



September 30, 2022

The Weekender

Uncertainty

Dr. Thomas Martin

As I write this on Wednesday afternoon, Hurricane Ian is hitting the Florida coast, now registering as an almost Category 5 hurricane. Knowing that this will not be read until Friday reminds me of how little control I have in certain areas of life. None of us can control the weather. Not many of us can understand it. But we can remember it.

There is a lot in life that we cannot control. Medical diagnoses are things we cannot control, but we remember where we were when we heard the news. None of us can control the emotions of others, but we remember how people treat us.

The concepts of "control" and "memory" are two very powerful things in our world. Sometimes, we don't even remember correctly. Then we may really find ourselves out of control.

I am reminded that uncertainty is part of the human equation. It is part of the world in which we live. Perhaps that is why God spoke to Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Perhaps it was to remind us that even in chaos, God is in control. It is up to us to remember. Maybe that's why God gives us the words of the prophets. Life got out of control in ancient Israel and the people of God had to remember who they were and whose they were.

When our world seems lost, we remember our savior, Jesus Christ, who offers us grace beyond measure and strength enough for a new day. Jesus does not come into our lives to control us, but so that we might surrender our control to him.

No matter what happens between now and Friday, or Friday and Sunday, we know that we will remember that God calls us to use our memories well. To remember the love that God has given to us so that we might share it with others.

Who knows? In those moments where others grasp for control in their lives, if we show our love through our thoughts, words, and deeds, it just might make the difference for someone to remember God's love in their lives, even when the future is uncertain.

I hope you will join us in person or in spirit this week as we celebrate Holy Communion together and let the certainty of God's love be our focus as we remember God's gift to us.



World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2022

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

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

Luke 17:5-10 "Seeds of Faith"

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin



Get ready for Christmas Marketplace November 5

Timeless Treasures Donation Drop-offs

Do you have some gently used, sellable items you'd like to donate to a worthy cause? We would love to have your donations for the Timeless Treasures sale at Christmas Marketplace on November 5. [Please use this link for the donation dropoff schedule to the Fellowship Hall](#) beginning **Monday, October 31**, and **ending on Thursday, November 3**. Contact Lauren Davis at lauren-davis@comcast.net for more information.

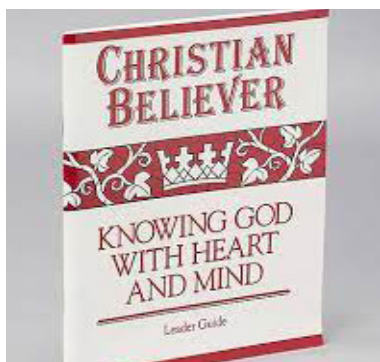


Donate at American Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC October 16

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!



Christian Believer study begins this Sunday, October 2 30 week study, 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.](#)



Can you share a little extra?

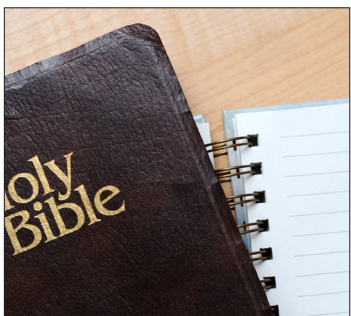
Many in our community are facing some bumps in their road and find a need for financial assistance. Our dedicated Benevolence Committee coordinates with Fayette Samaritans, The Real Life Center, and St. Vincent de Paul to vet the needs and share resources.

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



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 at noon on Tuesday, October 4. You'll get an update on DUI Court and other initiatives, and maybe a story or two about growing up here at FFUMC!



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.



Apple orchard time: Go with SAGE

Thursday, October 20

Meet at 9:27 AM in church parking lot

BBQ lunch on the way to Mercier Apple Orchards

Cost: \$5.00 per person for transportation, plus your lunch and apple orchard purchases



Call the church office, 770-461-4313, to make your reservation.



October is our month for
Fayette Samaritans

October is FFUMC Month for Fayette Samaritans

October is FFUMC's month to make a special effort to restock the shelves at Fayette Samaritans, our local food pantry and clothes closet. Donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

Donations to this pantry are low, possibly due to increased price of food. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Canned Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Dry Macaroni Pasta, Soup, Jelly Cookies, Bar Soap, Laundry Detergent

Clothes Closet Needs: Boys underwear, T-shirts in all sizes



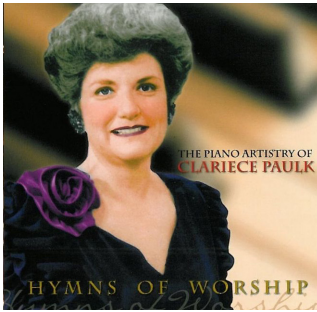
Fellowship Dinner each Wednesday

What's for dinner? [Find the weekly menu at FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com).

Meals are offered from a local restaurant each week.

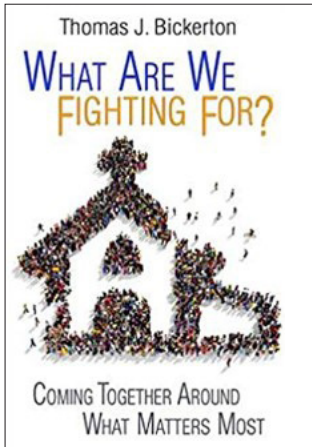
[October 5 Meal: Speedi-Pig: Piglet Sandwich, Baked Beans, Mac-n-Cheese, Dessert. Reserve meals here.](#)

Pay each week at the door.



