



January 26, 2024

The Weekender

All Creation

Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Associate Minister

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a knack for taking the commonplace things in our lives, and somehow making fun of them in a way that makes me belly laugh. I've never seen his standup show in person, but I have watched one of his shows on some streaming service I pay too much for. In that show, he made a joke about trash. Have you heard it?

It was one I did not laugh at...it hurt. It was too true for me to laugh. It made me sad. He said:



"All things on Earth only exist in different stages of becoming garbage. Your home is a garbage processing center where you buy new things, bring them into your house, and slowly crapify them over time."

~Jerry Seinfeld

Earlier this week, Tami Kemberling invited me to a faith-based climate justice conference. This event renewed my awareness of our deep connection to the earth. It was a spiritual retreat full of scripture, full of science, full of worship, and filled with a call to action. Mark 16:15, "[Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Did you see those words, "all the world, all creation?"

All creation.

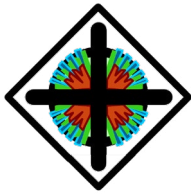
God's Good News of compassion, redemption and love is for all creation...and we are not only part of that creation. We are given a special responsibility to care for that creation. If everything we own is truly in different stages of becoming garbage, then I have to ask, how does that fit into God's Good News?

As I look at my role in this world, in this space, and in this time, I know that God is calling me to go into it and to preach the Good News. But the call doesn't stop there. It doesn't stop there with just words. If I am to follow Jesus fully, I am called to walk *in* The Way. I am called to *do* what I can to teach and to heal all of creation through loving words and loving action.

So what can my action be? Well, we have an amazing Green Team here at FFUMC. And they have a suggestion. It's a simple model called the four R's: *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle*. We start with the refuse....we recycle only after the other three R's are maximized – and then, hopefully, we can stop Seinfeld's process of everything being in different stages of garbage.

Let us "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Pictured above: Rev. Allyson Lawrence and Tami Kemberling at the climate justice conference held at on St. Simons Island at Epworth by the Sea this week.



3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after

"Are You Still Amazed?" Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL III has started! 1,570 to beat

SOUPER Bowl III is underway to collect 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 and join the friendly competition. Rev. Kaylen Short has offered an additional challenge: Donate more than the 1,570 cans collected last year and he will personally prepare a Wednesday Night Supper for the church to celebrate ... and it will be FREE!

Mark your donations:

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.



VBS is June 24-28

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS!

Camp Firelight runs June 24-28.

Volunteer information will be out soon, but for now ...

SAVE THE DATE!

LEADERSHIP 2024

FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST

There are many ways to serve FUMC, as we share God's love with those who do not know His great love. Our pastors, leaders, and our members, better also serve in Leadership through their natural connections of their talents. In this document, you will find the names of those who are serving in just that way. We wanted to share it with you so that you can pray for them in their work and quality of life. Also, we wanted you to know this list so that if you have a question or suggestion, you may see a familiar name and reach out to your church family. As always, we encourage you to contact us at any other if we can help you in any way.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Wendy Webb, Council Chair
Bridgette Thomas, Chair
Bill Webb, Finance Chair
Elizabeth Thomas, Liaison
Loreen Davis, Logistics Committee Chair
Nancy Cook, Information Chair
Nancy Lusk, Hospitality Chair
Danae Adams, Youth President
Margaret Hutchings, Adult President
Beth Burdett, Staff Parish Relations Chair



LAY LEADERS

Lay Leader Fellowship Prayer
Lay (Fayetteville, South Street, 801 North)

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Danae McKinley Michelle Cook Marilyn Cook Marilyn Reynolds	Allen Davis Jack Reynolds Dorothy Reynolds Marilyn Reynolds Marilyn Reynolds	Phyllis Williams Christy Collins CJ Cook Tina Elliott Marilyn Reynolds
		Bobby Longman Kathy Brown Denise Washburn

Thank you for serving! Church leadership recognition

As we all work together as the hands and feet of Christ, many of our church family have committed to serve in leadership during 2024. This Sunday, January 28, we will have an intentional time of prayer for this group during both services. Please continue to pray for each other and these leaders as the kingdom of God is made manifest on earth.

