



April 8, 2022

The Weekender

A Benevolence Fund Message

Thomas' sermon last week used a well-known Jesus statement to pose a Jesus-like question. "The poor will always be with you – will you always be with the poor?"

Jesus often asked provocative questions, like when the lawyer challenged him to define "who is my neighbor?" Through the Good Samaritan parable, Jesus reframed the question – will you be a neighbor to someone in obvious need?



The generosity of the FFUMC congregation has long enabled our church to be a neighbor to Fayette County residents in difficult circumstances. The statistics are published each week of people served and money disbursed from our Benevolence Fund. Some people need help to get past a temporary bump in the road – and for others, daily life involves ongoing struggle.

The Benevolence Committee stewards the funds placed on the communion rail and otherwise donated for benevolence purposes. We follow guidelines designed to assure responsible and effective use of these gifts.

Through two years of COVID-19 hardship, we have seen both a surge of congregational giving and an even bigger surge of calls for help. Lately the Benevolence Fund has hit a low point, restricting our capacity to respond to neighbors facing eviction, utility cut-off and other crises.

This Sunday, as we share the sacrament of Holy Communion, please remember these neighbors and give as freely as you are able.

The Benevolence Committee



Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

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

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

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Lent in Real Life: Power

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Last few days to order an Easter Lily: Due April 11

Express your love with the gift of an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of someone. Recognitions will be included in the April 17 Easter Sunday Order of Worship. Lilies will enhance worship on Easter and will be available for pickup following the 11 a.m. service. [Just follow this link and order by April 11 to be included in recognitions.](#) Cost: \$15 each. Printed order forms will be available in the church office and narthex as well. Proceeds support the FFUMC Flower Ministry. **Orders due by April 11.**



Egg Hunt, April 10, on The Field, Noon

A church-wide Easter Egg Hunt will be offered on The Field after the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service. Bring your Easter basket and your running shoes. Fun family games and refreshments will start our day immediately after the service. Four different egg hunts begin at 12:30 p.m: Under 4s, PreK 4 and Kindergartners, first and second graders, and third through fifth graders. Join us for an EGG-stra good time!

Cookie donations for our hunters are appreciated. Place any contributions in the marked box in the gym kitchen by Friday, April 8, at noon. Questions? [Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.](#)



Youth go NUTS! for mission

Our summer mission trip participants will be handing out roasted nuts and accepting donations at the Palm Sunday Egg hunt. Your donations will go toward supporting the work they'll be doing this summer, walking alongside and serving the communities of Appalachia and Bayou La Batre, Alabama. So come on out and enjoy the festivities with some roasted nuts in hand, or take some home with you for Easter baking!



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday — April 10

Worship in Chapel 8:45 AM Worship in Sanctuary 11:00 AM
Churchwide Egg Hunt 12:00 PM

Maundy Thursday — April 14

Lenten Lunch 12:00 PM Service of Word & Table 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday — April 17

Sunrise Service

The Field 6:45 AM Bring your own chair

Sunrise Breakfast

Gym 7:30 AM Bring a breakfast dish to share

Worship in Sanctuary

8:45 AM, 11:00 AM

Decorate the Easter Cross: You are invited to bring flowers to decorate the courtyard cross on Easter Sunday. Be sure to bring your camera, too!



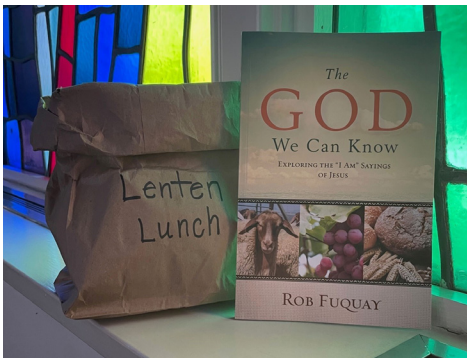
Brown Bag with Thomas

Brown bag with Thomas returns on Wednesday, April 27. Bring your lunch and questions to the Fellowship Hall at noon as we hear updates about our facilities, Fellowship Hall Renovations, music program, and vision for the church. All are welcome to attend. No reservations necessary. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com.



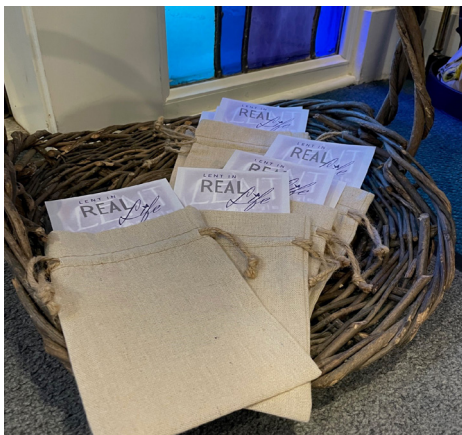
Lay Servant Training Offered

We can increase our skills and readiness for ministry with classes through the Lay Servant Ministry program. The Southwest District of the North Georgia Conference offers a course of study to better equip us for service in our church and community. [Find out more about Spring 2022 courses here.](#) [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) will be happy to answer your questions too!



Lenten Meditation Theme: "I AM" Sayings of Jesus

Our Lenten Lunch series concludes next Thursday, April 14, as Rev. Allyson Lawrence explores the final chapter on the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus based on Rob Fuquay's book *The God We Can Know*. The United Methodist Women will provide a light lunch (\$5) at noon in the Fellowship Hall with the meditation to follow.



