



August 19, 2022

The Weekender

Making a difference

Dr. Thomas Martin

You may have heard the Starfish Story before. It goes like this:

“One day, an old man was walking along a beach that was littered with thousands of starfish that had been washed ashore by the high tide. As he walked, he came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish back into the ocean, one by one.

Puzzled, the man looked at the boy and asked what he was doing. Without looking up from his task, the boy simply replied, ‘I’m saving these starfish, Sir.’

The old man chuckled aloud, ‘Son, there are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you make?’

The boy picked up a starfish, gently tossed it into the water and turning to the man, said, “It made a difference to that one!”

With all of the problems in the world, it seems like there are “thousands” when we walk through our day. We might be overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work to be done. Yet like the little boy, we are invited to make a difference for that one.

Hunger, inadequate water sources, malnutrition, persecution, hatred, licentiousness, gossip—all of these things pile up to where we might not think that we make a difference. But what if we, as a church, took the approach to make the small changes. Then we could do something big.

This Sunday after church, we will pack meals with Rise Against Hunger. We will tackle one of the “thousands of problems,” but we will do it together and it will make a difference. Our doors to the church will be opened to the community—that will make a difference. People from other churches and neighbors will come together—that will make a difference. Food will be packed and stored and sent safely around the world—that will make a difference. Jesus says the good shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one. What difference can you make?

You can make a difference to that one.



Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 21, 2022

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

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

Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Luke 13:1-17

Burdens

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



All hands on deck! Rise Against Hunger this Sunday

Invite a friend to help you and come 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 this Sunday, 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!

Questions? Contact Suzie Lusk, suzielusk49@gmail.com or text 678-333-5386.

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



Welcome, Karen Powell, Administrative Assistant

We welcome Karen Powell to Fayetteville First. Karen is a long-time resident of Fayette County and a lifelong Georgian. After a career with the Fayette County Board of Education with positions such as parapro, principal's secretary, and administrative assistant for Career and Technical Education, Karen will be the friendly voice and smiling face at the front desk in our church office. Why did she accept a position here? "I have always enjoyed being with people and being of service to the community," she explains. "I wanted to expand my horizons, and now I hope to be of benefit to the congregation here." Karen and her husband, Greg, have two grown sons. She enjoys walking their Goldendoodle, Bo, camping, and reading all types of books. Welcome to FFUMC, Karen. We're glad you're here!



Titus II Returns on September 6, Noon

It's time to gather again for Titus II. Come enjoy a meal together (\$8.00) in the gym and a musical program by Danny Beck and Bill Webb. Menu: Baked Chicken, Butter Beans, Fried Okra, Rolls, Apple Cobbler. Reservations should be made by calling Martha Turner (770-461-2802) by noon on Thursday, September 1. We look to meeting together once again!

Wednesday Night kickoff at FFUMC September 7

Fellowship, food by local restaurant, and growth groups for all ages

Fellowship Dinners Return September 7

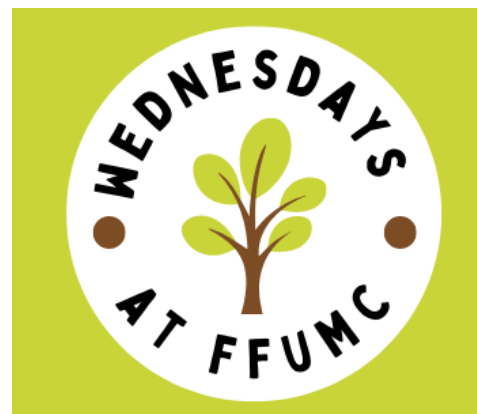
Our nights together begin with dinner in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 to 6 PM Meals will be offered from a local restaurant each week

September 7 Meal: Speedi-Pig Piglet Sandwich, Baked Beans, Mac-n-Cheese, Peach Cobbler

[Sign up here for permanent or weekly meal reservations.](#)

Following dinner, take part in growth opportunities for all ages.



Children Kickoff with Video Game Truck Adventure

Wednesday, September 7, 6 to 8 PM (extended time)

Kindergarten — 5th grades

Kick off our fall ministries with a Video Game Truck adventure.

The game truck hosts 4 TVs inside with music and 3 TVs outside as well as air conditioning.

[Sign up here for Kickoff Event](#)



Youth Kickoff on The Field

Wednesday, September 7, 6 to 8 PM

6th — 12th grades

Wednesdays kickoff on The Field with

games, color wars, music, and message and more!

Wear a white shirt and bring a friend to win prizes.



Adult Growth Groups Begin

Wednesday, September 7

Parenting With Mental Health In Mind: 6 to 7 PM

Your kid or teenager's mental health matters and they're counting on you to take it seriously and handle it with intention. If you're looking to navigate your kid's mental health, this group is a great place to be. Whether you are a parent, youth leader, teacher, or caring adult, not knowing how to help those dealing with difficulties can leave you feeling intimidated, powerless, and discouraged. There is hope and the best place to start is with others who are on the same journey. Resources for this curriculum come from theparentcue.org. Each Wednesday night we will discuss key ideas from the book, *Seen*, watch a short helpful video with a companion workbook that will guide us through the conversations.

