



April 11, 2025

## The Weekender

### Time and Holy Week

Rev. Kaylen Short

“Why should people attend our Lenten Concert?” When the question was first posed, I was a little surprised. Immediately, I thought “Well, duh, it’s because our choir does an amazing job. Obviously!” However, with more reflection, I can be a bit more thoughtful.

After all, I understand as well as anyone that we all have a multitude of things competing for our time. Interests, obligations, opportunities all vying for our attention. Truly, time is a limited resource and so questions about how best to use it are rarely out of line. During Holy Week, I especially know the sensation of time being short. I never feel as if I have enough minutes from Palm Sunday to Easter. Yet, I still absolutely believe that coming to hear the Requiem would not only be a beneficial way for you to use some of *your* time, but also that it’s a beneficial way for me to use some of *my* time.

Part of the reason I believe it to be so beneficial is because of how the choir speaks about the music they’ll be performing. Just read these words from our own Stephen Rotz and you’ll feel his love of this music:

“The Requiem composed by Maurice Duruflé in the middle of the 20th century is a brilliant and moving masterpiece. Duruflé wove the traditional Gregorian chant melodies of a thousand years ago into a rich modern tapestry with such skill that the work is heralded as one of the crowning works in all the choral repertoire. Duruflé wrote three versions of the accompaniment—one for full orchestra, one for small orchestra and organ, and one for organ alone (plus cello). Bringing this monument to the FFUMC sanctuary gives an opportunity to hear our newly reborn organ at its most colorful and brilliant, accompanying the prayerful singing of our choir. The work is a difficult and intricate work for all the musicians, and one which has seldom been performed in Fayetteville. We hope you will come and experience it!”

Or perhaps our Nancy Musselwhite expresses it more succinctly when she says: “The music based on chants is lovely, but the lyrics make the music come to life. The entire piece is a journey from the solemnity of death to the peace and joy of everlasting life.” Beloved Church, isn’t that what Holy Week is all about?!

So friends, I hope you’ll join me this Sunday evening as we give some of our time to enjoy the work of our choir who give so much of their time. That way, we can all begin the journey of the totality of Holy Week together.





**PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 13, 2025**

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 118:19-29; Luke 19:28-40

"The Lord Needs It"

The Rev. Drew West

## CURRENT NEWS

---



### Lenten Concert is this Sunday, April 13

Sunday | April 13 | 7 PM FFUMC Chancel Choir

Charles Higgs, organ | Guang Wang, cello | Nicholas Bowden, conductor

**Psalm 121** — Diane Bish

**Song Without Words** — Craig Philips

**Requiem** — Maurice Duruflé

The 2025 Lenten Concert features the FFUMC Chancel Choir and the wide range of sound offered by our new organ. Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) was a gifted French organist and composer. His **Requiem** (Latin Mass for the Dead) was commissioned by the Vichy government of France in 1940 and completed in 1946 and is built on plainchant melodies with lush, impressionistic harmonies. You'll hear **Song Without Words** by

Craig Philips, a contemporary composer and organist in Los Angeles, Dedicated to the memory of his late brother, this piece features solo cello and organ. Diane Bish, still perhaps the most well-known organist in the world through her Joy of Music television series, wrote her setting of **Psalm 121** (*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help...*) in 1982. Her beautiful lines written for chorus are carried with a rhythmic, virtuoso organ part characteristic of her compositions. You're invited to begin Holy Week in the beauty of these musical selections.



### Order Easter Flowers: Due Monday, April 14

You have the opportunity to enhance our Easter worship space with lilies and hydrangeas (new this year!) while honoring others. Plants are \$15 each. [Click here to complete the entire process online \(form and payment\)](#). Paper order forms will be available in Sunday's bulletin.

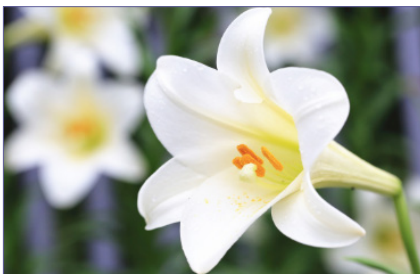
#### Why order flowers?

Flowers **enhance our worship** space on Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

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, you are invited to take a lily or hydrangea to plant or to give away.

Proceeds from Easter flower orders **benefit the FFUMC Flower Ministry**. This group creates weekly flower arrangements to encourage others throughout the year.

**Note:** The order has already been placed for 35 lilies and 65 hydrangeas (both white and colored). You do not need to specify a preference. Plants will be available to take on a first-come, first-serve basis after the final worship service on Easter Sunday.





## Help Decorate Easter Cross

Let's celebrate on Easter Sunday morning! Bring cuttings from your yard or purchased flowers for the cross. Bring your camera, too!

