



May 16, 2025

The Weekender

The Joy of Singing

Rev. Kaylen Short

My entire Wednesday was filled with the joy of singing.

It began in the morning with our preschool graduation, where I was treated to a delightful lineup of songs. Expected favorites like "This Little Light of Mine" were performed, but there was also a surprising throwback—"The Macarena." (For the record, "The Macarena" came out in 1993 when I was four years old. There's a real possibility it was played at my own preschool graduation, so hearing it more than thirty years later felt surreal.)

Later that evening, I attended the performance by our FFUMC young singers, who showcased their talents for their families and church community in the chapel. The dedication of Anna, Joan, Nick, and their assistants was evident in every note the children sang. As I listened, I couldn't help but think back to their early Wednesday night rehearsals. Back then, they were just beginning—some were shy, their voices tentative. But now, they sang with much more confidence, filling the room with joyful sound.

It's been said a lot recently that more people fear public speaking than fear dying. If that's true, I can only imagine how many people are even more terrified of singing in front of an audience. Yet, on this Wednesday, children across FFUMC overcame that fear. They stepped up to the metaphorical mic and sang their hearts out, and simply witnessing their courage was uplifting.

Perhaps this is part of why Jesus encourages us to have the faith of a child. Faith invites us to step beyond our comfort zones—sometimes in ways that bring joy to others. This week, I hope you'll take a page from our young singers' book and step beyond your own comfort zone. You never know what joy you might sow.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:45 AM (Chapel)

11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Psalm 148 and John 13:31-35

"The Work of Love"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Let's enjoy a potluck this Sunday and celebrate graduates

It's time for a meal together! Enjoy celebrating our graduates of preschool, high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 18, at the 11:00 AM worship service and at a churchwide potluck luncheon to follow.

Please bring a side dish or dessert. Meat will be provided.

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025!



Next steps for our new church directory

Thank you to everyone who helped support our new directory by having your photos taken during May 8-11. Here are next steps to get the directory printed and back to us quickly:

If you had your photo taken by The Portrait Cafe:

- There's nothing else to do! Your FREE 8x10 will be on the way soon and you should have checked your information for the directory at your photo session.
- A FREE directory will be set aside for you (one per family).

If you missed the photo sessions:

- You can still be included! Submit a JPEG or PNG photo to Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, by Thursday, May 22. Your photo will be included in the "submitted photos" section.
- Check your information in our Realm database for accuracy. We will print names, addresses, phone numbers and emails from this database. If you have questions about your information, contact admin@fayettevillefirst.com.
- You may preorder a directory. Directions for that process and the cost per directory will be published soon.



Welcome, Theo! We're glad you're here!

Amanda and Rev. Drew (and Lillian and Oliver) welcomed Theodore Lucas West into their family on April 25. You are invited to celebrate with them by providing a meal for their family over the next few weeks.

[Click this link for a Google Sheet](#) where you'll find a number of Tuesdays and Thursdays where you can sign up for a meal for the West family. If this online process doesn't work for you, please contact the church office and we'll get you signed up.

A few notes: 1) Amanda is gluten-free, so please make sure anything prepared or ordered is gluten-free. 2) Feel free to make food, order it, or provide a gift card. 3) Avoid seafood (not everyone in the family loves it). 4) Deliver to the Wests directly (contact them in advance) or deliver to the church office during office hours with notice and someone will get it to them.



Mission U at The Bradbury House is tomorrow, 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

The Bradbury House is located at 215 Buckeye Road, Fayetteville, GA 30214.

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



LOVE in action: Items needed

Thank you for helping those on the margins with your donations. What is currently needed? **Clothes Dryer.**

Contact Cindy Hall with donations or questions.



Celebrations! Then and Now with Judge Arlene McGruder, Ret.

Join the United Women in Faith for dinner on Thursday, June 19, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall as they welcome Judge Arlene McGruder, Ret., as the guest speaker. Dinner by Chicken Salad Chick – \$10 per person (payable at the event). Nursery available upon request. Donations of gently used women's clothing, toiletries, or kitchen utensils are gratefully accepted to benefit Arlene's Domestic Survivors. All are welcome! Please contact Deb Cole for reservations by Monday, June 16.



For the Beauty of the Earth: Rose Show welcomes us to special showing this weekend

The South Metro Rose Society will be holding its 38th Annual Rose Show on May 17 and 18 in the FFUMC gym. Local rose growers are invited to enter their roses into competition. Entries must be made at the show site by 9:30 AM on May 17 for judging. After judging, the show is free to the public from 1-4 PM on both days to view, smell, and photograph hundreds of exhibited roses and rose arrangements. Rose bouquets will be sold and ARS Consulting Rosarians will be on hand to answer questions.

We are invited to a special showing just for the FFUMC community on Sunday, May 18, after the 11 AM service.



Get Ready for VBS 2025: Road Trip

We're getting ready for our Road Trip VBS adventure June 2-6 with Navigator and Scout (the pup). Contact the church office for more information or with any questions about registration or volunteering.

