



July 22, 2022

The Weekender

Family

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

This weekend, our family will gather with my mom's side of the family for the first time in a long time. I'm not even sure when it was that we had a family reunion; we just always got together at holidays. It got me thinking about family.

I've only gotten to choose my family once, and that is when I asked Leslie to marry me. The rest of the time we are blessed with the family we are given. The same could be true for church family. As United Methodists, at least as a pastor, we don't get to choose our church family. But we are so grateful to have this congregation as our church family. It's like a little mini reunion every time we get together. And as we gather not just for worship but for celebrations, studies, prayer groups, meetings, and fellowship, we find that we truly do like each other.

This Sunday, I am delighted that part of my extended church family will be preaching for our congregation. My friend and colleague, Rev. Geoff Beakley (pictured here), will be present with us as we share in worship together. I've known Geoff for 14 years. He was a member of Peachtree Road UMC when I was an associate and he taught several Bible studies throughout the years there. He felt God calling him to ministry and after talking it over with his wife, Leigh, decided to answer the call. Geoff interned with me during seminary when I was at Sandy Springs UMC. This summer, he was ordained full connection in the United Methodist Church. He currently serves as the Director of Wesley Fellowship at Georgia Tech and as an Associate Minister at Peachtree Road.



As I celebrate with my family, I know that you will welcome Rev. Beakley as part of our church family as he shares his time and talents with us. It's like the song goes, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." May we find God's joy and blessing in all that we do, now and always.



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 24, 2022

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

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

Galatians 3:23-26; Mark 10:35-45

God's Extravagant Love

Rev. Geoff Beakley

CURRENT NEWS



Register now for meal packing event on August 21

You're invited to help fight hunger by preparing highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event on August 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Fayetteville First UMC gym.

What can you do?

[Sign up online for the packing event with Rise Against Hunger.](#)

Donate funds to pay for meals. Our **packing event will** prepare 30,000 meals (Cost of \$11,409.12 has been paid to RAH. We want to replenish our mission accounts here at FFUMC). Mark check or [online donations given to FFUMC](#) for the event as "Rise Against Hunger."

Fill a table with friends and family! Invite others to join you in this effort for two-hours of packing fun!

Want to be part of a pre-event lunch? We will enjoy a prebagged light lunch. Contact the church office, admin@fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313, to reserve lunches for you, your packing group, and your family by August 15. We'll move from the Fellowship Hall lunch at noon to the packing event at 1 p.m. Questions? Contact Suzie Lusk, suzielusk49@gmail.com or text 678-333-5386. A nursery will be available with reservation by August 15: contact the church office.

All ages (from 4 years up) can help! Label bags, fill meal packets, seal, box — There is a job for you!



Let's Do Lunch - Saturday, August 13

It's time to make your reservation for "Let's Do Lunch," a special event for women on Saturday, August 13. Remember to bring some friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! **You have until July 29 to reserve a seat for you and your guests.** Participants will enjoy a Chicken Caesar Salad for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated tables in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall.

We are delighted to have Debbie Walker as our special guest. You will be blessed to hear her inspirational story. She will also delight us with her beautiful voice, accompanied by Penny Brown.

Reservations due July 29

This event is FREE, but reservations are required. Choose one of these 4 easy ways to make your reservation. You may make reservations for you and your friends at the same time.

1. **Online:** [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form and press "Submit."
2. **Email:** Send an email to Nancy Dennis at sewpar21@gmail.com with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of anyone coming with you.
3. **Phone:** Call the church office at 770-461-4313.
4. **Bulletin insert:** Complete the insert in Sunday's bulletin and drop it in the offering plate.

If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Nancy Dennis to cancel.



Back to School Blessing: July 31

We are grateful for all the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, faculty members, facility, cafeteria, and after school staff members who work hard to make sure the children in our community have a safe, clean and excellent place to learn. If you are associated with the schools (public, private, or post-secondary level) in any way – student through employee – join us in worship **July 31 at 11 a.m. for our Back to School Blessing**. Bring an item for us to pray over; lay it down at the prayer rail and receive a prayer of blessing as you begin the new year. Also, before you leave that day we have a special gift for you to remind you that you are loved.



Kick Ball Kick Off Cook Out: Eat. Play. Spectate. August 7

Our entire church family is invited to participate in our Kick Ball Kick Off Cook Out on Sunday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m. We will have hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, yummy desserts and a friendly, fun-filled kick ball game on The Field. Come to eat. Come to play. Come to spectate. We have something for everyone! Come be family together as we kickoff a new season of fellowship.



