



March 18, 2022

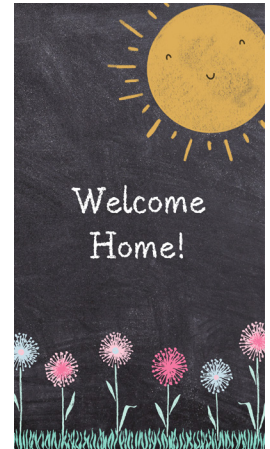
The Weekender

A church of welcome

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

In our last house, we had a big chalkboard in the garage that we found by a dumpster, cleaned and used on rainy or cold days. It got used for art and decoration. But there were words that were always permanent on the chalkboard: Welcome Home!

How welcoming are we to others? How welcoming are we to ourselves? Jesus teaches us about welcome when he says, "Let the little children come unto me, and do not hinder them, for to such as these belongs the kingdom of God. (Mt. 19:14)" He also says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me. (Mt. 10:40)" "Whoever welcomes the stranger welcomes me. (Mt. 25:35)"



Jesus talks a lot about welcoming others. We are to welcome those with whom we are familiar and those with whom we might not be familiar. In either instance, we find that welcoming is not just good southern hospitality, but it is vital to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. In the next few days, we will have the opportunity to welcome into our church home brothers in Christ who share in ministry as Methodists throughout the world. First, on Tuesday evening, March 22, we will have the chance to welcome Rev. Dr. Gary Mason. You can find more about him here in The Weekender. He will present to us about his time as a minister in Ireland and his work with peace, conflict, war, and reconciliation and how we as people of faith live faithfully through conflict.

Then the following Sunday, we will have the chance to welcome Rev. Brian Tillman to the pulpit of Fayetteville First. I have known Brian for eight years and have shared in ministry with him through the years. He holds a cabinet-level appointment in the conference and will preach Sunday, March 27. You can read more about him in The Weekender as well.

My prayer is that we would be a church of welcome, even through differences. My prayer is that we would be disciples of Jesus Christ who welcome others because we might be welcoming Christ himself. I hope you will be able to hear Dr. Mason and Rev. Tillman over the next few weeks and that you will invite others to come and experience the warm welcome of Fayetteville First UMC.



Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022

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

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

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

Lent in Real Life: Patience

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Hear Rev. Dr. Gary Mason Tuesday, March 22, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Instead of our normal church council meeting, Rev. Dr. Gary Mason will be presenting to us on conflict and peace on Tuesday, March 22, at 7p.m. in the sanctuary. **This will be open to all members of the church and community abroad.**

Dr. Mason is a Methodist minister and holds a PhD from the School of Psychology at the University of Ulster. He was also awarded an honorary Doctorate in Divinity for his role in peace building in Ireland from Florida Southern College. He completed his theological studies at Queens University and holds a Bachelor's in Business Studies from the University of Ulster. Dr. Mason is a Senior Research Fellow at the Kennedy Institute

for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University in Ireland. He is also an adjunct Professor at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Dr. Mason has lectured in political, religious and academic forums throughout Europe, South Africa, the Middle East and the U.S.A. seeking to engage, mentor and share lessons from the Irish peace process. Prior to founding Rethinking Conflict, he spent 28 years as a clergy person in Belfast and was involved in the "Northern Irish Peace Process." He has been and continues to be a close advisor to Protestant ex-combatants on the civilianization efforts of paramilitaries.

For more information about Dr. Mason and links to videos to best prepare you for this opportunity, please visit <https://www.rethinkingconflict.com/>. This event will also be [livestreamed. Click here for link.](#)



Brian Tillman speaks at all services and special Sunday School session on March 27

Rev. Brian Tillman is a cabinet-level appointed clergy person on the North Georgia Annual Conference. In his role, he provides consultation, support, and training aimed at strengthening engagement with and advocacy for the communities in which churches serve. Tillman's work is aimed at helping congregations bolster both justice and discipleship ministries. An ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference, Rev. Tillman has served as Chair of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race for five years. His previous appointment was as associate pastor of Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta. He has served at Johns Creek UMC, McEachern Memorial

UMC, and Powers Ferry UMC. Rev. Tillman has traveled internationally to study with peacebuilders in Northern Ireland and Germany. He plans to travel to South Africa in the next year with his clergy continuing education group (ACE2).

As a pastor and advocate for racial healing, he holds Luke 4:18-19 as his charge to share God's love, grace, mercy, justice, and righteousness to all.

Come hear him preach at both services on March 27 and discover why Thomas thinks he might be the best dancing clergy person in the North Georgia Annual Conference. You are also invited to a special forum on Peace and Justice led by Rev. Tillman during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary.

