



March 29, 2024

The Weekender

Shell Games

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

Every week, I wait with anticipation for what will be in the Children's Moment Mystery Box. One kid brings in an item, and I never see it before it is opened in worship. I then make up a lesson on the spot that centers around that item. Last week a lot more came out of the box than I expected.

For this story to make sense I need to backtrack a little. For a few weeks, I have been talking to Sidney and her daughter Jocelyn about being baptised and joining our church. They have been on a self-described spiritual pilgrimage for some time now. Finally, they feel like our church is a place where they can genuinely belong. (A huge THANK YOU to all of you who have encountered them and made them feel this way!) We were talking about baptism, but we hadn't really landed on a time or method.

Fast forward to Palm Sunday. The Children's Moment box was opened, and inside was a shell that Jocelyn had chosen. Honestly, at first, I couldn't think of anything to talk about with a shell. Then something distant from one of the very first churches I served came to mind. The memory of shells on columns and above doors, and a faint lesson about how they symbolized baptism. So I started building on that and explained how Christian history holds that some of the earliest baptisms in the Church happened with a shell as the vessel to pour out the water. Immediately following the service Sidney and Jocelyn found me. They explained they wanted to be baptized on Easter Sunday using that same shell.

I learned afterward that the shell was given to Sidney and Jocelyn by a friend who showed them grace and welcome at a time when they desperately needed it. That gift will now be the vessel for their baptismal waters which will signify their welcome into our church and God's grace continually being poured out upon their lives. Discovering what's in the children's box is always fun, but I don't think I'll ever forget the Sunday morning that a shell turned into two Easter Sunday baptisms.

*Quick note: This story is told with the permission of those involved.



CELEBRATION OF EASTER: MARCH 31
6:45 AM (The Field) 8:45 AM (Chapel)
11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

"Easter People"

John 20:1-18

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



We celebrate this Sunday!

Easter Day — March 31

Sunrise Service

6:45 AM Bring your own chair to The Field

Worship

8:45 AM Chapel, 11:00 AM Sanctuary & Online

[Follow this link to select an online service or event](#)

Help Decorate Easter Cross:

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

Could you drop off flowers on Saturday? Just leave them in containers prepared for you at the inner courtyard entrance. We'll take care of them overnight and place them on the cross early on Easter morning. Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, 770-861-4499.



Place Lenten Offering on altar rail Easter Day

Our Lenten Offering 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 determine the number of meals we will pack in August.

Checks or online donations should designate "Lenten Offering" in the memo line.



Last few days to order Honey Baked Ham

Orders benefit Fayetteville First UMC 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.



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.

SPRING
BREAK

No regular programs or supper on Wednesday, April 3

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

Titus II
LUNCH & LEARN

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.

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



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!



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.

UNITED METHODIST
MEN

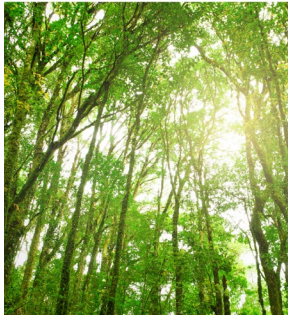
United Methodist Men meet April 9

Get together for good food and good conversation at the next meeting of the United Methodist Men at 6:15 PM on Tuesday, April 9, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share!



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.



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.](#)



April 20
"A Time to Kill"

Coming in May
Biblical History
Center

SAGE goes to the theatre April 20

On April 20, SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere) is going to the Southside Theatre in Fairburn to see "A Time to Kill," a play based on the John Grisham novel by the same name. The play is a gripping adaptation of John Grisham's novel about race, crime, and family in small-town America that asks the question: when is it right to take justice into your own hands? Gather at 1:15 PM, depart 1:30 PM for a 2:30 curtain time. The group will eat together following the play. Tickets for "A Time to Kill" are \$17.00; \$2.00 for gas. Dinner cost is on your own. Please call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com for reservations.

SAGE will visit the Biblical History Center in LaGrange in May. Ancient Middle Eastern life is depicted through archaeological replicas, Biblical meal presentations, daily life artifacts, lectures, and other personal experiences. More information on the May SAGE trip to come.



Chancel Choir Concert - Oh, the beauty!

The Chancel Choir concert on Palm Sunday was wonderful and moving. Follow this link if you missed it ... or if you'd like to hear it again.

We appreciate the gift you shared so freely and beautifully!

[March 24 Palm Sunday Chancel Choir Concert](#)



April needs from Fayette Samaritans: It's our month!

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 Chicken, Hamburger Helper, Pasta Sauce, Rice (2 Lb. bags), Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Jelly, Feminine Products

Clothes Closet: Women's socks and all sizes of boys underwear

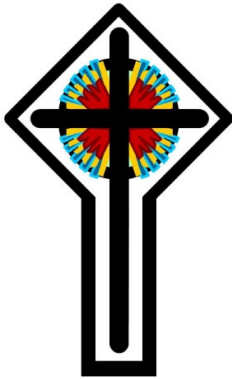
April is Fayetteville First UMC's month to make special contributions to Fayette Samaritans. Please give what you can.



To Flower Ministry

What a total surprise and delight to receive flowers. Your arrangement brightens my spirit as well as our home. Thank you so very much.

— Lindy Scarff



Financials

The financial report will be updated next week.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of Fayetteville First UMC!

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

inspired ...

The joy of Easter ... and Egg Hunts

Thank you to all those who helped make our Easter celebration at Fayetteville First UMC's Egg Hunt truly unforgettable! FFUMC brought joy to so many families as they reveled and relaxed in the simple delight of the day. Before we started our four separate egg hunts, we had a small bouncy house for our little ones (thanks to a generous donation) and a big bouncy house for our more adventurous kids. Our youth created perfectly spun and delicious cotton candy and we enjoyed mouthwatering gourmet burgers, chicken tenders, fries, and heavenly bread pudding from Big Daddy's Food Truck.

A special thank you goes out to a slew of servants who helped set up the field, drag electrical cords, chairs and tables, hang flags, and clean. Those volunteers include (but of course is not limited to!) the youth and their leaders, Jane Gough, Phyllis Williamson, Donna Blackburn, Joan Aycock, Tim Aycock, Pastor Kaylen Short, and Kaitlyn Lawrence (dubbed Assistant Director of the Egg Hunt as she stepped in and helped facilitate many major details).

Also, a huge thank you to all who regularly give financially to our church budget. Because of your giving, we are able to hold events like this that reach far beyond what we can ever imagine. Your contributions of time and money exemplify the spirit of Easter, fostering togetherness and joy that will be remembered for years to come. Thank you for your unwavering support and for spreading the light of Easter through Fayetteville First UMC!

— Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Associate Minister



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