



July 25, 2025

The Weekender

Hesitant Prayer

Inspired by Luke 11:1-13

I hesitate to pray—
I know I shouldn't.

I love the quiet.
The wilderness where
true prayer might happen,
rising like smoke from simple fires.
But to ask—
to really ask—
is to stand exposed
untethered from the
do-it-yourself mantras.

Prayer unmasks
my minuscule power.
I don't like that.

Yet still,
nervous at best,
I enter.

And there—
not ridicule or silence—
but Presence,
warm and strange,
unlike any I have known.

A God who listens.
A God who delights to give.

And so,
I've started to pray
more often.

— Rev. Drew West

Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

*Father, may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.*

³ *Give us each day our daily bread.*

⁴ *And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial."*

⁵ *And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.*

⁹ *"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*



7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - JULY 27, 2025
8:45 AM (Chapel) 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 85; Luke 11:1-13

"Tenacity"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Event: August 9

Reservations due July 26

Reservations close TOMORROW for Let's Do Lunch

It's time to make reservations for our 4th Annual Let's Do Lunch On August 9! 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.

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.



Back-to-School Block Party Tomorrow!

July 26

Join us for our Back-to-School Block Party

When: Saturday, July 26 from 3 to 5 PM

Where: Outdoors and inside gym

What: Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Balloons, Music, Games, Kona Ice, and more!



Supported by

Messy Church



**Let's DREAM
together!**



Join the DREAM of Messy Church

Do you ever dream of a church where faith is hands-on, laughter fills the room and people of all ages come together just as they are? Welcome to Messy Church, a monthly worship experience where the love of God meets the joy of creativity, where questions are welcome, and mess is celebrated!

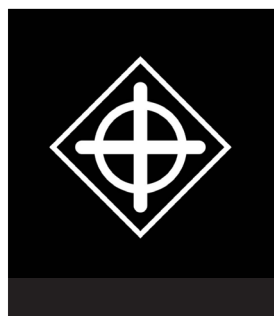
You're invited to join the Dream Team, a group of people who meet quarterly to generate seasonally themed, Christ-centered Messy Church experiences:

When: July 27 at 4 PM

Where: Room C260

Who: All ages! Elementary-aged kids through adults

Questions? Contact [Rev. Drew West](#).



YOUTH:
**Get ready for
a GREAT year!**

Want to learn more about our youth program?

Who: Youth (Rising 6-12 Grades), Parents/Guardians, Youth Volunteers

What: Dinner and Conversations

When: Wednesday, August 13th (Dinner: 6 pm, Conversations: 6:30 pm)

Where: The Foundry — Room C280

Why: We want to get to know you!

[Please let us know you are coming and share your contact information using this link.](#)

Join us for food, a brief devotion, conversations, fellowship, and fun.

We have big plans for the upcoming school year, and we can't wait to share this with you!

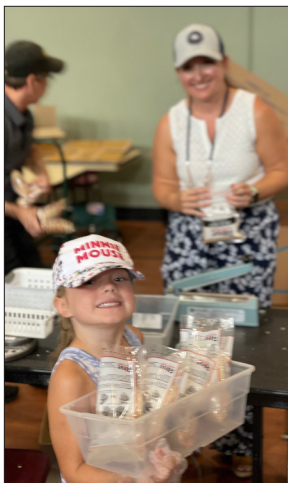
[Hope to see you on August 13!](#)



Bible Presentation – Sunday, August 10

During the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, August 10, our church will present Children's Bibles to all 3rd and 4th grade students. This special moment marks an important milestone in their faith journey as they begin to explore the Bible more deeply on their own.

If your child is entering 3rd or 4th grade this fall, we'd love for them to be part of this celebration. Please join us as we bless and encourage these young disciples in their walk with God! Be sure to contact Rev. Drew West if you want to make sure your child is going to receive a Bible.



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.

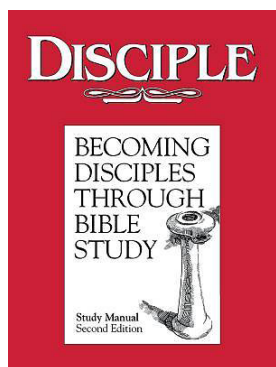
August 17, 2025 1 - 3 PM Pack 25,000 meals in 2 hours

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.



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](#)



August 3 Blessing of Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday August 3

As a new school year begins, we want to surround our students, teachers, and administrators with prayer and encouragement!

11:00 AM Service

Students, teachers, and administrators are invited to bring their backpacks or bags to worship. During the service, we will pray over the upcoming academic year, and each person will receive a special bag tag as a reminder that God goes with them into every classroom and hallway.

8:45 AM Service

Following communion, we will offer a time of consecration and blessing for all students, teachers, and administrators. Bag tags will also be distributed during this time.

Come and help us lift our school community as we begin this new chapter together!



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 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.



Chapel and Parking Lot B Closed August 4-8

Both the chapel and Parking Lot B will be closed from August 4-8 due to the HVAC unit replacement in the chapel. A crane and construction materials will be staged in Parking Lot B, so it won't be accessible during that time.

The project is scheduled to take one week. However, if it runs over, we will communicate alternate plans for the August 10 early service and parking.



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.



Preschool Amazon Wishlist

You're invited to 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)

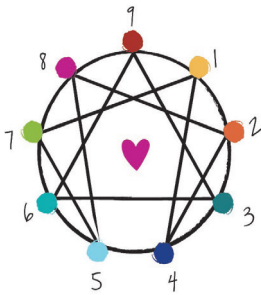


Medicine bottle collection through August

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.



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.



January 31-February 7

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 Rev. Kaylen Short.



New! August 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, Hamburger Helper, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal – single serving, Raisins – single serving, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Bar Soap, Feminine Products*

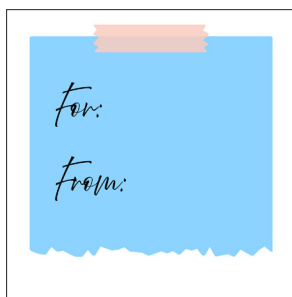
Clothes Pantry Needs: *Women's Socks and Underwear (all sizes), Men's Boxer Shorts (all sizes)*



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



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.



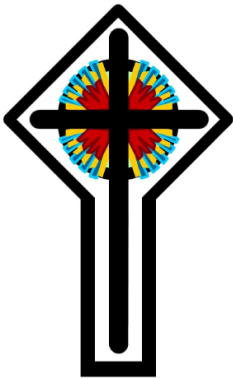
Flower Ministry

I very much appreciated receiving a beautiful blue Shawl while I was in the hospital. This work is very much underrated. Thank you.

— Dick Webb

Thank you so very much for the flowers that were delivered. I cannot express how much they mean to me.

— Nancy Weinmeister



July 21, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$615,049.96
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$670,120.79
Difference	-\$55,070.83

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$36.00

102 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$24,789.56

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 ...

Did you get the RED glasses?

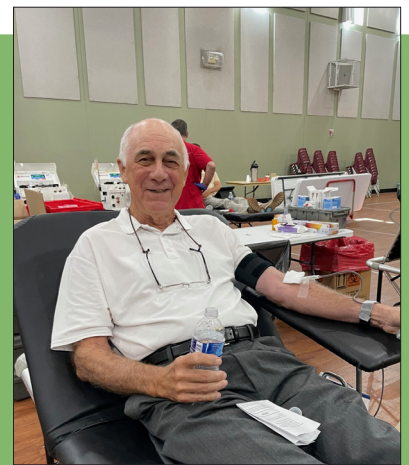
Last week's American Red Cross Blood Drive was a chance to give the gift of life ... meet new people ... AND get some cool shades! The new name for our FFUMC Blood Drive Leaders: The REDS BROTHERS!

It was another successful day! We had 28 signed up going into the day with 63% from FFUMC. We collected 31 units -- our goal was 27.

3 Walk-ins 4 No Shows

1 Deferral 6 Double Red Donors

We appreciate each donor and volunteer, and we extend a big welcome to our newest Red Cross Blood Drive Team member, Larry Voyles!



Save the date:

Next blood drive

October 5