



May 26, 2023

The Weekender

Joining in dreams for youth ministry

Hannah Vickery, Director of Youth Ministry

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

When I arrived in Fayetteville in July 2020, I had no idea what to expect. I was excited and nervous and had imposter syndrome. I knew my passion for youth ministry had brought me to this place, but I never would have guessed the ways in which God would grow my trust, challenge and open up my ministry, and expand and deepen my calling. I had no idea the people and relationships God would build during my time at Fayetteville First UMC.

Most everyone I've met has mentioned how hard it must have been to start my ministry during the pandemic. And while I appreciate the sentiment and acknowledgement, to me it was never hard at all. This was the context, the community, and the church where God had placed me for such a time as this. In seminary, we were constantly in discussion about not just what ministry is, but what ministry means. Ministry is not just a list of programs to succeed at, or the number of names to add to a roster, or the amount of people in attendance, or the many ice cream runs with youth, or pool parties, or mission trips, or no-sleep retreats, or color wars, or Wednesday night dinners, or fundraising efforts, or budget items. Ministry steps into the opportunities and open doors these things provide. Ministry speaks into a particular time with particular joys, struggles, and wrestling, with the people in that place, and in what those people need during that season. Ministry rests in the relationships we build with each other and with our surrounding community. Ministry takes part in the presence and movements and power of God. Ministry makes us all prophets to a world that so desperately needs to hear and breathe the living Spirit of God, to speak into what is needed for that season in that place.

Three years ago I received a phone call that I had been placed at Fayetteville First UMC. Today I look back and firmly believe that God brought us together for this past season of ministry in all its goodness, messiness, mask wearing, Zoom live streams, innovative forms of youth group and church care, and in grieving the past as we also welcomed in a new future and hope for our church. I was able to live into my calling as someone passionate about investing in the lives of youth. I am beyond grateful for the time that God called us together in ministry. FFUMC has provided community and relationships I didn't know I needed, a holy and sacred space to discover just how deep my calling is, and a foundation that I will always remember and come back to in the seasons to come. Thank you.



The next season of youth ministry here at FFUMC will be good no matter what it brings. FFUMC Youth is **our** youth ministry, to own and nurture and dream for together as a church. I encourage everyone to listen to the prophetic voices of our youth - we need to listen. Teenagers are natural dreamers, innovators, and imagineers. If we listen to their voices and what they're trying to say, we can harness their prophetic imagination for the good of the church. I also encourage us to continue building relationships with youth both inside and outside our church. Teenagers need adults who care about them and support them in all life brings. Our faith is transformed when we are in community with each other, wrestling and rejoicing together. Let our faith be transformed and present alongside the youth we are serving here and now.



God has dreams for this youth ministry and this church, dreams that may look nothing like they did before or what we expect. The Holy Spirit is already at work. You are invited to join in.

-Hannah Vickery, Director of Youth Ministry

Hannah will be with Fayetteville First UMC through June 30, after serving the past three years as a graduate resident with the Center for Youth Ministry Training and a student earning a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry with Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She will then be moving into a new season of ministry in Healdsburg, California.

Photos: (Front) Hannah with youth at 2023 Renovatus Retreat and (above) with youth at cross country meet.



PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 28, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

Rev. Allyson Lawrence



Wear colors of fire on Pentecost Sunday, May 28

This year, during our worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, wear red, yellow or orange to represent the celebration of the birth of the church and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.



Church campus closed Monday morning until noon

The church campus will be closed for Memorial Day Monday morning, May 29, until noon. Please do not enter any door **EVEN WITH A DOOR CODE** as the police will be notified. The church office will be closed all day Monday and will reopen Tuesday morning.

CURRENT NEWS



Summer Delights on Wednesday Nights, beginning May 31

Enjoy food and fellowship throughout the summer. Meet at the Bus Barn Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Bring a dinner of your choice or order from Hog Pit BBQ right there at the City Center. We can enjoy the nice summer evenings, the ice cream shop, the playground, inside/outside dining, and simply being together all summer long.



Creative Faith begins next Friday, June 2

Join old friends and make new ones at Creative Faith each Friday in June and July at Gremlin Growlers. We will meet at 11:00 AM each week to talk and to share our experiences of God. Contact [Pastor Allyson](#) with questions.



Looking for a few Pew Pixies

Can you help prepare the sanctuary for worship? A group of Pew Pixies serve on a rotating basis to fill the pew pockets and ensure the worship space is ready for Sunday services. To join this quiet but important team, contact Nancy Lindsey, worship leader, at 770-310-5193, brian_nancy@mindspring.com.



Matthew 25 Ministries receives pill bottles

THANK YOU to all who donated pill bottles to the United Women in Faith mission project that was completed this spring. The pill bottles have been delivered to Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio, and will be distributed to Third World countries. [Check out their website to see all the ways they serve God by serving others.](#)



Time to share cookies for summer lunch

Our Summer Lunch Program will swing into action to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County beginning June 6. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 AM each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward. Contact Virginia Pope if you'd like to pack or be a driver.

