



February 23, 2024

## The Weekender

### It's the clubs

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

Last Friday, I went golfing for the first time since I found out about the move to Fayetteville. I love golfing and usually golf at least every week or two, but things have just been much too up in the air to play recently. I was eager to return to the course, and best of all I was going to play with my favorite playing partner, my dad.

During the move, my golf clubs went to my parent's home because I didn't trust the moving company with them. So when Dad and I met up to play, he had to bring the clubs. When I arrived, we hugged and he went to get our clubs out of his truck. Immediately, my heart sank. He didn't bring my clubs. He brought a set of Goodwill clubs that we bought for Alli to learn the game.

It certainly wasn't the victorious return to the game that I had envisioned. I scored well over my average and hit some terrible shots. On many of those occasions, I looked at him and simply said "It's the clubs." By the time we finished, my excitement to return to the game I love had long worn off, and I was quite glad to be done.

Yet, on the road home I realized something. I was awfully quick to blame the clubs for my poor play. The baseline is I hadn't played in months and I hadn't showed up early to practice. I didn't set myself up for success. Furthermore, it was supposed to be a day where I just went out and had fun with my dad, but instead I just grew increasingly agitated with the clubs I had. This realization led to a shift from blaming external things for my bad day to more internal reflection.

I believe that's part of what Lent is about. Research shows that human beings are most likely to attribute *their mistakes* or failings to external causes. For example, we may think that we are always late because traffic is bad. However, when we see *other people's mistakes* we are more likely to attribute that to an internal cause. They are always late because they're lazy and don't value other people's time. During Lent we are encouraged to invert this. We examine critically the inner parts of ourselves we often ignore so that we can grow into better disciples. We also try to offer others more grace and to be more forgiving. In other words, if you hit the golf course this Lent, try not to blame the clubs.



Kaylen's dad, Tom Short



### 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"Being Great Neighbors: Presence"

Mark 8:31-38; Ruth 1:8-16

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### 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: Presence.



### Escape winter blues at Titus II!

Are you looking for a remedy for winter doldrums? If so, come to Titus II on Tuesday, March 5. The program is "Smile a while...a time of fun and games," presented by Glenda Martinez. Make your reservation by calling the church office or Martha Turner at 770-461-2802 **by Thursday, February 29.**

Lunch (\$8): Turkey Pot Pie, Side, Dessert

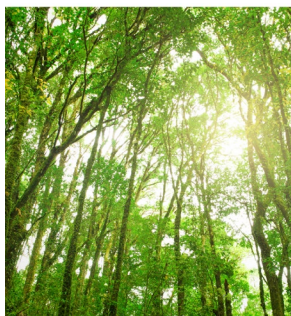


### Honey Baked Ham orders benefit Preschool

Fayetteville First UMC Preschool is partnering with Honey Baked Ham for an online gift card fundraiser JUST in time for Easter. [When you use or share this link](#), you and your family and friends can purchase Honey Baked Ham gift cards and use it for in store or online purchases. With the funds from this fundraiser, we plan to purchase differentiated classroom furniture to be more sensory friendly.

Fundraiser runs February 26 to April 3.

[Click here to visit or share our link!](#)



Contemplative Nature  
Retreat  
April 14

### Get away at a Spring 2024 Contemplative Retreat at Calvin Center

Is the approaching spring season beckoning you for renewal? Are you keen on discovering how to incorporate nature into your spiritual practices? Do you consider nature as a gateway to the Divine? If so, join us for a Contemplative Retreat sponsored by FFUMC's Study Class at Calvin Center on Sunday, April 14, from 1:30 to 5:30 PM. Experience the blessings of nature and learn new practices to enrich your life. Bring your own lunch. Light snacks provided. The session will be guided by Ron Reams, certified in both Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation. There is no charge for this retreat thanks to a Legacy Grant; however, registration is needed. Contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), for more information. [Register here.](#)



**SafeHouse Outreach**  
Providing a hand-up not just a hand-out



## 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](mailto:randyhr8@gmail.com).

We received this note from Josh Bray, head of SHO. He said that in mid-January when the temperature was below freezing for 6 nights, they were able to shelter an average of 41 folks a night in the main area of SafeHouse. "This was extraordinary because SafeHouse is not a shelter. Clients slept on the floor where they normally gather to eat dinner. The SafeHouse team and other volunteers stepped up to make this happen and keep homeless people alive and warm during those bitter cold nights."

Our folks here have helped with the effort this winter. We have delivered hand-knitted hats to SafeHouse and scarves to SafeHouse. Many thanks to the Shawl Ministry for this amazing and much-appreciated service. Our children collected hats and gloves during a recent drive and those will be delivered as we serve the meal next week. Thank you!