[Read more about Rev. Tillman's background and goals here.](#)



Blood Drive Sunday, March 27, 2021

You can help relieve the severe blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC on March 27 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. Donors will receive free COVID antibody test results. Masks are required for all donors.



Together We Journey

The season of Lent prepares our hearts for the celebration of Easter. We journey together.

[Lenten Schedule available online, in church office, and in narthex](#)

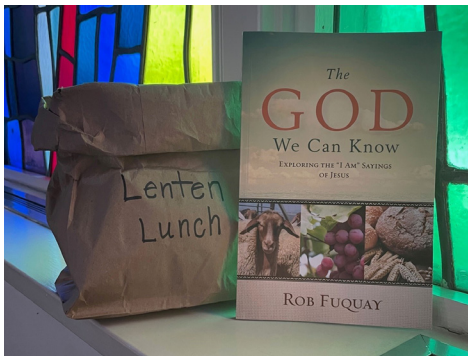
Lenten Lunch and Meditation each Thursday at noon
F-I-T Faith Challenge

Lenten Offering to benefit Rise Against Hunger

Lenten Community Outreach (Egg Your Neighbor)

Kits available March 13

Group and personal daily examination



Lenten Meditation Theme: "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

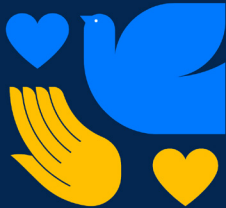
Our Lenten Journey continues next Thursday, March 24, as Dr. Dave Lee explores another chapter on the *"I AM" Sayings of Jesus* based on Rob Fuquay's book *The God We Can Know*. The Friendship Circle will provide a light lunch (\$5) at noon in the Fellowship Hall with the meditation to follow.



Get "EGG Your Neighbor" kit Sunday

Give the gift of fun to families in your neighborhood. This Lenten and Easter season we're EGGing our neighbors (in a nice way) with our Egg Your Neighbor kit. Kits are available in the Welcome Center Portal. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, or Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.

Can you snap some photos of your neighborly adventures? Send them to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, or text 770-861-4499.



As we continue to lift the people of Ukraine in our prayers, you are also invited to give through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. 100% of donations given to UMCOR through the gifts you give go directly to those in need in the war-torn areas. You are invited to give through the church (mark your donation “Ukraine”) or through the website: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/ukraine/>.

AQs from Fayette Samaritans

Fayette Samaritans served 437 households last year?
32% of those served in 2021 were new clients?
About 35 volunteers serve each week?

Every little bit helps! Donations for Fayette Samaritans, our community food pantry and clothes closet, may be placed in the hallway cart behind the sanctuary or dropped by the church office.

Most Needed in March (but all donations are welcome and appreciated):
Laundry Detergent, Coffee, Feminine Products



Reading glasses, Bibles and paperbacks needed for our Jail Ministry. Teams from our church have visited the men's and women's wings of the Fayette County Jail for Bible study, conversation, and prayer, making a difference in the lives of inmates. While visitation is not permitted now due to COVID restrictions, we can still offer something. Chaplain Mike Helton has requested paperback books in good condition and Bibles (no staples) as well as plastic reading glasses. Donations will be collected in the church office through March.

JAIL MINISTRY
Reading glasses
Bibles
Paperbacks



Looking for an opportunity to get a glimpse into preschool life? Now is your chance! On Wednesday evening, March 23, Fayetteville First Preschool is hosting a Family Art Night for our students. We would **love your help** in making the evening run smoothly. Having volunteers from the church will allow preschool grown-ups to enjoy the evening with their children. [Please click on the Sign-Up Genius link to view available volunteer opportunities.](#) You just show up! Art stations will be set up with instructions and materials when you arrive. Guaranteed fun! Questions? Contact Kerry Bleil, director, at kbleil@fayettevillefirst.com. **Five more volunteers would be great.**



High School Beach Retreat: Sign up by April 15

FFUMC Youth is headed back to the beach June 3-6 for the annual high school beach retreat! Youth will engage in community building activities, devotional time, and more. This retreat is for youth who will be recently completed 9th-12th grade as of June 2022. Deadline to sign up is April 15. [Be sure to secure your spot soon, as there are limited spots available.](#) Use these codes as you need them: GRACE 50% off, LOVE 100% off.

