



June 20, 2025

The Weekender

Rituals and treasure

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

It strikes me, as I look around me right now in this very moment, that I am sitting in a sea of boxes. Boxes are everywhere. Boxes that have moved from attic to attic and boxes that are filled with newly acquired treasures. Boxes of books...so many books. Boxes filled with memorabilia from relatives long-since passed away. Boxes filled with things. Some useful, some nostalgic.

There is power in the ritual of wrapping every item you own, surrounding it with bubble wrap, placing it snugly in its box. And then, once on the other side of wherever you are going, there is power in the ritual of un-swaddling each of those items and placing them in their new home, on their new shelf, in their new cabinet.

The ritual is transformational. Once an item moves from one place to another it has somehow crossed some sacred bar from being just a thing to becoming a cherished treasure. It evokes emotion and stirs up memories. At least, this ritual has that effect on me. By looking at it, I remember the story of when and how it came to reside with me. Maybe most importantly, I remember the people connected to its story. I have found that it is in that last bit, the people, that the ritual gains its greatest power.

As I look back over these last eleven years, I know that there is no thing that I can box that can capture all the shared moments of laughter, tears, joy, grief, comfort and peace. There is no thing that can capture the baptisms, the funerals, the confirmations, the Bible studies and Table Groups, the anthems and offertories, the Rise Against Hungers and Christmas Marketplaces. There is no thing that can capture the retreats, and road trips, the sunrise services and Christmas Eve's. And yet, I need no thing. For the love you have given me, the love you have poured over Jadyn and Kaitlyn, the grace you have offered us – it cannot be held in any box. Fayetteville First, you are my family and my heart, my cherished treasure. Through your love of God, you have transformed my life. I cannot put you in a box and wrap you in bubble wrap, but you will always be with me.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21



2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 22, 2025

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

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

Micah 6:6-8; 2 John 1-6

"And This Is Love"

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS

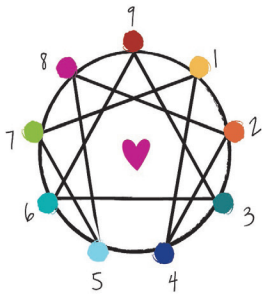


You're Invited: Farewell Reception for Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Please join us as we celebrate and send off Rev. Allyson Lawrence with love and gratitude! As she prepares to begin her new appointment as Senior Minister at Watkinsville UMC, we will gather to share parting blessings and well wishes.

A reception in her honor will be held this Sunday, her last day with us:
Sunday, June 22 at 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Come help us thank Rev. Lawrence for her faithful ministry among us and surround her with encouragement for the journey ahead.



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.

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.](#)

Want to know more about the Enneagram before the workshop? Our workshop leader recommends these books (not required reading, but highly recommended!): "The Road Back to You" by Cron/Stabile and "The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up" by Beatrice Chestnut.



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

[Share this invitation with friends, family ... everybody!](#)

Reception to follow concert in Fellowship Hall

This concert will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: Fayetteville First UMC - Fayetteville, GA. [Use this direct YouTube Link](#) or find this link on our website at FayettevilleFirst.com.



Drivers and runners needed for Summer Lunch program

Our yearly Summer Lunch program has begun. It's our chance to serve more than 300 families, including over 450 sandwiches, who receive free or reduced lunch during the school year. Lunches are prepared and picked up in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays. Volunteers are needed.

We have an immediate need for more drivers and driver helpers (someone to run the meals to the door of the recipients. Ideally, two people would deliver together, one driver and one "runner." High school students on summer break would make ideal runners! For questions, more information, or to sign up, please contact Faye Livingston.

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.



Messy Church for June and July

Water Day Messy Church: June 28 11 am -1 pm

Be sure to wear clothes you can get wet and bring a towel. Get ready for a day of adventure outside.

Back to School Block Party: July 26 3-5 pm

Join us as we celebrate the end of summer and prepare for a new school year. Outdoor fun, games, and music!



Let's Do Lunch: Saturday, August 9

It's time to make reservations for our 4th Annual Let's Do Lunch! And remember to bring friends, neighbors and family with you. Don't wait! You have until July 26 to reserve your seat.

This year, we are delighted to have Diana Cowan as our special guest to share her incredible story about "The Lost Sheep", which has motivated women all over the country. Come prepared to be entertained, encouraged and inspired.

Guests will enjoy a tri-salad plate for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated dining tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Event: August 9

Reservations due July 26

There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 3 easy ways to make your reservation:

Online: [Click this reservation link](#), fill in the form & hit Submit.

Email: Send an email to Lauren Davis or admin@fayettevillefirst.com with your name, email address, phone number, and the names of any guests coming with you.

Phone: Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

You may make reservations for you and your friends at the same time. If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Lauren to cancel.



Upcoming Blood Drive: July 13

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, July 13, in the gym from 8 AM to 1 PM. [Signing up is easy: just click here. This takes you directly to the American Red Cross site.](#) **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Contact Randy Riddell for questions or assistance or to volunteer to assist at this drive.



Photographs are in Welcome Center

Did you have a photography session for the new church directory? Your photos are here! You may pick up your prints in the Welcome Center this Sunday. **Please mark the pickup sheet** by the photo box to let us know you got yours!



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



School supply collection continues through June

The **VBS Mission Focus** was to help one of our local Fayette county elementary schools. And you are invited to join in the effort! Purchase some or all of the following and bring your donations to the church office or Narthex for the month of June.

Items needed:

Composition notebook

Pencils

Glue sticks

Wide-rule notebook paper

Spiral notebook

Erasers

16-count Crayola crayons



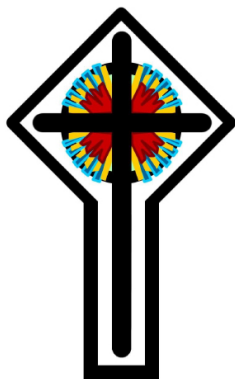
Flower Ministry

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you gave me. They really look so pretty in my apartment. Hope to see you soon.

— Martha Trice



Martha's flowers came special delivery from Nancy Dennis, Janet Gazaway, and Janet's grandson, Grady.



June 16, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$523,422.42
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$555,560.62
Difference	-\$32,138.20

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,450.00

86 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$20,300.28

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 ...

The Lord bless you and keep you, Allyson

You have been with us for eleven eventful and beautiful years. As you move to your appointments as Senior Minister at Watkinsville UMC, we send you with prayers, blessings, and more love than you can imagine. Godspeed!