## We have a LOT for you!

Did you know a special parking lot is reserved for those who need it most on Sundays and Wednesdays? Yes! Parking lot B beside the chapel and gym is reserved for our seniors and those with mobility needs. **Can you save those spots for those who need it most**, even if you technically qualify? Also those who desire a bit of assistance in getting from their car into the building are invited to let the church office know in advance and arrangements can be made to accommodate you.



## 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

**Next week** February 28: Broadway Diner: Roast Beef in Gravy, Sides, Rolls, Dessert

**Upcoming** March 6 - Wings & Things: Boneless Chicken Wings, Tater Tots, Pasta Salad, Dessert

**Upcoming** March 13 - Souper Bowl Challenge Celebration with FREE meal provided by Rev.

Kaylen Short & Company - No charge on this night; however, reservations are required and **EARLY reservations** are requested. Contact the church office or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## 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!

### 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](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com).



### 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.



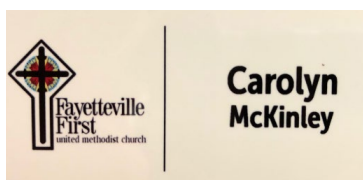


## Preschool Registration open for 2024-2025

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 now. It's on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration opens to the public on March 4. 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](mailto:preschool@fayettevillefirst.com).

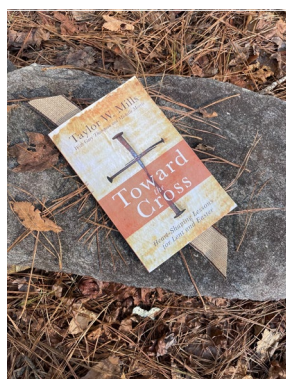
[Facebook Link](#)

[Information Brochure](#)



## Again?! Another name badge order being placed

Demand calls! We are placing yet another customized name badge 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, March 4**. Cost is \$10.



## 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.](#)



## NEW! March 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, Boxed Cereal, Dried Pasta (elbows, rigatoni, rotini, etc.), Jelly, Toilet Paper, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Feminine Products

**Clothes Closet:** Women's Underwear all sizes, Men's Boxer-style Underwear all sizes, Girls' socks

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



## 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.



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](mailto:aburnett@newnanfumc.org). Cost; \$20 which includes materials, badge and lunch. Registration deadline is March 12.



## 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.



## 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?

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## 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](http://www.spiveyhall.org) or call 678-466-4200. Ask some choir members for more information.

# YOUTH NEWS

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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.

## 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.

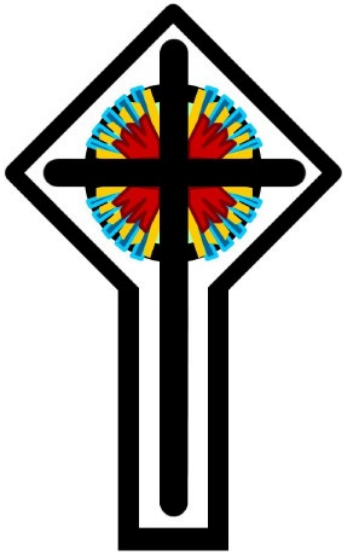
## June 9-15: Appalachian Service Project

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.**



## February 22, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$151,985.38
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$163,462.11
Difference	-\$11,476.73

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$426.00  
27 families assisted for a total of \$7,091.51

### 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](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 ...

## Square Foot home goes up...

A new home is taking shape quickly next to us on Church Street thanks to generous donors, community partners, and many volunteers. Square Foot Ministry is building a home for long-time city employee Derryl Anderson. The blitz build began last Friday, February 16. What a difference in a single week! Fayetteville First UMC volunteers helped on this project and will continue to prepare the home for our new neighbor next to Parking Lot A and the church office. [Sign up here to donate to the project or volunteer.](#) Every little bit makes a big difference ... one square foot at a time!



## Bringing Ms. Derryl home

*Trilith representative and FFUMC member Rick Halbert with Derryl Anderson at the build last Friday.*



*Volunteers will continue the build as the home progresses. In a single week the walls were built and erected and windows and a roof were installed. Inside work will begin soon. Check out the site regularly as this exciting project zooms along.*



# 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.



## Presence Week 2



**Question to consider:**  
**How can I be a presence in this community?**

### **Activity: Self-Reflection Assessment**

Directions: Consider these questions honestly, but only for yourself. Reflect on your answers.

Question 1 (circle): When was the last time I volunteered somewhere other than church?

In the last week      In the last month      In the last year      I don't remember

Question 2 (circle): When was the last time I made a friend outside of church?

In the last week      In the last month      In the last year      I don't remember

Question 3 (fill in the blank): \_\_\_\_\_ is the way I am most involved in the community outside of church.

Question 4 (fill in the blank): If I could serve one part of the community it would be \_\_\_\_\_.

Question 5 (circle ): How well do I know my neighbors?

Very Well      Somewhat well      Not very well      Not at all