



Friday, November 16

## The Weekender

### Thanksgiving

This Sunday we are celebrating Thanksgiving. I know it's not a religious holiday, but it fits in well with biblical themes of gratitude and thankfulness. Several of the ancient Israelite holy festivals were celebrated around the time of harvest and the celebration always included feasting.

In our family each year Catherine asks everyone with us on Thanksgiving Day to tell some of the things for which we are thankful. I find it awkward at times, but I think it's important to remember, share, and name our blessings.

I can easily forget many of my blessings. I can focus on what's wrong with the world or my life. Yet, when I read the scriptures again and again people are remembering God's faithfulness. We read stories of sorrow and oppression followed by stories of deliverance. We read poems (psalms) crying out to God for help followed by expressions of trust that God will answer those cries. We hear stories of judgment always followed by offers of forgiveness and restoration. As Christians we know God is good; God is love!

I don't really like the old hymn that says "Count your blessings, name them one by one," but I love the idea. I love even more the practice! There is much for which to be thankful. For what are you thankful?

See you Sunday!

In Christ,

*John*



### This Sunday in Worship November 18, 2018 Thanksgiving Sunday

#### Anthems:

*A Thanksgiving Prayer*  
*Canticle of Thanksgiving*

#### Sermon:

*"Tears and Joy"*  
*Psalm 126*  
*Rev. John Barnes preaching (8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.)*

## CURRENT NEWS



### **You Shop. Amazon Gives.**

Do you use Amazon for your shopping? Did you know Amazon will give to FFUMC as you shop? Sign up through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select FFUMC as your designated charity, and use Amazon like normal for your shopping. When you purchase qualifying products, Amazon will donate a portion to FFUMC at no expense to you! During the last quarter, Amazon donated \$49.75 to our church. Free money sounds great any time of year! This is the perfect time to remember FFUMC as you shop for Christmas gifts. Questions? Call Joyce Mucha in the church office.



### **Pick Up Pecans In Church Office**

All ordered pecans are available for pickup in the church office.



### **Community Thanksgiving Service on November 18**

Our Connection Group of local United Methodist congregations will sponsor a Community Thanksgiving Service at Brooks UMC on Sunday, November 18, at 5 p.m. Bring a dessert or snacks to share during the fellowship time following the service.



### **Early Registration for Youth Renovatus 2019**

Register online for Renovatus 2019 (January 18-20) and save! The cost is \$140 if paid in full by November 17 (after the cost is \$160). The not-to-be missed retreat will be at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, GA. Details and registration:

[FayettevilleFirst.com](https://FayettevilleFirst.com).



### **Video Series Helps Guide Talk Among Those Who Disagree**

A new video series from the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race offers a study program for talking about race, the church and human sexuality among people who disagree. The program features short videos of theologians, pastors, worship and lay leaders, biblical scholars and community activists — many of them people of color. [Video series link](#). (CTRL+Click for direct access.)



### Serve at SafeHouse November 29

Our next opportunity for service at SafeHouse Outreach is Thursday, November 29. Contact Randy Riddell, [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com) or 770-365-6824, if you would like to help serve the meal and distribute prayer cards. Baking cookies is another way you can help serve the homeless clients at SafeHouse.



### Advent Devotional Begins November 28

Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence in the chapel at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays November 28, December 5, 12 & 19 for a walk through Luke as we share and experience the advent of Christ in our lives.



### Churchwide Breakfast — December 2

Let's begin Advent over breakfast! Come share connection with your church family as we begin this meaningful season together. Meet someone new and visit with long-term friends from 9:25 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.



### Christmas Camp 2018! It's NEW!

Send the kids to Fayetteville First UMC's Christmas Camp Saturday, December 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a day of fun crafts, games, holiday movies, and more! Kids will get to spend time together getting in the holiday spirit and parents can use the time to get some needed holiday errands run, presents wrapped, or simply time enjoyed at a child-free brunch/lunch! Christmas Camp is 100% free with registration by December 3. Late registration is \$15 per child. Please send a lunch with your child, although some holiday snacks will be provided. Register at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)!



### Six for Supper Is Back!!

Meet new people and eat good food. Join a Six for Supper group and experience church family in a new way. New groups will be forming soon for the months of January, February, and March. How does it work? Three couples (or two couples and two singles or any similar variation) are grouped together for a three-month period. Over the course of the three months, the participants will gather at each other's homes or at a restaurant to share a meal together, perhaps supper, or even breakfast or lunch! Once you sign up, a coordinator will assign the groups and will notify you by email with contact information for other

members of your group. Then groups will coordinate details among each other. [Sign up online](#) or contact the church office at [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) by December 15.



### **Square Foot Ministry Dedicates Homes Tomorrow**

Two homes built by Square Foot Ministries will be dedicated at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 17. Many of you volunteered during Impact and throughout the summer and fall to build these homes for the Davis and Miller families located at 115 and 117 Lynn Lane in Griffin. We all are invited to join the celebration!

### **Thanksgiving Schedule**

The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 21, at 1 p.m. through Friday, November 23. No regular Wednesday Night Dinner or programs on November 21. Regular Wednesday programs resume November 28.

**Stay connected and get details for these and other upcoming events at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com).**

- Nov. 29 - SafeHouse Outreach, Serve, distribute prayer cards, bake cookies, Contact Randy Riddell, [randyhr8@gmail.com](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com)
- Dec 4 - Titus II Lunch, program by Inman Elementary Chorus, noon in gym, Reserve with Martha Turner, 770-461-2802
- Dec. 6 - UMW Christmas Banquet, 6 p.m., Reserve with circle chair or Dottie Gray, [dottiegray@comcast.net](mailto:dottiegray@comcast.net)
- Dec. 9 - Lessons & Carols Service, 8:30, 11 a.m., FFUMC Christmas Pageant, 9:45 a.m. gym, no chapel service
- Dec. 13 - SAGE trip, Hanna Brothers Studio Cafe lunch, 10 a.m. depart, Lunch 11 a.m., Cost: \$12.50
- Dec. 16 - Candlelight Concert, 6 p.m., Sanctuary, Guest Musicians Bill Killmeier, Alison Kirkland
- Dec. 17 - Community Christmas Caroling, 5 to 8 p.m., Meet Rev. Allyson Lawrence in office parking lot
- Dec. 19 - Dec-Ember Churchwide Bonfire & Movie Night, 6 p.m.

### **Current Financials as of November 13, 2018**

Year to Date receipts	\$ 1,201,962.73
Year to Date expenses	\$ 1,325,969.47
Shortfall	\$124,006.74

2019 Stewardship update: 218 commitment cards returned for \$963,367.80

November 11 Benevolence receipts: \$30; Fund Balance: \$1,437.72