This list of leaders can serve as reference and a prayer list:

[Leadership 2024 at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church](#)



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 31 menu: Italian Oven

Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Dessert



Let's chat: "Coffee with Kaylen"

Get to know our new senior minister, Rev. Kaylen Short, and let him meet you at "Coffee with Kaylen." You'll find Rev. Short sipping a hot brew at Gremlin Growlers on the downtown courthouse square on Thursdays starting February 15 through March 21 from 1 to 3 PM. Come as individuals or as a small group. Got questions? Just ask! Kaylen may also ask two questions of you: "Who are we at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church?" and "Who do we want to be?" No appointment is needed.



Ready to play handbells? New players welcome

The wonderful FFUMC Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals beginning February 8. Regular rehearsals are on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM every week. Have you wanted to join this group? New members are welcome, and one could be you! An understanding of basic music theory is needed: note reading, time signatures, and note values especially. You'll get to participate in worship and have the bonus of enjoying a fun, energetic group. Please contact Judy Hames, jhames@bellsouth.net, for more information.



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.



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.



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



Get moving with Pickleball and Yoga!

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: Most Wednesdays, 7 PM
Other times as gym is available

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

Yoga is offered by Frieda Everritt. Contact the church office for the current yoga schedule and let's get flexible and strong together!

Lingerie Shower for El Salvador

Fourteen members of five South West District churches are heading to El Salvador the week of April 6-13, 2024, to work with the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador. The team will participate in construction on the new school building, food distribution in the communities around the churches, and VBS activities for children.

One of the ministries of the church there is providing clothing to the communities, either at low prices or free. Our United Methodist missionary appointed there, Elyn Dubberly, has requested that the team bring specific much-needed items for their clothes program – new underwear for all ages.

You can participate in this mission trip by donating money for the team to purchase underwear and to cover the extra baggage costs. Our church has agreed to take in underwear for women and girls. Specific needed items for this "Lingerie Shower" will be purchased by the team (socks, underwear, T-shirts): they just need the funds to do it! Please designate your financial contribution as "El Salvador Mission 2024." Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke, mwclarke195@gmail.com.



Notes of Gratitude

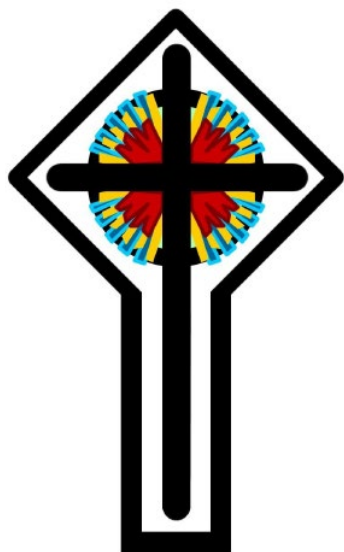


To the Shawl Ministry:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful shawl you sent to me. Your caring thoughts did indeed lift me up.
— Shirley Washburn

To the FFUMC Church Family:

On behalf of all of the Martins, thank you for your generosity to us over the last month. We are the recipients of your grace, love, and hope and know that will continue into the days ahead.
— Thomas, Leslie, Davis, Mills, and Mary Ellis



January 24, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$43,085.05
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$65,106.78
Difference	-\$22,021.73

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$504.00
15 families assisted for a total of \$4,154.12

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 7 PM;
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM



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.

inspired ...

We had a successful American Red Cross Blood Drive on January 14. Here are the stats! Thanks to all who helped!

39 signed up. Results: 38 units collected

Details:

- 5 walk-ins
- 3 deferrals/insufficient quantity
- 1 turned away (12:30)
- 4 no-shows
- 68% of donors were FFUMC members



Next FFUMC Blood Drive:

March 17

SAVE THE DATE!