Got vases? We need them!

The Flower Ministry Team has been busy spreading love and encouragement to our church family and community. Can you share some vases to help them in their work?

Small and medium-size vases needed (No bud vases, please)
Any wired ribbon

Drop off donations on Flower Ministry cart in gym kitchen

Thanks for your help. Want to participate more? You can help arrange or deliver flowers as part of the team. Contact Marilyn Harris, 770-313-4646 or elegmimi52@gmail.com, for details.



Fearless Dialogues - Diving Deeper

A Conversation on Racial Justice and Healing

District-wide meeting with Rev. Brian Tillman at FFUMC

In a third session, Rev. Brian Tillman, Conference Director of Inclusion and Advocacy, will lead participants in considering concrete steps as we lead our congregations and communities toward racial healing and reconciliation. You do not have to have participated in the first two sessions to take part in this event. Register by calling or emailing the SouthWest District Office (770-227-1074 or southwest@ngumc.net) by August 3. This event will be hosted by Fayetteville First UMC on Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Fayette Samaritans list for July

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 or dropped by the church office.

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

Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Laundry Detergent, Cookies, Pop Tarts, Ketchup, Mustard, Shampoo

Clothes Closet Needs: Women's underwear size extra large and all sizes of men's boxer shorts



Movin' On Up! Promotion Sunday, August 7

Sunday, August 7 is promotion Sunday and the day that we celebrate our rising 2nd graders by giving them a Bible of their very own. [Please let us know if you have a second grader in your household by filling out this simple form.](#) Then, be sure to join us in worship August 7 at 11 a.m. so we, as members of Fayetteville FUMC, can honor your student as they continue along their own personal journey of faith.



Blood Drive Results

Thanks volunteers and donors for your support of the American Red Cross Blood Drive this past Sunday. As a result of your efforts:

33 units collected (thanks to walk-ins, double red donors and minimal deferrals)

19 signed up, 7 walk-ins, 2 no-shows

Save the date for our next blood drive: **October 16**



Can you share a little extra?

Many in our community are facing some bumps in their road and find a need for financial assistance. Our dedicated Benevolence Committee coordinates with Fayette Samaritans, The Real Life Center, and St. Vincent de Paul to vet the needs and share resources.

You can support this ministry any time by designating "Benevolence" on your check or online gift. Also, when we share communion, usually on the first Sunday of each month, gifts for Benevolence Fund may be left at the altar rail. Thanks for reaching out to others as you can.



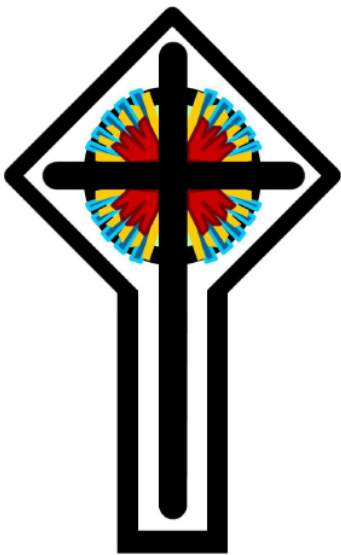
To Friends and Prayer Warriors at FFUMC: *Thank you so much for thinking of me during the time of my mother's passing. Your cards, prayers and support have been a source of comfort and peace.*

FFUMC Flower Ministry: *Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers in honor of my mother. They were lovely and are comforting during a difficult time. Thanks for the work you do.*

— Connie Hyder

FFUMC Flower Ministry: *Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers. We will enjoy them.*

— Julia Webb



July 20, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$689,155.63
Year to Date expenses	\$683,802.90
Difference	\$5,352.73

Benevolence

Received this week \$776.00

65 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$22,168.62

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

inspired ...

Sunshiners share love this week at VBS

Friends, learning adventures, smiles, and hugs were shining all around Sunshine VBS this week as these special adults made their own discoveries on Adventure Island. As this group gathered to enjoy each other and get a little love from FFUMC, they GAVE so much to everyone they encountered. Love. Smiles. Generosity. Presence. Contentment.

Susie Arrington says, "Sunshine, the perfect word to describe this group of friends. They light up the room with their presence, open their arms and hearts to everyone they meet, and exemplify the purest form of unconditional love imaginable."

Thank you, Sunshiners, for "Arising" and "Shining" on our lives this week. We have all been immensely blessed.

