



March 4, 2022

The Weekender

World Day of Prayer

March 4, 2022

— Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin for the congregation of Fayetteville First UMC and our world

God of the peacemakers, questioners, soldiers, civilians, lost, wandering, and found,

You have called to us from the low places and the mounts. You call people *blessed* when we yearn for righteousness. You call people *blessed* when we search for peace. You call people *blessed* when we hunger and thirst. You call people *blessed* when we are persecuted and mourning, when we are weeping and are not filled.

What if there are people in the world who don't want this kind of blessing in this present moment? What if there are people who didn't ask for this kind of blessing? What if...?

The "what-ifs" don't change what you said when you became flesh and dwelled among us. And yet we try to make sense of this present moment.

Maybe that's the point. Maybe it's not my place to make sense of what Jesus said. Maybe it's not my place to judge. Maybe it's not my place to understand or justify international law. Maybe it's not my place to understand cancer and its causes. Maybe it's not my place to understand madmen who would rather wage war.

But maybe, maybe it's my place to make peace. Maybe it's my place to be salt and light. Maybe it's my place to strive to be merciful. Maybe it's my job to be pure in heart. Maybe it's my job to be meek. Maybe it's my place to love my enemies. Maybe it's my place to bless those who curse others. Maybe it's my place to do to others as I would have them do to me.

God of the "maybes" and the "what-ifs," help me to live through the hypotheticals and ultimatums. Help me to live into loving others as you love others...unconditionally. Free us from our questions and demands and into the call you have for us.

Instead, may those of us who have the audacity to call ourselves Christians strive to live into the reality that we are called to be peacemakers, salt, and light, and to love our enemies. May those who are searching for peace, searching for rest — those who are hungering, thirsting — those who are caught in the midst of war of body, mind, and soul — those who are afflicted — may they be blessed. On this World Day of Prayer, may we all be blessed in order to be a blessing. In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come we pray. AMEN.

[*For a visual representation of this prayer, click here.*](#)



First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

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

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

Lent in Real Life: Temptation

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



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

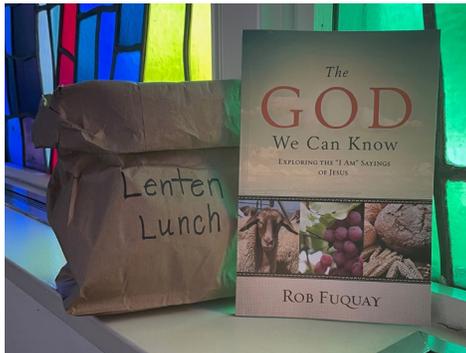
F-I-T Faith Challenge

Lenten Offering to benefit Rise Against Hunger

Lenten Community Outreach (Egg Your Neighbor)

Kits available March 13

Group and personal daily examination

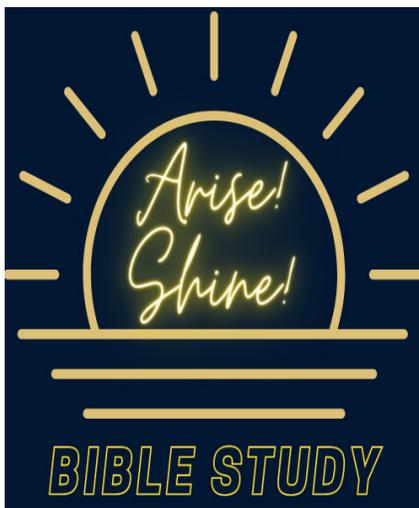


Lenten Meditation Theme: "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

Our Lenten Journey continues next Thursday, March 10, as Florence Prine explores another chapter on the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus based on Rob Fuquay's book *The God We Can Know*. Marie Lamb UMW Circle will provide a light lunch (\$5) at noon in the Fellowship Hall with the meditation to follow.

Lenten Study begins next Wednesday, March 9

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you!" Join this 5-week Lenten Bible study on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. beginning March 9 in Room C-270. Together we will explore how to be God's light in the world. Each week will focus on one of five different stories from the Bible, highlighting how ordinary people can become extraordinary vessels for God's purpose. In a world which is filled with uncertainty and spiritual darkness, come find hope, confidence and expectation in Jesus. [Registration for this FREE class is not required but is appreciated.](#) All materials will be provided at the first session. **Childcare is provided with a reservation by Monday, March 7.** The class will be led by [Allie Hansen](#) and [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#). Contact them with questions.

