



September 2, 2022

The Weekender

Prophets, Bushes, God, and Us

Dr. Thomas Martin

The story of Jonah is unique, because, among other things, Jonah is the only successful prophet. That is, he is the only prophet to proclaim repentance to a people and the people actually listened. No other prophet had success. No other prophet turned an entire people or tribe to the Lord. But Jonah did. Then there's the whole fish thing, but that's another story.



The book of Jonah ends with the Lord providing shade for Jonah in the form of a bush. Then the Lord sends a worm to attack the bush and make the bush wither. Jonah does not like this. Even after God delivered him from the belly of the fish, even after Jonah had success and saw God's mercy and saw people and animals repent, even after God delivered him and forgave him for not following instructions the first time, Jonah is big mad about the bush.

God asks Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" Jonah responds, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, you are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" (Jonah 4:9-11).

Sometimes there is a good anger, a righteous anger. Then sometimes we get upset about things that happened that we did not plan for — good or bad. But is anger the appropriate response to everything? Unfortunately, the world around us entertains the voices who seem to be most angry. Perhaps it is the noise? Perhaps it is sensationalism? Perhaps it is the ongoing desire to be entertained that is a flaw of our human condition?

What if Jonah had taken a moment to realize what God wanted him to know all along — that Jonah did not plant the bush: God provided it. Jonah did not save the Ninevites: God did that. Jonah did not save himself from the belly of the fish: God did that.

I fear that one of the greatest temptations we will face in any situation is to look at something and say, "I did that" with pride or arrogance without recognizing God's presence with us. Just because we don't feel God's presence, does not mean it is not with us. God was with Jonah in the fish, God was with Noah on the Ark. God was with the disciples in their doubt. God is with us. We are Jonah. We doubt, yet God works through us and for us. God will never leave us. Thanks be to God.



Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

September 4, 2022

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

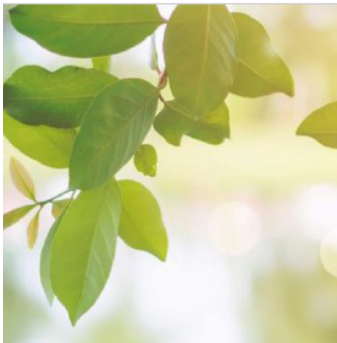
Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after

Luke 14:25-33

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS

"A Walk in the Garden" Salad Luncheon is September 15



All Ladies! We have another wonderful opportunity to join together for food, fellowship and ministry. Join us for *A Walk in the Garden* and Salad Luncheon presented by the United Women in Faith (UMW) on Thursday, September 15, at 11:30 a.m. in our beautifully renovated Fellowship Hall. Breathing new life into the stories of Biblical women, Carla Cloud, *A Gentle Witness*, will bring to life what it was like to walk in Eve's shoes and the freedom we can receive from God. Carla is coming back by popular demand after so beautifully portraying what life was like for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Please bring a salad to share; desserts will be provided. We will collect a love offering to honor Carla. Reservations are due by Monday, September 12. UMW members should make reservations through their circles. All others can contact Susan Burch, 678-523-7329 or showburch@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!!

G3: Good Grief Gals on September 8



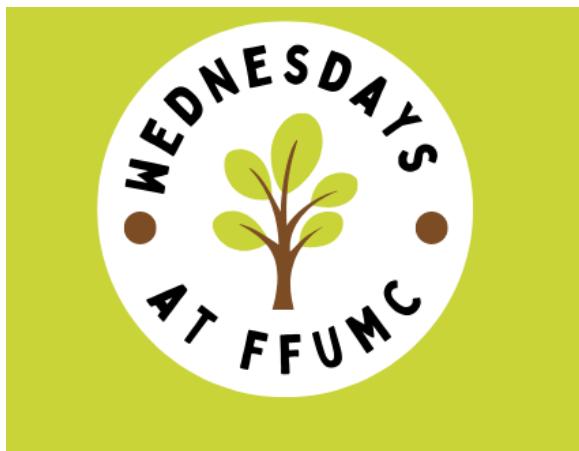
Women moving through life after the death of their spouses are meeting each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also moving through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the SECOND THURSDAY. Our next gathering will be held on September 8 at 6 PM 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.

