



## The Weekender

### I Don't Even Go There

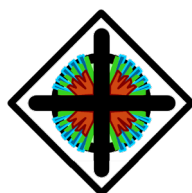
Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

"She lives in Pine Mountain. She said you were her favorite pastor, and she didn't even go to your church." That statement was said to me recently and it stopped me in my tracks. It was a message apparently said by someone whose name I don't even recognize and relayed by someone I've only spoken to on the phone. Yet, it made me cry wonderful, joyful tears because it reveals a simple lesson: people are watching and listening.

The truth is it feels a little strange to even share a compliment about yourself. I nearly didn't write about any of this for fear it would seem too braggadocious or self-congratulatory. Don't get me wrong, I am sure there are plenty of other times when people have watched me and seen something quite different than that one stranger saw. There are many times when I've been too quick to holler in my car at someone in traffic or when I've booed an opposing player at an Atlanta Braves game with a little bit too much vitriol. Just as people may be watching when we are at our best, they also may be when we are less than our best.

Sometimes we in the Church forget that people are watching and listening. When we fight among ourselves, we forget that others are listening. When we refuse to forgive, we forget that others are watching. Then we wonder why some people want nothing to do with any form of Church. But when we are laughing and joyful, people hear it too. When we offer grace and forgiveness, people see it too.

You are the best advertisement Fayetteville First UMC has. The way you talk about our church matters. The way you live as a result of being a part of our community says way more about our church than any Weekender article or social media post could. So let's just make sure we each live in a way that allows others to think "That's my favorite church and I don't even go there."



### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"Listen Up" 2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Kaylen Short

# CURRENT NEWS

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## SOUPER BOWL III ends THIS SUNDAY

Will we beat last year's total???? Who will receive the championship trophy for 2024???? You decide!

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. A final tally will be made at 10:45 AM before the 11:00 AM service.

Financial contributions to support this project should be marked as "United Women in Faith Souper Bowl III" in the memo line.



## Living the Way: From Lent to Easter

### Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14

Lenten Lunch: Fellowship Hall, 12:00 PM

Rev. Kaylen Short speaker

Ash Wednesday Service: Sanctuary, 6:00 PM

Rev. Charles Robinson speaker

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



## Messy Church is tomorrow, 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!](#)



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



## 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](http://GriefShare.org).



## 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!





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.



## Green Team Meeting At Southern Conservation Trust

Did you know that your FFUMC Green team partners with Southern Conservation Trust? Join in our intentional creation care initiatives at the next meeting at the Southern Conservation Trust Educational Center on Thursday, February 15, at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. Questions? [Contact Tami Kemberling](#).

## 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.

Special night to honor Senior Adults! February 14

Olive Garden Lasagna, Salad, Bread, Dessert



## Seniors, we appreciate you! Let us show you on February 14

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](mailto: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.



## 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.**



## 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](#).



## Ready to play handbells? New players welcome

The wonderful FFUMC Handbell Choir has resumed rehearsals for the winter/spring 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](mailto:jhames@bellsouth.net), for more information.



## Welcoming Prayer 40-Day Practice Through Lent

You are invited to explore the Welcoming Prayer throughout the 40 days of Lent using an easy-to-follow guide from Contemplative Outreach. The simple process offers "prayer on the go" to help us pray without ceasing. [Contact Joan Aycock by Tuesday, February 13](#), to order the \$13 guide or to ask questions about the process. You may attend a brief introduction session on Ash Wednesday following the Lenten Lunch at 1:00 PM or following the evening service in the Fellowship Hall if desired. Ordered materials will also be available on Ash Wednesday.



## 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.



## 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](mailto:brian_nancy@mindspring.com).



## 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](mailto:kshort@fayettevillefirst.com).



## 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](mailto:preschool@fayettevillefirst.com).

[Facebook Link](#)

[Information Brochure](#)



## Love in Action needs queen mattress

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





## United Methodist Men meet February 13

The United Methodist Men invite you the next group meeting on Tuesday, February 13, at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and get ready to enjoy time together. Questions? Contact UMM President Raymond Mitchely.

## 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.

### 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. The cost is \$170.00. **Sign up deadline is February 9.** FYI: Confirmation Sunday is May 5.

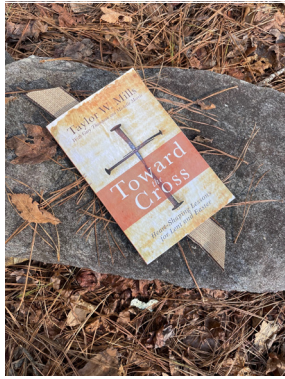
### March 8-10: Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Glisson

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

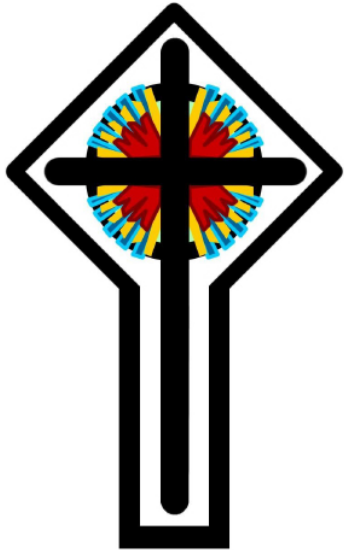
This year we will again be volunteering our time and service to the Appalachian Service Project in partnership with Inman United Methodist Church. More details will come out soon regarding cost, travel, packing, and more.



## Lenten Lunch Series begins Ash Wednesday

You are invited to this year's Lenten Lunch Series at noon in the Fellowship Hall beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing on the following Thursdays. 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 7, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$103,298.99
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$125,449.17
Difference	-\$22,150.18

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,892.00  
22 families assisted for a total of \$5,817.43

### 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 ...

## Getting to know you

Our church staff and leadership had a dedicated time this week to get to know Rev. Kaylen Short as they participated in an "Onboarding" process. Led by Rev. Mike Selleck, a retired minister who works with the conference, the meetings are designed to help churches during the first few weeks of a transition time. Thoughtful questions were posed to the staff and leadership and then Kaylen had some time to respond to each one. We're glad to get to know Kaylen better!