Upcoming Clariece Paulk Concert: November 20

Internationally recognized concert pianist Clariece Paulk will present a concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 20, at 3 p.m. She will be joined on several songs by Justin Maxey. For more than 62 years, Ms. Paulk has worked to enhance worship music through her performances and by training young musicians. [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](#).



Join in a new study in The Cornerstone Class

Looking for a place to belong on Sundays? The Cornerstone Sunday School class has begun 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 each Sunday at 9:50 AM in Room C270.



That we may be

One
John 17:11

You're invited to racial healing workshop on October 29

You are invited to an upcoming workshop titled "Racial Healing & Reconciliation - Leaders Working Together" on Saturday, 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 Beattie will guide 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. Registration for the workshop and lunch (\$13) is required. Registration opens next week. For more information, contact Tim Aycock, timaycock@gmail.com.



Handbell group welcomes you

Bells will be ringing at FFUMC this fall. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. To participate, contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, 770-710-6077.



UMCOR responds to crisis

When disaster strikes, the United Methodist Church responds through The United Methodist Committee on Relief. Your donations go 100% to get personnel and supplies on the front lines. You may give [directly to UMCOR](#) or donate to FFUMC with "UMCOR" in the memo line of your check or [online contribution](#).



National Faith & Blue Event October 8

Join the community for the second annual Faith and Blue event. The event will be held Saturday, October 8, beginning with speakers at 10 AM in Fayetteville's City Center Park. Officers will meet and greet the community, hand out swag, and cook for those who come out.

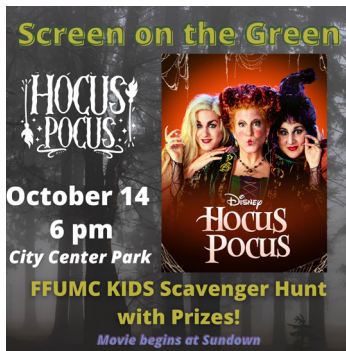
The mission of Faith and Blue: *Faith & Blue was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations. The initiative aims to re-calibrate police-community relations through solutions-focused, in-person, socially distanced and/or virtual activities that are organized jointly by faith-based or other community groups and law enforcement agencies.*

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!



The Annual Great Pumpkin Fest is October 22

This is our giant Fall Family Ministries outreach event! In a world of ghosts and goblins, come share the Gospel at The Annual Great Pumpkin Festival! Main Street Fayetteville and Fayetteville First United Methodist Church will have a DJ, retail and craft vendors, lots of food, costume contest, kids crafts, & SO much more! Don't forget to wear your costumes!

How can you help? **Bring candy donations** (all individually packaged) to the collection box in the hallway behind the sanctuary. **Lend or donate** inflatable fall decor. **Help create** the Trick or Treat Village, and more! [Register to volunteer here and check out all the possibilities for service.](#)



Preschool playground pumpkins, please!

Our preschoolers learn so much in the fall as they play with pumpkins. Investigating math concepts, science principles, and language skills helps them intellectually while toting a big pumpkin around makes them strong! Can you help provide pumpkins for these little learners? All sizes, shapes, and colors are welcome throughout the months of October and November. Please place pumpkin donations by the playground any time ... and thank you!

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

Giving thanks to our church family



Shawl Ministry:

Thank you so much for the thoughtful prayer blanket. My nephew, Jason, would have been 49 years old on September 17th. My family and I miss him on a daily basis. God bless. — Jeff Moore

Dear Friends:

The cards, phone calls, flowers and delicious food from so many of you have warmed our hearts and been such a blessing to us. We have felt your prayers as I slowly recover from back surgery. We know how fortunate we are to be members of this church and have wonderful friends like you. Ralph and I send you our love, very best wishes and many thanks. — Eleanor McDuffie

Flower Ministry:

Words can never express my appreciation for the beautiful flowers delivered to me after the passing of my husband. It is such a blessing to be remembered by you and I'm so thankful for my Christian family.

— Carolyn Combs

inspired ...

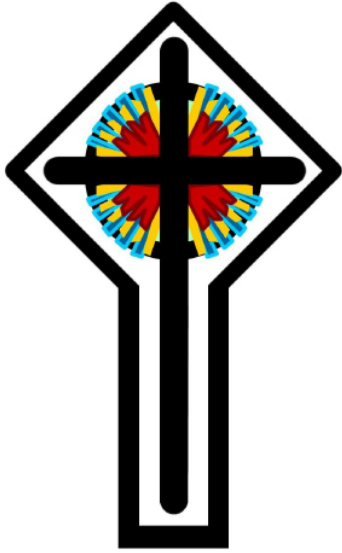
Youth serve at Midwest Food Bank

What does it take to get a big group of youth out on a Wednesday night? Apparently, just plan a service night at a major food distribution center in our area.

Last week following a tour of the Midwest Food Bank in Peachtree City, our youth got right to work. This distribution center partners with community food banks, disaster relief groups and other organizations to get surplus necessities where they can be used. Our youth saw that instead of throwing out misdistributed items, they can be packaged and sent to places where supplies are desperately needed. They were hands-on in a project that uses resources wisely as they spent their evening packing Gatorade and Propel water. Our youth will make a difference in the lives of people they will never meet. That's pretty awesome, don't you think?

Thanks, youth, and your adult leaders!





September 26, 2022 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$898,074.70
Year to Date expenses	\$922,689.75
Difference	-\$24,615.05

Benevolence

Received this month \$215.00

79 families assisted in 2022 for a total of \$25,603.04

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