



January 12, 2024

The Weekender

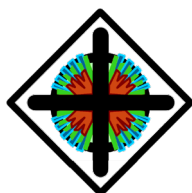
That was Fun, Let's Do It Again Sunday

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

On Sunday, my greatest moment of relief didn't occur due to the amazing welcome we received or to the truly impressive amount of food y'all prepared. The relief came with the first genuine laughter I heard. When I heard that laughter in worship, I took a deep breath and told myself, "We can do this."

That's because I have a genuine belief that church should be fun. People who are called by God to create community together should actually enjoy being together. That may seem like an innocuous enough sentiment, but there are many people that see the Church as anything but fun. There are many people who have left the Church because they view the Church as having self-righteous seriousness. There are sometimes those inside the Church who participate in every facet of church activities and worship, out of duty and obligation, but never once stop to consider whether they actually enjoy any part of what they are doing. Yes, being a follower of Christ requires discipline, and self-sacrifice, but I believe it also requires an ability to cultivate joy, to celebrate, and to laugh.

I still don't know a lot about FFUMC. I still have a long way to go toward learning names and church history. I definitely still get lost on campus if I am not using a map. The one thing I do know is that I had fun in worship last Sunday, and I am eager for this Sunday. I hope you are too.



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"If At First..." John 1:43-51; I Samuel 3:1-10

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL III

SOUPER BOWL III kicks off January 14

SOUPER competition begins in 2024 as we kick off Souper Bowl III this Sunday, January 14. This event brings fun and friendly competition as our third Souper Bowl challenge seeks to raise soup for healthy meals for those in need. Bring any variety of 16.3 - 18.8 ounce ready-to-eat soup, **not condensed**, to the Welcome Center beginning January 14, and let the competition begin!

Here's the "competition" part of Souper Bowl III:

Mark the bottom of each can with the first letter of YOUR last name. A Sharpie will be available at the donation site. Those with A-J will be credited to TEAM ALLYSON and K-Z will go to TEAM KAYLEN. Any cans that are received without letters will be divided between the two teams. Who will win? We will find out on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, when either Allyson or Kaylen will be presented the Souper Bowl III championship trophy.



Give Blood THIS 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 this drive using the Red Cross website at 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.

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



Messy Church is Saturday, 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](#).



Let's eat together on Wednesday Nights

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together at 5:15 PM.

What's the draw?

Friendship! Be with people you really like.

Hassle Free! Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by noon on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

January 17 menu: Tim's Country Kitchen

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Banana Pudding



SIX or SEVEN for Supper

Meet new people over a meal and get to know your church family better through Six or Seven for Supper. Groups meet three times over a three-month period beginning in February. Why participate? Here's what Rebecca Stevens shared: "We had a wonderful time with Six for Supper. It was amazing how easily conversation flowed and how quickly the evenings passed. We had the chance to get to know folks who, we now realize, we frequently cross paths with and it's fun when we have those quick moments along the way to catch-up." [Sign up right away using this link](#) to be included. You may get to share a meal with Rev. Kaylen Short as he participates with the various groups.



Confirmation begins January 17

Confirmation is coming! Confirmation is the process of making one's faith personal and making a commitment to Christ. Fayetteville First offers a confirmation class for those seeking to make a profession of faith as they learn and grow together. Confirmands will meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8 PM and are welcome to join with other youth from 6-7 PM. The first class meets January 17. There will be a retreat the weekend of April 19-21 and Confirmation Sunday will be May 19. [Please reach out to Rev. Drew West to register your student or email him if you have any questions.](#)



Go to the Cyclorama with SAGE on January 25

On Thursday, January 25, our Senior Adults Going Everywhere will be visiting the Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Center. We will gather at the church office at 8:45 AM and depart at 9:00 AM.

The cost is \$15 a person if 65+ and \$19 for those under 65. Lunch will be at The Varsity. Please bring \$2 for the bus ride. Sign-up and pay in the church office or call 770-461-4313 to reserve your space. This should be another great trip! Call Rev. Charles Robinson, 770-855-6433, for more information.



We're Hiring

Fayetteville First UMC is looking for some part time help with administrative duties at the front desk. If you are interested, please email Rev. Kaylen Short at kshort@fayettevillefirst.com.



Want a name badge? Order one if you'd like!

Would you like a customized name badge? Did you lose one you may have had previously? Let us know if you want one by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

The deadline to place your order is **Monday, January 22**. Cost is \$10.



Titus II will meet February 6

The next Titus II will meet on Tuesday, February 6, at noon in the gym. Bill Webb & Friends will present a musical program. Reservations for lunch may be made with Martha Turner at 770-461-2802 by noon on Thursday, February 1. Lunch (\$8): Fried Chicken, Fried Okra, Vegetable, Bread, Dessert



New needs from Fayette Samaritans

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: *Laundry Detergent, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Pasta Sauce, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Boxed Mac-and-Cheese, Canned Beans (Black, Pinto, Navy, Black-eyed Peas, etc.), Jelly, Feminine Products, Bar Soap, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste*



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.



Walking with others through grief

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays February 12 through May 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room B350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit GriefShare.org.



With Gratitude

To Our Church Family and Flower Ministry:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to us.... Thank you for your thoughts, your calls, and especially your prayers as we grieve the loss of our precious Lennox. We are thankful for a loving and caring church family. Please continue your prayers for Courtney and David and for all of us.

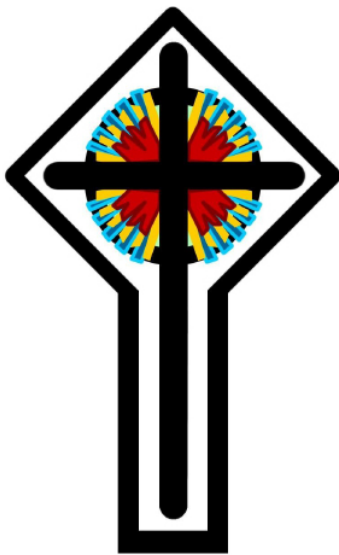
— Kathe and Bobby Anderson



GIVING STATEMENTS

2023 Year-End Giving Statements

2023 year-end giving statements will be sent via email by the end of January. You may check your giving statement at any time using your individual Realm account.



Financials

In this period of transition, our financials are being completed and should be reported next week.

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

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

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM



**The church office will be closed Monday, January 15,
in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

inspired ...

We concluded the Season of the Nativity with the breakfast together to celebrate Epiphany and welcome our new ministers. It's always good to be together!



Left top: Luke, dad J.R., and Stella Stevens; Sara and dad Glen Emory

Left center: Food (lots of it) and fellowship

Left bottom: Joy and Stephen Rotz greet Rev. Drew West and his family: Oliver, Lillian, and wife Amanda

Right top: Wayne Musselwhite, Nancy Smith, Judy Hames, Suzie Lusk, Brian and Nancy Lindsey

Right Center: Michelle Hill, Rev. Kaylen Short with wife Alli Short; Bob and Lynne Garrett