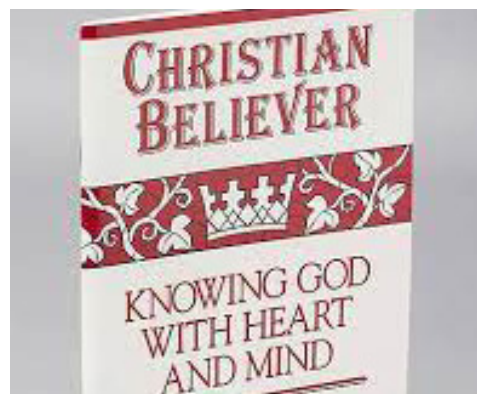
[Sign up for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind here](#)



Christian Believer: 6 to 8 PM

Christian Believer is part of the Disciple Bible Studies and focuses on classical teachings of the Christian faith—presenting, explaining, and interpreting them in a way that we can understand, using words, symbols, and hymns. This class lasts 30 weeks with breaks for holidays. It is for adults of all ages and will be led by Jeff Hansen. The cost for the class reading material is \$50.

[Sign up for Christian Believer here](#)



Wednesdays at FFUMC beginning September 14

Children's Programs:

[Sign up for all children's programs here](#)

Club Night — Video Game Club and Art Club

Wednesday nights, 6 – 7 PM

Upper elementary students in 3rd — 5th grades will learn and interact with a Bible story and then break out into a club of their choice. We have Video Game Club with Mario Kart and Smash Brothers hosted by Alpha, VG Champ, and an Art Club with opportunities to explore freestyle art projects.



Kids Crescendo

Wednesday nights, 6 – 7 PM

This new kid's group is for children in Kindergarten – 2nd grade. We'll play games with a musical twist, learn songs of faith to keep in our musical suitcase for a life time and develop basic principles of rhythm and music. This group sings in several worship services throughout the church year and other special events.



Young Kids Nursery and Playtime

Wednesday nights beginning at 6 PM

Our youngest students birth through PreK are invited to the nursery for supervised play and care.



Youth Foundry Fellowship

Wednesday nights, 6 – 8 PM

6th - 12th grade students will gather each Wednesday for games, worship and topic conversations as they reflect on God's action in the world and the part they play in it.

Contact: Hannah Vickery, Youth Director, hvickery@fayettevillefirst.com

Parenting and Christian Believer Classes Continue

Wednesday nights beginning at 6 PM

See descriptions under Kickoff section

Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

Wednesday mornings, 11 AM – Noon, September 14 – November 16 (10 weeks)

Adam Hamilton asks: What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules but also a guide to experiencing the good life today? With Rev. Allyson Lawrence explore how these familiar words help us create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, protect us and guide us each into a deeper relationship with a loving God.

[Sign up for Words of Life study here](#)





End of Summer, School's a Bummer Youth Lake Day August 27

Youth are invited to join FFUMC Youth on the lake for a last summer hurrah before we welcome fall. This event on August 27 is free for youth, but **sign up is required to go**, as there are limited spots available. [Click this link to sign up.](#)



Handy helper needed

Are you a little bit handy? We could use you! We need new stands to hold our signs. Our current stands are made of old coffee cans and a bit of concrete with a short PVC pipe in the bottom. Can you help? If you are interested in knowing more about how we could use your help to refurbish our stands please contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com.



Needs List

Fayette Samaritans list

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. **Please donate only new, unopened items.**

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

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, Beef Stew, Sloppy Joe), Pasta Sauce, Jellies and Jams, Peanut Butter, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Juice, Canned Fruits, Dried Beans, Boxed Potatoes, Rice, Canned Vegetables, and Soup

Clothes Closet Needs: Socks for girls and women, any children's clothing, ladies small underwear



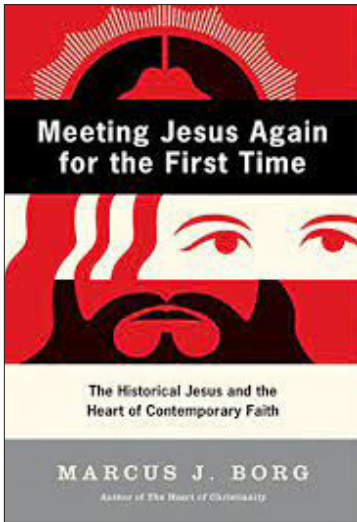
Youth Mission Trip Thank You Lunch September 11, 12:30-2 p.m. in The Foundry

Did you support the youth summer mission trips financially and/or prayerfully? We want to thank you for your kind contributions and support! Join mission trip participants in conversation and ask us your questions as we share more about our stories and experiences while having lunch together. [RSVP is not required, but appreciated \(click here\).](#)



September 6: Deadline for college addresses

UMW's Bethany Circle is sending Back to School care packages to the undergraduate and graduate college students of our church. To ensure your student receives a package, please share your student's mailing address and cell number (if you would like your student to receive a text that a package has been sent) by Tuesday, September 6. The FFUMC church family is invited to participate in this project! Anyone wishing to take part in or support this effort, please contact Karen Neuner at 404-538-4528 or neunernotes@gmail.com.



