



October 8, 2021

## The Weekender

### Open, Critical Thinking

Dr. Thomas Martin

*Do not be conformed to the things of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

One of the more interesting things I have noticed about my time as a student was the rise of critical thinking.

*\*Now before I go any further, please understand that this is not a word on assigning blame or looking to the past or making excuses. This is not a critique of my generation who was taught this. Nor is this a critique of the teachers who were instructed to teach this curriculum. Nor is this a critique of the parents or those on charge at the school board level. I do not share this anecdote to ascribe blame or trespass.\**

Now, onto that concept of critical thinking. It was helpful in thinking through life, history, the past, and the direction for the future. Critical thinking encourages the student to think through as much as possible and engage thought, emotion, and context. I really do like critical thinking.

On the negative side of critical thinking, the pendulum seems to be resting now in our society with those who are simply critics. We've forgotten the thinking part of it. We've forgotten the growing part of it. We've let those who speak loudest win over our hearts, thoughts, and minds. Our world would rather listen to loud voices who tell only part of the truth, who confirm our biases, and who stroke our egos. The better way is to acknowledge that at times life is complex, there's two sides to every story, and God asks us to be humble. The better way is the harder way.

Yet that is our call. The reality is that critical thinking also means that we have to be open to the reality that we may not be right. We have to be humble enough that we have more to learn. We have to be open to God continuing to reveal God's self to us, even though it doesn't sound or look like we want it to.

May we all be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit moving in and through our hearts and minds.



**20th Sunday After Pentecost**

**October 10, 2021**

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

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

**Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:24-31**

**Naked and Bold**

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS



### Blood Drive at FFUMC Next Sunday: October 17

Help relieve the blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC on 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](https://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com).



### Christmas Marketplace only 4 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](mailto:lauren-davis@comcast.net).



### SAGE Returns with Apple Orchard Trip

Thursday, October 28th

Meet at 8:30am 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.



### Annual Great Pumpkin Fest returns October 23

**Mark your calendars** for The Annual Great Pumpkin Festival 2021!

On October 23, Main Street Fayetteville and Fayetteville First United Methodist Church will have a DJ, retail and craft vendors, lots of food, costume contest, kids crafts, & SO much more! Don't forget to wear your costumes and trick-or-treat with our vendors and downtown shops and restaurants.

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](#).



## Get to know Joe and let Joe know you at the next Titus II

Let's get to know Rev. Joe Watson a little better at our next Titus II lunch and learn program on Tuesday, October 12, at noon in the gym. After our meal, Rev. Watson, Minister of Nurture, will share some things about himself and the United Methodist Church while he gets to know you.



## National Faith & Blue Weekend October 10

Join your local law enforcement and members of your community for a weekend of resolution and reconciliation. National Faith & Blue Weekend is a collaborative effort to build bridges and break biases. October 10 from 12 to 3 p.m.  
Southern Ground Amphitheater



## United Methodist Men meet October 12

The United Methodist Men invite you to a dinner meeting on October 12 at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The agenda includes discussing the UMM's role in the upcoming Christmas Marketplace. Please bring a dish to share and join in. Questions? Contact UMM President Raymond Mitchely at 770-314-2035.



## No Fellowship Dinner next week: Look to 2022

Wednesday Night Dinners have been cancelled through the end of 2021. Look for new opportunities to be with our church family over a meal in 2022.



## Coffee and Conversation meets again October 17

Meet again for Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Thomas Martin on Sunday, October 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center Gym.

**No meeting this Sunday, October 10.**



## Flower arranging made simple by Marilyn Harris on October 12

The FFUMC Flower Ministry multiplies the joy of flowers donated in honor or memory of loved ones. One or both arrangements of donated flowers used to enhance our worship services can be directed for reassembly into individual bouquets of cheer to encourage others in our church family. The Flower Ministry team takes care of the arranging and delivery. To donate flowers for worship, contact Dian Nelson, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), and get on the schedule. Contact Marilyn Harris, [elegmimi52@gmail.com](mailto:elegmimi52@gmail.com), 770-313-4646, to join the Flower Ministry team for arranging or delivery.

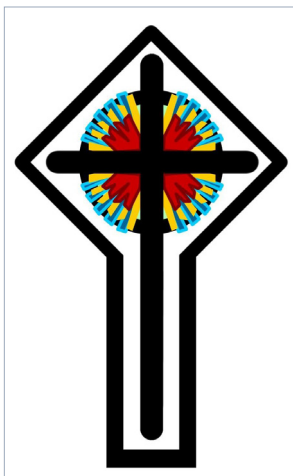
Want to learn to arrange flowers? Marilyn Harris is offering a free flower arranging class on Tuesday, **October 12**, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. **(note the date change)**. Let [Marilyn know if you'll be joining her class](#) in the Fellowship Hall Room A40 (immediately following the Titus II program).





