



May 9, 2025

The Weekender

Holy. Sacred. Privilege. Blessing.

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Baptisms, they are truly holy moments. Moments, not where we recognize the work we have done or will do, but the moments where we acknowledge the work that God is always doing. From time beginning to time immortal God is redeeming us all, calling us all back into divine relationship with the Holy of Holies. It's a beautiful thing, really.

Clergy – we are lucky; no, that's not the right word. Fortunate, no, that isn't it either. Blessed, yes, but not quite. Privileged. Perhaps that is it – we are privileged and through that privilege we are blessed. Yes, privileged and blessed to be the ones to stand next to another, a beloved creation of God who has recognized and who wants to proclaim that sacred call of Love, in all the complexity yet mysterious simplicity of its meaning. Privileged and blessed to be part of that holy moment.

The first baptism I served as celebrant at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church was my third Sunday here. Our senior pastor's mother had passed away just that morning, our more experienced Associate Minister was away, and the service was entrusted to me, the not-yet ordained Associate who had never served a church as large as Fayetteville First.

He was a baby then, but now, soon, that baby is heading to middle school. Through the bumbling efforts of an eager rookie pastor, we as church participated in the initiation of that child of God into the household of God. We were there, together, as that family professed on behalf of that child that they wanted to let the world know that they put their whole trust in God's grace. We have participated like that, together, many times since. Each time, just as holy. Each time, just as sacred. Each time a time when the veil between eternal and temporal appears to be so very, very thin. Times when the church reminds herself of her promises to again and again live into her own faithful calling.

It is holy. It is sacred. It is a privilege. It is a blessing.

With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.

We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others.

We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.

~Congregational response from the UM Baptismal Covenant



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:45 AM (Chapel)

11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

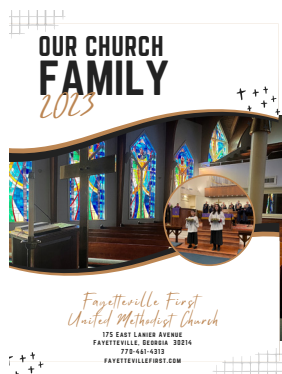
Online link active at 11 AM and after

John 10:22-30, Acts 9:36-43

"Good Works and Acts of Charity"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



NEW

2025

Photo sessions are this weekend for the new church directory

Thank you to everyone coming for photo sessions this weekend. Each family who participates in photography/viewing will receive a complimentary 8x10 professional portrait, one printed directory, smart phone app access, and online directory access.

Reminders for your photography session:

- Arrive 10 minutes early to approve our listing of you/your family and complete paperwork from The Portrait Cafe, including the title that will be under your photo.
- Be sure to check over the information we will include from our Realm database in the directory information section.
- Immediately following your photo, you will view your shots and choose your preference for the directory and your FREE 8x10. You also will be given the opportunity to purchase additional prints if desired.

All appointments and changes to a scheduled appointment will be handled by The Portrait Cafe through this number: 1-877-896-9667 ext. 360. [Click here for detailed instructions.](#)



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

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

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



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.

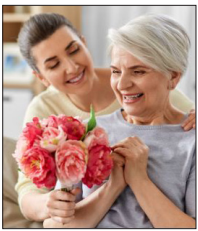
A few notes: 1) Amanda is gluten-free, so please make sure anything prepared or ordered is gluten-free. 2) Feel free to make food, order it, or provide a gift card. 3) Avoid seafood (not everyone in the family loves it). 4) Deliver to the Wests directly (contact them in advance) or deliver to the church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



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.



Wesley Woods offering is this Sunday, May 11

Wesley Woods was founded in 1954 by The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church to provide affordable housing for older adults. Each year churches receive a Mother's Day offering to help provide financial assistance for meals and housing to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their resources. In addition, the Mother's Day Offering supports on-site chaplains and an innovative wellness program. To support this ministry, please make donations by check or online to Fayetteville First UMC with "Wesley Woods" marked in the memo line.



Welcome Kelly Anderson, our new Administrative Assistant

We welcome Kelly Anderson to the Fayetteville First family as our new Administrative Assistant. With a background as an administrative assistant in the private sector, Kelly is excited to begin her work here. "I wanted to work and serve where I could make a difference beyond business growth and prosperity. This position offers the chance to work closely with church leadership, staff, the congregation, and the community, and provide a friendly, caring first impression of FFUMC," she said. We are equally thrilled to have Kelly on the team!

A few personal notes give us a quick glimpse of Kelly. She enjoys her family: husband, Mike, son Duncan (graduating from Berry College this month), and daughters Gretchen (graduating from Starr's Mill High School this month and headed to UGA this fall) and Vivian (junior at Starr's Mill) and her furry family: dog Hermie and cats Toots and Pebbles. Kelly and her family live in Peachtree City and attend Southside Church where Kelly leads a small group for high school girls. Come meet Kelly and welcome her to FFUMC!



Let's celebrate graduates with a churchwide potluck!

We will celebrate graduates of preschool, high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 18, in our worship bulletin, at the 11:00 AM worship service and at a churchwide potluck luncheon.

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

We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025!



Young choirs celebrate the year on May 14

All are invited to celebrate our youngest singers on Wednesday, May 14, at 6 PM in the chapel. Each choir will share something special about their year as they've learned, rehearsed and had fun together. Let's congratulate these groups and thank them and their leaders for their faithful contributions to our church family and worship experiences: Cherub Choir (Anna Mayhew, Faye Livingston, Robertine Mitchely), Junior Choir (Joan Aycock, Nancy Musselwhite), and Fayette Young Singers (Nick Bowden, Judy Hames).



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



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: 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.

May 14: Breakfast for Dinner

This is our last regular Wednesday Night Supper for the season.



SAGE
SENIOR ADULTS
GOING EVERYWHERE

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.

Discipleship Training Class offered 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.

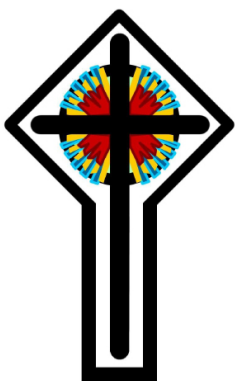




For the Beauty of the Earth: Rose Show welcomes us to special showing

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.



May 4, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$421,499.18
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$424,405.64
Difference	- \$2,906.46

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$785.00

70 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$16,126.92

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 ...

FFUMC gets an upgrade to its online presence!

Since the pandemic, churches have realized the value of extending their ministry via livestream video. Our livestream audience at FFUMC includes people not only from our own congregation, but from the Atlantic to Pacific — literally. Daniel Solberg, one of our collaborative contractors who has worked on both musical and technical projects over the years, was chosen for the job. Daniel installed four remotely controlled, future-proof cameras. The next time you're in the sanctuary, look around the room - can you spot all four? These new PTZ cameras (pan/tilt/zoom) have the ability to smoothly pan the choir on stage, pan the audience, tilt downwards from the cross to the stage, or quickly zoom in tight on the pastor, all from a neat video switcher that can seamlessly blend these angles. The new switcher has the ability to add text, video and graphics to our live stream as well. As our talented AV crew grows comfortable with the new system, look out for more of these fancy functions revealed in future livestreams! And be sure to venture to the balcony to say thanks to our regular sound operators Jason Lindsey and Austin Baur and their other faithful assistants.



Top: Jason Lindsey and Daniel Solberg work with new cameras for enhanced livestream experience.

*Below:
These first shots capture the joy of Easter and give a taste of some of the things the new cameras can capture.*

