



April 26, 2024

## The Weekender

### Messy Church ... 'cause we're all messy

So what is Messy Church?

- Church for everyone!
- Church, but not as you've known it
- All-age worship experience
- A "come-as-you-are" experiential faith experience
- Accessible church service with fun, faith, and food

You've been hearing about Messy Church for nearly a year now, and Fayetteville First UMC has offered this pioneering expression of church since our launch last August at eight inspiring church services. With the goal of equipping and supporting all ages and stages of faith development, Messy Church helps nurture disciples of Jesus and provides resources for growth during the two-hour time together each month and beyond.

How does that happen? Every themed service supports the lesson and scripture through many mediums: movement, music, worship, crafts, food, and more! It's church for everyone where people with varied backgrounds, abilities, and life stages are welcomed as their unique selves and come together to discover more about Jesus ... even those who may be coming to church for the first time.

Do you know why it's called Messy Church? It's not because we come dressed in comfy clothes (though we do). It's not because we have activities that might get pretty messy (though we do). It's not because we eat finger food meals that might require a quick wash up (though we do). It's not because we move around, play instruments, or learn from creative storytelling during Celebration Time (though we do).

It's called Messy Church because everyone is invited to learn to look for God all around us and explore faith right now in our busy and often messy lives. Messy Church is a fresh expression of God's work at Fayetteville First UMC. We're always learning that God makes messy things beautiful in all kinds of ways. It's so good to get in the mess together!



*These participants at last week's Messy Church USA learning experience in Chicago were from the North Georgia UMC Conference. We are crazy for Messy Church!*



**5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**8:45 AM (Chapel)**

**11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)**

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

John 15:1-8; 1 John 4:7-21

"Love Is an Action"

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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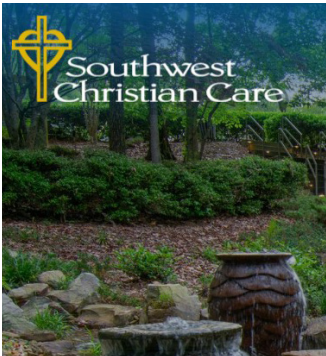


### Hope and a Future Capital Campaign is underway

We have an opportunity to help everyone touched by Fayetteville First UMC both now and in the future. Follow these links to learn more.

[See the Capital Campaign Case Statement](#)

[View the Capital Campaign Presentation](#)



### Southwest Christian Care donations due April 29

The United Women in Faith are helping Southwest Christian Care with donations for their wish list. You are invited to help with a variety of needs like hand sanitizer, napkins, dryer sheets, sugar, coffee and more. See the details here and place any donations in the collection bins located in the Welcome Portal and the church office by April 29. Questions? Contact Susan Burch, [showburch@gmail.com](mailto:showburch@gmail.com).

[Southwest Christian Care Wish List](#)



**Deadline May 6**  
for special bulletin  
recognition

### UWF Bethany Circle recognizes Mothers May 12

A special bulletin insert on Mother's Day will recognize our mothers and those who mother others. The United Women in Faith's Bethany Circle with assistance from Friendship Circle will have a flower in the courtyard on Mother's Day for all those who are recognized. To donate to missions and recognize those who mother us, **please use the form and envelope in the April 28 or May 5 Sunday's bulletin** and return it to the church office by May 6. Proceeds will benefit Bloom, Promise Place and UWF missions. Please **make checks to Bethany Circle** and include names for "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" and who is placing the recognition. Questions? Call or text Leslie Wade at 770-633-3296.

### Green Team supports city "Shredding & Recycling Event"

Bring your paper and electronics and more to Fayetteville's "Shredding & Recycling Event" on **Saturday, April 27**, from 9 AM to noon at City Center Park. You might just see a Green Team member from FFUMC assisting at the event.

[CHECK OUT DETAILS](http://www.fayetteville-ga.gov/events) on what is accepted, the traffic flow, and more at [www.fayetteville-ga.gov/events](http://www.fayetteville-ga.gov/events).





## We celebrate graduates on Sunday, May 19

We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 19, in worship and at a churchwide potluck luncheon.

Graduates will be featured in the May 19 Order of Worship, and we want to recognize graduates in our church family. Please send your graduate's name, school, degree earned, and a photo to [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) by May 8 to be included.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2024!



