



May 20, 2022

The Weekender

Unrevealed until its season

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

The third verse of Hymn of Promise, #707 in our hymnal, says,

In our end is our beginning,
In our time, infinity,
In our doubt, there is believing,
In our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection,
At the last, a victory ...

It captures the mystery of our faith journey and the promise that everything is made new in Jesus Christ.

This weekend we will recognize those members of our congregation who will be celebrating milestones in their lives. These are our graduates. All of these are not just completing something, they are entering into a new adventure.

Summer is one of those times that helps us, as a family, move at a different pace. Perhaps you remember the joys of summer and its freedoms. I remember my first "summer." By "first summer" I mean the summer after kindergarten. There was build up and excitement and stories told of what we as children were going to get to do. I remember waking up on that first day of summer as a recent graduate of kindergarten to feeling itchy and having red dots on my body.

I had chicken pox. I watched as my church friends played in the yard (the parsonage was right next to the church) and I missed out on those first weeks of my first summer. I still feel that weight of missing out. Did I still get to experience summer? Of course I did. I've experienced many summers after that. But I will always carry with me the sense of missing out or being left behind.

How many times do we build something up in our minds only to be let down? The temptation is to think that this is the end. We are reminded, as children of God, that even though this may seem like the worst thing that has happened, there is a new day, a new season that God will reveal for us, something God alone can see. I hope you will be with us in worship as we celebrate those who are reaching a milestone and ending a season of learning and pray for all of us as we enter into a new season with God's help.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

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

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

Acts 16:9-15; John 5:1-9

Form and Function

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

UMW Marie Lamb Circle Sponsors Christmas Shoe Box Drive

The Marie Lamb Circle hopes to make 100 children very happy at Christmas this year. We are sponsoring a Christmas Shoe Box project in cooperation with the United Methodist Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur AL ([Shoe Box Ministry. umdasterwarehouse.com](http://shooboxministry.umdasterwarehouse.com)). This ministry targets children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

[Click here to access the list of required \(and prohibited\)](#) items and extra items as space permits. [This size chart may also help.](#) These boxes can be filled at a cost of \$17-22 plus \$5 to cover shipping costs out of the country.



How can you or your small group help?

- Download the list of items to purchase, the size chart, and these instructions.
- Decide what size(s) you want to focus on.
- Decide how many boxes you or your small group can make (please do both boys and girls). Boxes are available in the church office or from Maggie Clarke.
- Purchase items, place them in a Zip-Loc or other bag, and place bag in the donation bin outside the gym or return to the church office. Include a check for \$5 made payable to the church for each box. Be sure to write "Shoebboxes" on the memo line.
- To donate money, toward either the contents or the shipping cost, contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com, 404-395-8161.

Members of the Marie Lamb Circle will verify the contents, pack the boxes, and insert the Nativity coloring book provided by the warehouse. All purchased items must be turned in by July 4, 2022, so that we can deliver the completed boxes to the warehouse the first week of August.



Missions: Ready to serve?

The Missions Committee met on May 1 for an informational meeting to talk about current missions and suggest some new ideas for missions that we can include in our missions program.

Soon we hope to present some of our missions activities in the newsletter and/or during the Sunday services. Are you interested in missions? Please let us know! Contact Suzie Lusk, Missions Chair, 678-333-5386.

Ask Suzie Lusk, Missions Chair, about opportunities for outreach.



Signing up to help in Summer Lunch Program

In just a few weeks, our Summer Lunch Program will swing into action to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County while school is out for the summer. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward.

Packers and drivers are needed.

To participate, contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com.



Create Camp: [Sign ups now open](#)

Ready to get creative this summer? Children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, as well as participate in traditional camp crafts and games. June 20-24. \$10/camper



Vacation Bible School registration now open

Join the VBS fun! From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, Explorers are guided by a Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from the Reference Book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories. July 11-15.

[Rising PK3-Rising 6th for Fall 2022. After June 30: \\$10/child.](#)



New Bible Study with Rev. Thomas

Join Rev. Thomas during the Sunday School hour as we will look at the practices that make up our faith, our prayer life, our study and use of scripture, and our walk with God. **The study will begin June 5th and meet through July 31st.** We will be using the book, "Everyday Contemplative: A Way of Prayerful Living." Through this eight week study (skipping Sunday, July 3rd), we will focus on the ways that we can practice our faith in our daily lives. [Link to purchase the book through Amazon.](#)



Food donation needs for May

Thanks for helping others! Donations for Fayette Samaritans, our community food pantry and clothes closet, may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym (new location) or dropped by the church office.

Most Needed in May (but all donations are welcome and appreciated):

Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Tuna, Canned Fruit, Corn, Saltine Crackers, Jelly, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

Clothes Closet Needs: All sizes women's underwear, especially large



Welcome, New Member!

We look forward to getting to know you at Fayetteville First UMC!

Judy Hames joined on May 15

inspired ...

Preschool Year in Review — *Kerry Bleil*

This week we wrapped up our 2021-2022 school year. We successfully navigated another year of COVID policies with the help of our preschool families, staff, and the FFUMC congregation. We cannot thank you enough for wearing masks when asked, taking the long way through the building, and supporting us through it all!

We spent the year enjoying our friendships, learning new things, strengthening our whole bodies, and having fun. Our goal is for the preschool children to LOVE school and I think we accomplished that with flying colors! Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!



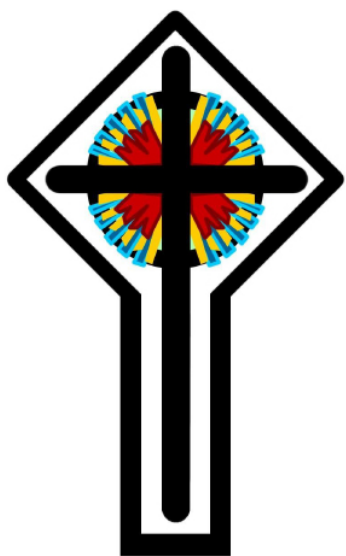
Fayetteville First Preschool builds a strong foundation for success through its child-centered curriculum, hands-on activities, and opportunities to learn and play with friends.



Preschool Advisory Board

A HUGE thank you goes out to Meredith Martin for her guidance and support over the last three years as she served as the Chairperson of the Preschool Advisory Board. She presided over her last meeting on May 10. Meredith helped us create goals based on our vision, provided a level head during the pandemic, and strengthened the bridge between the preschool and FFUMC. Thank you, Meredith, for your time and friendship!

Kerry Bleil, preschool director, with Meredith



May 18, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$505,366.94
Year to Date expenses	\$466,818.41
Difference	\$38,548.53

Benevolence

Received this week \$1066.00

46 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$15,066.06

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