



February 2, 2024

The Weekender

It's Wednesday at the Preschool

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

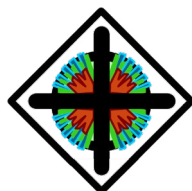
This Wednesday, Rev. Drew West and I took over leading weekly chapel at our Fayetteville First UMC Preschool. I led the prayer, the lesson on responsibility, the feltboard bible lesson, and taught the memory verse for this month. Drew filled out our time leading some wonderful and very catchy kid's songs. One of those songs was a song they start with every week named "It's Wednesday at the Preschool" which has already proven to be stuck in my head much longer than just Wednesday. At the end, I ran over to the door to give them all a high-five on the way out.



The chapel rotation began with our seeing the three-year-olds, followed by the fours, and then lastly the twos. The three-year-olds had just arrived at school and were engaged and ready to go. The four-year-olds followed the lessons and sang loudly with the music. On the other hand, the two-year-olds seemed sleepy. They seemed less than interested in my shenanigans and Drew's guitar prowess. I was worried I was going to be ending our first chapel experience on a down note. However, when I lined up and squatted down to deliver eye level high-fives to the kids, a whole mass of them absolutely tackled me with hugs. I very nearly fell over. It was such an unexpected outpouring of love. It absolutely made my day.

That reminded me once again of the importance of a strong connection between a church and its preschool. Though, to be honest, I don't need to be reminded of that very often. I am a United Methodist clergy person today because my parents enrolled me in a UMC preschool, and my family started attending that church shortly thereafter. That was the church that raised me, through which I heard God call me to pastoral ministry, and that equipped me for ministry. If that church didn't have that preschool or that deep connection to it, I might not be one of your pastors today.

I hope that we can continue to find ways to throw our collective arms around our preschool teachers and students just like those two-year-olds threw their arms around Drew and me. You never know, one of them might even become your pastor a couple of decades from now.



5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"Renew" Isaiah 40:21-31

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL III ends February 11!

The total is rising ... 1,570 to beat last year

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.

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



New session begins Monday, February 12

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.



Messy Church is February 10, 11 AM to 1 PM

Surprise! The theme for this month's Messy Church is LOVE! Let's explore "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself" on February 10. Come to the gym at 11 AM and play games, enjoy crafts, have a fun worship time and eat lunch with friends. [Volunteer here and get ready for THE BEST CHURCH EVER!](#)

See article at the end of this newsletter for more information.



Recovery efforts still underway from 2023 storms

Are you interested in helping with the 2023 tornado rebuilding in Griffin or West Point? Many residents are suffering from severe storm damage from more than a year ago. Scott Parrish, a North GA Conference staff member, invited us to [participate in active UMCOR recovery projects](#) helping uninsured elderly folk in those communities rebuild. Individuals and work teams are currently being scheduled. [Perhaps you saw some of the efforts in the news.](#) Get more details on how you can get involved including taking Early Response Team training classes or working on a project. Contact Rev. Scott Parrish, scott.parrish@ngumc.net, or the FFUMC Missions Committee Chair, Suzie Lusk, suzielusk49@gmail.com.

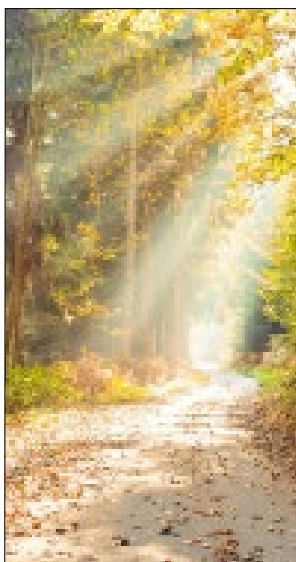


Lingerie Shower for El Salvador

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, Elynn 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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meet February 8 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the SECOND THURSDAY. Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, **February 8, at 5:30 PM** in the FFUMC Fellowship Hall. Participants are asked to bring their own beverage and a dish to share. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaleys11@gmail.com.

Special note for February meeting: *After we enjoy a potluck dinner together, we'll be making Valentine cards to share with those on our prayer list and benevolence clients. Most of the supplies will be provided; however, if you can, please bring scissors, glue, or any supplies or embellishments (suitable for mailing) you think might be helpful. Also, please bring 3 postage stamps if you have them readily available.*



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 7 menu: Dickey's Barbecue Pit

BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Slaw, Dessert



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.



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.**



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.



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.