Fall music gets underway with choir and handbells

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.



We are looking to **resume handbells** this fall. Do you play? Can you share the news with others who may be ready for this opportunity? If interested, please contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, 770-710-6077.



Wednesdays Kick Off September 7 Fellowship, Food, Growth Groups for All

Fellowship dinners return September 7

Our nights together begin with dinner in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 to 6 PM [Find the weekly menu at FayettevilleFirst.com](https://www.fayettevillefirst.com).

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 all ages.

Children kick off 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 kick off 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, 6 PM

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.

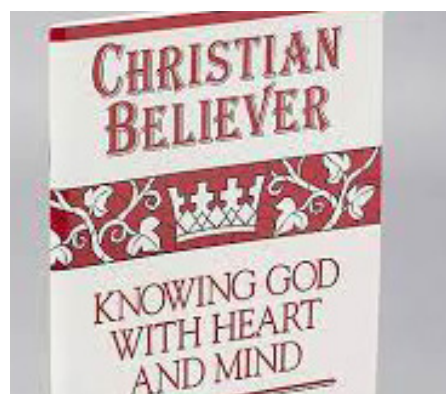
[Sign up for Parenting with Mental Health in Mind here](#)



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 lifetime 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 kick off section.

Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today begins September 14

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](#)

**Nothing is better
than Wednesdays together!**





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 \(click here\).](#)



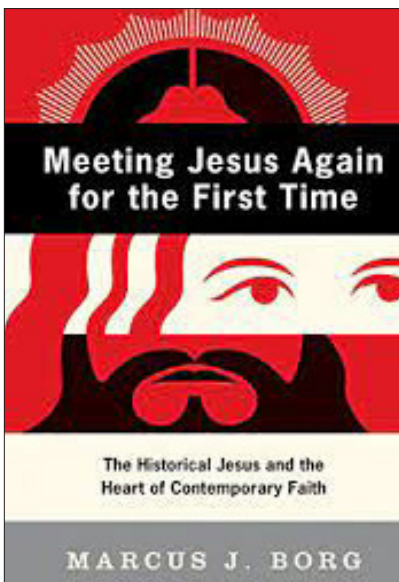
Life Line Screening comes to FFUMC September 10

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).



DEADLINE September 6: Let us know about college students

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.



Brown Bag with Thomas September 14

Join Pastor Thomas at a Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, September 14, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and bring your questions to hear about the way we are sharing Christ here at Fayetteville First UMC.



Celebrate 50 years of North Georgia UWF

October 1 marks the 50th annual meeting of the North Georgia United Women in Faith. Join others at Griffin First UMC for the 2022 Annual Meeting and Worship Celebration. Highlights include Word Made Flesh (scripture in word and dance), a message from Dr. Millie Kim, special music from Una Voz (One Voice) and a female choir from Norcross First. Cost: \$20 Lunch

and meeting; \$10 Meeting only. [Register by September 17 at https://na.eventscloud.com/709007](https://na.eventscloud.com/709007). For more information, contact [Kathie Hansen](#) or [click here](#).



United Methodist Men: Let's get together

All men are invited to the newly renovated Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 6, at 6:15 PM as the United Methodist Men gather for a covered dish and fellowship meeting. Bring a covered dish. Green Egg gurus and other grill masters: your skills will be a gourmet delight. We will need salads, desserts, casseroles, appetizers, drinks or a quick stop by Bojangles (we love chicken). Bring a dish, let's fellowship and get back together.



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



Overnight camping for youth and parents September 24

All youth and their parents are invited on an overnight camping trip to North Georgia. We'll be staying at Cooper Creek Campground (near Suches, GA), with plenty of time for fishing, playing games, hiking as a group to Preacher's Rock, and telling stories around the campfire. It's going to be a great opportunity for building relationships with other youth and parents and spending time out in God's incredible creation as well.

All participants will need to provide their own camping gear (tents, sleeping items, personal coolers, fishing rods, etc.), snacks, and any preferred drinks other than water. FFUMC will provide lunch, dinner, and breakfast at the campsite, along with water and s'mores.

[Sign up deadline is Friday, September 23 or until all spots are filled.](#)

***This trip is for youth who are 6th-12th grade, their siblings or friends who are also 6th-12th grade, and their parents.



