimmons, Carl, Meredith, James & David Martin, Mike & Dee Sharp, Mike & Martha Turner, and more

*Thank
you*

inspired ...

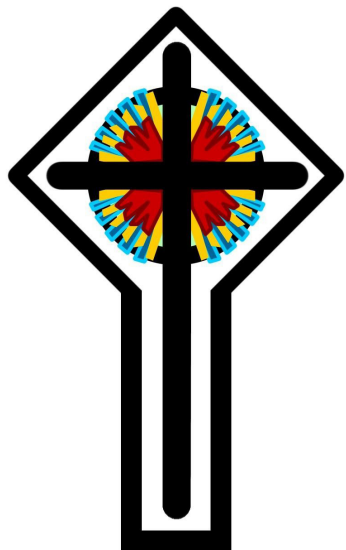
Wednesday Nights, Fellowship and Food Trucks

Wednesday Night Dinner Resumes on Second Wednesdays

What could be better than a good taco? Well, one shared with our church family, of course! We enjoyed our time gathering this week for dinner from Georgia Tacos. Mark your calendars for our next monthly meal together on October 13. What's on the menu? Watch The Weekender to see what new deliciousness will be served and make plans to stop by anytime between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and community with our church family.



Did you miss this chance to gather and get an ice cream dessert hand delivered from Thomas Martin or Karen Davis? Though we safely shifted inside this time due to potential weather issues, our plan is to meet in Parking Lot C and The Field to enjoy a beautiful fall evening on October 13.



September 8, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 835,047.11
Year to Date expenses	\$ 773,813.24
Difference	\$ 61,233.87

Benevolence

Received this week \$433

60 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 23,638.07

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