



August 5, 2022

## The Weekender

### Dressed and ready

Dr. Thomas Martin

This past Monday, while walking from the office across the street to the church, I noticed several people on the church playground. Adults, kids, families. So I walked closer to inspect and realized it was the meet and greet for preschool. Then it hit me: for the first time in eleven years, we will not have a kid in the preschool or daycare at the church where I work and we attend. That is a weird feeling.

Yesterday, we made breakfast per the request of each kid for the first day of school and sent kids off to the public schools in Fayette County. To get to that point of sending them off, we had the privilege of being able to get their supplies, new shoes, and new clothes (kids grow fast!). You can start something, but it's hard to start when you aren't ready.



In Luke's Gospel, Jesus says, "*Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.*" (Luke 12:45)

Back to school may have snuck up on us mentally, but we were ready for it. We were dressed for it.

Life can be like that sometimes. It can sneak up on us when we are not aware. It catches us off guard. Yet we can be ready even when we don't feel like being ready. It is what Jesus calls us to do.

Last week in worship we prayed over our students, teachers, and our schools as we celebrated the new year. I hope they all know the love that they have been given and the love that God has for them. I hope we all take time to be dressed for action and have our lamps lit. I hope we remain close to Christ so we may always know that Christ draws close to us.

### **A Prayer for the New School Year from Discipleship Ministries of The UMC**

Gracious God, thank you for teaching us. You give us wisdom now to help us in the future.

We are grateful for this new year in which we may grow in faith, friendship, and the love of Jesus.

We pray for all students in our community. Thank you for their curiosity, hope, and kindness.

Help our students to listen for your voice, as they explore Scripture and seek to live what they believe.

We pray for all teachers. Thank you for giving them dedication, experience, and insight.

Sustain them by your Spirit with creativity, patience, peace, and joy.

Continually guide and bless all parents, families, and the whole congregation throughout this year.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who asked and answered many questions.

Amen.



## Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

August 7, 2022

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

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

Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40

***The Unexpected Hour***

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

## CURRENT NEWS



### Churchwide Event for all ages

**Kick Ball Kick Off Cook Out: Eat. Play. Spectate.**

**This Sunday: August 7, 4:30 p.m.**

Our entire church family is invited to participate in our Kick Ball Kick Off Cook Out this 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.

Hamburgers & Hotdogs: provided by United Methodist Men

Chips: provided by the children

Drinks: provided by the youth

Desserts: provided by United Women in Faith

**Entertainment and fellowship: provided by EVERYONE!**



### Sign Up NOW! Meal Packing Event: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!***





## 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? **Gather what you can from your home stash or pick up some from a thrift or dollar store.** As long as they are clean, they'll work just fine!

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](mailto:elegmimi52@gmail.com), for details.



## Promotion Sunday and 2nd Grade Bibles this Sunday: August 7

The FFUMC Family is presenting these 2nd graders with a Bible this Sunday at the 11:00 service:

Harper Bauer

Parker Coldiron

Lindsay Howard

Laurel Kemberling

Leif Lynch

Mills Martin

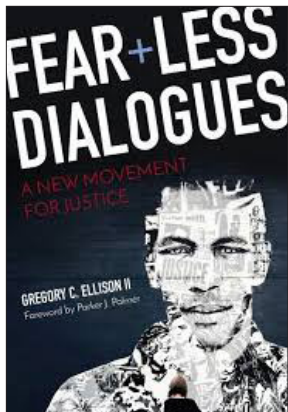
Ruth Mayhew

Scarlett Neal

Jakob Vargo

We are delighted to share in their faith journey with this special gift. Plan to be at the service to support these young people with your prayers and your presence.

If you are the parent of a second grade student and your child's name is not on this list, please email Rev. Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) and let her know.



## Fear+Less Dialogues - Diving Deeper

### A Conversation on Racial Justice and Healing

### District-wide meeting at FFUMC this Saturday, August 6

Participants in this third UMW District-led session will consider 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. This event will be hosted by Fayetteville First UMC on Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gym.



## 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.](#)





## 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.

### ***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*



## Special Benevolence Fund offering this Sunday

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 this Sunday, gifts for Benevolence Fund may be left at the altar rail.** Thanks for reaching out to others as you can.



## 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 \(click here\).](#)



## SAGE Trip, anyone?

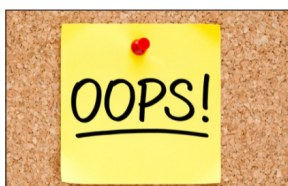
Our Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) are ready for an August adventure!

