



The Weekender

Wants and needs in the middle

Dr. Thomas Martin

I often joke that I walk a fine line between being blessed and being spoiled. I sometimes reflect on the parable of the prodigal son. For me, at least, I walk a fine line between being the (entitled) son who stayed home and the (squandering) son who left home. I imagine that most of us, if we're honest, find ourselves caught between these two extremes. Very rarely do we embody just one character in the story on the extremes. We live our lives somewhere in the middle. How we live in the middle reflects our relationship to God.



This past weekend, we had the opportunity to spend time with Leslie's family. They have a cabin that they rent out through VRBO and we got to stay in it. In it is a guestbook where the visitors can leave recommendations and notes on what they did during their stay. Most people talk about where they are, which hikes and waterfalls they went to, and how relaxing the views are.

In this two bedroom cabin, there are three TVs for entertainment. Rarely do we go to the mountains to watch TV. Apparently, some people don't reflect that same sentiment because three of the last five entries complained that the TVs didn't have full cable service, just select local channels. People were complaining that there weren't enough TV options in the mountains.

Now, there are two ways to see this story: laugh at the complaints of others or contemplate the times when I have "complained about not having enough TV options." There is a lesson here. We may not complain about entertainment choices, but we might complain for other minor inconveniences. I think that comes from a lack of gratitude. One thought we will be considering in the next few weeks at church is "what does it mean to **want** something versus **need** something?" I pray that God's love will be the thing we want and need. From there, may we learn to tell the difference between the wants and needs of the world.



21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 17, 2021

8:45 a.m., 11 a.m.

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

Isaiah 53:4-12; Mark 10:35-45

Grateful for Service

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Blood Drive is this Sunday: October 17

Help relieve the blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC this Sunday October 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To reserve a specific donation time and help plan for workers, please schedule at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com.



Tonight! Playground and Pizza Night Out!

Preschoolers' Night Out is being postponed. We are excited, however, to be moving the event outside and to our new date which is October 15 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Preschool-aged children and their families are invited to meet on the playground here at the church at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy free pizza, drinks and play time. We hope you will join us for this fun night of play and friendship.

If possible, please register for our Playground and Pizza Night here: [Playground and Pizza Night](#)



Pecans! Pecans! Benefit local charities

It's pecan time... what a delicious and great way to raise funds for local charities. You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans and all profits are donated by our UMW to charities. Our UMW is committed to raising funds for others. With pecans, everybody wins! [Fill out this pre-order form \(complete with details\)](#) and drop it along with your exact payment in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales" in the church office or in the collection plate (remember the envelope!) before November 7. Make out checks to *United Methodist Women*.



Blessing of the Animals: Saturday, October 23, 9 a.m.

On Saturday, October 23, we will celebrate something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago: blessing our animals. It was St. Francis who first introduced the idea that human beings are only one of a myriad of creations of God and that all are blessed in God's "eyes."

You are invited to bring your furry or scaled, walking or swimming, two-legged, four-legged, or no-legged pet(s), to FFUMC for them to receive a blessing at 9:00 am on this fun day. We will gather beside the Fellowship Hall on the Courthouse side of the church for a brief community prayer and then bring your pet forward for a special blessing. If your pet has died you are invited to bring a picture of them and we will offer a prayer of

remembrance as we thank God for their place in our hearts. Please invite your friends to bring their pet(s) for this wonderful day of celebration and remembering. We do ask that you bring your pet(s) on a leash or in a carrier. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating our wonderful gifts from God.



Back together for joyful singing

Meet with other joyful music makers at Seasoned Singers each Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The group had a wonderful time getting back together this week. All are invited and welcome! Contact Deb Cole, dvcole@hotmail.com, for more information.

Seasoned Singers

Tuesdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Adult Choir Room A35



Got Styrofoam? Let Tami on the Green Team know

There's an easy way to keep your large pieces of packing styrofoam out of the landfill: just let Tami Kemberling know! On her regular runs to CHaRM (the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials), Tami is willing to take your big pieces of styrofoam packing to CHaRM's Styrofoam Compacter, a super machine that presses clean, unwanted styrofoam into usable blocks. Contact Tami, leader of your FFUMC Green Team, at 678-641-9604 or tamidale57@gmail.com.