Titus II Meets Tuesday, September 6

The new season of Titus II begins Tuesday, September 6, at noon in the gym. If you missed the lunch reservation deadline, still come hear Danny Beck and Bill Webb as they present their annual music showcase.



Kickoff for Seasoned Singers: September 13

Come kickoff a new season of music with the Seasoned Singers on Tuesday, September 13, at 1:30 PM in the choir room. Plan to stay after for a party in the Fellowship Hall honoring summer birthday folks and other special acknowledgements. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join our group which meets most Tuesdays at 1:30 PM. We especially invite former members of the group to attend this special party. Questions? Contact Deb Cole, 770-826-7451.



Bulloch House SAGE Trip

Senior Adults Going Everywhere will take a trip to the Bulloch House in Warm Springs on Thursday, **September 22 (note date change)**. What does the \$23 cost include? Everything you need for a great day out with friends: transportation, a meal, dessert, and gratuity.

When: Thursday, September 22

Departure from church office: 10:14 AM!

Reserve and pay church office: 770-461-4313

Thank you

FFUMC Rise Against Hunger Volunteers, Suzie Lusk, Randy Riddell:

We want to thank you and Fayetteville First UMC for hosting another event with us. Your group has packed over 286,000 meals with us! What an amazing impact you all have made. Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission. We look forward to your event in 2023.

— Rise Against Hunger Atlanta Team



Trustees & Kathe and Bobby Anderson:

The United Women in Faith want to thank the Trustees for all their efforts toward revamping the Fellowship Hall. And we give a special thanks to Kathe and Bobby Anderson for the extra work it took to have the space ready for the Lets Do Lunch event. We appreciate you all!

— United Women in Faith

inspired ...

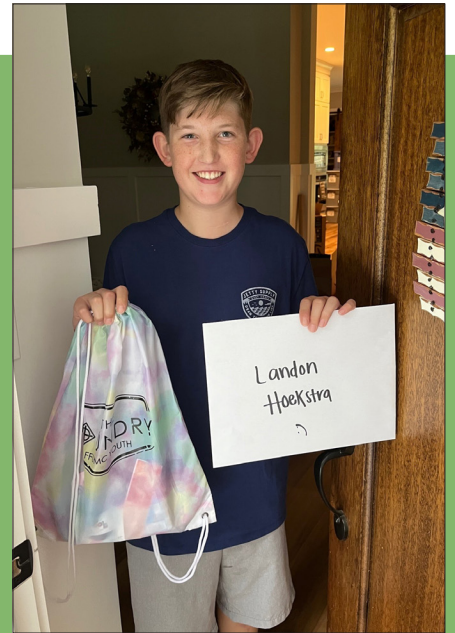
Youth appreciate the care

Our youth received some special love when Back-to-School Care Packages were hand-delivered to them. Each backpack included a notebook, two scripture stickers, hand sanitizer, tissues, candy, and information about the fall youth program. They also received an invitation to the Kickoff Event in The Field on September 7 at 6 PM.

Hannah Vickery, youth director, said, "We're excited for a new year and this time to get back to weekly events as we walk beside our youth in their faith journey." The youth seem ready to jump back in and many sent texts of appreciation for the care package. Notice the scripture sticker on the back of a car. That will spread some encouragement wherever that youth drives!

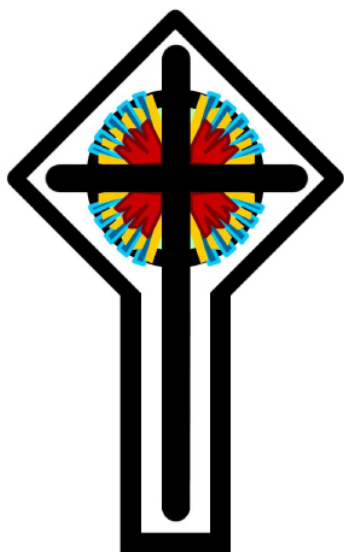


*Weekly youth events
resume September 7.*



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

ENJOY THE HOLIDAY!



August 31, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$814,628.58
Year to Date expenses	\$820,643.14
Difference	-\$6,014.56

Benevolence

Received this week \$620.00

70 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$23,349.31

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