



July 11, 2025

## The Weekender

### Hey Now You're an All-Star

Rev. Kaylen Short

Next week, I'll be heading to the MLB All-Star Game right here in Atlanta, and I couldn't be more excited. Ever since I was a kid, I've dreamed of attending one. I remember watching the game and the home run derby on TV with wide eyes and wishing to be part of the crowd. This year, that dream is becoming a reality, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be there in person to cheer on Atlanta's All-Stars.

But truth be told, some of the most impressive All-Stars in the Peach State won't be taking the field that night. They'll be right here at church, serving in ways that may never make headlines but have a lasting impact on our community. Week after week, these folks give their time, their gifts, and their hearts to make this church a welcoming and vibrant place.

Some of these all-stars are on our staff. Like our Minister to Senior Adults, Rev. Charles Robinson, whose visits, check-ins, and programs are a constant source of comfort and joy for so many. Then there's our Communications Director, Joan Aycock, who I am quite certain I am going to have to explicitly tell not to edit this part out of The Weekender before posting it. Whether it's crafting Weekenders, running down staff members for the various things she needs to complete the bulletins, or her deep thoughtful insights we all seek, she keeps us all heading in the right direction.

Of course, many more of our All-Stars are laity. There's Chase Leonard who leads Messy Church with abundant energy and thoughtful leadership. We certainly couldn't do what we do without Nancy Musselwhite, our jack of all trades, who quietly steps into administrative tasks, fills in for volunteers, and makes sure things run smoothly. We've got Connie Hyder and Lynne Garrett who keep our choir organized and on the same page (literally!)

Of course, these are just a few. From our hospitality team to the mission committees, from those on administrative committees to every one of our wonders of worship volunteers, from the benevolence volunteers to our ushers and so so many more. Fayetteville First is full of people who make a difference. You, too, are one of our All-Stars! So thank you for being the kind of All-Stars who make this church feel like home.



**5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - JULY 13, 2025**

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

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

Psalm 82, Luke 10:25-37

*"Like a Good Neighbor"*

The Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Blood Drive is this Sunday, July 13

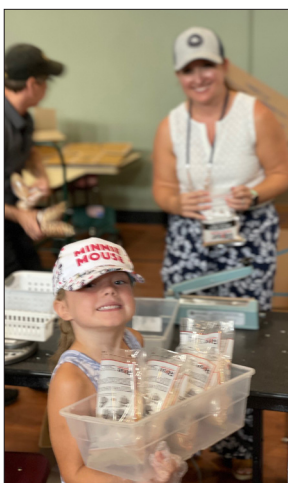
**8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym**

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is this 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.



### Back-to-School Block Party: July 26

Join us for our Back-to-School Block Party on Saturday, July 26, from 3 to 5 PM. Outdoor fun, bounce houses, games, and music! Invite your friends!



### Rise Against Hunger: Let us know you're coming!

You're invited to help fight hunger by preparing highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event in the FFUMC gym.

**August 17, 2025 1 - 3 PM Pack 25,000 meals in 2 hours**

**Invite friends, groups, neighbors ...** all hands appreciated and needed! Fill up a table with people you know or want to get to know better as you do a fun activity that helps others.

[Rise Against Hunger requires a waiver/registration for the packing event. Please take care of this as soon as possible through this link.](#)

This year, lunch will be provided after worship and before the packing event. (No reservation needed. No charge. Donations accepted.)

Dress in very casual, comfortable clothes for worship August 17. One outfit for the whole day! We can head straight to lunch for nourishment and fellowship and on to the packing event.

### Please mark items left for others

If you are leaving anything on the church property for others to pick up, please be sure to **clearly mark** the items with a specific name and ministry.

Unmarked items will either be donated or taken to our lost/found area (near the gym and Fayette Samaritans drop-off basket).

Thanks for helping get the items to your intended ministry and for keeping our campus neat and orderly.





## 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**

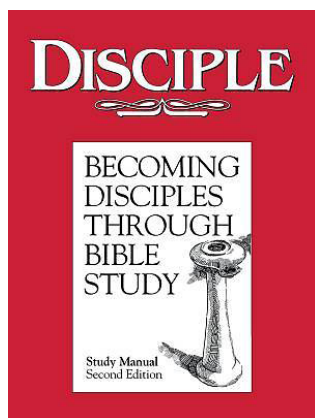
There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 3 easy ways to make your reservation:

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

**Email:** Send an email to Lauren Davis or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto: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.



## Get ready: Disciple I is coming to FFUMC

Disciple I is a 34-week Bible study program that provides an overview of the entire Bible, emphasizing the Old and New Testaments equally. It aims to develop strong Christian leaders through disciplined Bible study and encourages participants to become disciples through Bible study. The study involves daily Bible reading and weekly group meetings where participants discuss their readings and insights. FFUMC will be offering the course beginning August 13 under the leadership of two teachers: Barb Combs and Jeff Hansen.

Why take Disciple I at Fayetteville First? According to leader Barb Combs:

- You will never read the Bible in the same way again.
- You'll be learning from other people as they share what they know and have learned and you share what you know and have learned.
- You'll learn how the Old and the New Testament work together.

The program will be offered on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 PM with another offering of the same class from 6 to 8 PM. A single Kickoff Meeting (Week 0) on Wednesday, August 13, at 5:30 PM will introduce the program. Weeks 1-34 will begin the following week with the two separate class times. Please indicate in the memo on registration which class time you desire. There is no charge for the class or materials; donations are accepted. For more information about the program, contact Barb Combs or Jeff Hansen.

