



March 22, 2024

The Weekender

Flora and Fauna

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

As we arrive at Palm Sunday, we finally begin to step into Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we align ourselves with those who stood outside of Jerusalem celebrating Jesus' entrance into the holy city. On Maundy Thursday, like the disciples we feast with Christ and ponder the mysteries of both death and resurrection. On Good Friday, we gather around the cross like those closest to Jesus and ponder how great Christ's love must be. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we too race to tell others about Christ's victory over the tomb, just like the women who first witnessed it. Each of these days is worthy of our careful attention.



Yet, try as we might, we will probably bungle some parts of this holy time. You may be too busy and forget entirely about the Maundy Thursday service. I may trip over an Easter lily or palm branch. Despite our best efforts, our Easter for the entire family might be an absolute disaster. Even in this special time, things still go amiss.

One of the first times I led a Palm Sunday service was a small evening service when I was an associate pastor at Glenn Memorial. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to preach on a day I loved so much in childhood even for a crowd of 35-45. My whole sermon was about the overwhelming sense of celebration the people must have felt at Jesus' arrival if they were willing to just pick up whatever they found and start waving it around. I wanted to encourage those who gathered to embrace that same joy at Christ's presence in our lives. The one problem is I kept saying that the people waved around flora and fauna to celebrate Christ's arrival.

That next day in the office Rev. Dr. Alice Rogers, the senior minister, sat me down and explained delicately but clearly the mistake I made. Flora is a plant. Fauna is an animal. I was mortified. I had mistakenly given people the image of people waving around squirrels to celebrate Christ's arrival! Even though I can laugh at it now, it's a mistake that I still cringe at when I remember it.

And yet, the craziest thing happened. The next Sunday, Easter still arrived. Despite my mortifying mistake, the resurrection was still celebrated and Christ is still risen. So if in these days ahead something doesn't go according to your plan remember that Easter is still coming anyway.

I hope you'll gather with us this Sunday for Palm Sunday, and even if something goes awry we will celebrate anyway. Just don't expect to hear about any fauna....



PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 24

8:45 AM (Chapel) & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)

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

"Let's Celebrate"

Psalm 118:19-29; Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Kaylen Short



Help Decorate Easter Cross:
Let's celebrate Sunday morning!
Bring cuttings from your yard or
purchased flowers for the cross.
Bring your camera, too!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday — March 24

Worship

8:45 AM Chapel, 11:00 AM Sanctuary

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

Online Links:

Online events can be accessed at FayettevilleFirst.com on our Worship page. [Follow this link to select the service or event.](#)



March 24 Concert leads us into Holy Week

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*.

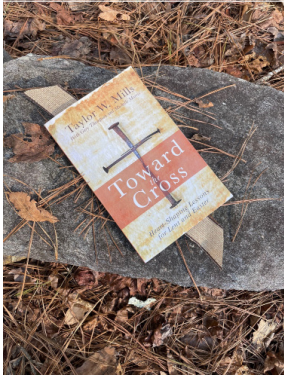
[Feel free to share this post all over!](#)

[Find online links to Holy Week events including this one here.](#)



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. **Your financial support NOW is important to provide funding for the meal-packing event in August.**



Lenten Lunches conclude Thursday, March 28

You are invited to this year's final Lenten Lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, 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.](#)



Wednesday Night Supper, March 27

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 27 Menu from Italian Oven:

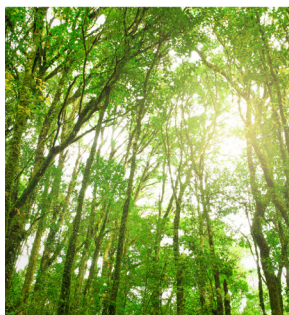
Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread, Dessert

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



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.](#)



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 in this Sunday's bulletin.

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.



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 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!



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



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



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.

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 AM worship service. The Children's Choir will meet with the Chancel Choir at 10:30 AM 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.

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.**

DID YOU KNOW?



Benefit concert for Bedford School at FFUMC March 23

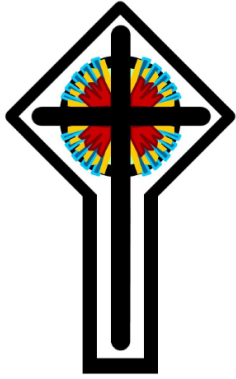
The Southern Crescent Chorale will present a benefit concert for the Bedford School in the FFUMC gym, Saturday, March 23, at 7:00 PM. The "Sweets & Serenades" Benefit Concert will feature the Southern Crescent Chorale and the Whitewater High School Chorale.

Concert is FREE! Donations accepted.

**SPRING
BREAK**

No regular programs on Wednesday, April 3: Spring Break

No Wednesday night supper, children or youth programs on Wednesday night, April 3. Regular meetings resume on April 10.



March 20, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$220,723.40
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$261,218.01
Difference	-\$40,494.61

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$311.00

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



Family Life Center and C Building Closed April 3, 4, and 5

It's time for floors to be stripped and waxed. The Family Life Center will be closed April 3, 4, and 5. Please do not enter the C Building during this time.

inspired ...

Super Souper Bowl Celebration!

Rev. Kaylen Short and his dad, Chef Tom Short, delivered on Kaylen's promise of dinner for the church if we exceeded last year's soup can collection for the Souper Bowl III challenge. You got to work collecting cans and well exceeded the 1,575 cans from the previous year -- by 500! The 2,079+ cans of soup have been distributed to those facing food insecurity in our community.

On Wednesday, March 13, the Short team prepared seven HUGE pans of delicious baked ziti for 150+ grateful attendees who were served by the church staff. Our church family was also treated to salad, bread, and delicious desserts from the Hospitality Team to enjoy during a fun night of celebration. We appreciate Kaylen and his dad's work to create this special time together. Thank you!



SOUPER BOWL CELEBRATION

2,079+ cans collected January through February 11

GREAT meal provided by Rev. Kaylen Short and his dad, Chef Tom Short (pictured at top with Alli Short)

You donated \$431 at the meal to help fund next year's Souper Bowl.

Good times together!