



September 23, 2022

The Weekender

Hold Fast

Dr. Thomas Martin

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers." (Romans 12:9-13)

The other morning, beginning our morning carpool routine, a caterpillar (actually the caterpillar was a banded tussock moth according to a Google image search) attached itself to my car windshield. I thought for sure it would be gone by the time we hit 74 with speeds upwards of 55 miles an hour. I thought that maybe once I turned into Flat Rock Middle School the wind, currents and turns would take him away. I thought for sure that the roundabouts would provide his release from my windshield. But I watched as he slowly made his way across my windshield and out of my sight.



"What an adventure that guy just had," I thought. "He traveled more miles, more distance, than any other caterpillar. It was a shame to see him meet a demise without living to tell the story."

Then when I got to church, I saw him perched on the siding of my car, out of my view from inside, but present and accounted for on the outside. I placed him gently in the trees outside my office and wished him well. At some point in the future, when I see a moth, I will wonder if that was the one that went on a journey. I will wonder.

Scripture says, "Hold fast." Hold fast to what is good. Not what is evil. In our day and age it is a hard thing to hold fast to that which is good. It might feel like there are winds and turns and unknown destinations that await you. It might be easier to give in and give up. Yet we are invited to hold fast. To do good. To serve the Lord. To persevere in prayer. To outdo one another not in an effort to win but in an effort to show honor. My prayer is that we might have the strength of that caterpillar who held on, who went further than any caterpillar in Fayette County that day, and by the power of God will be made new, for behold, the old has passed away and God is making all things new.



16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 25, 2022

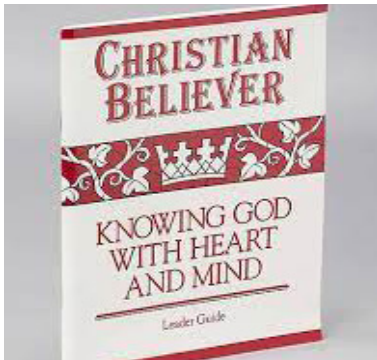
8:45 a.m., 11 a.m.

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

Psalm 146; Luke 16:19-31

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Christian Believer study moves to Sunday evenings Sundays, 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. This class starts October 2 and meets on Sundays from 6 to 8 PM. *Note new meeting day.* [Click here to register and join the class.](#)



Serve meal at SafeHouse Outreach for 200 clients Thursday, September 29

Want to help serve a meal at SafeHouse? Thursday, September 29, is our next service to the homeless in downtown Atlanta. We have been asked to prepare food for 200 clients due to current needs. Can you help prepare food or serve? Contact Randy Riddell, randyhr8@gmail.com, for details.

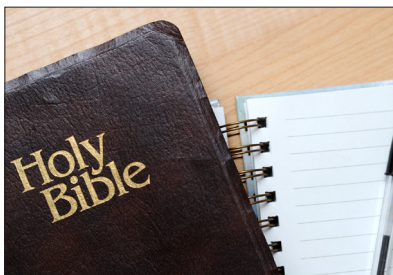


Save the Date: American Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC October 16

You can help relieve the severe blood shortage by donating at the next American Red Cross Blood drive at FFUMC on October 16 from 8 AM to 1 PM. To reserve a specific donation time and help plan for workers, please schedule at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code FFUMC. For assistance in registering, email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com.

A perk is offered for donations at the drive. [Each presenting donor will receive a free \\$5 e-giftcard to a merchant of their choice. Check it out here.](#)

Be sure to note the tips for a successful donation ... and share this invitation with a friend!



Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible study, hosted by Chuck Grayson and Randy Riddell, meets Tuesday evenings. Come and join the group where men gather to read the Bible aloud and discuss at the end of each chapter—sometimes earlier! There's no study book or homework, just honest questions and sharing of information from various commentaries and study Bible footnotes, etc. This group meets at 6 PM on Tuesdays in C200. Contact the church office for a door code.



Titus II welcomes The Honorable Judge Thompson October 4

Be informed and encouraged as our own The Honorable Judge Jason Thompson presents the program at our next Titus II. You'll get an update on DUI Court and other initiatives, and maybe a story or two about growing up here at FFUMC! Reserve your meal with Martha Turner by noon on Thursday, September 29, at 770-461-2802. Meal (\$8): Country Fried Steak, Creamed Potatoes, Vegetable, Biscuit, Dessert

Judge Thompson may have a story to share about Nadine. Let's ask him!