*If you would like to help decorate the cross early Sunday morning, contact Charlotte McAdams.*

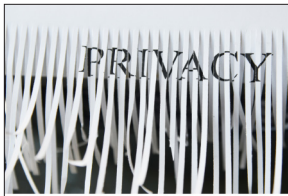
## Could you drop off flowers on Saturday? Sure!

Just leave them in containers prepared for you at the inner courtyard entrance. We'll take care of them overnight and place them on the cross early on Easter morning.



## Kitchen Rules for our Fellowship Hall

Let's keep our lovely new kitchen in the Fellowship Hall efficient, neat, and tidy. Some simple rules to be followed before and after events are posted for everyone: groups within the church and those who borrow the space. Read them over and contact our gracious hospitality team if you have any questions or concerns. [Fellowship Hall Kitchen Rules](#)



## Shred & Recycle Day at City Center Park

**Saturday, April 26, 9 AM to Noon**

The FFUMC Green Team invites you to bring sensitive papers for shredding along with electronic recyclables for the city's Shred & Recycle Day on Saturday, April 26, from 9 AM to Noon at City Center Park. This free event allows participants to bring up to 10 small boxes or three small bags of paper for shredding and most types of electronics for recycling.

Participants are asked to use the park entrance along Stonewall Avenue West (Highway 54 eastbound) between Fayetteville City Cemetery and Fayetteville City Hall. Vehicles will be queued and directed to the shred and recycling stations. For shredding, only paper is allowed. No binders will be allowed, nor paperclips, CDs, cardboard, etc. Most electronics are accepted; however, please [consider the guidelines on the Fayetteville-ga.gov website](#) before bringing your electronics.



## Taking Environmental Action at Home

**Presented by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light**

**Saturday, April 26, 2-4 PM**

**Fayetteville First UMC Fellowship Hall**

Let's celebrate Earth Day and see how we can make an environmental impact at home! The Fayetteville First Green Team is hosting Georgia Interfaith Power and Light on Saturday, April 26, from 2 to 4 PM in our Fellowship Hall. Taught by GIPL staff, this class provides an overview of opportunities for individuals and families to engage in environmental action at home. Participants will learn about home energy and solar assessments, waste reduction and diversion strategies, and fund opportunities for residents. Free and open to the community. Questions? Contact Tami Kemberling.







## Wednesday Night Suppers: 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

### Let's have dinner together!

Adults: \$10; Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Signup for the weekly meal by noon each Monday. Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).

April 16: G-Lish Catering

Baked Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Lima Beans, Strawberry Short Cake



## April is our month to stock the pantry at Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those in our community 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 Beef Stew, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Maple Syrup, Dried Beans, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Feminine Products (pads)

**Clothes Closet Needs:** Men's socks, white t-shirts in L, XL, and XXL



## Commemorative Bricks laid in courtyard

Take a look at the new commemorative bricks laid in our courtyard as part of our Holiday Brick Project. The photo shows Jose and Miguel from The Engraving House placing final touches on the inscriptions. What a great way to honor and celebrate loved ones!



## SAGE goes to Tara and Southern Pit BBQ in April

SAGE will journey to the "Road to Tara Museum" in Jonesboro on Thursday, April 24. Enjoy exhibits featuring items from the 1939 Gone With the Wind movie premiere in Atlanta, personal items belonging to author Margaret Mitchell, rotating poster gallery, original costume pieces, and international book collection. Enjoy lunch at Southern Pit BBQ in Griffin. Gather at 9:15 AM; depart at 9:30 AM. The cost is \$10 for the museum (you may pay at the door), and \$2 for transportation. Lunch will be on your own. Please register in the church office or at [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## We celebrate graduates on Sunday, May 18

We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 18, in worship and at a churchwide potluck luncheon.

Graduates will be featured in the May 18 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 7 to be included.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025!



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

## South West District UWF: Blue Sunday Praise and Prayer

The South West District United Women in Faith will gather for Blue Sunday Praise and Prayer, a time of praise and prayer for children who are abused; the people who rescue and care for those children; and for those who are the abusers. Join us on Blue Sunday when faith communities unite in prayer for healing, justice, and support for victims and those who help them. This virtual gathering will be an hour and will be open to anyone who feels called to participate. Questions? Contact Kathie Hansen.

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 2 - 3 PM (Virtual)

[Register by April 21 to receive Zoom link](#)

[Registration link: https://forms.gle/dPiKnGSEYmypoFhZ6](https://forms.gle/dPiKnGSEYmypoFhZ6)

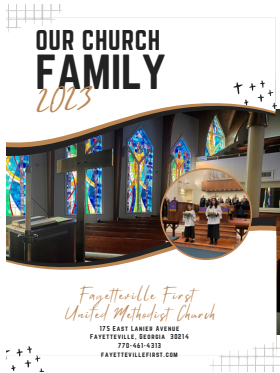
## Schedule your photo for NEW church directory

A new directory will be printed this summer for our church family. Photos will be taken May 8 - 11 (Thursday through Sunday). Sign up for your family portrait today!