Lenten Offering for Rise Against Hunger

During Lent our thoughts turn to God and to others. You are invited to use your Lenten Offering Bag to collect an offering over these weeks to place on the chancel rail Easter morning.

The money we raise will support our Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event later this year. During the event, highly nutritious, dehydrated meals are prepared for use in crisis areas around the world.

[Click here for a schedule of Lent and Holy Week opportunities.](#)



Hearing from the Kents

Did you know we support the work of Craig and Patsy Kent with Resource Exchange International? [Here's an update from them on their work and how we can pray for their ministry.](#)



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 have 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.



Let us know if you "Egg-ed" Your Neighbor

As you share some love and fun with your neighbors and community using your Egg Your Neighbor kit, snap a few photos of you hiding eggs, of someone finding them ... any part of the adventure! Send them to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, or text 770-861-4499.



New requests from Fayette Samaritans

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 April (but all donations are welcome and appreciated): Laundry Detergent, Dried Pasta (no spaghetti needed), Canned Fruit, Chicken Broth, Tea Bags, Mustard, Ketchup, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Feminine Products



FFUMC KiDs: Check out all April has to offer

Our kids lead the Palm Processional this Sunday ... and more. Find out about egg hunts, Earth Day celebrations, video game club ... so much to do, learn and celebrate. Check it out right here in your own newsletter!

[FFUMC Kids Newsletter: April 2022](#)



Recycle at City Center Park: Saturday, May 7

Do you have some hard to recycle items? Let's take care of the earth and dispose of them usefully at City Center Park on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Your FFUMC Green Team will be there to help out! Questions? Contact Tami Kemberling, tamidale57@gmail.com.

Here's what to bring:

- Electronics
- Glass
- Aluminum



Graduation time is approaching

We want to honor all our high school, college and graduate school graduates and celebrate! Our annual graduation publication is being prepared, so we need to hear from you and your loved ones. Send the following information to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, by **April 30**.

Name of Graduate to be printed

School Name and Degree Name

Plans after graduation if known

Photo



Needs from Summer Lunch families

REQUESTS: Refrigerator

FOUR refrigerators have been donated. Thanks! One more needed.

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.



Save the date for Sunshine VBS

Monday: July 18 — 5:30 to 8 PM

Wednesday: July 20 — 5:30 to 8 PM

Friday: July 22 — 6 to 8 PM

Save the date to help out at Sunshine VBS: three fun evenings set aside for our special adults to have their own unique VBS experience. For more information, contact Susie Arrington, skeaton66@aol.com, 404-580-8494.



Notes of Gratitude

Thank you so much to my wonderful church family for the church flowers, cards and phone calls offered in sympathy in the recent loss of my sister. I am truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring group of people. — Judy and Wayne Reynolds

Flower Ministry: Thank you so much for sharing the beautiful flowers from church with us. They really did bless and brighten our days and we appreciated your thinking of us. God bless your ministry. — Bob and Carol Ann Partridge

inspired ...

Serving at SafeHouse Outreach

Thanks for serving at SafeHouse Outreach last week. We served about 110 meals, plus about 30 seconds and left another 20 for any late arrivals. Thanks to those who helped in the kitchen and those who were able to go to Atlanta. We had some time to talk and pray with folks — and receive compliments on the meal! Best of all, Hannah brought two youth helpers, Maggie and Rachel Myers, to experience the highs (and lows) of helping those who are experiencing homelessness. — Randy Riddell

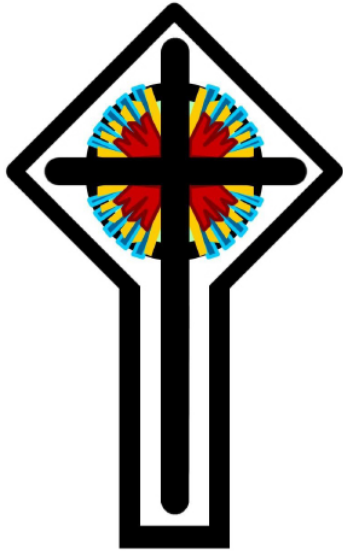
What we do matters. Just read this note from Eliyah Hamner at SafeHouse Outreach: *"I want to thank you and the Fayetteville UMC volunteers for the awesome meal and service that you all provided. We truly appreciate your efforts to assist us with our mission of restoring lives through faith, love, and compassionate service. We look forward to doing Impact Meals with you all again soon. Stay blessed and prosperous until we serve again."*

Mark your calendar for our next SafeHouse Outreach opportunity on June 30, 2022.



Other ways to help others this coming week:

- Give to the **Benevolence Fund** online, by check, or at altar rail during communion
- Make a donation to **NUTS! for Mission** as the youth offer a way to support their summer mission trips at the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt
- Place food donations in the **Fayette Samaritans** collection bin behind the sanctuary or drop donations by the church office
- Gather your **Lenten Offering** to benefit Rise Against Hunger and our meal-packing event



April 7, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$357,556.38
Year to Date expenses	\$340,993.95
Difference	\$16,562.43

Benevolence

Received this week \$1,018.00

35 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$11,408.62

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

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM