



March 1, 2024

The Weekender

27 Days

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

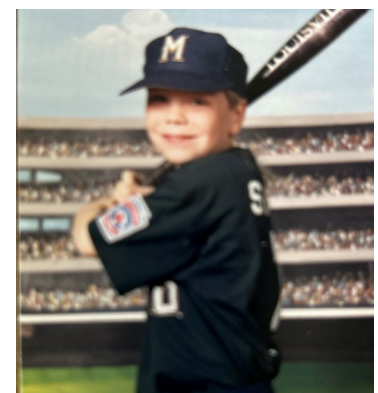
It is finally time to let you in on a secret: I might just be the biggest Atlanta Braves fan you've met. I grew up playing baseball and the love of the sport has never left me. Alli and I are season ticket holders and have been for the majority of our years as a married couple. My office is riddled with bobbleheads, and my home is overflowing with boxes of baseball paraphernalia that don't yet have a display location.

Throughout my life as a Braves fan, I have experienced a lot of highs and lows. Alli and I attended every home game of the 2021 series, and the World Series game we attended with both sets of our parents is one of the most cherished memories I have. However, I was also in attendance for the disastrous "in-field fly" game, and more playoff losses than I have any desire to count.

In 27 days, the Braves season starts again. Throughout the baseball season, I will sit down as many nights as possible and turn the game on the T.V. or the radio. Throughout the season it becomes a routine that I value, a way of ending my days. In fact, while I know that most people my age and younger are growing increasingly bored with baseball, I think it is that routine that has roped me in. I need that rhythm of life, and I miss it when the season is over. A lot in my life will change between when the season starts and ends this year, and I need routines to help anchor me.

During Lent, we try to adopt different routines, but for a similar reason. The practices we adopt during Lent are meant to become a part of our rhythm after Easter has come and gone. These routines become an important part of who we are, and help to ground us when days grow chaotic. I hope that you are continuing your Lenten practice and allowing it to become a part of your routine.

Go Braves!



Yes, I'm a fan!



3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Online link active at 11 AM and after
"Being Great Neighbors: Gifts"

Romans 12:3-8

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: Gifts.



Lenten Offering benefits Rise Against Hunger

Have you seen these bags? One of the ways we are "Living the Way" during Lent is through our Lenten Offering. You are invited to pick up a bag in the Narthex or Welcome Portal and start a collection to be presented Easter morning on the altar rail. The funds will support our Rise Against Hunger Packing Event in August which has the goal of packing 30,000 meals in two hours to be used in needed areas around the world.



**CHARGE
CONFERENCE
March 10**

One Issue Charge Conference Sunday, March 10

Immediately following the 11:00 worship service we will have a one issue charge conference. Any Fayetteville First UMC member can vote at this charge conference. In the UMC, any time pastor salaries are revised it must be approved at a charge conference. Usually, that takes place as a part of a larger charge conference in the fall; however, since Rev. Drew West was originally only appointed here through June, we must hold a special charge conference to approve the extension of his service here. Under the proposal, Drew would be appointed at FFUMC exclusively. FFUMC would cover roughly 2/3 of Drew's compensation for the coming year, and the North Georgia Conference of the UMC would cover the remaining 1/3 of Drew's compensation for the annual conference year. We believe we can cover our part of Drew's compensation without increasing our church budget or staff budget line item. Please contact me with any questions at KShort@fayettevillefirst.com.



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, at noon in the gym. The program is "Smile a while...a time of fun and games," presented by Glenda Martinez. Lunch (\$8): Turkey Pot Pie, Side, Dessert



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.

Next Week: 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.



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!](#)



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!



Next Name Badge order placed Monday, March 4

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. The deadline to place your order is **Monday, March 4**. Cost is \$10.



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 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.



Lingerie Shower for El Salvador

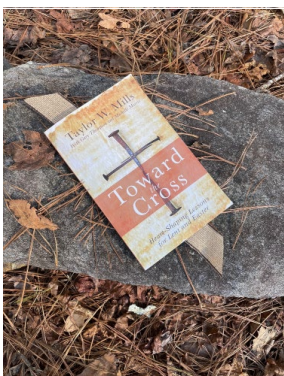
Fourteen members of five South West District churches are heading to El Salvador the week of April 6-13, 2024, to work with the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador. The team will participate in construction on the new school building, food distribution in the communities around the churches,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



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.](#)

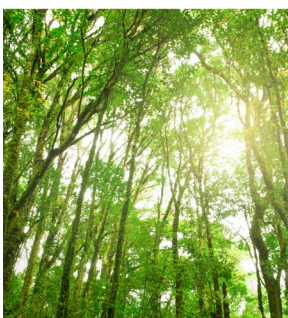


Preschool Registration open for 2024-2025

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.

[Facebook Link](#)

[Information Brochure](#)



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, for more information. [Register here.](#)



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.



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.



Thanks for the mattress! Still looking for other things...

Thank you for finding a mattress for one of our summer lunch families. We still have a need for a living room set and refrigerator. If you can help out, please contact Cindy Hall at 678-656-4117.

