



August 15, 2025

The Weekender

Called to the Next Generation

Rev. Drew West

I once heard a story about a pastor who roped off the children's area of a church with caution tape. The pastor announced, "There's been a crime here—there are no volunteers for children's ministry."

Nurturing children and younger members is essential to the life of the church, for they are not merely "future members" but already part of the Body of Christ, claimed by God and active in the community. Scripture calls God's people "the children of Israel," and believers are often described as "Children of God."

In The United Methodist Church, infant baptism—following the early church—proclaims that God graciously welcomes us into the story of salvation before we can even take our first steps. Ministering with children means more than teaching; it is walking alongside them, sharing life and faith, and being shaped by their witness, which models joy, openness, and dependence on God.

Here at FFUMC, we are blessed with an incredible team of volunteers in both Children's Ministry and our Sunshine Ministry, which serves children and young adults with special needs. Volunteers like Faye Livingston, Nancy Ricciardi, Anna Mayhew, Chase Leonard, Joan Aycock, Tami Kemberling, Jane Gough, Susie and Bobby Arrington, Janet Baileys, Mickey Robinson, Jeannie Cauthen, Libia Carmona, Becky and Larry Voyles, Yvette Elliott, and many others faithfully give their time and love. Each summer, even more people step forward to help make Vacation Bible School and Sunshine VBS possible.

Still, as the saying goes, many hands make light work. That's why Jami Maguire and I are hosting a Lunch and Learn that we are calling "Called to the Next Generation" right after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, September 7 (free lunch included!). Children, parents, and guardians are warmly invited to join us.

At this event, we'll share:

- An overview of the upcoming year in Children's Ministry and Sunshine Ministry
- Ways you or your small group can get involved
- Volunteer opportunities
- Safe Sanctuary training, so you can become an official ministry volunteer or renew your training if needed (required every two years)

[Here is the link to sign up](#) or you can contact me at dwest@fayettevillefirst.com if you have any questions. We hope you'll join in!





10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - AUGUST 17, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 80:8-19; Acts 1:6-8

"How This Goes"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Better Together with Small Groups

We are better when we are together, and small groups are strong at FFUMC.

Check out these offerings for this fall and make a new connection!

A Midweek Creative Pause NEW!

Share time with others to explore scripture alongside a time for individuals to engage in their chosen creative expression. No artistic skills required. For all ages. (See article for more details). Leader: Rev. Drew West. Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 PM in Room C200.

Bible Study for Caregivers NEW!

Gather with Jami Maguire to sip, snack, study and share with a focus on the joys and challenges of caring for others. Friday mornings during September at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Disciple I NEW!

34 week program for a comprehensive overview of the entire Bible. Leaders: Barb Combs, Jeff Hansen. August 20 - May 2026, Wednesdays 3-5 PM and 6 to 8 PM in Room C260.

Discovering God's Word: Transformational Bible Study Method with the Gospel of Mark NEW!

Be introduced to a method of Bible study that leads past information to transformation through a six week study on the Gospel of Mark. This study uses Jean Wilund's book "Discovering God's Word." (See article for more details.) Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5 PM. September 10 - October 15 in Room C240. Leaders Florence Prine and Karen Dunn.

Men's Bible Study

Go deep in study as you read aloud books of the Bible and discuss using commentaries and books alongside The Bible Project posters (provided). Leaders Randy Riddell and Chuck Grayson. Wednesdays 6 - 7 PM.

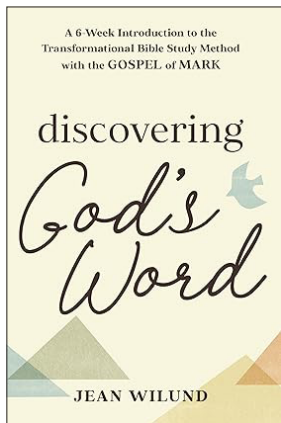
Sunday Morning Small Groups

Find a place for all: children, youth, special needs, and young adults, adults, and senior adults on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 AM. Groups offer a variety of approaches to study and fellowship.

Weekly Lectionary Study Groups: See and Seek, Table Group, Table Talk

Take a look at the weekly scripture reading for the upcoming Sunday and discuss where you see God in your life. Wednesdays (Women's group) 10 AM, Thursdays (Men's group) 10 AM, Fridays (Mixed group at Gremlin Growlers) 10 AM

Other groups meet regularly including United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, GriefShare, Good Grief Gals, SAGE, seniors, and more. Contact the [church office](#) for details or phone numbers/emails of leaders for more information.



Discovering God's Word: Transformational Bible Study Method with the Gospel of Mark

Join with others in an introduction to a method of Bible study that leads past information to transformation. A six-week study led by Florence Prine and Karen Dunn takes you through the gospel of Mark using Jean Wilund's book "Discovering God's Word" on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5 PM. September 10 - October 15. Get your book [from Amazon](#) or another bookseller. You are requested to read the short overview and the gospel of Mark before the first class meeting in Room C240 on September 10.

