



February 16, 2024

The Weekender

Well, I messed up

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

Last Saturday was a really busy day on our church campus. That busyness was in large part due to a mistake that I made in haste.

When I was first asked about having a service in our chapel at 11:00 AM on Saturday, I raced over to the calendar to see when the chapel was available. In my haste, I did not check what else was happening at the church at that time. I responded that the chapel looked clear and we sent out word to the congregation shortly thereafter. Not long after the notification went out, I received an email pointing out (in an incredibly gentle, but also firm way) that the event would be at the exact same time as Messy Church and that we should never have another on-campus event that conflicts with any other worship service. As soon as I read it, my heart sank. I had inadvertently made Messy Church seem less important than I know it to be and my first thought upon reading the email was simply, "Well, I messed up." In the moments that followed, I briefly tried to justify my mistake, rationalize it, and defend it in my own mind. However, I eventually returned to my first reaction. I apologized and promised to do better in the future.



I don't share this today so that you'll applaud my admitting to a mistake. Actually, that's the exact wrong lesson to take from this. The real lesson is that I messed up, and I will again. Sure, it won't be scheduling something the same time as Messy Church again, but I will mess up. If being a pastor has taught me anything, it's that you cannot always live up to expectations. One day, you may expect me to be there for your surgery, and I won't be there. You may try to tell me something that's really important to you, and I may not listen well. You may try to slow me down so I don't go careening toward potential disaster and I may charge ahead anyway. I have and I will mess up. We all mess up.

That's kind of what Lent is all about. In Lent, we try to lay down our finely sharpened skills of justifying our own actions, and defending ourselves even when we know we are wrong. Instead, we confess our failings, and we repent. By repenting we commit to do better, and that commitment is only fulfilled when we, in fact, do better. We all mess up sometimes, but disciples are called to repent and do better.



1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"Being Great Neighbors: Prayers"

Psalm 25:1-10; Matthew 6:7-14

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Living the Way: From Lent to Easter

[Follow this guide to journey through the season. Printed copies are available in the Welcome Portal and Narthex.](#)

Being Great Neighbors Reflection Guide

[A reflection guide is available online](#) and in the Welcome Portal and Narthex for the Lenten Sermon Series "Being Great Neighbors." Check out the end of this newsletter for the guide to Sunday's lesson: Being Great Neighbors: Prayers.



Serve at SafeHouse on February 29

SafeHouse meal service is 2/29 — Leap Year Day! We gather at the Family Life Center kitchen at 4 PM, load up and leave around 5 PM. We feed and we intercede. We sit and talk with the clients — and take back prayer cards. Please let Randy Riddell know if you'd like to help at randyhr8@gmail.com.



We delivered more hand-knitted hats to SafeHouse last week. These were in addition to the ones we gave in November, for a total of 24. Many thanks to the Shawl Ministry for this amazing and much-appreciated service!



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.



Share your artwork at Holy Doodles display

Can you make a thought from Sunday's message visual? Want to just share a cool drawing or message with Pastor Kaylen? Look in the pew pockets, take a Holy Doodles card and get creative! Drop your masterpiece in the collection box in the Narthex. Your artwork may be displayed. In addition, one person will be selected as the "Artist of the Month" and win a prize (kids only are eligible for this part) and be featured in The Weekender.



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, Ellyn 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.



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.

February 21: Tim's Country Kitchen

Porkchops, Vegetable, Rolls, Dessert



VBS 2024 presents Camp Firelight

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS! Camp Firelight runs June 24-28

[Select your preferred volunteer spot here!](#)

Get an in-depth look! Come to VBS Workshop March 16

Want a more in-depth look at Camp Firelight VBS? Join us for breakfast and a training workshop:

Saturday, March 16 at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

[RSVP here](#) by March 13, 2024

In this workshop you'll learn:

Training on all all key stations of Camp Firelight VBS

Bible story backgrounds for each session

Featuring music video previews with producer/performer, Andy Wilson

Science experiments

Crafts, snacks, and recreation previews

And much more!