Funeral Reception Committee serves in time of need

Our church offers comfort and consolation in times of grief for those in our church family in a meaningful, tangible way. When there is a death in our membership, a member of the family is offered the availability of light refreshments (such as cookies; brownies; vegetable, fruit or cheese tray; lemonade and water) before or after the funeral service. If a family chooses the reception, a minister will contact the Funeral Receptions Committee and that group will speak with a family member about availability. The office will be contacted to schedule the date and prepare the Fellowship Hall space. Sometimes a UWF Circle, Sunday school class, or another group in the church will choose to provide a reception for a member. If the family would like a larger reception, they may choose to have it catered. The contact for our Funeral Receptions Committee is Margaret Whitaker, 404-281-7302, and team leaders are Susan Tillman, Margaret Whitaker, and Deb Cole. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Margaret.



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.



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.

LEADERSHIP 2024

FAVETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST



There are many ways to serve FUMC at our home church with love and grace. We hope that this list of officers, staff, and our members, from education to leadership through our member ministries in our church, in this document, you will find the names of those who are serving in just the way we wanted to share it with you so that you can pray for them and thank and praise in their lives, we wanted you to have 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, our member care is intended as an idea that we can help you in any way.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Barb HIGGINS, Council Chair
 Barb HIGGINS, Treasurer Chair
 Bill WELLS, Finance Chair
 Catherine SMITH, Lay Leader
 Leanne DICK, Logistics Committee Chair
 James COOK, Worship Director
 Henry LINDSEY, Hospitality Chair
 Janet WATKINS, Lumen Ministries
 MARGARET WATKINS, Lumen Ministries
 Beth BURCH, Staff Support Ministries Chair



LAY LEADERS

Lay Leader Fayetteville First
 Lay (Cathedral) Leanne DICK, Bill WELLS

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Beth WATKINS Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK	Beth WATKINS Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK	Beth WATKINS Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK Leanne DICK

Thank you for serving!

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. The Leadership 2024 list can remind you 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](#)

Seniors, we appreciate you! Let us show you!

Our children have been excitingly preparing for a special night to say, "You are special" to our Senior Adults. Music, uniquely decorated placemats, centerpieces, and more will be presented in your honor. Make your reservation to come to Wednesday Night Dinner on Wednesday, February 14, at 5:15 PM and you'll be certain to feel the LOVE in a big way from our children! Just email admin@fayettevillefirst.com and say, "I'm coming!" Dinner is \$10. Not a senior? You can still join the dinner celebration that night. It's for you, too! After the dinner, you are invited to the Ash Wednesday Service in our sanctuary at 6 PM.



Notes of Gratitude



To the Shawl Ministry:

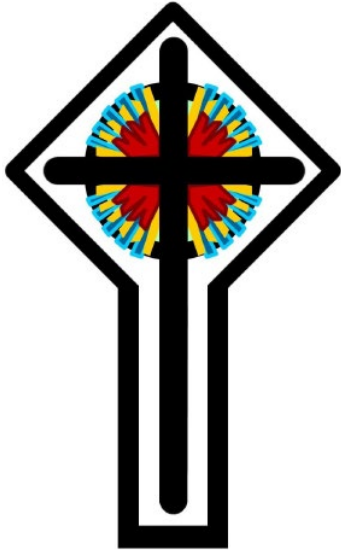
Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl you sent me. I appreciate it so much.

— Carol Ann Partridge

To the Flower Ministry:

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangements brought to our home during Bob's illness. We enjoyed them so much.

— Carol Ann Partridge



Planned Giving in 2024

113 Pledge cards have been received for a total pledge amount of \$673,979.04.

We need 15 pledge cards to match the number of pledges from 2023.

If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2024, it is not too late.

Pledge cards are located in the church office and in the usher area of the sanctuary. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning, mailed or dropped at the church office.

Capital Campaign

54 Capital Campaign Pledge cards have been received for a total pledge amount of \$121,864.00.

2023 Year-End Statements Sent

2023 year-end statements were sent via email on January 26, 2024. You may also access your statement on Realm. If you do not have an email address, your statement was mailed January 30, 2024.

We are here to help you. If you have any questions regarding your 2023 statement, please call the church office at 770-461-4313.

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

inspired ...

Messy Church: "The Best Church Ever!"

Our adventure into Messy Church is going strong! This monthly Saturday gathering of "church, just not as you know it" invites families to celebrate God's presence in their lives through games, worship, lunch, and new relationships. Who called it "The Best Church Ever!"? [Find out in the words of Phyllis Williamson, a faithful volunteer who was featured in the North Georgia Conference newsletter.](#)

How can you be a part? [Just sign up to volunteer on February 10!](#) Greet folks, assist with crafts, help prepare the meal (groups and individuals welcome), play a game with a precious child of God ... there's a place for everyone!

