



May 30, 2025

## The Weekender

### Watching Grass Grow

Rev. Kaylen Short

If there's one thing pretty much everyone agrees is boring, it's watching grass grow. In fact, the phrase itself has become shorthand for something painfully dull—right up there with “watching paint dry.” And yet, for the past few weeks, that's exactly what I've been doing. And honestly? I'm loving it.

When we moved into our house last year, the front yard had some grass, but it was patchy at best. The backyard didn't even earn the label “patchy” because, well, there was no grass at all—just a wide expanse of dirt, sticks, and the occasional stubborn weed. Not exactly the lush green lawn you see in commercials.



But a few months ago, something changed. As Abby got closer and closer to crawling (which she now does—watch out world!), I started picturing us outside together. I imagined her playing, maybe toddling around barefoot, or sitting in the grass with a juice box while I try to convince her that dandelions aren't snacks. It's a day I'm really looking forward to. But playing in dirt just doesn't have the same appeal.

So we decided to do something about it. We aerated the soil, tossed down a bunch of grass seed, and crossed our fingers. Now every day I find myself circling the yard like a proud gardener, looking for the tiniest signs of life. And every time I spot a new patch of green, I can't help but grin. It's oddly thrilling.

Honestly, I think “watching grass grow” gets a bad rap. There's something incredibly satisfying about seeing progress—even if it's slow and subtle. The whole process reminds me that not everything in life has to be immediate to be meaningful. Some things—maybe most things—just take time.

You put in the effort, you wait, and you watch. Most days, not much seems to happen. But then one morning, you notice something new. A little patch of green you hadn't seen before. A sign that the work is paying off. And in that moment, you realize that maybe slow growth isn't so boring after all. Maybe it's kind of beautiful.

So here I am: happily watching grass grow—and honestly, I wouldn't want to miss a minute of it.



**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**JUNE 1, 2025**  
**8:45 AM (Chapel)**  
**11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)**  
[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)  
John 17:20-26  
*"Make It"*  
The Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Road Trip VBS is June 2-6

It's time for the adventure!

#### Final Details

**Sanctuary prep:** Our space is being transformed for our epic Road Trip Adventure. Can you help the Pew Pixies remove Bibles and hymnals from the pews after the 11:00 AM service this Sunday, June 1? See Nancy Lindsay for more information.

**Attention VBS volunteers:** Our mandatory, all-call volunteer meeting is Sunday, June 1, at 1:30 PM in the sanctuary. Please don't miss! After our meeting we will decorate the sanctuary, classrooms, and halls. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions.

#### VBS Mission Focus announced

The **VBS Mission Focus** is to help one of our local Fayette county elementary schools. The campers will be collecting school supplies. And you are invited to join in the effort!

Purchase some or all of the following and bring your donations to the church office for the month of June.

Items needed:

Composition notebook	Spiral notebook
Pencils	Erasers
Glue sticks	16-count Crayola crayons
Wide-rule notebook paper	

#### VBS Celebration Sunday, June 8

Be sure to join us Sunday, June 8, as we celebrate and share some of the things our VBS Road Trip travelers have learned.





## 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 next week

Our yearly Summer Lunch program begins next week with a plan to serve more than 300 families, including over 450 sandwiches. **Our schedule is unusual this first week because VBS is the same week:** For this first week of June only, lunches will be prepared in the gym kitchen on Monday afternoon following VBS. Drivers for this week only will pickup from the gym hallway on Tuesday morning at 11 AM.

**During all other weeks beside this first week:** Lunches will be prepared in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays and also picked up from the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays.

Donations of homemade cookies and apples are deeply appreciated. Please package cookies 2 to a bag and leave all donations in the Fellowship Hall kitchen clearly marked for Summer Lunch.

Volunteers are needed. We have a faithful group of drivers, but we need a few more to be available to substitute. We also have an additional route this year.

For questions, more information, or to sign up, please contact Faye Livingston.



## 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



## 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!





## 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.

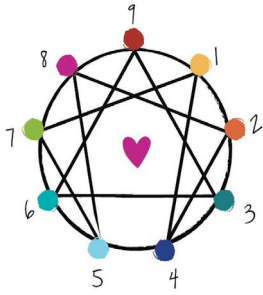
**Most Needed List:** *Canned Chicken, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Corn, Dried Pasta (not spaghetti), Chicken and Beef Broth, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Syrup, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Tea Bags, Feminine Products*

**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.



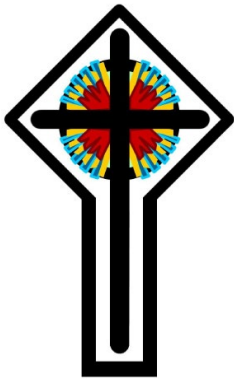
## A Path to God: The Enneagram as Spiritual Practice

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 Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto: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.](#)



## May 27, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$462,203.66
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$485,928.66
Difference	- \$23,725.00

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$708.00

79 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$18,367.11

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

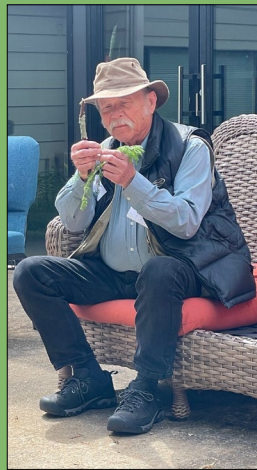


# inspired ...

## Spring retreats lead us within and onward

Two events this spring offered the opportunity to connect with the holy.

On May 4, the church was invited to gather for *Spiritual Practices in Nature for Entering the Divine Presence* led by Ron Reams at The Calvin Center. The day offered guidance to 17 participants through five experiential practices to deepen a connection with God: Awareness Walk, Poetry, Contemplative Prayer, Mystics and Gazing Until It Becomes Beautiful, and Resurrection and Return. The introduction and practice of these grounding guidelines brought attention to the presence of the holy around and within us. Rev. Allyson Lawrence closed the session with communion around a campfire at the lake.



*Pictured below: The Bradbury House provided a picturesque setting for Mission U presented by UWF.*



Mission U was hosted by the United Women in Faith on May 17 with 14 attendees from two different churches. Morning sessions were presented inside The Bradbury House with a delightful breakfast and tasty lunch provided by the leadership of FFUWF.

Following the afternoon session the group experienced an inspiring closing held on the covered porch while gazing toward beautiful Bradbury Lake.