



April 18, 2025

The Weekender

Giving Our Best to God This Holy Week

Rev. Drew West

"Don't sacrifice to the LORD your God any oxen or sheep that have defects of any kind, because that is detestable to the LORD your God." — Deuteronomy. 17:1

Lately, I've been driving past stores overflowing with plants and flowers—signs that it's time to refresh our yards and embrace the season. These displays tempt me to spend my time and energy beautifying my home. Perhaps some of you have wondered on a Sunday morning: "Should I go to church, or should I catch up on yard work?" Maybe it's not the yard calling you, but something else—family plans, work tasks, or simply the desire to rest. We all face demands on our time and energy. So how do we decide what deserves our best?

During Rev. Kaylen's Palm Sunday sermon, I was struck by the willing faithfulness of the colt's owners—the ones who gave what Jesus needed for his entry into Jerusalem. Their small act of obedience helped pave the way for some of the most profound moments in our faith. Later, Rev. Short challenged us to consider what God might be asking us to release—to offer it without hesitation, simply because "the Lord has need of it." As I listened, one phrase kept echoing in my heart: "Give God your best."

This Holy Week—and throughout Lent—we are reminded to do just that. Jesus didn't offer his time to God only when it was convenient. He healed, taught, prayed, and loved out of a deep loyalty to give God and us his best. Matt Miofsky writes in *The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer*: "Without thinking, it is easy for us to give God our leftovers. After we pay our bills . . . then maybe we will give [money] to God. Once we work, run around to events . . . if we have any time left over, then we will offer some to God. But God doesn't want our leftovers. Instead, scripture encourages us to offer God the first part of our time, energy, and money. It encourages us to give our best."

Just like in any meaningful relationship, our connection with God thrives when we prioritize it. I know your yard may be calling. Your family is calling. Your Easter lunch plans are calling. This is a busy season. But let us seek to offer what is most fresh in our hearts and minds. This Easter, let's offer our best to God—not out of obligation but in response to the reality that Jesus came to us because we are a priority to God.



EASTER SUNDAY:

SUNRISE 6:45 (THE FIELD)

8:45 AM (Chapel) :

11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Isaiah 65:17-24; Luke 21:1-12

"What a Difference"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Good Friday Service in Chapel

The Good Friday Service will be held Friday, April 18, in the FFUMC chapel at 7:00 PM. You are invited to this Service of Remembrance led by Rev. Drew West.



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!

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.



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



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.

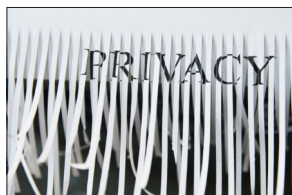


We celebrate graduates on Sunday, May 18

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 by May 7 to be included.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025!



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](https://www.fayetteville-ga.gov) 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

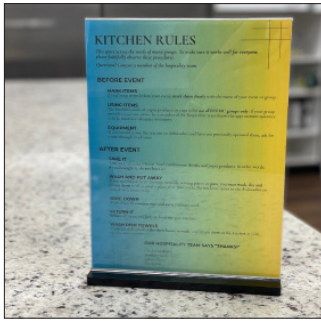
Let's have dinner together!

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.

April 23: Hog Pit

BBQ Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips, Dessert



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](#)



**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!

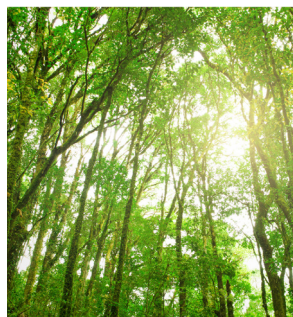
[Please click this link to make an appointment today!](#)

NEW

2025

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.](#)

Study and Retreat Opportunities



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, for more information.



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.



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

Families and Children



Register now for VBS: June 2-6

[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.

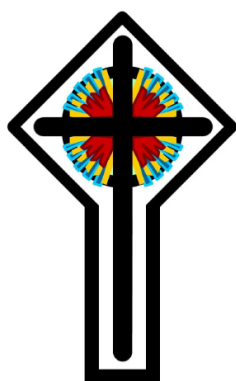


Church Family & Flower Ministry

I am appreciative of the cards and letters I've received, as well as the beautiful flowers from the Flower Ministry. Thank you so much.

— Paul Wiley

Thank you for your acts of kindness during the recent passing of our mother, Sara Morgan. Thanks also to the Flower Ministry for providing all the pretty flower arrangements for our mother while she was at Azalea Estates. — The Family of Sara Morgan



April 14, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$347,622.65
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$305,615.93
Difference	\$42,006.72

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$570.45

57 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$14,135.44

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

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inspired ...

Holy Week leads to Easter

