



November 8, 2024

## The Weekender

### Serve Like Sheep

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

After another contentious presidential election season, I know that emotions are running high. I also know that, just like the county around us, at Fayetteville First we are of a divided mind as to what emotions we are feeling after the re-election of President Trump. Some of us are celebrating today; some of us are in mourning. Some of us are delighted; some of us are scared. I do not think any of my words can change how any of us on any side feel today. However, I do want to provide a little perspective by reminding us that win or lose we are not a people who place our faith in politicians, but those who place our faith in the Prince of Peace.

I want you to imagine something for a moment. I want you to imagine that at the end of a wonderful life of loving others and emulating Christ, you pass away peacefully and awake at whatever your image of the entrance to heaven is. There's one person in front of you in line to enter heaven and they're talking to someone who looks like what you imagine Jesus to look like. You can't help but overhear the conversation. Jesus looks down at his list and says "From everything here it looks like you were a real piece of work. Throughout life you were selfish and thoughtless. It says here that you almost always turned a blind eye to the suffering of others as long as it didn't impact you. You never once placed the needs of someone else over your own wants. You stole, lied, coveted, never once sought forgiveness, and definitely never repented and did better. It looks like it's a definite 'no' to you getting in here." There's a brief pause until Jesus finally speaks again "Unless.... Well who did you vote for in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election? Maybe we can get you in that way."

That should sound ridiculous. I feel absolutely certain that when we see Christ face to face, the first question won't be how we voted in any election, but I am extremely confident it will be how we cared for others. I have that confidence because Matthew 25:31-46 tells us that the difference between whether we are one of Jesus' sheep or goats will be how we cared for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the stranger, and the imprisoned.

So by all means, feel whatever emotions you are feeling today about the results of the election and if you need someone to talk to as you celebrate or as you mourn, you all have my contact information. Just don't get it twisted. Our identity as one church and our mission as that one church doesn't change based on who is elected to the White House now or in the future. We are all Fayetteville First UMC, and our mission together is to serve like sheep.



**25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: NOVEMBER 10, 2024**

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

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

Psalm 146; Mark 12: 38-44

"Mite-y"

Rev. Kaylen Short



### Stewardship Consecration and Celebration Sunday

During both services on 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 10AM 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.

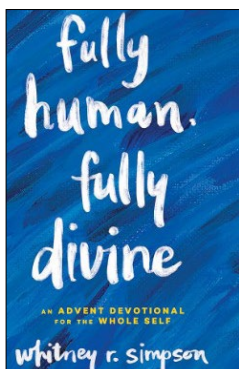
Please volunteer to help. Two years ago, hundreds came to see the collection and we expect more this year. Hosting the exhibit is a lot of fun, and it also is labor-intensive. The jobs include serving as greeters and monitors and helping with set-up and tear-down.

[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.](#)



## **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](#).



**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.



## **Titus II is November 12: NOTE DATE CHANGE**

What is our next Titus II all about? It's a MYSTERY complete with a MYSTERY GUEST! Come be surprised -- but note the new date: November 12.

*Tuesday, November 12 at Noon, Gym*

*Lunch: \$8 per person*

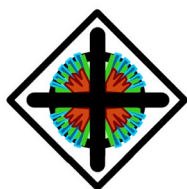


## **Angel Tree offers Christmas for foster children**

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.

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*



### Wednesday Night Suppers at 5 PM IN GYM

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together!

New time: **5 PM** Temporary location: **Gym**

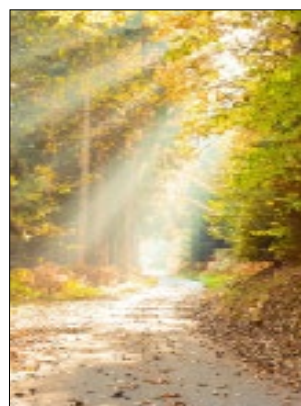
Advantages: **Friendship!** Be with people you really like.

**Hassle Free!** Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

**Affordable!** Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by 4 PM on Mondays. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

**November 13 Menu: Tim's Country Kitchen, Pork Chops**



### G3: Good Grief Gals meets November 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, November 14, at 5:30 PM at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville**. If you can, **please bring donations for Fayette Samaritans: toothbrushes and toothpaste**. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys or the church office.



