



December 29, 2023

## The Weekender

### Two things can be true...

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

Human beings are capable of holding two competing emotions at the same time. Right now, you are likely doing this exact thing in a variety of ways. All of society has moved on from Christmas and is now careening towards New Year's resolutions, football championships, Valentine's Day and beyond. We, too, feel that tug to pack up the Christmas decorations and move on to the next thing. Yet, in the Church, the Christmas season has only just begun, and we continue to hear the call of the Christ child in our lives. Two competing things, but both are true.

We experience this phenomena so many times in life we can eventually become unaware of it. Parents drop their kids off at school feeling a combination of pride and nervousness. Employees venture into work hoping to fit in, but also stand out. In each case there are two things; both are true.

I remind you of this simple fact today, because I know many of you are feeling a mix of emotions. Shock at the timing of the move of the Martin family, but hope at the arrival of my wife, Alli, and me. Both of these can be true at the same time, and it is good if they are for you. You should continue to love the Martin family, and to pray for them. I also hope you are praying for Alli and me, and hope you will come to love us too.

I, too, know these conflicting emotions. Even as you read this, I prepare to say goodbye to the people of Pine Mountain FUMC on 12/31/2023. As I stand in that pulpit for the final time as their pastor, I have no doubt that I will feel hopeful expectation for a new expanded community in Fayetteville, and yet, also, a tangible grief at saying goodbye to the community of Pine Mountain that I have loved for the last four and a half years.

Thankfully, our faith is not a simple one. We recognize the Creator who is both near and far, the Christ who is both fully human and fully divine, and the Spirit who is without form and yet lives within us. Ours is a faith of two seemingly competing things at once and we see God's hand in both. Let's walk through these mixed emotions together.



### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

One Service | 11 AM

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

"On Time" Galatians 4:4-7; John 1:1-5, 10-14

Rev. Charles Robinson

# CURRENT NEWS

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2023  
**SEASON**  
OF THE NATIVITY



## Epiphany Breakfast: Season of the Nativity

Reception to welcome Rev. Kaylen Short and Rev. Drew West

January 7, 2024 10:00 AM

You are invited to welcome our new senior pastor, the Rev. Kaylen Short and his wife Alli, and new Interim Children and Families Assistant, the Rev. Drew West, his wife Amanda and their children, at a church-wide Epiphany breakfast. It will be held January 7 in the gym starting at 10 AM.

This will be a potluck breakfast, and volunteers are needed to bring any of the following:

- Egg/sausage or other breakfast casserole
- Muffins/sweet rolls
- Fruit bowls
- Juice - orange or apple

For planning purposes, volunteers please contact Lea Agnew, [leaagnew@bellsouth.net](mailto:leaagnew@bellsouth.net), 404-697-1938, or Carol Webb, [carolbass@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolbass@bellsouth.net), 404-234-1056, to let us know what you would like to bring.



## Messy Church is January 13

For the fall months, Messy Church lessons focused on knowing that God loves us and is with us in all things. During the winter and spring months, we will be learning how we respond to God's grace and love. Our focus verse is from Isaiah: "Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, 'Whom should I send, and who will go for us?' I said, 'I'm here; send me!'" Isaiah 6:8.

During our craft and teaching time, we will use this book: [The Dot - by Peter H. Reynolds, story read here](#). This story helps show us how God sees us and how we can live into that divine vision. All of

our activities will revolve around this powerful theme. You won't want to miss this worship, learning and fellowship experience.

If you want to help make Messy Church an even greater success as we kick off the new year together, [you can sign up here to volunteer](#).

DECEMBER

31

Worship  
First Sunday after Christmas  
11 AM

## Worship on the First Sunday After Christmas: 11 AM only

We will worship at one service on the First Sunday After Christmas, December 31, at 11 AM in the sanctuary and online. This special service led by Rev. Charles Robinson will include "Wesley's Covenant Service." A nursery will be provided.

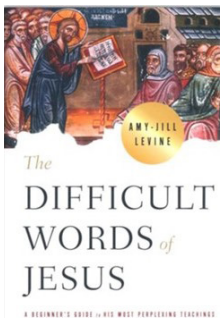
## SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Kaylen Short will serve as our new senior minister beginning January 1, 2024. Rev. Short, most recently serving at Pine Mountain UMC, is a graduate of Candler School of Theology and is an elder in full connection with the United Methodist Church. He is moving to the area with his wife, Alli (Allison), and their two dogs.

Rev. Drew West will serve Fayetteville First part-time January through June 2024. He comes to us from Bethany UMC, a church which voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Drew will also serve part-time at New Hope UMC in Palmetto in the first half of 2024. At Fayetteville First, Drew will work with our youth and confirmands, support Messy Church, and have other responsibilities. He is finishing his degree at the Candler School of Theology in the spring. Drew and his wife Amanda have two young children.

On Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the Epiphany with a Churchwide Potluck Breakfast at 10 AM to welcome Rev. Short and Rev. West to Fayetteville First. Please make plans to attend.