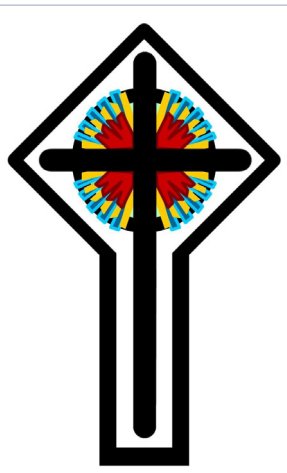


Annual Great Pumpkin Festival returns

October 23, 5-7 PM

Bring your kids, your grandkids, and all your friends to The Annual Great Pumpkin Festival of 2021! On October 23, Main Street Fayetteville and Fayetteville First United Methodist Church will have a DJ, vendors, lots of food, costume contest, trick or treating from 6-7 p.m., kids crafts, & SO much more. Wear your costumes and come trick-or-treat with us!

How can you help? **Bring candy donations** (all individually packaged) to the collection box in the hallway behind the sanctuary. **Register to volunteer and even help create the Trick or Treat Village** sponsored by FFUMC: [click here to see the outreach possibilities](#).

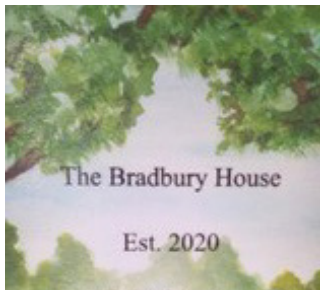


Church Conference and Charge Conference meetings soon

On Tuesday, October 19, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary we will have a Church Conference meeting. The purposes of this meeting will be to set the leadership of the church as well as hear updates about the life in the church and the coming year. Every member of the congregation is invited to attend and every member is invited to vote.

Then, on Sunday, November 7, at 4:30 p.m., via zoom, we will have a joint Charge Conference with other United Methodist Churches in our district. That link will be made available closer to the event date.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let Thomas know.



Bradbury House Open House

Our church family is invited to join the Hansen family and Ms. Jeanne Bradbury at an open house at The Bradbury House on October 23 between 1 and 6 p.m. This home has been transformed into a place where guest can rest and rejuvenate to know God’s love, mercy and grace anew. Location: The Bradbury House 215 Buckeye Road, Fayetteville, GA 30214. Contact Kathie Hansen at 678-592-5177.



SAGE Returns with Apple Orchard Trip

Thursday , October 28

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in church parking lot

Lunch 11:30 a.m. at the Double L Restaurant

12:30 p.m.Panorama Orchards & Farm Market

3:30-4 p.m. arrive back to the church

Cost: \$5.00 per person plus cost of your lunch and any apples you want to buy

Call the church office, 770-461-4313, to make your reservation.



October is FFUMC Month at Fayette Samaritans

While Fayette Samaritans, our local food pantry, always appreciates all your generous donations throughout the year, the organization especially relies on FFUMC in October to fill the shelves.

Most Needed: *Canned English Peas, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Boxed Cereal, Cranberry Sauce, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products*

You may place your donations in the hallway cart behind the sanctuary or drop them by the church office.

31st Annual

Christmas Marketplace
 Saturday, November 6
How can You help?

Christmas Marketplace only 3 weeks away

The 31st Annual Christmas Marketplace is around the corner.

How can you help?

Volunteer: Set up, greet guests, clean up, and more

Donate: Timeless Treasures & Gingerbread House - [See details!](#)

Shop: Tell your friends and come shop! [Share this advertisement!](#)

Sign up to help in the courtyard and other locations or contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net.



Coffee & Conversation meets in Room A40 October 17

Meet again for Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Thomas Martin on Sunday, October 17, at 9:45 a.m. All are invited to this weekly gathering to explore faith, ask questions and get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere.

Due to the blood drive in the gym, the location for this week is moved to Room A40 (the kitchen end of the Fellowship Hall).



Tree Cookies still needed ... Can you cut some?