## 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.



## 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.



## Preschoolers' Night Out now 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.

Please register for our Playground and Pizza Night here: [Playground and Pizza Night](#)



## 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.



## Tree Cookies, anyone?

You may not know the term “tree cookie,” but there is a good chance that the young children in your life know what they are. Some may call them tree slices or wood slices, or some other name, but the idea behind them is the same... gross/fine motor strengthening and social play. A tree cookie is quite simply, a slice of a tree. They can be small, like a cookie, or large, like a serving platter!

Children come up with many ways to play with tree cookies. They can be stepping stones, art canvases, or plates. They can help children understand motion, take age-appropriate risks, and learn to cooperate. They make the children feel strong as they tote them around the playground and use them to make towers. They are a wonderful addition to our playground!



Over time the tree cookies dry out and break apart. Sometimes we can use the broken pieces to talk about shapes (“This one broke into triangles like a pizza!”) or even fractions (“This one broke into 3 pieces... I’ll take a third, you take a third. Who should we give the last third to?”)



Tree cookies eventually need to be thrown out. The good news is that they are easily replaced with a little help from mother nature and a chain saw! 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



## 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 Aycok, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), and she’ll take care of it.

Don’t have a photo you want to use? Make a reservation for a photo on Sunday morning 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. Contact Wayne Harris at 770-855-1453 to schedule a time.



## Let’s recycle tomorrow!

City Center Park

Saturday, October 9, between 9 a.m. and noon.

On this Shred Day, E-Recycle & Glass Recycling day, the city will have two shred trucks along with the Boy Scout Troop 76 (sponsored by FFUMC) aluminum recycling trailer. Your FFUMC Green Team invites you to come out and utilize these free services!



## Thank you

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy in the passing of my sister Rebecca Schindler. FFUMC is a special place with loving and caring people.

— Larry Brannon

We would like to thank all of our church family who prayed for us and sent cards during my mother's brief illness and death. They carried us through a difficult time and blessed us with love and comfort.

— Margaret & Jerry Whitaker

The Shah family would like to thank all of you for your calls, your cards, your visits, your love during the recent loss of Allen. Your outpouring of love has filled our hearts and we so appreciate each and everyone of you. Thank you.

— Karin Shah

No Children or Youth Discipleship from 4 to 6 p.m.

**Sunday, October 10**

**However, the Adult Disciple I Class WILL meet**

The church office will be closed

**Monday, October 11**

Have a safe and happy holiday!

## October 6, 2021 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 928,549.11
Year to Date expenses	\$ 866,610.22
Difference	\$ 61,938.89

### Benevolence

Received this week \$1,732.00

94 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 36,420.58

**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.

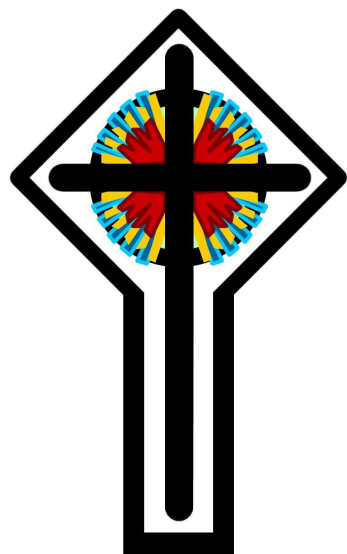
### Church Office Hours:

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)





# inspired ...

## Always at work

Yes, these last umpteen months have been challenging, but at FFUMC, something is always working in God's kingdom! Here are just a few examples:

**SafeHouse Outreach Meals:** You helped prepare meals for the homeless clients at SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta last week.

**Blood Drive is only a week away:** The FFUMC Blood Drive Team is busy taking signups and working with the American Red Cross to take your blood on October 17 at our next drive.

**Classes continue:** Table Groups, study groups, and Sunday school groups are meeting to deepen spiritual practices and faith

**Christmas Marketplace:** The 31st Annual Christmas Marketplace is all set to raise thousands of dollars for missions on November 6.

**Trick or Treat Village:** We are collecting candy donations and seeking volunteers for this community outreach on Saturday, October 23.



Read details on these and other ministries throughout The Weekender each week -- you'll be inspired to join in!