What is needed now? Cookies, either homemade or store-bought (no nuts, please). These should be marked for "Summer Lunch" and delivered to the Fellowship Hall, placed on counter or in food refrigerator by Monday of each week. Feel free to pre-package two cookies per baggie or leave that for our weekly packers. *Questions? Contact this year's coordinator, Virginia Pope, at vgail.pope@gmail.com or 678-361-1722.*



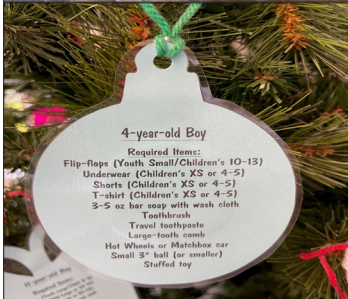
JOEL 2:28

"I Will Pour Out My Spirit on All" Annual Conference 2023

Next week is the North Georgia Annual Conference June 1-3.

Representatives from our church include our clergy as well as Lauren Davis and Bill Webb (our Lay Leaders) along with Cindy Hall and Nancy Ricciardi (our District Representatives). Please keep all conference participants and Bishop Robin Dease in your prayers as they continue the work of the church.

*A **Brown Bag Lunch** meeting will be hosted by Dr. Thomas Martin for sharing and Q & A on June 7 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch and join in!*



Christmas Shoe Boxes: **2 weeks left; 30 boxes available**

You've taken 70 of 100 ornaments from the tree in the Welcome Portal to help spread joy and love at Christmas for children ages 2-12 in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

The United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) are sponsoring the second annual Christmas Shoe Box drive in cooperation with the United Methodist Disaster Relief (UMCOR) Warehouse in Decatur, AL. (Shoe Box Ministry umdisasterwarehouse.com).

Drive Dates: Now - June 11

Details: Choose an ornament (or several) from the tree. Lists on ornaments are for girls and boys of various ages. Follow the very specific list on the ornament for each sponsored child. Please avoid getting creative and follow the list exactly.

Include \$5 per box for shipping costs to destination. Indicate UMW Christmas Shoe Box on your check or online gift.

Put the ornament you chose which has the list (VERY IMPORTANT) together with the items in any bag or container you don't need returned and place it in the collection bins in the Welcome Center or church office by June 11.

Christmas Shoe Box donations will be packaged for shipping at the June 15 UMW Unit Meeting. Questions? Go to fayettevillefirst.com or contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com.



UMW Unit Meeting: Christmas Shoe Box Mission Program

Come with a friend, neighbor, or family member to the next Unit Meeting of the United Women in Faith/UMW on Thursday, June 15. Hear from Maggie Clarke how you can improve the lives of children around the world through UMCOR Christmas Boxes. We'll enjoy a meal from Chicken Salad Chick including Broccoli Salad, Grape Salad and Tuxedo Cake. Cost: \$10 payable June 15. After dinner, plan to stay to pack up the boxes for UMCOR.

June 15, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM

Make reservations by June 11 with UMW Circle chair or contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net. Indicate number of children for nursery.



VBS Volunteers Q & A and materials meeting June 4

Calling all VBS Volunteers! We are meeting Sunday, June 4, at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All adult and youth interested in volunteering at VBS this summer are requested to attend, pick up their classroom binders, ask questions, and make certain that all required paperwork is completed.

Our church community can also help us meet some supplies needs. Just put them in the donation box in the church office or Welcome Portal by June 19.

[These VBS needs are also on this Amazon Wishlist.](#)

- Pool noodles
- Old water hoses
- Boxes of facial tissues
- black lights

- EL wire
- LED lights
- Rope lights (multicolored if possible)
- Old-fashioned corded phones (rotary, etc... these can be returned after VBS if desired)

Questions? Contact Allie Hansen, ahansen@fayettevillefirst.com.



“Build Each Other Up” Bible Study continues May 31 and June 7

As we live into Romans 14:19, “*Let us strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up,*” join Rev. Allyson Lawrence in this short 3-week study of heroes of the Bible who teach us all how to build one another up. We will study Jethro, Shiphrah, Puah, and Miriam, the Magi and the disciples and how they mentored, cared for, and listened to the Word of God. [Register here.](#) Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with questions.



Let's Do Lunch - Saturday, August 12

We are now accepting reservations for our 2nd Annual Let's Do Lunch! And don't forget to bring a few friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! You have until July 29 to reserve your seat.

This year, we are delighted to have author Pat Elsberry as our special guest. You will be blessed to hear her inspirational story.

Guests will enjoy Chicken Salad for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated tables in the Fellowship Hall.