Our preschoolers are still in need of new “Tree Cookies,” tree slices or wood slices, to help improve their gross/fine motor strengthening and social play. They can be small, like a cookie, or large, like a serving platter. If you find yourself cleaning up a downed limb or tree, please consider slicing the preschoolers some tree cookies. All sizes are welcome at any time of the year. Just place “tree cookie” donations in the stack on the corner of the playground. Thank you for helping us create unique experiences on our preschool playground! — Kerry Bleil, preschool director



Serving in the pews

Need an opportunity to serve? We have a great Worship Team (aka Pew Pixies) that prepares the Sanctuary/Chapel for weekly worship services. There are currently 3 teams that serve on a monthly basis. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Nancy Lindsey at 770-310-5193 for more information.



Update your church photo in October

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? Photographer Wayne Harris is happy to take your photo. There is no charge. Just make a reservation directly with Wayne at 770-855-1453 to schedule a time.



Candy Chute Build Day: Sunday, October 17, 4:30 p.m.

In these strange days of COVID we are learning to be creative and to still be able to share love, fun, and CANDY! To maintain safe distances for children who cannot yet be vaccinated and still provide them with a trick or treat experience, we are building Candy Chutes to use at our fall festival and Trick or Treat Village. We need you Sunday afternoon as we assemble our PVC pipe chutes. The materials will be provided. Contact Rev. Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com with questions or come to the Fellowship Hall and see what all the fun is about! (If you can't make it to the build day you are welcome to make a chute or two at home and bring them to us sometime during the upcoming week. [Click here to find DIY directions.](#)



Carols and Keyboards: Save date/Get reservation

Join Justin Maxey and guests to joyously celebrate the Christmas Season. Music from four grand pianos, the organ, choir and soloists will entertain you with an evening of Christmas carols and song. Featured artists: Justin Maxey, Cameron Cody, Landry Duvall, Daniel Solberg, Kipp Gill, Rick Massengale, Danielle Wojcik and Tiffany Uzoije.

The concert will be performed on Thursday, December 16 and again on Friday, December 17. Max reservation capacity for each night is 450.

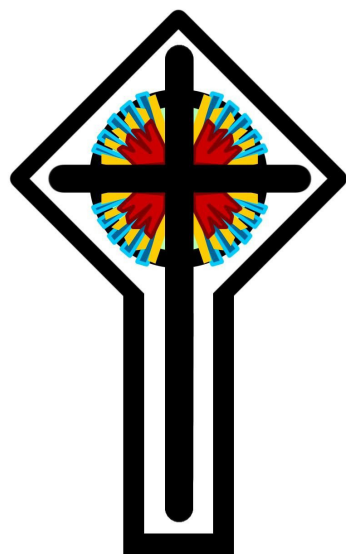
[Make your reservation here](#) or call Dian in the church office at 770-461-4313.



I appreciate you ...

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Can you please take a few moments to write a note of encouragement and gratitude to our clergy AND drop the note by Dian's desk at the church office?

Your kind words go a long way. — Bill Webb, Lay Leader



October 14, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 944,737.36
Year to Date expenses	\$ 879,517.46
Difference	\$ 65,219.90

Benevolence

Received this week \$643.00

99 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 38,538.84

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

inspired ...

Coordinating community care: Benevolence at work

This past Wednesday the FFUMC Benevolence Team hosted our partners from other churches and agencies in Fayette County for a breakfast and conversation about meeting the need for rent, utility and other forms of assistance from community neighbors experiencing difficult circumstances. Attending were representatives from Fayette Samaritans, St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Gabriel Catholic Church, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Real Life Center and Fayetteville First Baptist Church. Representing FFUMC were Linda Ladd, Jim Haymans, Gaines Wallen, Lea Agnew, Julie Harp and Dian Nelson.

Every group reported experiencing a surge of calls for help to avoid eviction and committed to close cooperation in order to respond effectively. Our church dispersed more assistance in the single month of September than in the first two quarters of the year combined.

You can give Benevolence Funds for our committee to distribute following our guidelines to those seeking assistance. Simply mark "Benevolence" on your check or online donation. Also Benevolence donations may be left on the chancel rail during communion. Generosity to this ministry allows our committee to help those on the margins using donations not included in our regular budget.



Fayetteville First UMC hosted a breakfast for groups throughout our community who coordinate care for those needing assistance. We appreciate all they do to share love with others.