



March 8, 2024

The Weekender

Meal Service

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

I know more than 120 of you are looking forward to a very special dinner on Wednesday, but today I'm writing about some different meals I helped prepare. Last Thursday, I headed off to SafeHouse Outreach to serve a meal with the rest of our volunteers. In doing so, I experienced some major flashbacks. You see, throughout my childhood, my family volunteered to cook and serve a meal at MUST ministries every month there was a 5th Saturday. MUST ministries, like SafeHouse, has a hot meal program for the homeless. My family didn't just volunteer to plan and serve any meal on 5th Saturdays: we volunteered to do breakfast. I say "we" very loosely because my parents volunteered, and my sister and I complained at length everytime they woke us up at 4:30 AM or 5:00 AM on a Saturday. As much as we complained, I realize now that the first inclinations I got of a call to ministry happened in that kitchen and serving line. No, I wouldn't hear that call or answer it until years later, but with hindsight I realize that God was nudging me to it then. I remember even at a young age, looking at those that we were serving and realizing that my family, and really every family, was no more than a few bad breaks away from being on the receiving side of that line. It's an epiphany that changed my life and made me want to be a servant leader in the church.

Fast forward to this past Thursday, and I couldn't help but remember those lessons. When invited, I eagerly jumped at the opportunity to go meet the people in line. I shook every hand I could, looked each person in the eyes, and asked them their name, once again remembering the lesson that served or serving, we are God's children.

Toward the end of our meal, I talked at length with one of the SafeHouse volunteers. Eventually, she told me that the more involved she became at SafeHouse, the less comfortable she felt in a church. More and more she began to feel like an outsider just like those she served. The juxtaposition struck me immediately: her experience serving the homeless made her feel uncomfortable in the church, while mine made me eager to lead the church.

Next Wednesday we will feast and celebrate! After that, I hope we'll continue to make our church a place where there are no outsiders and where all are invited to the banquet table.



4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Begins!

Online link active at 11 AM and after

"Being Great Neighbors: Service"

Ephesians 2:1-10; Matthew 25:31-46

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.



UMCOR Offering This Sunday, March 10

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is on the front lines during times of crisis. We can support this work actively by training to be prepared on the Emergency Response Team on March 16 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.

This work also needs our financial support. The yearly UMCOR offering covers the administrative costs of this work so that donations throughout the year go directly to needs at hand. Mark your contribution as UMCOR on your check or online donation.

UMCOR Offering
Sunday, March 10



Sign up for Blood Drive 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!



SOUPER Bowl Celebration from Pastor Kaylen

Wednesday night, March 13

Souper Bowl Challenge Celebration with FREE meal provided by Rev. Kaylen Short & Company - **No charge on this night**; however, reservations are required. Contact the church office or admin@fayettevillefirst.com by Monday, March 11, at 10 AM.

All are invited!



**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. Any revision to pastor salaries in the UMC 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.



Director of Special Needs Ministry already busy

Jami Maguire, our new Director of Special Needs Ministry, is already ministering to our community. Students and young adults with special needs are invited to participate in small group time on Sundays from 9:45 AM to Noon and on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 PM. Contact Jami for more information on the scope of this ministry and how you can help at jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com. Welcome, Jami, and friends!



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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meet March 14 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the **SECOND THURSDAY**. Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, **March 14, at 5:30 PM** at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaileys11@gmail.com.



Messy Church is tomorrow, March 9

Experience Messy Church tomorrow, March 9, from 11 AM to 1 PM with games, worship, food, and fun!



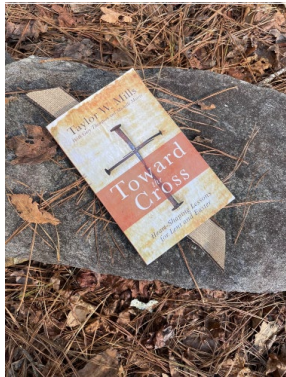
Honey Baked Ham orders benefit Preschool

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!](#)



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.](#)



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.



Let's chat: "Coffee with Kaylen" March 14 and 21

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.



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.



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.

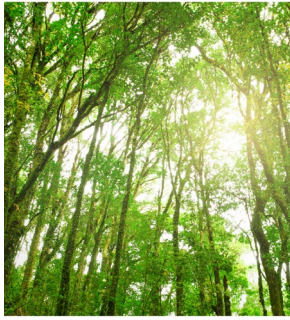


NEW! March needs from Fayette Samaritans

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



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.](#)



Preschool Registration open for 2024-2025

Pass the word ... Fayetteville First UMC Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2024-25 school year! 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](#)



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 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

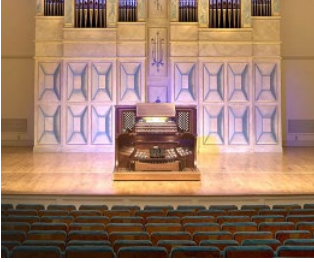
And much more!

Thanks for a recliner! Still looking for other things...

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



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.



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!](#)



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday — March 24

Worship in Sanctuary 8:45 & 11:00 AM

Churchwide Egg Hunt

Festivities following 11:00 AM worship

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

Worship

8:45 AM, 11:00 AM

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!



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10

It's time to run those clocks ahead and operate on Daylight Saving Time once again. Daylight saving time starts at 2 AM this Sunday, March 10.

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. The FFUMC Egg Hunt will begin at 1 PM.



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.

March 8-10: Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Glisson

This year's annual youth retreat will be at Camp Glisson, March 8-10.

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 FFUMC for benevolence gift

Thank you for the kindness shown to me when I was in need of assistance. I appreciate all you did to assist me. It's refreshing to know that there are still wonderful people in this world. Thanks again!

— Note from a benevolence recipient

To Flower Ministry (and Kathie Hansen and granddaughter, Thea, who delivered flowers)

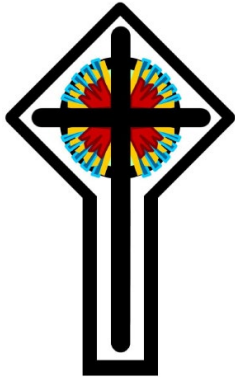
Thank you for bringing the lovely flowers the church's flower ministry sent. They do brighten the room. I know that it takes time from all the members' life, and I appreciate their efforts. The flowers were very nice, but the time you, your granddaughter, and other members spent mean so much and certainly brighten our day. It was a good day and we really appreciate the thought! — Mike Leonard

Brothers & Sisters of FFUMC:

I want to pass on my sincere appreciation for all the love and support you bestowed upon Christie and me over the last several months as we navigated my cancer treatment. It has gone well, and the odds of a return look slim.

Please know that every card, call or text, food item, prayer and face-to-face conversation was absolutely uplifting! You demonstrated the power and faithfulness of Christ in you, and I am so blessed to be in community with such caring believers!

Special mention to Karen, Yvette, Sylvia and the whole Flower Ministry crew for brightening many a day spent indoors. And Bethany Circle, you are absolutely awesome!!! Thanks again to every one of the FFUMC saints. — Jay Burton



March 6, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$186,760.64
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$218,175.98
Difference	-\$31,415.34

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$812.00
36 families assisted for a total of \$9,254.82

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 ...

Safehouse Outreach Ministry touches lives

Last Thursday, a group from FFUMC fed those on the margins at SafeHouse Outreach Ministry. Thirteen volunteers helped cook, package, deliver, and serve up more than 200 meals to homeless clients in Atlanta. Many in the group talked with recipients and came back with their prayer requests which were shared at the altar rail during communion last Sunday. Your service continues to this group through our prayers with them and for them.

One volunteer remarked, "It was such a wonderful night of fellowship and nurturing. We gave, and we received beyond measure."

Another said, "It was a GREAT night! I think no one wanted to leave."

Want to join in? Mark your calendar to participate at our next SafeHouse Outreach service night on May 30.



SafeHouse Outreach:
*Providing a hand up,
not just a hand out*

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.



Service Week 4

Question to consider:

Where can I serve this community other than the church?

Activity: Volunteer somewhere

Directions: Pick up the phone or send an email and offer to serve in a Fayette County non-profit. Even volunteering once could be a huge help!

Where might you volunteer?

Fayette Samaritans
Square Foot Ministry
Bloom
Fayette Humane Society

Jail Ministry
Pregnancy Resource Center
Senior Center
Midwest Food Bank, etc

Places I am considering serving:
