



May 23, 2025

The Weekender

Footprints?

Rev. Charles Robinson

Footprints In the Sand by Mary Stevenson is one of the best known, faith-based poems of recent decades. Most of us have probably read it dozens of times. There may even be a framed copy in your home or office. But just in case you're not familiar with the poem, allow me to summarize its message:

This guy dreams that he's walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he notices two sets of footprints in the sand, his and the Lord's. As the last scene of his life flashes before him there is only one set of footprints. He asked the Lord why, reminding the Lord of the promise the Lord made to always be with him. And the Lord's response was, "It was then that I carried you."

I have decided to modify the poem just a bit. Please bear with me, and forgive me if need be.

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that often times there were many sets of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the lowest times in his life. This confused him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there are footprints all over the place. What's up with that?"

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I created My Church – the Body of Christ on Earth – to support you and care for you and encourage you when your own strength was not sufficient. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see all those different-sized footprints, it was then that My Church carried you."

My version of this poem will never adorn posters or plaques or shawls. But there have been many times when the Body of Christ has carried me through some tough spots. And I bet that has been the case for many of you.

Since my arrival at Fayetteville First UMC, almost three years ago, I have been impressed by so much of what I have seen and heard. This is definitely a Community of Faith, a part of the Body of Christ that cares for those who are hurting and broken, whether they be in the Church or in the God-loved world that surrounds us.

I am grateful to be associated with a Church that continues to leave "Footprints" (too many to be counted!) in those places where hopelessness and helplessness would love to gain a "toe-hold."



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 25

8:45 AM (Chapel)

11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 46 and Acts 16:9-15

"Sounds Like a Plan"

The Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



It's here! Road Trip 2025 is just a few days away!

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.

Registration extended to May 26

\$10 per family due upon registration

May pay online

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

Join the VBS Praise Team

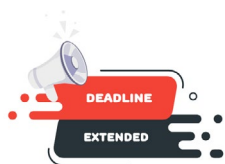
Are you a rising 3rd grader or older? You're invited to be on the VBS Praise Team. This group will **learn music before VBS (May 27-29, 9:30 to 10:30 AM)** and be our on-stage leaders during VBS group times. Contact Joan Aycock for details.

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
Decorating Crew



Last chance to submit a photo for directory - May 27

Did you mean to submit a photo for the new church directory and just haven't yet? If you missed the photo sessions, please send a JPG or PNG to Joan Aycock at jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com. Our extended deadline is May 27.



A Concert of Hymns and Gospel Songs

Sunday, June 22 at 7 PM

Featuring the combined choirs of Fayetteville First UMC and Central Baptist Church, Newnan

Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Conductor | Charles Higgs, Organist

Henry Lee, Accompanist | Nicholas Bowden, Conductor and Host



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.



Summer Lunch program begins June 3!

Our yearly Summer Lunch program starts on June 3. So far, our numbers are around 225 to be served, and we expect that to increase.

Donations of apples and homemade cookies (packaged 2 to a bag) are greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed.

If you are interested in helping with the lunches or driving a route, or being a substitute, please contact Faye Livingston.



Save the Date! Let's Do Lunch

Saturday, August 9 at Noon

Special Guest: Diana Cowan

Lunch: Tri-Salad Plate

Cost: FREE Reservations Required

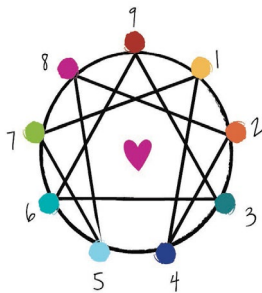
Don't miss this event! Click [here](#) to make your reservations NOW!



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.



A Path to God: The Enneagram as Spiritual Practice

The Enneagram is growing in popularity as a personality typing tool, but it is so much more! In fact, the Enneagram is a wonderful tool for spiritual formation. Learning our Enneagram type can help us identify specific ways in which we are invited to share God with the world, the patterns that get in the way of our doing that, and the spiritual practices that return our focus to God and our true calling. Join us as we explore this fascinating tool. Questions? Contact Joan Aycok, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com.

Saturday, August 23 10 AM to 4 PM FFUMC Fellowship Hall

FREE — Reservations required

This course will be taught by Kristen Vincent. [Learn more and register here.](#)



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.



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.](#)



June 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, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Corn, Dried Pasta (not spaghetti), Chicken and Beef Broth, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Syrup, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Tea Bags, Feminine Products*

Clothes Closet Needs: *Girl's Socks, Men's White Crew Socks*



Flag Team volunteer sign up

The season of patriotic holidays is approaching, and you are invited to decorate the church campus with flags. Individuals and group volunteers (UWF Circles, Men's groups, families ... all helpers appreciated) may choose a single holiday or may sign up for the whole season. It's easy and takes 2-4 people about an hour to place and take down flags. The designated holidays are Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4, September 11 Patriots Day, and Veterans Day. Contact the church office for more information including sign up sheets and handouts with specific information and suggestions.

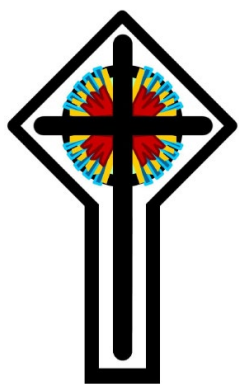


Welcome, Theo! We're glad you're here!

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.



May 19, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$446,466.16
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$484,294.28
Difference	- \$37,828.12

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$334.00

75 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$17,312.83

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

**The church office will be closed
Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.**



inspired ...

Endings and Beginnings

May has been a time of exciting endings — a school year, a high school journey, or a long path to complete a degree. And it now opens into new beginnings. We celebrated our graduates last Sunday during worship and at a churchwide lunch and now send prayers and blessings as they move into their futures!

Below - Dr. George McKelvy, Tish Householder, Rev. Allyson Lawrence and Glenda Harrah; Graduates recognized during worship

Pictured to right - Dr. McKelvy presented the Edward N. Travis Scholarship to Glenda Harrah; Otis and mom celebrate graduation from preschool; Caroline Creel at the graduation lunch



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope."*

Jeremiah 29:11