



March 15, 2024

The Weekender

Making Space in our Local Church for Confirmands

Rev. Drew West, Assistant Minister of Families & Children

One way to summarize the Christian life is that it is an invitation to open our lives fully to God and neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). At the very heart of the Spirit's work within us is the reminder that we are not our own: we belong, body and soul, to Jesus and Christ's body, the Church. If you've ever done a personal or a group study on 1 Corinthians, you know just how much this group of early Christians forgot this. They were seeking to compete with one another based on who baptized who; they were bringing lawsuits against each other; and Paul gives many of them the not-so-loving title "arrogant" (1 Cor 4:18-19). Rev. Short reminded us in his sermon this past Sunday how easy it is to direct our focus toward misguided priorities, and that is what the Corinthians were doing. They lost sight of the reality that Christ called them to live with openness to each other in response to God's love for them in Christ. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price."



On Sunday, May 5, our local church has the privilege of welcoming this year's confirmands as members into our congregation. These members are Sophie Allgood, Ginny Fernandes, Xander Hansen, and Aspen Kemberling. At North Georgia's Confirmation Retreat two weekends ago, we learned about how the church is like a forest ecosystem. One speaker at the retreat shared some ideas from Peter Wohlleben's book *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*. Wohlleben's research revealed that trees share resources, care for their sick, and make space for one another to grow and flourish. Each tree plays a unique and important role in every forest, and they seem to delight in one another.

As we welcome these confirmands on May 5, we are reminded of the interconnectedness and mutual care that should characterize the body of Christ. Just as trees in the forest share resources and uplift each other, so too should we delight in and make space for these younger members to give their input and serve along with us with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This reminds me of the wisdom of friends in Zambia who used to say, "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together."



5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

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

"Being Great Neighbors: Witness"

Psalm 119:9-16; John 13:31-35

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Living the Way: From Lent to Easter

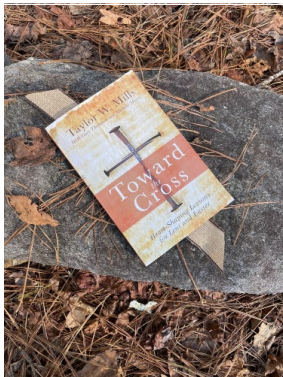
[Follow this guide to journey through the season. Printed copies are available in the Welcome Portal and Narthex.](#)

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: Witness.



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.



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.](#)



Give Blood Sunday, March 17

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, March 17, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Thanks to a new procedure by the Red Cross and thanks to those who donated on January 14, we have 21 folks pre-signed up! We have room for at least 30 more, so please sign up to donate if you are able. It's easy to do using redcrossblood.org and select the March 17 FFUMC location. If you have any questions about eligibility or need help signing up, contact any member of the FFUMC Blood Drive Team (Robbie Gray, Mike Clark, Wayne Harris, Larry Brannon or Randy Riddell).

Pictured: Larry Brannon, as usual, ready to assist!



Wednesday Night Supper, March 20

How about another Wednesday Night with friends and good food?!

Signup for the weekly meal by noon each Monday. Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

March 20 Menu from Tim's Country Kitchen:

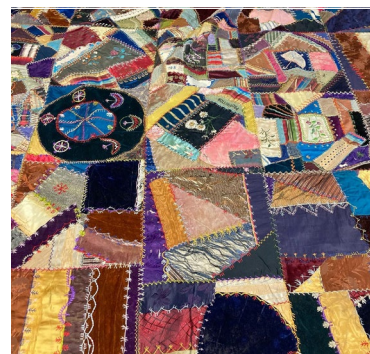
Meatloaf, Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls, Banana Pudding

Adults: \$10; Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)



Bible Study for Caregivers, Special Needs Ministry

You're invited to join Jami Maguire, Director of Special Needs Ministry, and other members of the special needs community to share God's word and life concerns over coffee and muffins. A group of caregivers will meet for a four-week Bible study on Fridays from April 12 to May 3 at Fayetteville First UMC in The Foundry, Room C280. Contact Jami for more information at 470-878-7610 or jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com.



SAGE goes to Quilt & Textile Museum: March 20

Take a trip with friends to tour the Quilt & Textile Museum in Carrollton, Georgia, on Wednesday, March 20. The Senior Adults Going Everywhere will gather at the church office at 9:45 AM for a 10 AM departure. The group will eat lunch before the 1 PM tour time and plans to return around 3 PM. Cost: \$4 (payable at the museum), \$2 transportation (payable at the church), and lunch on your own. Sign up at the church office, admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



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!](#)



Last chance for "Coffee with Kaylen" is March 21

Visit with Rev. Kaylen Short at Gremlin Growlers on the downtown courthouse square next Thursday, 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.



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 through April 3.

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



Order Easter Lilies now: DUE MONDAY, March 25

Don't miss your chance to order your Easter lily! [Click here to complete the entire process online \(form and payment\)](#). Paper copies are available in the narthex and church office and will be in the bulletins for the next few weeks.

3 good reasons to order Easter Lilies:

1. Lilies **enhance our worship** space as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.
2. Plants may be given **in memory or honor** of family or friends and their names will be listed in the Easter Order of Worship. After Easter worship, your purchased lilies are available for you to take home or give to someone else.
3. Proceeds from lily orders **benefit the FFUMC Flower Ministry**. This group creates weekly flower arrangements to encourage others throughout the year.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday — March 24

Worship in Sanctuary 8:45 & 11:00 AM

Churchwide Egg Hunt

Festivities following 11:00 AM worship include opportunity to purchase lunch from Big Daddy's Food Truck, cotton candy provided by youth (donations appreciated), and bouncy house. Egg Hunt at 1:00 PM

Chancel Choir Concert

Free Concert, Sanctuary, 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday — March 28

Lenten Lunch 12:00 PM

Service of Word & Table, Rev. Drew West 7:00 PM

Good Friday — March 29

Service of Remembrance, Rev. Allyson Lawrence 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday — March 31

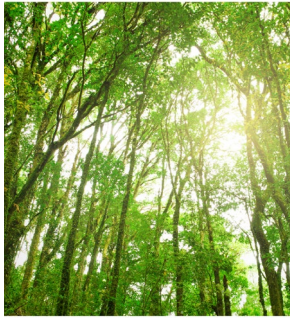
Sunrise Service

6:45 AM Bring your own chair to The Field

Worship

8:45 AM Chapel, 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Decorate the Easter Cross: You are invited to bring flowers to decorate the courtyard cross on Easter Sunday. Be sure to bring your camera, too!



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

NOTE Urgent need: Boys Underwear, all sizes



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!](#)

[Register your VBS campers here!](#)

Get an in-depth look! Come to VBS Workshop April 6 **NEW DATE**

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

Saturday, April 6 at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

[RSVP here](#) by April 3, 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!



Storyteller
Jan Purcell
April 2

Next Titus II is April 2

Join with friends for a meal and fellowship at the next Titus II on Tuesday, April 2, at noon in the gym. Storyteller Jan Purcell will present the program. Make your reservation by calling the church office or Martha Turner at 770-461-2802 by Thursday, March 28.

Lunch (\$8): Smothered Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli Casserole, Rolls, Dessert



New name badges are here

If you recently ordered a name badge, it is waiting for you in the Welcome Portal behind the sanctuary. Come pick it up!

If you need to pay for your badge, simply indicate "Name Badge" on your check, online, or cash donation. Cost \$10.

If you want to be placed on our next order, email Joan Aycock at jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com and she'll take care of it.



Bishop Robin Dease visits SouthWest District on April 7

Meet Bishop Robin Dease and enjoy worship, participate in a Q&A session, and fellowship at the reception at Griffin First UMC on Sunday, April 7, from 3 to 5 PM. Reservations are not required, but if you have a question for the Bishop we would ask that you submit it by April 1. [Let the conference know you're coming and submit a question at this link.](#) A nursery will be available (reservation requested at southwest@ngumc.net or 770-227-1074.) Clergy and laity are invited. We will collect non-perishable food items for the Five Loaves Two Fish Food Pantry in Griffin, so bring a couple of items to donate.

DID YOU KNOW?