[Registration link for Disciple I Bible Study 2025-2026](#)



## NEW! July 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 Beef Stew, Tuna, Canned Corn, Dried Pasta (not spaghetti), Pasta Sauce, Hamburger Helper, Tea, Jelly, Jello



## El Salvador plans are underway

Join Pastor Kaylen, Maggie Clarke, and friends from sister UMC churches for an unforgettable mission trip to El Salvador January 31–February 7, 2026. Together we will share God's love through service and connection. The cost is \$1,600 plus airfare, and all are welcome to be part of the journey—whether by going or by giving. Donations will help offset expenses for FFUMC participants, making this meaningful experience more accessible for all. For details on the trip, contact Maggie Clarke.

January 31-February 7



## Save the Date: Great Day of Service September 20

Get ready for another Great Day of Service, a work time set aside for us to go be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. What to do right now? **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration will open in August.

**Great Day of Service coming September 20**



## Medicine bottle collection through August

Have you emptied some medicine or vitamin bottles? They can be reused! Here's how:

- Clean bottles, remove labels, keep lids on.
- Mark bottles as "Pill Bottle Collection" and leave them inside the Welcome Center cabinet or in the marked collection bin at the gym stairwell.

Contact Faye Livingston if you have questions.





## Walking with others through grief

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, a new session of classes will meet Mondays August 11 through November 10 from 10 AM to 12 PM in Room B-350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact Carol or Bill Webb or visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).



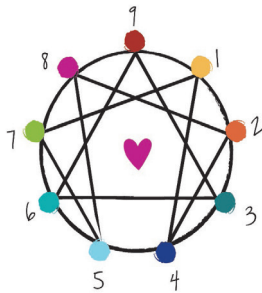
Prayer List Guidelines

## Bulletin Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list provided on each Sunday's Order of Worship a current and useful tool in the prayer life of our church, **we will be completely refreshing the prayer list on the first Sunday of each month.** Here are some guidelines:

- If you or your family member desire to be included on the prayer list, please request directly to the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) by Monday at noon before the first Sunday of each month. (For example, **to be included on the Order of Worship on August 3, contact us by Monday, July 28**).
- Requests will be accepted directly from an individual or a family member only to ensure privacy as desired by our church family.
- A request will remain for the month unless you ask to have it removed.

Questions? Contact the church office.



## 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.

**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.

If you are interested in a pre-workshop information session, contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com).



The Lord your God  
is with you  
wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9

## Notes of encouragement for Summer Lunch

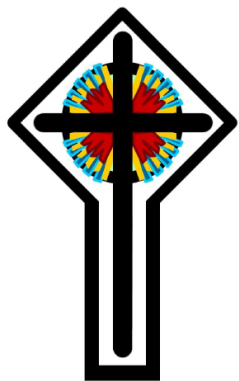
Our last packing day for the 2025 Summer Lunch Program is coming Tuesday, July 22. To encourage the recipients as they head back to school, we'd like to include a handwritten note in each bag that day. Will you help?

- Write a favorite scripture or encouraging words on a 3" x 5" or similarly sized card. Faye Livingston will have blank cards in the narthex if you would like some.
- Place completed cards in the collection basket in the Welcome Center or church office by Sunday, July 20. **We need 350 cards, so make as many as you would like!** Feel free to encourage the whole family or any small groups to participate.
- Pray for those who will receive your card(s) as they begin a new school year.



## Preschool Amazon Wishlist – Last Prime Day Giving!

Amazon Prime Days are wrapping up, and it's the perfect time to help support our church preschool! We've put together a wishlist of items that will bless our sweet students and their learning environment. If you're shopping anyway, consider taking a moment to check it out and give. Every little bit helps! [Click here for the wish list: https://tinyurl.com/PreschoolWishlist25](https://tinyurl.com/PreschoolWishlist25)



## July 7, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$578,868.08
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$622,445.74
Difference	-\$43,577.66

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,706.00

98 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$23,721.84

### 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

# inspired ...

## Summer Lunch Program delivers more than meals

This summer, something special happened in our community—something that went beyond sandwiches and snacks. More than 350 children who rely on free or reduced lunch during the school year received a nutritious lunch delivered right to their doorstep each weekday, thanks to the incredible effort of the Summer Lunch Program.

Led by coordinator Faye Livingston, the program did more than provide for a physical need. “Meeting the basic need of hunger is a first step in ministry,” she shared, reflecting on the importance of showing care through action.

And what a beautiful partnership it was! A diverse and dedicated group of organizations joined forces to make it all happen, including: Christ Our Shepherd, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Prince of Peace, Jack and Jill of Fayette, First Baptist PTC, Fayette Presbyterian, Evergreen, Olivet Baptist, Islamic Community Center, Church of the Nativity, and Congregation B'nai Israel. Special thanks go to Inman UMC, who faithfully supported our weekly packing days.

From cookie bakers to delivery drivers, every hand made a difference. New faces joined seasoned volunteers, working side by side with a shared purpose. Whether someone helped once or showed up every week, each act of service made a lasting impact.

Faye added, “I’m also grateful for the prayers that have been offered for the families and volunteers.” Those prayers, like the lunches, carried hope and kindness across our neighborhoods.

As we wrap up another successful season, we celebrate not only full stomachs—but full hearts. Thank you to everyone who made this summer a little brighter for our kids!