Study Class (aka Book Club) begins Marcus Borg book September 11

Thoughtful discussions resume September 11 in The Study Class as we explore Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." With others, jump into what the latest Biblical scholarship means for personal faith. "Marcus Borg addresses the yearnings of those who want a fully contemporary faith that welcomes rather than oppresses our critical intelligence and openness to the best of historical scholarship. Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Christ, one that is critical and, at the same time, sustaining." Get the book from your favorite bookseller and prepare to discuss Chapter 1 on September 11 at 9:45 a.m. in Room C-270. Questions? Contact Tim Aycock at timaycock@gmail.com.



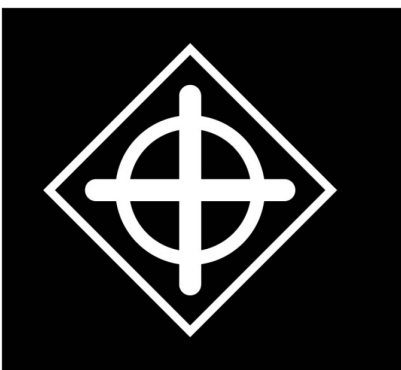
Old-Fashioned Fall Festival Planning Team wanted!

Let's have an old-fashioned fall festival with cake walks, potato sack races, pumpkin painting, bean bag tosses, face paintings, hay stacks, hot dogs and apple cider! The date will be Sunday, October 30 — but we need a whole team to help us plan and create this fun, family friendly, church-wide event. If you want to be on the team, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com and let her know. It's a big project and will take lots of loving and supportive workers and creative minds to make it happen. So if you're feeling a sense of nostalgia for the old fall festivals, come and help us make it a reality this year. If we have enough people on the team, we will have our first dreaming meeting August 28. Email Allyson for more details.



Chancel Choir rehearsals resume

You are invited to prepare for Sunday worship and special events Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 PM as the Chancel Choir resumes regular rehearsals on September 7. Contact Justin Maxey, jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com, for more information.



FFUMC Youth Visioning Informational Meetings August 24 & 28

With the help of congregation members, parents, and youth, Hannah Vickery, Youth Director, worked to set forth a new mission, vision, and goals for the youth ministry of Fayetteville First UMC. Come hear about FFUMC Youth's vision for the future, ask questions, and learn about the various ways you can offer your gifts to walk alongside and serve the youth.

August 24 — 7-8 PM in The Foundry

August 28 — 9:45-10:45 AM in The Foundry



Life Line Screening comes to FFUMC September 10

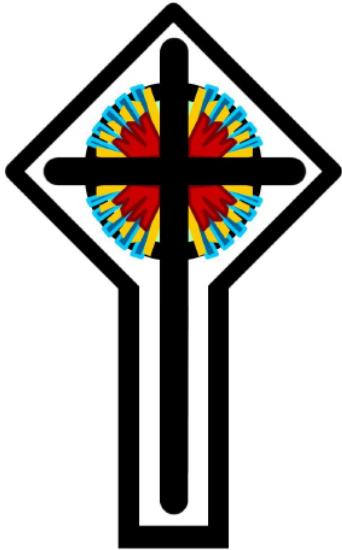
Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to provide a more thorough look at your health. You can receive five screenings for only \$149. Find out more and sign up at 1-800-324-1851 (special discount code is LLSA.SOCIAL/HS).



Thank you

Sunshine Thank You:

Thanks to all of the faithful servants for your presence at Sunshine VBS. I sincerely appreciate you and the unique gifts each of you bring to this special group! — Susie Arrington



August 17, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$767,387.49
Year to Date expenses	\$789,431.11
Difference	-\$22,043.62

Benevolence

Received this week \$2663.00

69 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$23,049.31

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 ...

Fellowship and connection at Let's Do Lunch

The vision of a few developed into **Let's Do Lunch** hosted by United Women in Faith. Around 150 ladies gathered in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 11, to celebrate so many good things: a beautiful setting, friendships, elegant table decorations, good food and caring relationships. Themed tables welcomed each guest with a stylish place setting, a keepsake, and dessert provided by table hostesses. After sharing a Chicken Caesar Salad served up by some hardworking gentlemen, the ladies enjoyed sweet treats and a hopeful program presented by Debbie Walker and Penny Brown. Participants said, "It's so good to be in this new space together." "I love how all of this turned out." "Wasn't that wonderful to hear Debbie's story?" "This just feels so good!"

We appreciate all the efforts of the organizing committee (*shown below l-r Gloria Wright, Lauren Davis, Susan Burch, Carolyn McKinley and Nancy Dennis*), each of the 17 hostesses, Kathe and Bobby Anderson (who worked tirelessly with contractors and others to get the space ready), Gary Sampson and Meghan Shultz for the extra preparation and cleanup efforts ... and everyone who made time to reconnect and just enjoy moments together. What a lovely day!

