



April 5, 2024

The Weekender

Just a Glimpse

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

One of the things I love most about our house is that from my back deck you can see a glimpse of a lake. Beyond our fence and beyond the trees there it lies. Our property line ends well before the edge of the water and as such we have no ownership of the lake. Yet, I cherish my glimpses of it. On a cold wintery day, I feel better when I look up for a moment and see a peek of the lake shimmering through the woods. On beautiful spring days, I love to sit on the deck with a morning cup of coffee and look off in the distance at the rippling barely visible water. Just a glimpse of the water does me good.

Sure, one day I would love to own a house actually on a lake, but for now the glimpse is enough. It's something that both brings me peace now and a reminder of what can be. It fills me up while propelling me forward.

I think that's what Easter was. It was a glimpse for us all. There were smiles on every face, and laughter abounded. There were children with impeccable timing calling out in the middle of the sermon, and tearful baptismal moments. It was a truly incredible Sunday. Yet, I believe it was only a glimpse of what is possible here.

What if Easter was only a new beginning? What if we begin to have need to celebrate baptisms or new members monthly? What if we had to begin limiting the ages of children that come for the children's moment because we run out of room in the chancel? If Jesus can conquer the grave, why can't Christ lead us to these or other places?

I can't say for certain if that's where we will end up. However, I do feel what many of you have felt; I do feel that God is up to something here. So for now, I'll continue to delight in our little glimpse we received, to look for what God might have in store for us next, and to play whatever part I can play. I hope each of you will join me.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:45 AM (Chapel)

11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

"I Doubt That"

John 20:19-31

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Caring for this

EARTH

April is Earth Month

"Look at the world, everything all around us." The FFUMC Green Team is making us aware of many opportunities during Earth Month to take care of this big, beautiful world. Here are just a few plans by FFUMC and our community partners:

April 13 — Messy Church Earth Day focus

April 14 — Contemplative Nature Retreat in Hampton, GA

April 20 — Kid's Day Excursion to CHaRM

April 20 — Spring Plant Sale at Education Garden near library

April 21 - 27 — Earth Week - Look for details next week

Ready for more information now? Contact [Tami Kemberling](#), [Frieda Everritt](#), or [Joan Aycock](#).

1 week, 4 hours, 10 minutes AWAY ... FREE retreat

Did you know the Contemplative Nature Retreat is

- 1 week away — Sunday afternoon, April 14
- 4 hours away — offering 4 hours at the scenic Calvin Center
- 10 minutes away — in Hampton, a short 10 minute drive from here



Contemplative Nature
Retreat
April 14

10 minutes takes
you away!

Are you ready for a time of renewal? A few hours in nature? A guide to discover nature as a gateway to the Divine? Come to an afternoon Contemplative Retreat 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. It's **FREE**, but please let us know you're coming. Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, for more information. [Register here.](#)

Capital Campaign Informational Meeting

Wednesday April 17 at 5:45 PM

During our Wednesday night supper on Wednesday, April 17, our Capital Campaign team will be presenting the future of our FFUMC capital campaign begun in 2023. We will talk about each of the various projects that are included in the campaign, what the needs are, anticipated expense, and answer questions. If you would like to submit a question ahead of time you can do so by emailing Rev. Kaylen Short at kshort@fayettevillefirst.com.



**Capital Campaign
update**



VBS 2024 presents Camp Firelight tomorrow

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 5 - that's TODAY!



Rise Against Hunger funding happens now

Our 2024 Lenten Offering was taken to support our Rise Against Hunger Packing Event in August. We have made a good start toward the cost of packing 30,000 meals to be used in needed areas around the world.

Your financial support NOW is important to determine the number of meals we will pack this August.

Checks or online donations should designate "Rise Against Hunger" in the memo line.



Southwest Christian Care presents at UWF on April 18

Come and bring a friend to the next United Women in Faith Unit Meeting on Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll learn about Southwest Christian Care and what it offers our community from Paul Leslie, the executive director. Dinner: Olive Garden Lasagan, Salad, Bread Sticks, Dessert. Reservations due Sunday, April 14. UWF members should reserve with their circle chairs. All others, please contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net. \$10 per person payable at the event.