SAGE goes to Blackbird Cafe and area shops

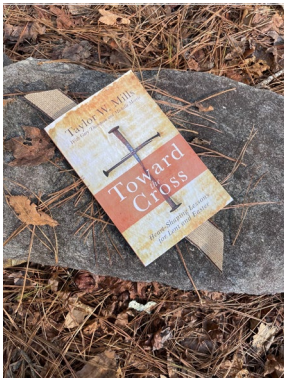
Sign up now to go with friends on a trip not too far away for lunch at the Blackbird Cafe on Wednesday, February 21. Meet at the church office at 9:45 AM for a 10 AM departure. Enjoy lunch at the Blackbird Cafe and then stroll through antique shops before returning. Cost: \$2 transportation, plus lunch and shopping. Sign up and pay in the church office. Questions? Contact [Rev. Charles Robinson](#).



Training March 16

Basic Emergency Response Team Class: March 16

Learn how to respond to disasters as the North Georgia Conference provides Emergency Response Team training on March 16 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Newnan UMC. ERTs fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes and more. For more information or to register, contact Aileen Burnett at 770-223-7400, ext. 206, or email aburnett@newnanfumc.org. Cost; \$20 which includes materials, badge and lunch. Registration deadline is March 12.



Lenten Lunch Series continues on Thursdays

You are invited to this year's Lenten Lunch Series at noon in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays through March 28. A light lunch (\$5) and a presentation from the book "Toward the Cross" by Taylor W. Mills will be offered.

[The schedule is provided in the Living the Way: From Lent to Easter guide.](#)



February 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: Canned Beans (Black, Pinto, Navy, Black-eyed Peas, etc.), Canned Fruit, Dried Pasta (Elbows, Rigatoni, etc.), Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Laundry Detergent, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Feminine Products

Clothes Closet: Women's Underwear sizes large and extra large

[Check out this article from our local paper](#) to learn more about Fayette Samaritans and how you can help.



Preschool Registration open for 2024-2025

Pass the word ... Fayetteville First UMC Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2024-25 school year! Current preschool families and FFUMC Church members can register starting Monday, February 12th. It's on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration opens to the public on March 4th. Little ones from age one to four (their age as of Sept 1, 2024) are welcome to come learn, play, and grow together. Make sure your spot is reserved.... and pass the word along! Contact Preschool Director Maria Ruhe for more information at preschool@fayettevillefirst.com.

[Facebook Link](#)

[Information Brochure](#)



More needs for Love in Action

We have a call to put some Love in Action as a summer lunch family needs a clean queen mattress. More needs include a living room set and refrigerator. If you can help out, please contact Cindy Hall at 678-656-4117.



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.



Save the date: Choir Concert on Palm Sunday, March 24, 7 PM

Our Chancel Choir and guest musicians will present a concert on Sunday, March 24, at 7 PM in our sanctuary. Music includes DUBOIS *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, CASSALS *O Vos Omnes*, GRANDJANY *Aria for Organ and Harp*, MARTIN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.

DID YOU KNOW?



Music of Dan Forrest presented at Spivey Hall

Many of our chancel choir members sing in the Southern Crescent Chorale. You are invited to hear them as they present The Music of Dan Forrest featuring "Requiem for the Living" sponsored by Dr. Frank and Deb Cole Sunday, March 10, at 3:00 PM at Spivey Hall in Morrow, GA. Tickets are \$25 Adult / \$20 Student Tickets and are available at www.spiveyhall.org or call 678-466-4200. Southern Crescent Chorale's sixteenth Spivey appearance features magnificent choral music composed or arranged by Dan Forrest. An acclaimed composer, Forrest's music has become well-established in the repertoire of choirs universally. Accompanied by a small orchestra, and Spivey Hall's magnificent Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, the Chorale will transport you with glorious music. Ask some choir members for more information.

YOUTH NEWS



Our FFUMC Youth have exciting things in store this winter and spring. Contact leaders [Austin Baur](#) and [Rev. Drew West](#) to sign up and for more information.

Wednesday Nights in The Foundry

Invite a friend and come to our regular Wednesday night gatherings from 6-8 PM, where we are steadily making our way through Matthew's challenging gospel, grappling with the upside-down kingdom where the first will be last, and the last will be first.

Friday, February 16: Winter Lock-In at FFUMC

Middle and high school students are invited to stay the night at the church for an all-night party of games, food, and fun! Students may show up at 6 PM on Friday. Dinner will be provided at 7 PM. What's in the plan? A Bible study on the Gospel of John and then all-night fun including sardines, Body Body, Super Smash Brothers, and countless other favorite games. Students are encouraged to invite friends! Please RSVP with Austin Baur and Rev. Drew West.