Benefit concert for Bedford School at FFUMC March 23

The Southern Crescent Chorale will present a benefit concert for the Bedford School in the FFUMC gym, Saturday, March 23, at 7:00 PM. The "Sweets & Serenades" Benefit Concert will feature the Southern Crescent Chorale and the Whitewater High School Chorale. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at Fayette County Library.

FFUMC KIDS NEWS



CELEBRATE with palms on Palm Sunday, March 24

Let's celebrate on Palm Sunday, March 24, in the palm processional. All children are invited to gather at 10:45 (after Sunday school) in the courtyard to receive fronds and prepare to wave palms in the sanctuary at the beginning of the 11 a.m. worship service. The Children's Choir will meet with the Chancel Choir at 10:30 to rehearse "Hosanna" in the adult choir room and then join the processional.



It's Coming ... Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 24

March 24, Palm Sunday, is a big day! Worship at 11 AM and wave palms in the Palm Sunday Processional. Following the service, come to The Field for fun and games. You can even get lunch! Big Daddy's Food Truck will be on hand with loads of menu options for you to purchase. Our youth will provide cotton candy (donations appreciated). The FFUMC Egg Hunt will begin at 1 PM. P



No regular programs on Wednesday, April 3: Spring Break

Children and youth programs will not hold regular meetings on Wednesday night, April 3. Regular meetings resume on April 10.

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.

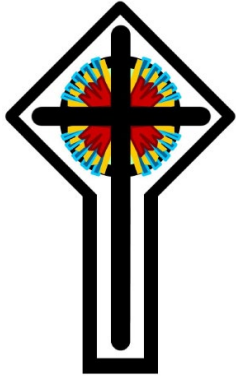
June 9-15: Appalachian Service Project

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.**



March 14, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$201,922.79
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$243,787.62
Difference	-\$41,864.83

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$708.00

38 families assisted for a total of \$9,587.58

UMCOR Gifts Received Sunday March 10, 2024

\$1,270

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

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;

Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214

770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

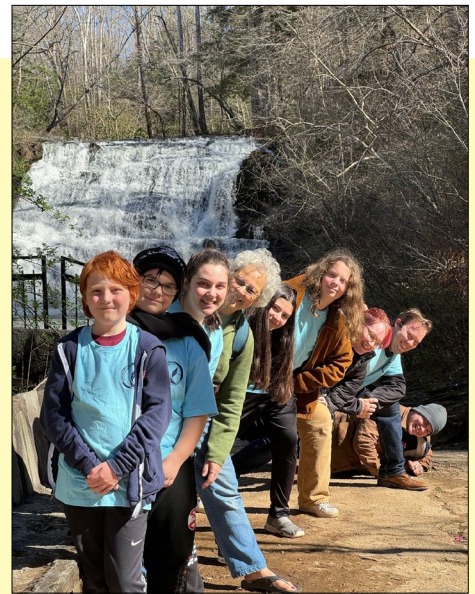
inspired ...

Youth Enjoy Camp Glisson

Our youth headed to Camp Glisson for two weekends in a row for spiritual renewal and good times together.

Our confirmands were invited to continue their learning journey with others on the **North Georgia Confirmation Retreat** the first weekend in March. Rev. Drew West and Nick Hansen were shepherds as this group prepared for Confirmation Sunday May 5.

Our youth headed back to Camp Glisson the following weekend for a **Spiritual Life Retreat**. Austin Baur, Tami Kemberling, Jordan Hart, Jason Lindsey and Xed Blankenship enjoyed the youth as they explored "vocation." A speaker emphasized that we identify our calling by considering this: "The place that God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (Frederick Buechner). Small groups and activities emphasized and reflected on the theme and Proverbs 3:5-6.



Camp Glisson welcomed youth and youth shepherds this month for the Confirmation Retreat and Spiritual Life Retreat.



***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
— Proverbs 3:5-6***

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.



Witness Week 5

Question to consider:

How can I best witness to this community?



Activity: Think about positive and negative examples of witness.

Directions: Answer these questions with a written response. Reflect on your answers.

Question 1: When have you seen or had a negative experience with witness?

Question 2: What made that experience negative (pushy, intrusive, aggressive, etc.)?

Question 3: When have you seen or had a positive experience with witness?

Question 4: What made that experience positive (genuine, intentional, etc.)

Question 5: What connection does Witness have to Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service?