**Where:** Nic & Norman's in Senoia for lunch and Gregg's Peach Orchard after

**When:** Thursday, August 11, leaving church office parking lot at 11 a.m.

**Reservations:** Call the church office by Tuesday, August 9 (770-461-4313)

**Questions:** Contact Joe Watson, [jwatson@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jwatson@fayettevillefirst.com)



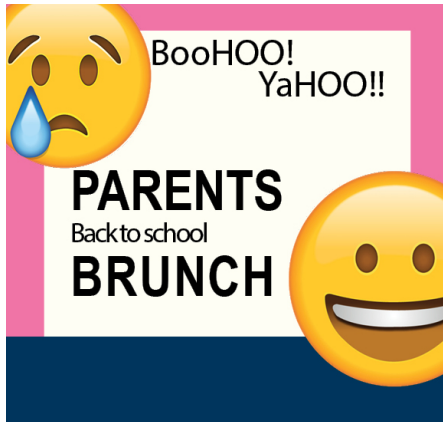
## Summer Lunch Helpers

Last week, Inman UMC was mistakenly omitted from the list of Summer Lunch volunteers. We appreciate their help! — Joan Aycock



## New classes begin August 15

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays August 15 through November 14 for a 13-week session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B350. (No class on Labor Day). All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).



## BooHOO! YaHOO! August 15 at 9 a.m.

How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 15, from 9 to 10 a.m. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](mailto:Rev.AllysonLawrence) for more information.



## G3: Good Grief Gals on August 11

Women moving through life after the death of their spouses are meeting each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also moving through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the SECOND THURSDAY. Our next gathering will be held on August 11 at 6 p.m. at Partner's Pizza in Fayetteville. Everyone will be responsible for their own dinner and beverage. If you have any questions, contact Janet Baileys at [jkbaleys11@gmail.com](mailto:jkbaleys11@gmail.com).



## Coming soon ... Wednesdays at FFUMC!

It's coming soon ... Wednesday night opportunities in September. Watch for details!



# inspired ...

## Christmas in July: Thanks for thinking of others

*Gracias a todos los que donaron ropa, juguetes y dinero para el proyecto de la caja de zapatos. Gracias a ustedes, 64 niños de Centroamérica tendrán regalos de Navidad y sabrán que Dios los ama.*

Thank you to all who donated clothing, toys, and money for the shoe box project. Because of you, 64 children in Central America will have Christmas presents and will know that God loves them.

These boxes were delivered to the North Alabama Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur, Alabama, on August 2. Boxes will go through customs in the U.S., then by airplane or boat to Costa Rica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, or Honduras. They will then go through customs as they arrive in each country. From there they will go by pickup truck, donkey, canoe, whatever they have, to the remote villages. They hope to get them there by Christmas.

The members of the United Women in Faith Marie Lamb Circle plan to sponsor this project again in 2023. Look for details early next year.



*Marie Lamb Circle collected, sorted, filled in the gaps, and prepared 64 Christmas boxes for children in Central America. Maggie Clarke (above) delivered the boxes and the check for shipping to Cindy Sandlin who runs the warehouse totally with volunteers. Thank you for all your donations!*



## Thank you

### Flower Ministry:

*Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to us. We enjoyed them for days. It was so special for us to be thought of with these flowers! What a wonderful ministry to gift beauty and special thoughts. Thank you. — Gaines & Vicki Wallen*

### Church Family:

*Thank you all for the cards, kinds words, and the love offering that I have received from everyone since leaving the position at the church office. I miss working at the church and the office staff. I think our office staff is a wonderful, dedicated group of folks. We are very blessed to have them at FFUMC. The congregation at FFUMC is a very caring, thoughtful group of people and I am blessed to be a part of this Christian community. — Dian Nelson*

### Shawl Ministry:

*Thank you for the beautiful, colorful shawl you sent for our family. I so appreciate the time, effort, thoughts and prayers that went into making it! We will take it to the family cabin so everyone can enjoy it and think of ya'll and Mom! Your thoughtfulness is such a blessing. — Anna Hood & Hood Family*

## August 3, 2022 Financials

### Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$726,659.78
Year to Date expenses	\$757,847.13
Difference	-\$31,187.35

### Benevolence

Received this week \$538.00  
66 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$22, 248.97

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;  
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