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.



Wednesday Night Supper, April 10

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.

April 10 Menu: Breakfast for Dinner (revised from previous postings):

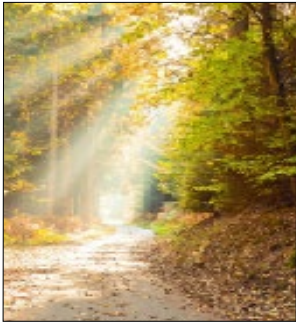
Breakfast Casseroles, Grits, Fruit, Pastries

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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meet April 11 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, **April 11, at 5:30 PM** at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys at jkbaileys11@gmail.com.



Jail Ministry Training

Have you considered joining the FFUMC Jail Ministry Team? A training class held by the jail's chaplain is offered April 12; however, applications must be completed right away to allow time for a background check before the training. Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, for more information.



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.

April 20
"A Time to Kill"

Coming in May
Biblical History
Center

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.



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!



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.



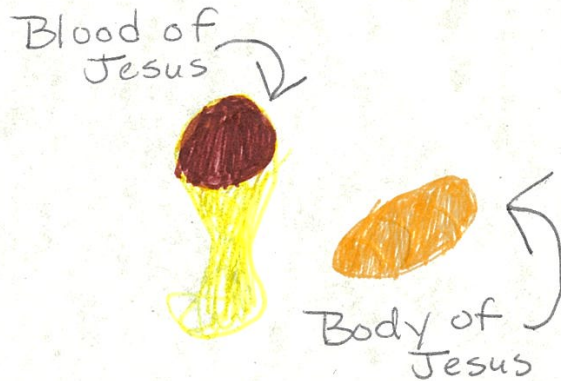
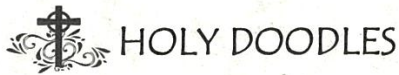
**Messy Church
April 13**

Messy Church is Saturday, April 13, 11 AM to 1 PM

Celebrate the beauty of the earth with the community at Messy Church. It's church, just not as you know it! We'll explore Psalm 98 on April 13 with games, crafts, and worship. This month's meal will be provided by The Family Class: Thank YOU for ALL the groups who are making our community always feel welcome with a meal and a smile!

[Volunteer here and get ready for THE BEST CHURCH EVER!](#)

We're loving this expression of [Psalm 98 - Check it out!](#)



Created by Sara Emory

Holy Doodle March Winner

The winner of the March Holy Doodle is Sara Emory. Thank you for sharing your art, Sara! Look for a prize coming your way from Pastor Kaylen!



To Flower Ministry

Please accept my sincere thanks for the beautiful flowers. They now grace my foyer. — Lamar McEachern

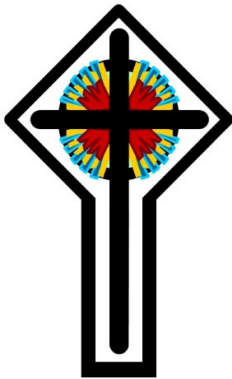
Thank you very much for the bouquet of flowers you brought me. They are cheerful and one of the prettiest bouquets I've ever seen. — James Watkins

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent to welcome us to Fayetteville First. What a delight your ministry is to our church! — The Wests



Church office front desk hours adjusted April 8-11

During April 8-11, the front desk in the church office will be staffed from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and closed in the afternoon. Special thanks to volunteers who will cover morning hours next week. Normal front desk hours will resume Monday, April 15, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.



April 3, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$277,844.46
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$315,930.03
Difference	-\$38,085.57

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 ...

Stepping into Easter with joy

Let's revisit our journey through Lent and Holy Week to arrive at the season of Easter. Some of the highlights:

- Ash Wednesday
- Weekly Lenten Lunches
- Lenten Sermon Series: Being Great Neighbors
- Egg Hunt and Festivities
- Palm Sunday
- Chancel Choir Palm Sunday Concert
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Baptisms and new members
- Easter Day

We'll take the next steps as we head to Pentecost ... and we will go together. Blessings on the way!



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