Every family who participates in photography/viewing will receive a complimentary 8x10 professional portrait, one printed directory, smart phone app access, and online directory access. All appointments are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so make your appointment today! We need everyone to participate to help make this directory complete. Additional quality family portraits will be offered at competitive prices. They'll make great gifts, too! Thank you for your participation!

[Please click this link to make an appointment today!](#)

If you would like to set an appointment by phone, please call 1-877-896-9667 ext. 360. All appointments and changes to a scheduled appointment will be handled through this number. [Click here for detailed instructions.](#)



**NEW  
2025  
Directory**

## Green Team reminder

Did you know about our new water bottle filling stations? We have three new areas (behind sanctuary, near chapel, near gym) where you can get a quick sip or fill a water bottle. Note the digital counter at the top of each station to see how many bottles have been saved from your efforts!

*Thanks, Tami Kemberling, for teaching some of our young ones how to use the water station.*

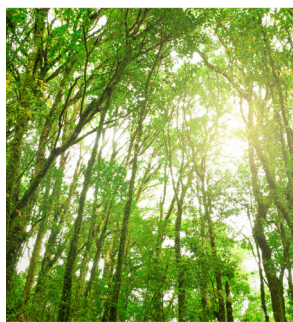


## Study and Retreat Opportunities

### New See & Seek Bible Study Offering Begins Friday, April 11

Are you seeking a time to explore scripture with others in a small group setting? Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence at 10 AM on Fridays beginning April 11 for **See & Seek at Gremlin Growlers**. The focus each week will most often be on the scripture lesson for the upcoming Sunday (the same format as our other See & Seek offerings on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday evenings). No advance preparation is needed. [Contact Rev. Lawrence with any questions.](#)





Contemplative Nature  
Retreat  
May 4

## Get away at a Spring 2025 Contemplative Retreat on May 4

Is the approaching spring season beckoning you toward 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 the Calvin Center on Sunday afternoon, May 4, from 2:30 to 7 PM. Experience the blessings of nature and learn new practices to enrich your life. A light supper will be provided. The session will be guided by Ron Reams, certified in both Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation, who will offer new experiences for this retreat which will include communion led by Rev. Allyson Lawrence. There is no charge thanks to a Legacy Grant. [Get details and register now at this link](#) or contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), for more information.



## Mission U at The Bradbury House on May 17

You are invited to Mission U, hosted by Fayetteville First United Women in Faith at The Bradbury House. Large oak trees and a private lake provide the perfect homey setting for this exploration based on the book "Welcome Home." (*Book is not necessary.*) The study helps sort through lived experiences to develop a deeper understanding of abiding and dwelling in God.

Date: May 17, 2025 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Cost: \$10 payable at door Register with Nancy Dennis



## Join Us for "God Is With You" – A Weekly Bible Study!

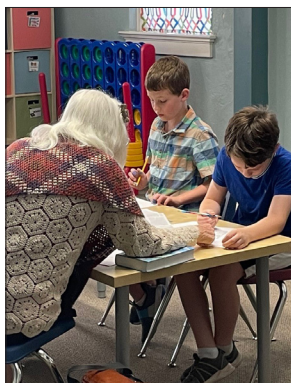
Get ready for an exciting preview of this year's Vacation Bible School! On Wednesday, April 23 through May 21st, we'll be diving into the same powerful Bible stories featured in VBS — all centered around the theme "God Is With You."

Wednesdays 5:30–6:30 PM Room C-200 (Conference Room)

If you're an adult or youth volunteer for VBS or just curious about what we'll be teaching, this is a great opportunity to get familiar with the stories and connect with others ahead of time.

Come grow in faith and community as we explore how God is with us in every moment. We'd love to see you there! Questions? Contact study leader Chase Leonard.

## Families and Children



## Help wanted for youngest members

We have a great problem—our Children's Ministry is growing! Each week, children are filling our Sunday School classes (9:45-10:45 AM) and Wonders of Worship (during the 11 AM service), and we need extra hands!

Can you serve once a month? No teaching is required—just a willingness to help and share God's love.

If you are interested, [contact Rev. Drew West](#). Thanks for supporting our youngest members!