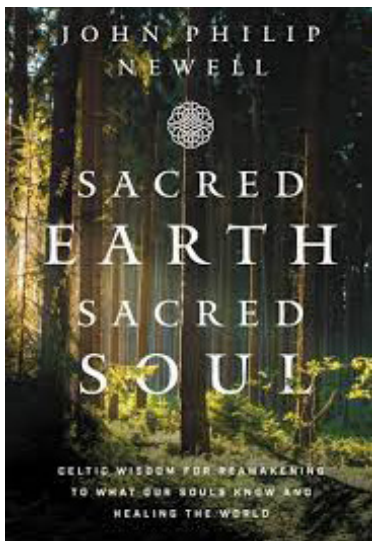


Need from Summer Lunch families

THANKS: Refrigerator received with gratitude!

NEW REQUEST: Queen size mattress and box springs

Families who are in the Summer Lunch Program have some specific needs. Can you help? If you have what is listed or other items to donate, just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net or text the photo to 678-656-4117.



Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul Study begins April 3

The Study Class (aka The Book Club) will explore John Philip Newell's book "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul." This class will meet in-person and virtually in Room C270 on Sundays beginning April 3. All are invited as we explore the long, hidden tradition of Celtic Christianity, explaining how this earth-based spirituality can help us rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, with each other, and with the earth. Newell introduces some of Celtic Christianity's leading practitioners, both saints and pioneers of faith, whose timeless wisdom is more necessary than ever. "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" offers a new spiritual foundation for our lives, one centered on encouragement, guidance, and hope for creating a better world. For more information, contact Tim Aycock at timaycock@gmail.com.



Lunch with friends at Titus II

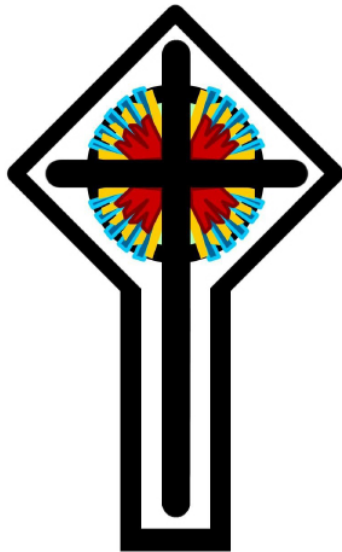
Sheriff Barry Babb joins us for the next Titus II on April 5 to speak on safety. Make a lunch reservation with Martha Turner, 770-461-2802, by noon on Thursday, March 31, before the meeting on Tuesday, April 5. Menu: Fried Chicken, Roasted Green Beans, Deviled Eggs, Biscuits, Dessert. (\$8)



Notes of Gratitude

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our church family and friends for the many acts of kindness, prayers, flowers, food, visits and cards during the recent loss of our mother, daughter-in-law, and aunts. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. A special thanks to the Shawl Ministry for the comfort wraps. — Jim and Gerry Haymans

Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered for Bill from the Flower Ministry. We appreciate them so much. — Shirley Bowman



March 16, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$246,101.13
Year to Date expenses	\$246,933.09
Difference	-\$831.96

Benevolence

Received this week \$448.00
31 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$10,045.84

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.

Regular 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

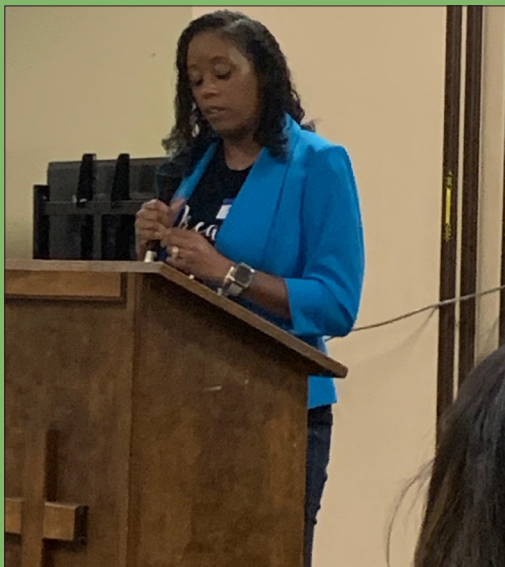
inspired ...

Children in hospital will feel the love

You all are an amazing church family! On behalf of Ivory Cloud and Dreams of Lois, Inc, the United Methodist Women asked for donations of pajamas to help with a drive for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. A total of 195 pajamas were delivered on Saturday! What a blessing you are to Ivory and to these children.

Ivory was overwhelmed by your response and gifts. She said "You have touched the hearts of so many at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta with your generosity. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated and helps so many people."

Thank you for reaching out to share and care.



You donated 195 sets of PJs!

Ivory Cloud (above) presented the need at a recent UMW Unit Meeting, and the entire congregation responded. Thank you for every pair of pajamas you gave.

