



April 4, 2025

## The Weekender

### Being Seen and Seeing

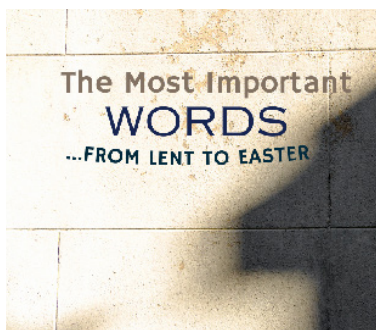
Rev. Drew West

One of my closest mentors throughout graduate school is one of Howard Thurman's biographers. While writing and researching for the Howard Thurman Papers Project, this scholar interviewed Thurman's parishioners in San Francisco. In one interview, a woman couldn't help but cry when remembering Thurman. She said, "He was the only one who ever truly saw me."

In a world that is constantly speeding up, the act of truly seeing others—and being seen ourselves—becomes increasingly rare. This is one of the reasons loneliness has become so widespread. When I read the accounts of Jesus, one thing that I notice is that Jesus saw people. On the way to heal the centurion's child in Luke 7 and 8, Jesus stops when he notices that someone touched him. In a moment of needing to be somewhere for a very important reason, Jesus slowed to see the woman who touched him and recognize her faith. It was inconvenient, but it was necessary. A crucial aspect of Jesus' ministry was seeing people.

The millions of people over the centuries who claim Jesus as the Lord confess devotion to Jesus because they experience that when friends, family, or society has turned away, Jesus remains. Jesus makes a home for us when all other doors are shut and calls us by our true name. Those who have experienced being truly seen by Jesus often reflect that same gift to others. They become people who intentionally see and acknowledge others because they understand its deep significance.

I believe the Great Day of Service was one of those moments when our church, as a whole, took the time to truly see and connect with the people in our city. These acts of love and service bring glimpses of God's Kingdom to earth, making our world more like heaven. Each time we pause to see and care for others, we open our lives and our world to the transforming power of Christ's love.



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: APRIL 6, 2025**

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

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

John 21:15-19

"The Most Important Words: I Love You"

The Rev. Drew West

[Lenten Guide from now to Easter](#)



**Lenten Concert  
April 13**

### Make plans for Lenten Concert 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 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.



### 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!



## Help Decorate Easter Cross

Let's celebrate 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.



## 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).



## Family Life Center closed Monday - Wednesday next week

Floors are being refinished in the Family Life Center (Education Building, and Gym) April 7-9. Entry to the Family Life Center will be restricted until Thursday, April 10. Please do not enter this space for any reason.



## Pantry needs from 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



## Wednesday Night Suppers: 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

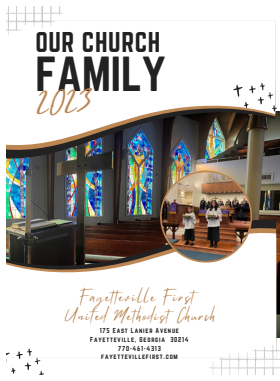
### April 9: No Wednesday Supper - Spring Break

April 16 Menu: G-Lish Catering

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

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).





**NEW**

**2025**

## 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.](#)



## 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



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

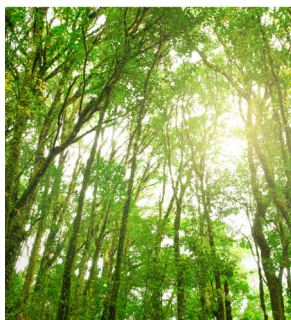
Get ready for an exciting preview of this year's Vacation Bible School! On Wednesday, April 23 through May 21st, we'll be diving into the same powerful Bible stories featured in VBS — all centered around the theme "God Is With You."

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.





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.



## New See & Seek Bible Study Offering Begins 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.](#)



## Mission U at The Bradbury House on May 17

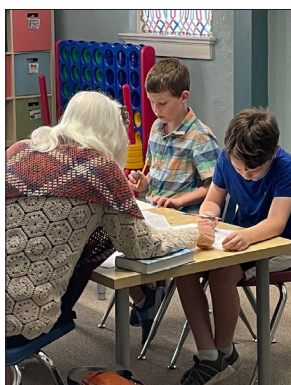
You are invited to Mission U, hosted by Fayetteville First United Women in Faith at The Bradbury House. Large oak trees and a private lake provide the perfect homey setting for this exploration based on the book "Welcome Home." (*Book is not necessary.*) The study helps sort through lived experiences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

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## 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

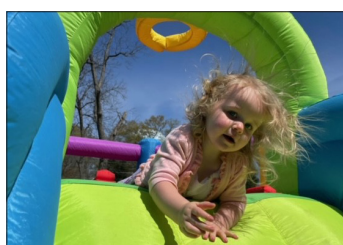
## Messy Church shows up on Sunday in April

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.



## **Schedule heading to Easter**

### **Lenten Lunch: 12:00 Noon**

April 10: Rev. Charles Robinson

April 17: Dr. Dave Lee

### **Holy Week**

#### **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

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

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

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

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

#### **Easter Sunday Celebration and Worship: April 20**

Sunrise Service 6:45 AM

Worship in Chapel 8:45 AM

Worship in Sanctuary 11:00 AM



## **Church Family**

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to say how thankful I am for your continued support of The Calvin Center Equestrian Program and particularly our veterans in the Horses and Warrior Program. Your generous giving is also a gift of encouragement to our staff and is so appreciated. Thank you for supporting the wonderful things that are happening here at Calvin with our therapeutic riders. Please know it is people like you who will help Calvin continue to be a meaningful place for many more riders in the years to come.

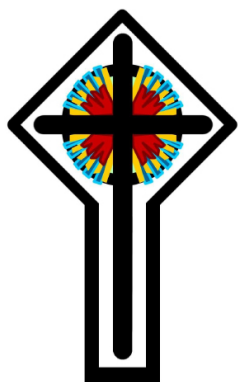
— John Westlund, Executive Director, The Calvin Center

## **Flower Ministry**

Thank You for your support and kindness during this difficult time. The flowers you sent were absolutely gorgeous! We are enjoying them every day. My brother, Al, was very special to me. I miss him tremendously.

— Audrey Allen





## March 31, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$300,977.27
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$280,411.09
Difference	\$20,566.18

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,200.00

49 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$12,398.36

### 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

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





# inspired ...

## Great Day of Service 2025

Thank you for the difference you made in our community at the 2025 Great Day of Service on Saturday, March 29. More than 90 volunteers put their hands to work and serve in these areas:

Pregnancy Resource Center

Card Ministry

Clothes Less Traveled

Southwest Christian Care

Midwest Food Bank

The Joseph Sams School

Church Street Home

Woodworking Home

FFUMC Breakfast Team

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many people.

Charlotte McAdams - Missions Chair