## Palm Sunday April 13

Processional: 10:45  
Messy Church  
& Egg Hunt: 11 AM and  
following

### Messy Church is this Sunday

Our April Messy Church switches from its normal Saturday meeting to Sunday in April — April 13. That's the day Messy Church will host our Wonders of Worship kids and join together in Palm Sunday celebration with worship, games, a meal and our traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

**Messy Church Families:** You're invited to arrive a bit early (10:45 AM) and gather in the courtyard for the Children's Palm Processional at the FFUMC 11:00 AM worship service. After waving palms, children will participate in the Children's Moment and then be dismissed to Wonders of Worship.

**"Tidy Church" Families:** You're invited to wave palms and go to Messy Church as that group hosts Wonders of Worship. Parents will join back up with kids in the gym after regular worship for a meal and then our Easter Egg Hunt.

**It's a great way for us ALL to be the church TOGETHER!**



### Palm Sunday: April 13 — Palm Processional and Easter Egg Hunt

Let's celebrate on Palm Sunday, April 13! All children are invited to gather at 10:45 AM in the courtyard to receive fronds and prepare to wave palms in the sanctuary at the beginning of the 11 AM worship service. The Children's Moment will occur immediately following the processional so that children can be dismissed to Wonders of Worship which will be hosted by Messy Church on Palm Sunday. Parents are invited to join the children for lunch in the gym after the worship service and for the 2025 Easter Egg hunt which will follow the meal.

Questions? [Contact Rev. Drew West.](#)



### Remember to register for VBS

[I want to go to Road Trip! VBS 2025](#)

\$10 per family due upon registration, may pay online

During June 2-6 we will adventure with Navigator and Scout (the pup) on the open road, finding strength in God's presence. Contact [Rev. Drew West](#) for more information or with any questions about registration or volunteering.



## Flower Ministry

Thank you for the beautiful flowers you brought me. I enjoyed them so much. Thanks for thinking of me.

— Carol Ann Partridge

Thank you so much for the beautiful vase of flowers. I hope to get back to church soon. I miss everyone!

— Martha Trice

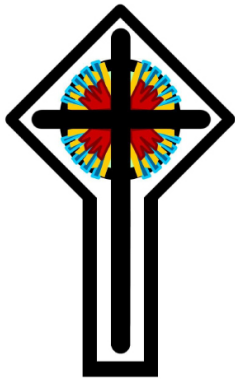
## Shawl Ministry

Thank you for sending the lap robe that you made. I deeply appreciate the love and support it represents and the prayers that accompany it. It has been so helpful to feel the love and support from family, friends, and the community. Please keep us in your prayers in the coming months as we continue our journey. — Nickie Cauthen and all of Burt's family

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl you made for me. I keep it on my chair and wrap it around my shoulders every day. — Carol Ann Partridge

## Church Family

Thank you for paying 100% apportionments. I am so honored to be on this journey with you. Have a great year ahead! Have fun! — Bishop Robin Dease, Georgia Episcopal Area



## April 7, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$337,031.05
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$299,563.98
Difference	\$37,467.07

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$846.00

54 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$13,296.64

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

**NA Meetings:** Thursdays 7 PM





## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **Palm Sunday Worship: April 13**

Worship 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Children's Palm Processional 11:00 AM

Messy Church 11:00 AM

Wonders of Worship hosted by Messy Church

Lunch and Egg Hunt 12:00 PM

### **Chancel Choir Concert 7:00 PM**

Durufié Requiem, Song Without Words, Psalm 121

### **Lenten Lunch: April 17**

Dr. Dave Lee, Noon

### **Maundy Thursday: April 17**

Service of Word & Table in Sanctuary, 7:00 PM, The Rev. Allyson Lawrence

### **Good Friday: April 18**

Service of Remembrance in Chapel, 7:00 PM, The Rev. Drew West

## **Easter Sunday Celebration and Worship**

### **April 20**

Sunrise Service 6:45 AM

Bring a chair to The Field

Worship in Chapel 8:45 AM

Worship in Sanctuary 11:00 AM

# inspired ...

## Lenten Season

As our 40 days of Lent lead to Easter Celebrations on April 20, we remember with gratitude the offerings during this season.

Sunday worship has featured "The Most Important Words" as we've considered these: I Need Help, I'll Try Again, I Don't Know, I Forgive You, and I Love You. If you missed any of these or want to hear them again, just go to our [website worship page at FayettevilleFirst.com](http://www.fayettevillefirst.com/worship).

Lenten Lunches also focused on important words as speakers presented "Seven Words" by Susan Robb. United Women in Faith circle groups, the United Methodist Men, and our youth hosted these sessions.

Two studies offered insight through the season: "Draw Close" and "Give Up Something Bad for Lent."

Our Lenten offering at the Great Day of Service provided a chance to share love with our community as more than 90 folks served others.

We continue into Holy Week with Palm Sunday, the Lenten Concert, and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services to prepare our hearts for our resurrection celebration when we say, "Alleluia! He is risen indeed!"

