



September 17, 2021

The Weekender

Stay Curious

Dr. Thomas Martin

There are lots of different things we can glean from life experience. Learning is always happening. A quote from Walt Whitman has been recently made more popular with the TV show "Ted Lasso." The quote is, "Stay curious, not judgmental."

What a great perspective on life! What great wisdom for our day and age. What a great way to summarize most of James' teachings in the Bible. It's also a great summary for how Jesus reprimands his disciples and those closest to him. It seems to me, at least, that anytime Jesus gets most angry or reprimanding it is against those who have made up their minds. Those people selling and charging for profit in the temple judged that turning a profit was more important than growing close to God. The Pharisee judged that he was more holy than the tax collector. The disciples were trying to judge who would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



We judge. It is part of our human nature. The trick, perhaps, to avoid the trapping of living a judgmental lifestyle is to be curious. That is the turn of phrase with Mr. Whitman's quote.

But what does the Bible have to say to us about judging? Jesus says, "*Judge not lest ye be judged* (Matthew 7:1)." Paul writes, "*Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things* (Romans 2:1)."

The hope for us, the Good News, is that God judges us but does so by our hearts. "*For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart* (1 Samuel 16:7)." Maybe it is time for us to live as God is the only judge of mortals. Maybe that will free us for joyful living. Maybe if we truly leave the judging to God, it might free us to be curious about what it means to love God and to love our neighbors, rather than passing judgment on them. Stay curious.



17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021, 8:45 a.m., 11 a.m.
Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
Life Lessons: Heart of the Matter
Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Coffee and Conversation on Sundays

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 each Sunday. Coffee is provided.



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.



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.



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 has begun

All sixth and seventh graders and any youth who have not been baptized or confirmed are invited to begin the confirmation process. This 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.

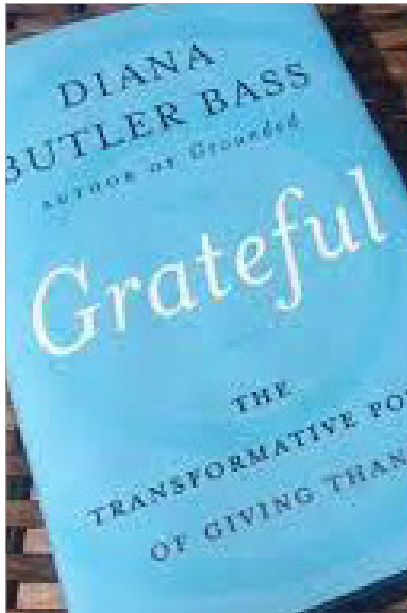
2020 Confirmation Class at Epworth by the Sea on retreat



FREE money from Amazon

Amazon donates to FFUMC at no cost to you (FREE \$\$ for us) when you designate Fayetteville First UMC as a charity while shopping at Amazon. All you do is enter the Amazon site through <http://smile.amazon.com> and designate Fayetteville First UMC as your charity. Then Amazon donates a portion of what you spend back to the church.

We received \$119.79 for our second quarter Amazon smile earnings. Thanks for choosing Amazon Smile!



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.

These flowers were donated by Mildred Fitzgerald's family to celebrate her 104th birthday.



Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, emails, telephone calls, flowers, balloons and “goodies” received in recognition of my birthday. You made this a very special birthday! — Linda Ladd

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Two new homes are underway. — Jeff Williams, Executive Director, Square Foot Ministry

inspired ...

Sundays at FFUMC: Growing in worship

Early worship is offered again at FFUMC in the Chapel at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday. Sunday school has resumed for the children at 9:45 a.m. and our youth and adults continue to grow and study. It's good to be together again!



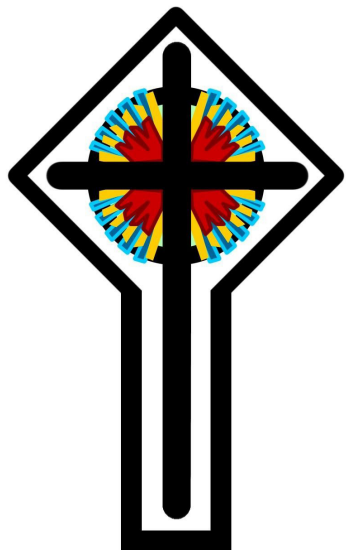
The 8:45 a.m. Chapel service begins with a friendly meet and greet time, helpful ushers, congregational singing, a sermon by Dr. Thomas Martin or Rev. Allyson Lawrence, and special music by Justin Maxey and small groups.

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m. in Chapel

11:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

Online Service at 11:00 a.m.



September 15, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 857,488.12
Year to Date expenses	\$ 792,710.55
Difference	\$ 64,777.57

Benevolence

Received this week \$1,375.00

67 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 26,587.26

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