



November 15, 2024

The Weekender

An Homage to Music

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

Last Friday, The Music Garden had one of its piano recitals at FFUMC and I attended. At that recital, our very own Luanne Harms served as the emcee and #1 supporter of the students. Toward the beginning of the event, she spoke about how important music could be in the lives of those children. So as I sat and listened to the pieces that were performed, I kept thinking about all the things that can be learned through music.

Take those students for example: undoubtedly, they have learned the obvious physical lessons from music. They've learned to press the right keys, how to keep time and rhythm with their hands, and have acquired the physical dexterity to do those things. However, it's the larger life lessons that I saw on display through their performances. Those students are clearly learning lessons many adults struggle with. They are learning how to perform for a group of peers, how to persevere when one of the keys sticks, and how to support others in the classes. The lessons don't stop there.

I, too, learned a great deal from music. For as long as I can remember, I've been singing in church. Any time one of you approaches me during the passing of the peace and says, "Hey! You really can sing!" I can't help but smile and think of my childhood children's church choir teachers. It was in children's choir that I learned how to be in harmony with others and it was in children's choir that I learned to have the confidence to stand in front of a congregation. On a VHS tape buried deep in my parent's basement is a video of an adolescent Kaylen singing one of my first solos during the Easter cantata of my home church. More than two decades later I still remember almost every word of that solo even though I certainly can't hit a lot of the notes anymore.

Our own chancel choir is a model of many of these musical life lessons, too. They are one of the most committed groups in our church and have clearly all learned to have the discipline required to put together wonderful music every week while also preparing for larger concerts and performances. Through their pieces they remind us all that in some moments it's more important to rest than to keep going. They also have learned not to take themselves too seriously, which is something I believe anyone who works with Nicholas the Great (Nick Bowden) learns in short order.

There are so many lessons we all can learn from music and so many reasons we should be grateful to be surrounded by wonderful music here at FFUMC. I know this Sunday will be no exception.



26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: NOVEMBER 17, 2024

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 16; Romans 12:9-18

"Why Fayetteville First"

Rev. Kaylen Short



Stewardship Consecration and Celebration Sunday

During both services this Sunday, November 17, we will consecrate the financial commitments we have made for 2025. You are invited to bring a commitment card to the service as we look forward to a new year in ministry together.

Fellowship Hall Kitchen Ribbon Cutting

As we celebrate a successful Stewardship Campaign, we also give thanks for a soon-to-be-completed Capital Campaign. Join us in celebration as we cut the ribbon and unveil the Fellowship Hall kitchen following the 11 AM service on Sunday, November 17. Refreshments will be served.



Returning to FFUMC - Nativities from Around the World

December 5-6 from noon to 7 PM; December 7 from 10 AM to 3 PM

During this Advent season, FFUMC will again host a collection of hundreds of unique nativities, curated by Wendy Haymans and her late mother Sharon Bowen as a ministry of focus about the meaning of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection. Wendy is the daughter-in-law of our own Gerry and Jim Haymans and is generously making the exhibit available to our community at no charge.

The exhibit will be open to the public on Thursday and Friday, December 5-6, from noon to 7 PM and on Saturday, December 7, from 10 AM – 3 PM. Wednesday, December 4, will be reserved for senior groups and others needing extra time to go through the exhibit.

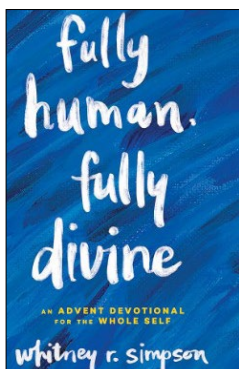
Please volunteer to help. Two years ago, hundreds came to see the collection and we expect more this year. Hosting the exhibit is a lot of fun, and it also is labor-intensive. The jobs include serving as greeters and monitors and helping with set-up and tear-down.

[You can sign up to volunteer at this Sign-Up Genius link](#) or call the church office.

Donate towels for the Exhibit

Also – we need lots of towels for leveling the exhibit surfaces. Please donate old, raggedy (but clean) towels you have on hand. Any size will do. If you want your towels back, please put your name on them. You can bring them to the church office or put them in a bin in Welcome Center.

Afterward, we will donate unclaimed towels to a local animal shelter.



Advent Study: November 19, December 3, 10, and 17

Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence for a four week advent study using the book *Fully Human, Fully Divine: an Advent Devotional for the Whole Self* by Whitney R. Simpson. To give us enough time to cover the entire book, the study will begin before advent actually starts. Our first meeting is Tuesday, November 19, at 1:30 PM. The following dates are Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17. You can purchase the book at any of your favorite book stores. [Please sign up online or call the church office to let Rev. Lawrence know you are coming.](#)



Messy Vintage
Nov 16, 2-4 PM

Messy Church is going on a mission!

November 16, 2- 4 p.m. Note the time change.

November 16 is our Vintage Messy Church. We will be serving the good folks of Azalea Estates. Meet at the church by 2 pm, we will ride the church vehicles and caravan as needed, host Messy Church at Azalea Estates, and return to the church by 4. [Please RSVP how you will be working by going to this link and signing up.](#) It's important to know who is serving before we go so that we do not overwhelm the residents at Azalea Estates. After signing up, watch your email for more information.

SAGE Trips: Note changes!

Our SAGE trip to Chick-Fil-A headquarters has been changed from November 19 to **December 19**. We will gather at the Church Office at 8:30 AM and depart at 8:45 AM; Backstage Tour (which includes the Test Kitchen) will be from 9:30 – 11 AM. We will stop for lunch at a Chick-Fil-A on the way home. Tickets are \$11 and transportation cost is \$2.

We're still getting out in November! Our **November 19** trip will be to the McRitchie-Hollis History Center/Museum in Newnan. We will gather at the Church Office at 9:15 AM and depart at 9:30 AM; Lunch will be at Sprayberry's BBQ in Newnan. Suggested donation at the Museum is \$5 and transportation cost is \$2.

Contact the church office to reserve your place. For more information, see [Rev. Charles Robinson](#).



Titus II is December 3



Begin December with kids and music! Hear the Inman Elementary Chorus present Christmas music at the Titus II Lunch and Learn program for our seniors. Call Martha Turner or the church office to make reservations by Wednesday, November 27.

Tuesday, December 3 at Noon, Gym

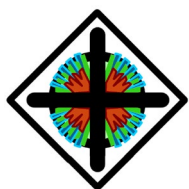
Lunch: \$8 per person, meal from a local restaurant



Angel Tree available on Sundays

Our annual Angel Tree will be in the Welcome Center on Sundays, offering a chance to provide Christmas for Bloom foster children. The gifts will be given by Santa at the Bloom holiday party. If you miss the signup sheet or the attendant on Sundays, contact Suzie Lusk directly.

How does it work? Choose an "angel" for whom to shop (be sure to indicate which angel you took and communicate with the attendant at the tree; one angel per family), purchase the gifts on the wish list, and return unwrapped gifts to the church office by December 8. [You'll need to follow these specific, easy instructions. It's that simple to show some cheer and love to children this Christmas season.](#)



Charge Conference set for Saturday, November 16

Meet new District Superintendent Rev. Byron Thomas as we celebrate the work of Fayetteville First and elect leadership for the coming year. Join in our churchwide Charge Conference on Saturday, November 16, at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.



Love in Action: Thanks for washer ... Dryer needed

Thank you for the washer you donated to a summer lunch family! A dryer is still needed. If you as an individual or group can help, please contact Cindy Hall.



New Needs List: Pantry 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. Volunteers are also needed in the food pantry, clothes closet, receptionist area, and as interviewers with a 3 hour commitment each week.

Most Needed List: *Canned Chicken, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Green Beans, Canned Corn, Hamburger Helper, Soup, Cereal, Jelly, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Feminine Products (Pads), Laundry Detergent*



Special Wednesday Night: Thanksgiving Potluck

Let's celebrate being together for a Thanksgiving Potluck on November 20!

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall and celebrate it's re-opening!

The meat, dessert and drinks will be provided. **You only need to bring a side dish to share (no additional charge).** Sign up by noon on Monday so we will know how many places to set up. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a Fellowship Dinner pew card.

November 20 at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall: Thanksgiving Pot Luck

Special night! Bring a side dish to share (no additional charge)

Meat, dessert, drinks provided!

Photo from a previous potluck feast. Join in!



Save the date for Christmas Caroling...Wednesday, December 18

It's almost that time again. Save the date for Christmas caroling and spreading cheer. You're invited to enjoy supper at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall for regular Wednesday Night Dinner; then we'll load vehicles and start caroling at 5:30 PM.



District Hanging of the Greens: November 17

A Hanging of the Greens event offers an open invitation! Clergy and laity, families and friends are invited to the Southwest District for a connectional event to prepare us for Advent and decorate the district office for Christmas. Planned activities provide an opportunity to learn more about the decorations, get information on Fresh Expressions and the Lay Servant Ministry program, and contribute to charities. You'll also meet others in our connectional group. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions and join in at 60 Washington Street in Newnan November 17 between 3 and 5 PM.



Youth ASP Mission Summer Mission Trip

Clear your calendar for June 8 - 14, 2025

The cost for the week is \$375 per person but we are going to fundraise a LOT to hopefully get the cost down to \$50 per person. Please let Rev. Allyson Lawrence know you are interested by filling out this form: [ASP Interest Form](#). This is only an interest form and not a commitment to the trip. Once you fill out this interest form, you will receive a confirmation email that will take you through the registration process on the ASP site if you are ready to commit to the trip. If you missed the parent and youth informational meeting held this week, contact Rev. Lawrence for all the details you need to know!

FFUMC Church Family

Just a quick note to say thank you for the immediate and fast response for assistance in paying for my mother's propane bill so she could get some heat in the house. Your caring, generous and positive attitude was very much needed in an already embarrassing situation. You are much appreciated. — Benevolence Recipient

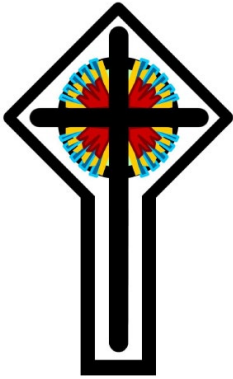


Shawl Ministry

Thank you so much for remembering Larry after his surgery. The colors are so perfect for fall. I wish you could have seen his face when he opened the box! He is sleeping about 14 hours each day, often under your sweet gift. Thank you! — Becky Voyles

Flower Ministry

Thanks so much for the pretty bouquet of flowers bought to me on Veterans Day. The flowers mean a lot because they were in the sanctuary Sunday and dedicated to Veterans. This is a great ministry so thanks again for that. — James Watkins



November 13, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$973,670.93
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$994,754.67
Difference	-\$21,083.74

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$501.

157 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$39,315.47

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, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

Reminder:

During the services this Sunday, November 17, we will consecrate our financial commitments to Fayetteville First UMC for 2025. Commitment cards will be available from the ushers should you need one on Sunday.

inspired ...

Christmas Marketplace 2024 - \$13,200+

We had another successful Christmas Marketplace thanks to YOU! With your amazing efforts, we raised more than \$13,200 this year! Before and on November 2, you baked and cooked, sorted and priced, welcomed and cleaned up, and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

Most importantly, our charities will benefit from all your hard work as they continue to protect women and children, provide food and clothing to those in need, support those struggling with addictions, and strive to heal our veterans. The 2024 Christmas Marketplace charities are Bloom Our Youth, Fayette Samaritans, Hope Harbor, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors, The I-58 Mission, Pregnancy Resource Center, Promise Place, and our very own FFUMC Benevolence Fund, Jail Ministry and Prayer Shawl Ministry. Your support will help their good work continue.