March 1 – 3rd: CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ Camp Glisson

If your student is currently attending confirmation or has not yet made it, all 6th-7th graders are welcome to attend North Georgia's Confirmation Retreat March 1 – 3 at Camp Glisson. Confirmation Sunday is May 5.

March 8-10: Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Glisson

This year's annual youth retreat will be at Camp Glisson, March 8-10. More details on this trip to come, including sign-up fees, exact times of departure, packing list, and more.



June 9-15: Appalachian Service Project

This year we will again be volunteering our time and service to the Appalachian Service Project in partnership with Inman United Methodist Church. More details will come out soon regarding cost, travel, packing, and more.



High School Seniors: Apply for Ed Travis Scholarship by March 31

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to a graduating senior at FFUMC entering an accredited college, university or technical school for the upcoming school year. Print off the [Ed Travis Scholarship Instructions](#) and [Ed Travis Scholarship Application](#) here or request a copy from the church office. **Completed applications are due March 31 in the church office.**

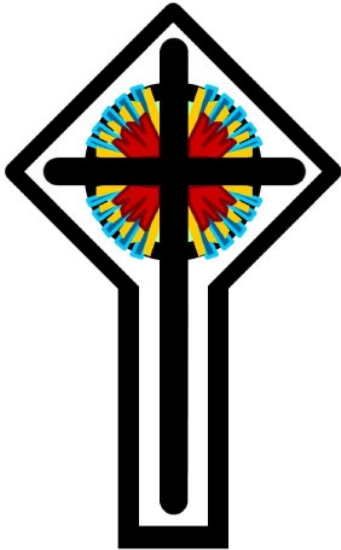


With Gratitude

To the Flower Ministry:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to my home. We really appreciated the thought after the death of my son-in-law Steve Boyd.

— Vicki Turner



February 14, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year-to-Date Receipts | \$121,780.89 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$149,015.78 |
| Difference | -\$27,234.89 |

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$337.00

25 families assisted for a total of \$6,518.93

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

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

inspired ...

SOUPER Bowl III ends with soup everywhere

Do you see all the boxes full of soup that you donated this year for Souper Bowl III? 2,000+ cans!!! You exceeded last year's total by 500 cans and are invited to a meal on Wednesday night, March 13, promised and paid for by Rev. Kaylen Short ... so it will be FREE! All you'll need to do is make a reservation with the church office for that event.

The champion was announced Sunday as well. Rev. Allyson Lawrence and her A - J team donated 1,060 cans, barely passing Pastor Kaylen's 1,019 total. The bling and trophy will be proudly displayed to celebrate all the work you put into helping those in our community who face food insecurity. The recipients include clients at Fayette Samaritans, our benevolence clients, the homeless in Griffin and more.



YOU DID IT!

You met Pastor Kaylen's challenge and surpassed last year's Souper Bowl count -- by 500 cans!

Mark your calendars and reserve a space for the FREE meal prepared and paid for by Kaylen on Wednesday, March 13, at 5:15 PM.

And thank you to Carolyn McKinley and crew who led this effort on behalf of the United Women in Faith, working behind the scenes with displays, packing boxes, and more as she shared her servant's heart.

Photos shared by Sam Burch and Wayne Harris



Being great neighbors

LIVING THE WAY 2024

As we journey through this Lenten season, we are invited to examine our place in our community, both as a church and as individuals. This reflection guide can lead us to live the way of Jesus with prayerful intention and devotion throughout these 40 days.



Prayers **Week 1**

Question to consider:

How can I be in prayer for this community?

Activity: Prayer Walk

Directions: Go on a prayer walk through the area around our church. Stop outside of important places and say a short prayer for the people who utilize them. Some possible stops on this prayer walk include:

- Outside a local business - Pray for our local businesses, their success, and for the people who pass by our church every day
- The Historic Courthouse - Pray for our community and community leaders
- First Baptist Church - Pray for our siblings in the faith as well as those in other religions. Pray for a spirit of cooperation to permeate our community
- Squarefoot Ministry Project (near church offices) - Pray for our community partners and the success of their mission
- Church Street Playground - Pray for the children of our community, for their safety, and for their parents/guardians