Amazing Grace Offering supports children, young adults, and families at Wellroot Family Services

Wellroot Family Services (formerly The United Methodist Children's Home) provides more loving, compassionate, and nurturing homes through its services which include foster care, transitional and independent living programs, and a multi-faceted family preservation continuum. 100% of your gift goes directly to equip parents, children, teens and their families to make positive changes that last a lifetime. You may give online at Wellroot.org/amazinggrace or make a note in the memo line in your contribution to FFUMC.



Needs List

Fayette Samaritans requests donations

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.**

Donations to this pantry are low, possibly due to increased price of food. All donations are greatly 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: Work-appropriate clothing for men and women, school clothes for children, pajamas in all sizes and new underwear and socks in all



Fellowship Dinner: Wednesday, September 28

What's for dinner? [Find the weekly menu at FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com). Meals are offered from a local restaurant each week.

September 28 Meal: Wings N Things: Choose 10 Wings or 5 Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Pasta Salad, Dessert

Reserve your place here. Pay each week at the door.



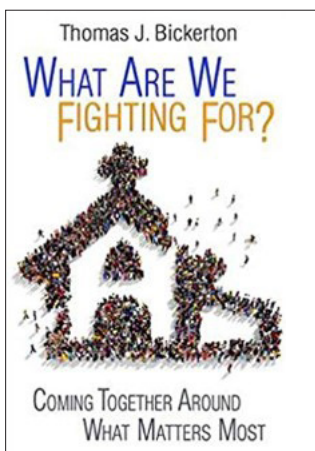
Clariece Paulk plays this Sunday

Save the date for a full concert at FFUMC: November 20

Internationally recognized concert pianist Clariece Paulk will play in worship this Sunday, September 25, at the 11:00 AM service.

For more than 62 years, Ms. Paulk has worked to enhance worship music through her performances and by training young musicians. Hear her play this Sunday in worship and then save the date for a full concert to be held here at FFUMC on Sunday, November 20, at 3 PM. [Read more about her accomplishments and heart for ministry](#) in this bio. You may find samples of her music on YouTube. Here's one: [My Jesus I Love Thee](#).

CDs of Ms. Paulk's music will be available this Sunday in the hallway behind the sanctuary near the Fellowship Hall for \$10 each or 3 for \$25 (cash/check only, but change will be available). Titles include "Hymns of Worship," "Kingdom Rhapsody," and "Hymns on the Horowitz."



New study starting this Sunday!

Looking for a place to belong on Sundays? The Cornerstone Sunday School class will begin a new study of the book "What Are We Fighting For? Coming Together Around What Matters Most." by Thomas J. Bickerton. Bishop Bickerton offers a way to move beyond the discord within the church to a hope-filled future by exploring how we can come together around what matters most so that the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes a vibrant part of our lives and witness. Whether you are looking for a new class to join or simply interested in this particular topic, you are invited to join the discussion beginning at 9:50 AM, Sunday, September 25 in Room C270.



That we
may be
One

John 17:11

Save the date for racial healing workshop

You are invited to an upcoming workshop titled "Racial Healing & Reconciliation - Leaders Working Together" on October 29, 2022, at the nearby Calvin Center from 10 AM to 2 PM. Leaders from our sister UMC churches in the area will also be inviting their parishioners (Merrell's Chapel UMC, New Hope UMC, Hartford UMC, Griffin First UMC). During the workshop, leader Elaine Beatte will lead participants to connect authentically with one another; understand how to put cultural humility and intelligence to work, identify barriers within the church and community, and commit to work collaboratively. There is no charge to attend the workshop and registration is forthcoming. Lunch will be available for \$13. For more information, contact Tim Aycock, timaycock@gmail.com.



Handbell group welcomes you

Bells will be ringing at FFUMC this fall. Do you want to get the details on this group? Contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, 770-710-6077, with any questions.

FFUMC Youth NEWS



Middle School / High School Hangouts

Every 1st Sunday of the month, youth will pick where these hangouts are! Meet us out in the community for fun and a deeper dive into what we've been talking about all month at Foundry Fellowship. The first Hangout is Sunday, October 2, from 5-7 PM at the Scarborough Pavillion (135 Rowland Rd, Brooks, GA). This first one will host both middle and high school together before they split off at future hangouts.