Realm ACS, the church management software provider, is rolling out a suite of accounting services and Fayetteville First is working with them on a beta test of their offering. Realm ACS services span fund accounting and giving integration, transactions, disbursements, account and vendor management, budgeting, reporting, W-2 filings, and audit services among other things. Our current arrangement with Realm ACS is month to month as they scale the service to provide it to other organizations. With Julie Harp stepping away to care for her family, this arrangement could not have come at a better time for FFUMC.



### **Bible study starting Wednesday, January 10**

with Rev. Allyson Lawrence, 11 AM, Room C-200

Study the difficult words of Jesus beginning January 10 with Rev. Lawrence. We will use the book and video series by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine titled *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*. Find a book at your favorite store and join the conversation as we learn more together. Contact Rev. Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com) with any questions.

### **The Practice of Letting Go**

Sunday nights at 6 PM starting January 21

Do you desire more freedom and peace in 2024? Let's learn more about a few spiritual practices to help us release unnecessary and unhelpful things and patterns that may stand in our way. Each session will introduce a discipline, prayer, or practice and offer a time of unpressured exploration. Join Joan Aycock on Sunday nights from 6 to 7 PM in the chapel on January 21, January 28 and February 4. [Sign up here.](#) Also, please let us know if you are interested but need a different meeting time.



### **Hello! I'm .....**

Would you like a customized nametag to help you greet others? Did you lose one you may have had previously? We are placing another order. Let us know if you want one by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com). The deadline to place your order is Monday, January 22. Cost is \$10.







## Sign up for Blood Drive Sunday, January 14

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on January 14, 2024. The FFUMC Blood Drive team would like to thank you for your willingness to donate at our church or at any collection site! In 2023 we collected 141 units, which is 20 more than 2022.

Please sign up for the next drive using the Red Cross website at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and choose our site or contact any of the team: Wayne Harris, Larry Brannon, Mike Clark or Randy Riddell with questions or assistance with signing up or email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com).

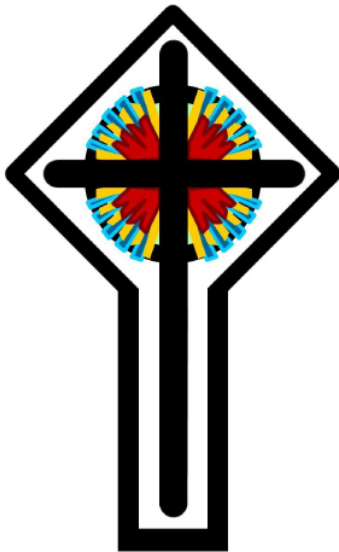
Let's see if we can donate 20 more units in 2024 than in 2023!

### End-of-year giving



## End-of-year giving

Ready to wrap up your giving for 2023? These notes will help. Offering items for 2023 may be **dropped in the church office drop box through December 31**. If mailed, all 2023 donations with a post mark of December 31 or earlier will be credited to the 2023 budget year and receive tax credit in the 2023 year. The church business office is ready to assist you with any questions regarding your end-of-year giving.



## Financials

Financials will be updated after the holidays.

### 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)

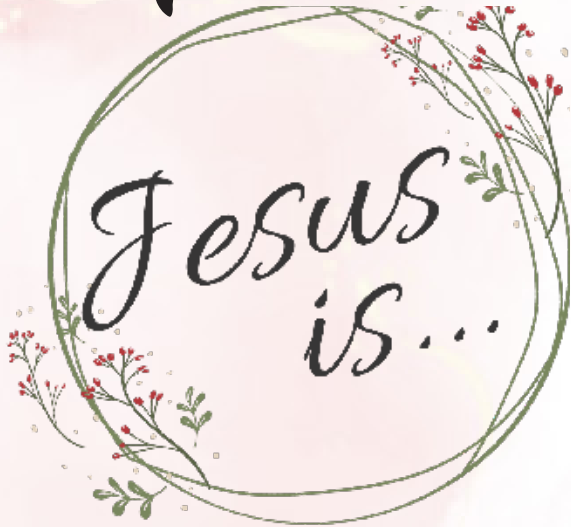
Closed Fridays until further notice

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;  
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

# inspired ...



## 2023 SEASON OF THE NATIVITY

The Season of the Nativity continues with the First Sunday After Christmas on December 31. We will gather for one service at 11:00 AM as we prepare to move into 2024.

Did you unscramble the Christmas message over the last few week? [Send your answer to Carol Webb](#). Just fill in the blanks with your collected letters ... and rejoice!

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Enjoy these photos of the season!







*Photos: Caroling, Sunshine Christmas Party, Christmas Pageant, Preschool Program, UWF event, Messiah concert*

## *Holiday schedule adjustments:*

December 31: First Sunday After Christmas — Worship at 11 AM only

January 1: New Year's Day — Church office closed

January 2 — Church office hours resume as normal

January 3 — No Wednesday night programs

January 10 — Wednesday night supper and regular programs resume for all ages