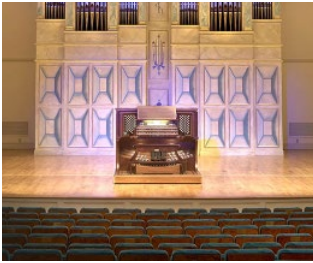


Palm Sunday Concert: March 24, 7 PM

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*.

[Feel free to share this post all over!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

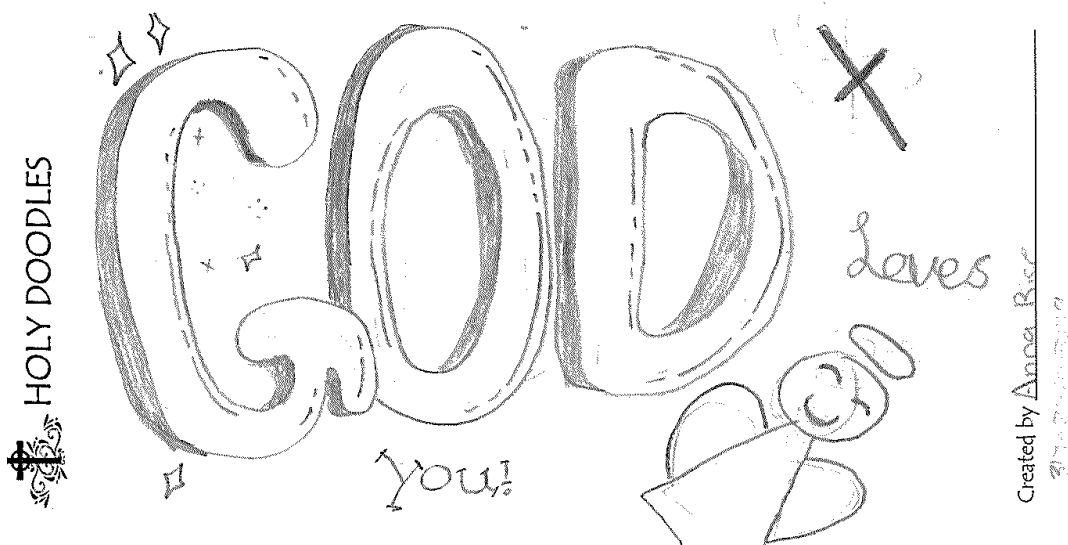


Music of Dan Forrest presented at Spivey Hall

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. Ask some choir members for more information.

Holy Doodle February Winner

The winner of the February Holy Doodle is Anna Rice. Thank you for sharing your art, Anna! Look for a prize coming your way from Pastor Kaylen!



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.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ Camp Glisson: This Weekend!

Confirmation students head to Camp Glisson with Rev. Drew West this weekend. The group is preparing for confirmation Sunday 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.**

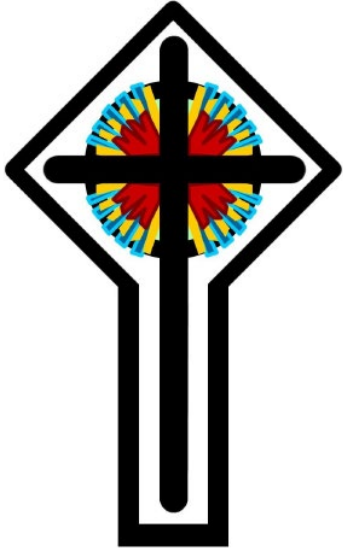


With Gratitude

To Shawl Ministry

The lap robe which you made for me is warm and wonderful and I have already used it many times. What a comforting gift, especially in the winter! The colors (blue, brown, cream) were of particular significance to Ben and me. Thank you so much for your kindness. — Donna Westberry

I want to thank you for the lovely and warm shawl you sent to me. It was put to use the first night as I sat in front of the TV. It proved to be just right as I wrapped it around me. As much as the shawl is nice, it is the time, the love, and the effort that makes it so meaningful. It is the special time that you took to produce the shawl. It is the love behind each product and it is the people doing things for others. I appreciate each one of you being the special people that you are! — Mike Leonard



February 28, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$162,797.73
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$195,190.52
Difference	-\$32,392.79

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$240.00
29 families assisted for a total of \$7,474.88

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 ...

March into Messy Church: March 9

Let's march into Messy Church together on March 9 as we celebrate our place as MASTERPIECES of GOD. Can you use your gifts here? How about joining in Messy Church worship? Assist in a table craft? Read a book to a child? Serve up some food? Play a game and be silly? [Here's the link to volunteer!](#)

Got questions? Contact Chase Leonard, Messy Church Guru (and sometimes mascot), at 770-283-4245.



*For we are God's masterpiece. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
- Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*



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.



Gifts Week 3

Question to consider:

How can I utilize my gifts in this community?

Activity: Use one of your gifts

Directions: Use one of your gifts to help someone(s) in our community.

Examples:

- Quilt a blanket or knit caps for a homeless shelter
- Teach an exercise class
- Cook a meal for someone who might be lonely
- Mail a care package to a college student
- Volunteer to play or sing at a senior center