Early bird registration open for Renovatus

We're headed to Lake Junaluska Camp & Retreat Center for Renovatus 2023 on January 13-16. Lake Junaluska hosts retreat weekends throughout the winter for youth groups across the Southeast. A band and speaker (yet to be announced by Junaluska) will lead us in worship with other church youth groups. PLUS youth will have the opportunity to ski and snowboard. It's a great weekend to connect with God together!

[Early Bird Registration: Sep 15-Oct 15. \\$190 per youth](#)

Regular Registration: Oct 16-Nov 30. \$225 per youth

FFUMC KiDS NEWS



Want to be an Acolyte?

All youth and children, third grade through twelfth are invited to explore our acolyte ministry. Acolytes lead worship each Sunday by assisting the pastors, lighting the altar table candles, assisting the ushers during the offering, and leading the entire congregation out of the sanctuary as we become the light of Christ in the world. [Let Pastor Allyson know you are interested](#) and get the details for our beginners training day on Sunday, October 16, at 3 PM. You will be trained in leading the service, fitted for your robe and gloves, and learn to navigate our scheduling system. Parents are encouraged to stay for this 90 minute orientation and training.



Let's go the movies!

Children and families are invited to join FFUMC Kids at Fayetteville City Center for the showing of Hocus Pocus on Friday, October 14. We will have a fun Hocus Pocus themed scavenger hunt and prizes thirty minutes before the movie starts. The movie starts at dark. Join Ms. Allie and Pastor Allyson for an easy and free evening out!

inspired ...



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith at work: Bethany Circle

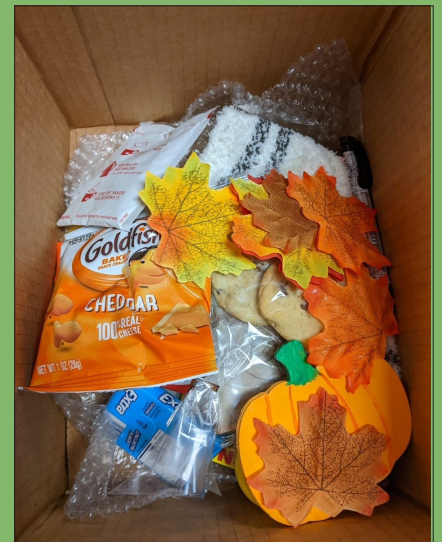
This past Sunday in worship as we celebrated the work of our United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), we were reminded of their influence near and far. A few examples include their work raising \$12,000+ for local charities annually through Christmas Marketplace, engaging actively with ministries throughout the year, and supporting missions that impact women and children in all 50 states and 100 countries around the globe. In addition to assisting others, women meeting in small groups called "circles" find joy in the relationships and fellowship they share — friendships that strengthen and encourage through each step of life.

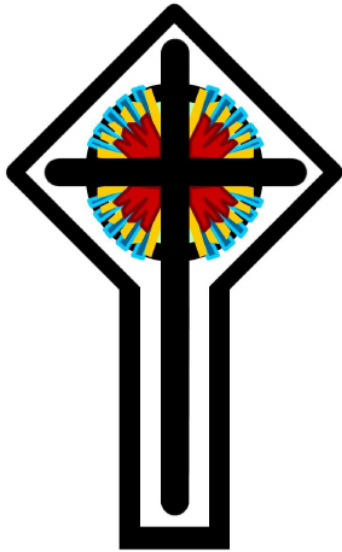
The Bethany Circle recently shared their resources and love with our college students. After gathering names and addresses for weeks, this group packed and mailed Back-to-School Care Boxes to each one ... 44 of them! This continued connection with our church is appreciated by the students and their parents as evidenced in comments the group is receiving:

Parent: "Knowing you are thinking of my daughter warms my heart. Sending college boxes is a wonderful reminder of God's love."

Student: "Thank you so much for my package! I have 3 exams this week and this surprise just made my week 100X better. I'm so thankful to be a part of FFUMC."

Thank you, Bethany Circle, for caring for these young people near to our hearts!





September 21, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$885,845.28
Year to Date expenses	\$907,940.96
Difference	-\$22,095.68

Benevolence

Received this month \$464.00

78 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$25,494.28

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