There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 3 easy ways to make your reservation:

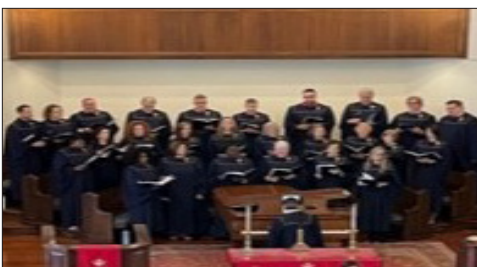
Online: [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & press SUBMIT.

Email: Send an email to Lauren Davis at lauren.davis@comcast.net with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of anyone coming with you.

Phone: Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

You can make reservations for you and your friends at the same time.

If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Lauren to cancel.



Singing through the summer - Try it out!

Want to experience singing in the Chancel Choir? Summer is a great time to give it a go! Rehearsals through the summer are on Sunday mornings only at 9:45 AM from June 11 through September 3.

Questions? Contact Justin Maxey, jmaxey@fayettevillefirst.com.



Doing the Work Together: Learn. Share. Heal.

Final session in the series: June 11

Join in the final session as we get to know our neighbors and engage together in racial reconciliation.

Held at Fayette Friendship Community Church, 847 New Hope Road
Sunday, June 11, from 3 PM to 5 PM



Share through Fayette Samaritans: New "Most Needed" List

Donations are one way to help those with food insecurity and other needs. Food and clothing donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

Most Needed List: Canned Fruit, Hamburger Helper, Sweet Green Peas, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Spaghetti (Dry Pasta), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ketchup, Feminine Products

Clothing needs: Men's boxer-style underwear all sizes, women's underwear size extra large, girl's underwear sizes 6-8, girl's socks



Get moving with Pickleball!

Have you wondered what Pickleball is all about? Come find out! Our gym is now equipped with Pickleball nets, paddles and balls. Just come in comfy clothes and shoes and try out the game with a group of enthusiastic and supportive players.

Currently playing: Wednesdays, 7 PM
Fridays, Noon

Skill level: 1st time beginner plus more advanced, Men & Women

Info Option: Pickleball Group Texts - contact Lauren Davis
lauren-davis@comcast.net, 770-846-4652

FFUMC KiDS NEWS



Get ready for summer learning and fun!

The adventure begins soon! Save your place now.



Create Camp: June 12-16 [Register here!](#)

At Create Camp, children in grades 3-6 will dive deeper into the lessons and adventures of our VBS Bible stories as they explore ways to develop their own personal leadership skills. Campers will learn music and dances, learn how to create and build set designs, and participate in traditional camp crafts and games. June 12-16, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM (Monday-Thursday), 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Friday), \$50/camper



VBS HERO Hotline: June 26-30 [Register here!](#)

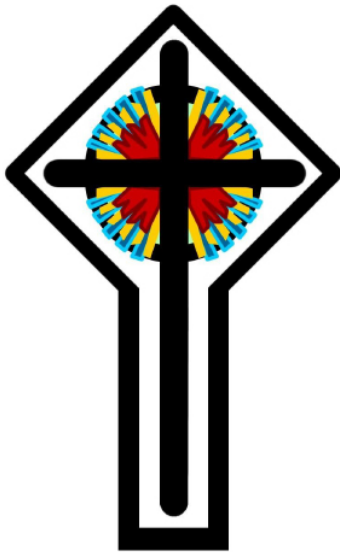
This year’s VBS is Hero Hotline, where a team of young superheroes (rising PK3-Rising 6th) with the assistance of the Professor, Super Meer, and Hero Support will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook — the Bible—to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God’s love for us where they are and with the whole world. June 26-30, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM. Free if registered before June 10.

FFUMC Youth NEWS



Preparing while surrounded by prayer

We appreciate your **prayers** over the youth trip participants: **Jasmine Akeman, Austin Anderson, Emma Autrey, Logan Ayers, Glenda Harrah, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Maggie Meyer, Rachel Meyer, Andrew Starkey.** We’re looking forward to going out, representing Fayetteville First UMC and being the body of Christ in the world together. Questions? [Contact Hannah Vickery, youth director.](#)



May 24, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$474,757.26
Year to Date expenses	\$475,188.18
Difference	-\$430.92

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$286.00
60 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$17,898.16

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)

Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

The Church Office will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, and the Church Campus will be closed until noon. Happy Holiday!

inspired ...

Best wishes to our graduates!

Graduation Sunday — what a wonderful day to celebrate milestones within our church family. In the May 21 [Graduation Sunday Program](#), you'll see the schools from which they graduated and can pray specifically for their futures as they move forward in hope and faith. Blessings to you!

— Below: Jack Brady and Ella Byers (not shown in program, graduating from Whitewater High School and attending UGA), Eva Watson, and Adams, Lauralee, and Luke Walls.

— Center right photo: Emily Agi and Layne Barlow beside Brianne Mei Baileys (center), recipient of the \$2,500 Ed Travis Scholarship.