May 9

SAGE TRIP

## SAGE to visit Biblical History Center in May

On Thursday, May 9, SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere) will visit the Biblical History Center in LaGrange. Ancient Middle Eastern life is depicted through archeological replicas, daily life artifacts, and lectures. Take a walk through the Archaeological Replica Garden. Gather at 9:15 AM, depart at 9:30 AM. The tour begins at 10:30 AM at the Biblical History Center. Tickets for the Center are \$33.00/person; transportation is \$2.00/person. The group will eat at the Lemon Tree restaurant in LaGrange after leaving the Biblical Museum. Lunch cost is on your own. Please call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) for reservations.



Limited Capacity  
Register NOW!

## VBS 2024 at Camp Firelight - June 24-28

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS! Camp Firelight runs June 24-28  
**Capacity is limited, so register right away!**

[Select your preferred volunteer spot here!](#)

[Register your VBS campers here!](#)

**Praise Team returns this year!** Are you a rising 3rd grader or older? You're invited to be on the VBS Praise Team. This group will learn music before VBS and be our on-stage leaders during VBS group times. Contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) for details.

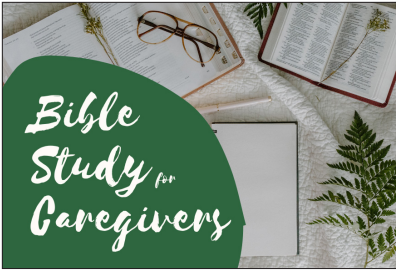


## May Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans: NEW LIST

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, Canned Beef Stew, Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Jelly, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

**Clothes Closet:** Women's clothing size extra large



## Bible Study for Caregivers, Special Needs Ministry

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. Two more sessions remain: April 26 (Theme: Joy for the Journey) and May 3 at Fayetteville First UMC in The Foundry, Room C280, at 9:15 AM. Contact Jami for more information at 470-878-7610 or [jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com).



## United Women in Faith and Blue Sunday: April 28

Please join the South West District United Women in Faith on Blue Sunday, April 28, at 3 PM for an hour of praise and prayer over Zoom.

We will pray for children who are victims of abuse; for those who rescue and care for the young victims; and for those that are the abusers.

[Zoom link to online praise and prayer time together](#)



## Enjoy a cup of cheer throughout the week

Would you like your very own FFUMC mug? Now's the time to get one ... or two ... or more! They are \$10 each or two for \$15. Just stop by the church office and get yours any time.



## Shawl Ministry

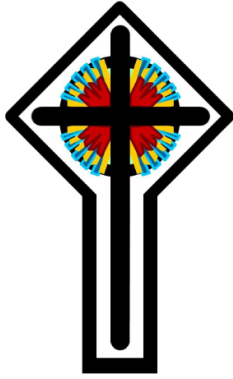
Peter and I were so moved when we opened the box you sent and found the beautiful blankets! We use them every day with our girls, and we're so thankful for such a loving and thoughtful community. We're doing well — twins are quite the adjustment! — and it's due to friends like you reminding us of how loved and supported we are! Much love!

— Peter and Katie Schmoling

## FFUMC Family

Thank you for your contribution to this year's mission trip to El Salvador. You helped to make a difference in people's lives!

— Maggie Clarke



## April 24, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$385,815.97
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$368,210.35
Difference	\$17,605.62

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$170.00

60 families assisted for a total of \$14,514.19

### 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:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

# inspired ...

## Learning more about MESSY!

*It's church ... but not as you know it.*

A group of your Messy Church leaders and volunteers "braved" Chicago weather for a Messy Church USA conference. These learners took a deep dive into a host of topics like storytelling, music, contemplative practices, intergenerational focus, and more to strengthen our efforts at Fayetteville First UMC's Messy Church.

Thank you to all who are investing in the Messy Church experience, faithfully volunteering, providing meals, welcoming participants, and being church to our community. Want to know more? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence or [sign up to volunteer at our next Messy Church on June 8.](#)

*Learning from new Messy Church friends: Joan Aycock, Allyson Lawrence, Donna Blackburn, Drew West, and Chase Leonard on their way to a Messy Church USA conference. Other photos are from our Messy Church at FFUMC in April.*