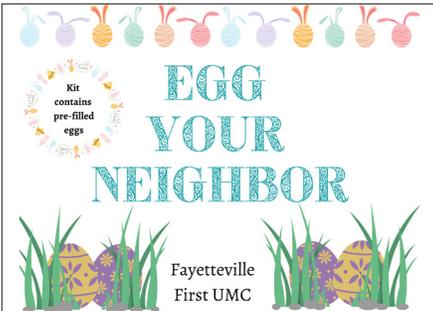




*For we are God's masterpiece.
He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things
he planned for us long ago.*
— Ephesians 2:10

ARISE! F-I-T Faith Challenge invitation from Allyson

Lent is a time to focus on God's transforming power. Despite my yearly attempt to fast from some item I over indulge in, it's not really about giving up some random food or activity. It is about intentionally seeing and loving the world through God's eyes - and that includes ourselves. During our forty day F-I-T Faith Challenge we are focusing on loving ourselves as God's masterpiece. You are invited to join me and others as we explore the God-created masterpiece within each of us. We will meet Sundays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. to move our bodies, we will read scripture daily, and through our weekly gathering time we will surround ourselves with people who love and support one another as we focus on God's transforming power. You can determine the F-I-T program that's right for you: F-First Steps, I-Into It, or T-Totally In. [Follow the F-I-T Faith Challenge link here](#) or at FayettevilleFirst.com for more information and to register. Get an information sheet here. Contact me at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com and I'll help you get started.



EGG your neighbor!

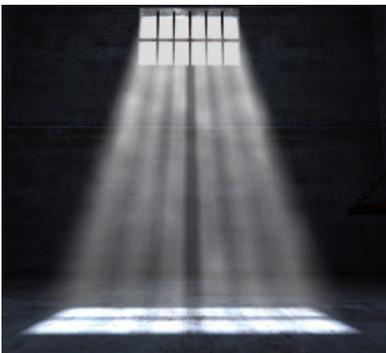
Give the gift of fun to families in your neighborhood. This Lenten and Easter season we're EGGing our neighbors (in a nice way) with our Egg Your Neighbor kit. Kits will be available beginning March 13 in the Welcome Center. [Supplies are limited so register today!](#) Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, or Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com, with questions.



Need from Summer Lunch families

NEW REQUEST: Refrigerator in good working order

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.



Paperbacks, Bibles and reading glasses

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.



So far 123 Pairs of PJs collected: Drive ends Wednesday, March 9

The United Methodist Women are supporting the efforts of Ivory Cloud, founder of DreamsofLois.org, with her annual drive to collect pajamas for children with cancer at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. At her program for the UMW Unit Meeting, Ivory was presented with 123 pairs of PJs. You can still join in! Place new PJs for newborns through 18 years in the church office or the area behind the sanctuary through Wednesday, March 9.



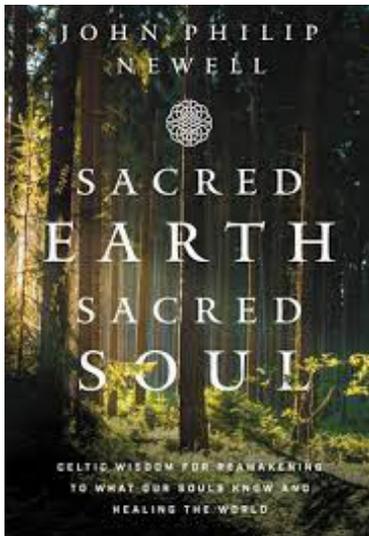
SAGE Heads to Buckner's on March 18

Enjoy lunch at Buckner's on March 18 with SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere). Invite a friend to join you! Make your reservation with Dian Nelson at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com and then meet in the church office parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 for transportation plus lunch.



Interested in Biblical travel to Egypt?

Fayetteville First is joining Due West UMC on a pilgrimage to Egypt to learn about Moses and the Exodus, see the pyramids, and tour the Nile. The dates are November 1-11, 2022. For more information on cost and other related expenses, please contact Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul Study begins April 3

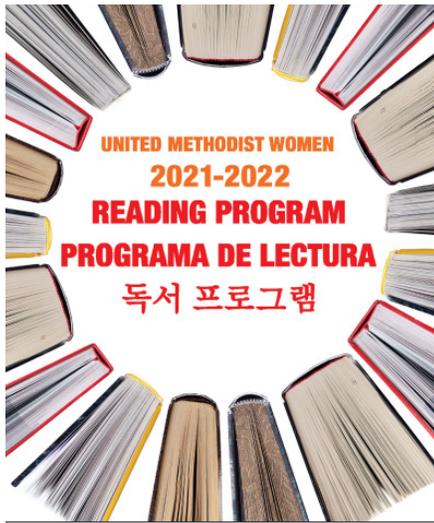
The Study Class (aka The Book Club) will explore John Philip Newell's book "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul." This class will meet in-person and virtually in Room C270 on Sundays beginning April 3. All are invited as we explore the long, hidden tradition of Celtic Christianity, explaining how this earth-based 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.



March Needs list for Fayette Samaritans

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



Book Club Meets each month

Would you like to broaden your perspective while you learn more about our world and how you can make a difference in it? One way is to be part of the UMW Book Reading Program. You do not have to be a woman or part of the United Methodist Women to participate. [Just pick a category, find a book, and get to reading!](#) A group meets monthly at FFUMC to discuss one of the books in the Reading Program list. The proposed meeting time is every fourth Thursday at 1:30 p.m. [Contact Deb Cole, \[dvcole@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:dvcole@hotmail.com\), for details.](#) Following are upcoming dates, categories and a specific book from that category to be discussed:

March 24: Leadership Development — "Sally Ride"

April 28: Nurturing for Community — "The Book of Joy"

May 19: Social Action — "We Are All Fast Food Workers Now"

June 23: Spiritual Growth — "Soul Repair"

Notes of Gratitude to Shawl Ministry

Thanks so much for the beautiful shawl you made for me. I love it. — Nancy Byers

I received the beautiful crocheted blanket last week and was so surprised. It is just what I need to stay warm! Thank you so much and God bless you all! — Dorothy Nell Cates

Thank all of you for the beautiful shawl. It is so warm and cozy, and I shall enjoy using it. It was so thoughtful of you to send it, and as a former crocheter, I know it was a labor of love. Thank you again and may God bless your group and all you do. — Sue Carpenter

I love my shawl! The color is so perfect. I remember years ago when I was in the Shawl Ministry, I made two. One was for a feisty 90 year old in our church and the other for a very good friend in Brooks. It is a blessing to make one and receive one. Thank you. — Shirley Bowman

Thank you for the lovely shawl. It is so wonderful to know that there are such great people who take the time to make such beautiful things. Love to all. — Sally Dunham





Yes! I know who that is!

Let's help our church family get to know who we are. **How?** Just update your photo in our church directory. **How?** Simply send an up-to-date photo from your phone in portrait orientation to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, and she will update your profile in the directory. **Why?** We all need a little help with keeping in touch. We want to provide an updated church directory for FFUMC with as many photos as possible to jog our memories of everyone in our church family and to give correct contact information and let us meet those who are new to us. Questions? Call Joan at 770-461-4313.



iPray: Sunday March 6, 12:15 to 2 p.m.

Kindergarten and first graders and parents are invited to a special luncheon this Sunday, March 6, beginning at 12:15 p.m., directly after worship, in the Fellowship Hall. As part of our iRESPOND (to God's grace) series, the iPray touchstone will introduce our children to new ways to pray. One of our prayer stations will be led by our special guest, Joan Aycock. Ms. Joan will be leading "Praying in Color."

March 2, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$199,754.40
Year to Date expenses	\$220,844.38
Difference	-\$21,089.98

Benevolence

Received this week \$457.50
25 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$8,622.49

You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

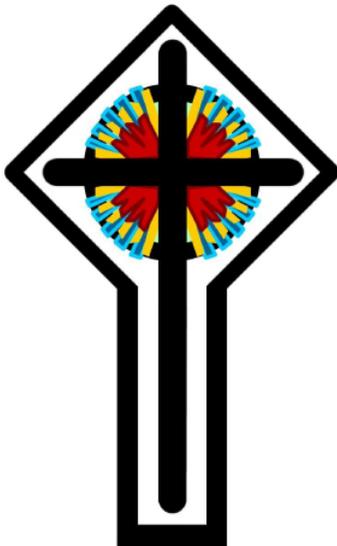
Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

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



inspired ...

Together on the journey

As we began our journey through Lent this week, we were reminded in beautiful ways how we journey together in real life.

Our children met on Sunday evening with a lesson on the meaning of Lent which included King Cake and games. We prepared on Shrove Tuesday with pancakes and the kickoff of our Lenten F-I-T Faith Challenge. Thanks to all the chefs and servants!

On Ash Wednesday, our UMW sponsored Lenten Lunch and Meditation series began with a meal provided by Bethany Circle and our first talk on the "I AM sayings of Jesus" presented by Thomas. The Ash Wednesday service led us into the season with liturgy, music based on Psalm 51 and a meditation. [*It's not too late to join in: click here if you missed it.*](#)

We continue to walk together through spiritual disciplines like prayer, giving, self-examination and more as we connect more deeply with God and each other.



Together
We Journey