## 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 NEWS



### ASP Mission Summer Mission Trip dates have been confirmed!

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.

We will have a parent and youth informational meeting on Wednesday, November 13, from 7 - 8 PM in The Foundry. Please plan to be there even if you aren't sure ASP is for you. Fundraising details and upcoming youth activities will be presented at that meeting, as well.



### Youth Mission Day, Thomson/Augusta Area, November 9

We are working with other North Georgia UMC's and have found safe and helpful volunteer opportunities where we can serve those who were impacted by the recent hurricanes and flooding. November 9, we will be leaving the church office parking lot at 7 AM and returning around 6:30 PM. Dinner is provided.

You will want to have eaten breakfast and will need to bring a sack lunch and a refillable bottle of water. Please bring gloves and long pants and closed toe shoes. Right now we are scheduled to clean up debris so while the work is tiring, no special skills are required.

Parents, you are welcome to attend - in fact, your help on site is greatly appreciated.

[Please let us know you are coming by using this link to RSVP.](#)



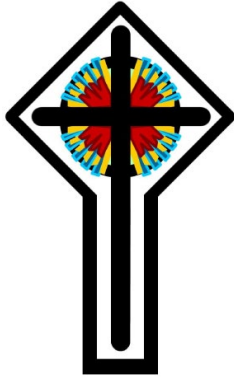


### **FFUMC Church Family**

I want to thank you for the cards I received from everyone, and the calls and the Upper Rooms that I have gotten. I appreciate everything from everyone. Keeping in touch. That means a lot!! Getting the bulletins and Weekenders. My church was home to me. I appreciate and love y'all so much. — Karen Davis

### **Flower Ministry**

Thank you so much for the bouquet you had delivered to Larry. He was so surprised and pleased. I wish ya'll knew how much happiness that you share and give to so many people. — Becky Voyles



## **November 4, 2024 Financials**

### **Operating Budget 2024**

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$936,907.69
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$946,235.34
Difference	-\$9,327.65

### **Benevolence**

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,315.32

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

The church office will be open regular hours on Monday, November 11.

**AA Meetings:** Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM

**NA Meetings:** Thursdays 7 PM

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

***Thank you, veterans, for your service.***





# inspired ...

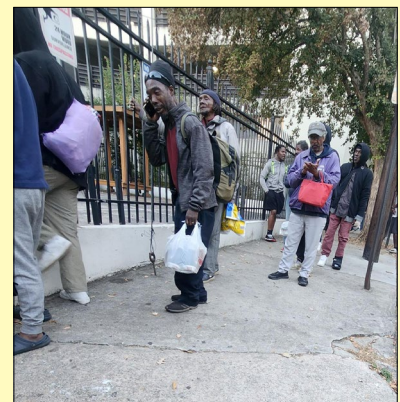
## SafeHouse Outreach

FFUMC had a last night of regularly scheduled 5th Thursday service to SafeHouse Outreach last Thursday, October 31. More than 260 meals were cooked, plated and served, providing those on the margins in Atlanta with baked chicken, sides, and brownies with whipped topping along with coffee and lemonade...and Halloween candy!



SafeHouse staff told FFUMC coordinator Randy Riddell that we were the longest serving volunteer group and they are sad to see us discontinue this particular role. We still plan to participate in the Thanksgiving Chili Outreach and one meal per year, plus supporting any clothing or need drives. Carol Omby, SHO Problem Solver, prayed over our group and sent us off inspired to serve in Fayetteville. Jill Swartz, SHO Volunteer Coordinator, kindly provided pictures of the clients being served and of our service group.

Thanks to all who have helped in the past both in the FFUMC kitchen and at 89 Ellis Street. And we give a special thanks to Jane Davis who has provided her time, expertise and "good deal connections" for the last 6 years. Since 2019 we have provided nourishing meals to over 4,300 clients for an average meal cost of less than \$2.25. Since we began in 2011, we've served about 9,400 meals. We appreciate the time and financial support to make this possible.



*These FFUMC volunteers joined the count of so many who have ministered at Safehouse Outreach in Atlanta. The need is great, as shown in these client photos provided by SHO. FFUMC will continue partnering in other ways with this ministry to those on the margins.*