Register by May 20 \$10 per family due upon registration, may pay online
[I want to go to Road Trip! VBS 2025](#)

Learn the stories in advance at a weekly Bible study

Join Chase Leonard on Wednesdays at 5:30-6:30 PM now through May 21 in Room C200 to get familiar with the stories and make connections.

Join the VBS Praise Team

Are you a rising 3rd grader or older? You're invited to be on the VBS Praise Team. This group will **learn music before VBS (May 27-29, 9:30 to 10:30 AM)** and be our on-stage leaders during VBS group times. Contact Joan Aycock for details.

Help decorate

Can you help Jami Maguire and Jeannie Cauthen turn our campus into a Road Trip Adventure? They'll be working May 27-29, 9:30 to 10:30 AM, and other times. Your hands can lighten their work! Contact them to say, "Yes! I'll serve on the Road Trip Decorating Crew!"



Register NOW
Praise Team
Bible Study
Decorating Crew



Make a difference this summer

Does making a difference in the lives of children sound good to you? Could you give just 30 minutes on a Sunday morning this summer to help encourage and love our children?

Our Wonders of Worship team is looking for lead and assistant teachers during June, July, and August—for one Sunday ... or two ... or as many as you'd like!

This joyful group spends time with children from after the 11 AM Children's Moment until noon, sharing stories, activities, and faith-filled fun. Ready to help? [Sign up to volunteer at this easy link.](#)



Basic Lay Servant Class: June 18 and 25

Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering people who want to serve more deeply in mission and ministry. If you would like to know more and to better prepare yourself for ministries in the church and community, please join us for the Basic Lay Servant Ministries course on June 18 and 25 in the FFUMC Fellowship Hall from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. [Sign up online at this link](#) and choose the "Basic, 6/18, 6/25; 4-9 pm; Fayetteville First UMC." The registration cost is \$40. You will also need to purchase your book: *Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course*, by Sandy and Brian Jackson. Upon completion of the two-day, 10-hour course you will receive your certification through The UMC Discipleship Ministry. Through this process you will increase your knowledge and effectiveness in ministries of care, leading, and teaching. [Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) with questions.



Updated pantry needs 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 Chicken, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Dried Beans, Canned Corn, Canned Pasta, Maple Syrup, Saltine Crackers, Jelly, Feminine Products*

Clothes Closet Needs: *Women's New Underwear and summer clothing*



Wednesday Night Suppers: It's been good!

We've had a good season! Join us again for Wednesday night dinners August 20 when regular programs resume.

We'll remind you before we resume meals on August 20.



Tour KIA Plant with SAGE

SAGE offers its next trip on Tuesday, May 20, to the KIA plant in West Point for a tour from 1:30 – 2:30 PM. Meet at the church office at 11:00 AM for an 11:15 departure. Register for the trip in the church office. Lunch is on your own; transportation is \$2; tour is free.

Lunch will be fast food prior to the tour. Prohibited items: No photos/videos inside the plant. Weapons, firearms & knives, are strictly prohibited. Large purses, bags & backpacks are not allowed & will need to be left on the bus. Dress Code: Long pants or skirts required along with fully enclosed (closed toe, closed heel) shoes.



United Women in Faith

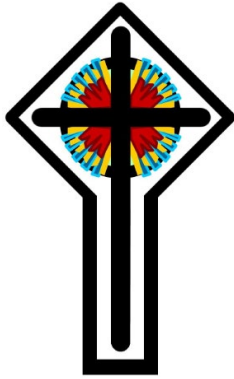
We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the donations made to Missions in honor of our grandsons by the United Women in Faith at FFUMC. Our family continues to be blessed, and your thoughtfulness means the world to us all.

— Susie & Bobby Arrington & the Keaton, Stevens, and Turnbull families



Flower Ministry

What a lovely surprise you gave me when Katherine "came to call" carrying a vase of many varieties of God's bounty. We had such a fun visit and it was a warm and cozy feeling to be missed by church friends. Thank you for thinking of me - as I have thought of you so many Sundays. I am looking forward to the music, the smiles, the prayers - the beauty of it all. — Patty Sorrell



May 12, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year-to-Date Receipts | \$428,761.38 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$464,310.69 |
| Difference | -\$35,549.31 |

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$600.00

73 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$16,812.83

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 7:30 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214

770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

inspired ...

Music fills the air - A joyful success!

We're thrilled to share that our children's choir program is growing and thriving! Thanks to enthusiastic participation and expanding interest, we've reorganized into three age-appropriate groups to better serve our young singers:

Cherub Choir: Ages 4 – Kindergarten

Led by Anna Mayhew, Faye Livingston, Robertine Mitchely

Junior Choir: 1st – 3rd Grade

Led by Joan Aycock, Nancy Musselwhite

Fayette Young Singers: 4th Grade - voice change

Led by Nick Bowden, Judy Hames

This week, each group gave a delightful showcase of what they've learned throughout the year. Their hard work and passion for music shone brightly.

We're looking forward to hearing their beautiful voices again this summer during Vacation Bible School and when rehearsals resume on August 20.

Spread the word! Let your friends and neighbors know — now's a perfect time to join the fun and become part of our growing musical family!

We are grateful for the many faithful leaders who shared music with our youngest singers this year!