[Register here and contact Florence or Karen with questions.](#)



NEW! A Midweek Creative Pause

On Wednesday nights, gather in a welcoming space to explore scripture, allowing individuals to engage in their chosen creative outlet. Each week features a Bible passage paired with optional art activities such as painting, collage, simple crafts, or journaling. No artistic skills are required—just an openness to experiment and reflect. The group is open to all ages and offers a restful midweek pause, especially for those seeking to slow down and explore new methods of connecting with God and each other. Together, we'll create, connect, and discover how the arts can deepen our prayer and spiritual life.

Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 PM, beginning August 20 in Room C200

Contact leader [Rev. Drew West](#) for details.



*New season
begins August 20*

Fayette Choirs for children and youth begin August 20

Get ready for a new year of music! Each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 PM three distinct choirs will be lifting voices in expression of faith, encouragement, and beauty in our world. With each group offering age-specific learning, skill development, and musical repertoire, all children and young youth singers will have access to quality instruction and musical development. Plan to join in ... and invite friends and neighbors!

Fayette Young Singers - Nick Bowden 4th grade through voice change

Fayette Junior Choir - Joan Aycock 1st - 3rd grade

Fayette Cherub Choir - Anna Mayhew 4 years - Kindergarten*

*Children 3 years old are invited to come with an engaged adult

Please email Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, Children's Music Coordinator for all age groups, or call the church office and let us know you're coming!



Rise Against Hunger Is this Sunday!

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.

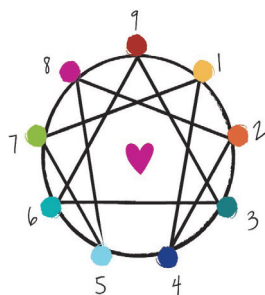
August 17, 2025 1 - 3 PM Pack 35,000 meals in 2 hours

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.



Sign up for A Path to God: The Enneagram as Spiritual Practice by August 17

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. Questions? Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com.



Wednesday Night Suppers resume August 20 with Potluck

Let's eat together! Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

Regular Wednesday programs for all ages resume August 20.

Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday. Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

August 20 Meal - Potluck!

Bring a side dish to share.

(Piccadilly Chicken Tenders and Dessert provided).

No charge, but reservations are needed by noon on August 18.

SAGE heads for fun every month

Take a trip with our Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE)!



August 21 - Old Courthouse and Lunch

Meet at the Church Office at 10:45 AM. From there we will visit the Old Courthouse next door at 11 AM. Afterward we will meet at the Village Café across from Piedmont Fayette Hospital for lunch together in the reserved back room at noon.

We will drive our own cars or carpool from the church office. No charge except for lunch; however, please make a reservation for a lunch spot by August 18 with the church office to ensure adequate seating at Village Café.

Upcoming:

September 5 - Monastery of the Holy Spirit tour in Conyers and lunch



Titus II resumes September 2: Storyteller Carol Cain

Enjoy lunch together and be inspired as Titus II resumes at noon on Tuesday, September 2, in the Fellowship Hall. The year kicks off with a meal including Chicken Pot Pie and a presentation by storyteller Carol Cain from LaGrange. Make your lunch reservation with Martha Turner or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



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)



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.

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 soon!

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.



Outer Space Messy Church is tomorrow!

Saturday, August 16 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Gym

"The heavens declare the glory of God,
the skies proclaim the work of his hands." — Psalm 19:1

Join the Messy Church Outer Space adventure! Come enjoy fun activities, crafts, food, and worship as we explore God's amazing creation — from the stars above to the world around us!

Volunteers and adventurers of all ages are invited! And bring a friend!



Flower Ministry

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to us, and for the cards, calls and prayers on the loss of our son-in-law Retired Lieutenant Charles Duff. Thank you for thinking of our family during this difficult time.

— Beverly and Bobby Mobley

Quick Reminders

Saturday, August 16

Outer Space Messy Church 11 AM to 1 PM

Sunday, August 17

Worship 8:45 AM in Chapel

Small Groups 9:45 AM

Worship 11 AM in Sanctuary

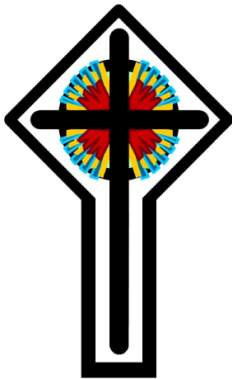
Rise Against Hunger Pre-Event Meal Noon in Fellowship Hall

Rise Against Hunger Packing Event 1 - 3 PM in Gym

Wednesday, August 20

Wednesday Night Supper, Potluck Kick-off, Registration needed

Children's Choirs, Youth Programs, many Adult Studies begin



August 11, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts \$677,078.23

Year-to-Date Expenses \$737,016.74

Difference -\$59,938.51

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,684.00

111 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$26,979.43

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 ...

Thank You for Supporting Fayette County Students!

As the new school year kicks off, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our summer school supply drive. Because of your generosity, two trunkloads of essential supplies—paper, pencils, crayons, notebooks, backpacks, and more—have been delivered to local elementary schools and to DFACS.

These donations are already making a difference for Fayette County's youngest learners, helping them start the year equipped and ready to succeed.

Your kindness truly helps build a stronger community, and we're so grateful for your support!



Above: Collins gratefully received backpacks and supplies for DFACS to distribute where needed most.

Third and Fourth Grade Students Receive Bibles

Several students received their own study Bibles this past Sunday. As a congregation we affirmed them:

We rejoice with you in this step on your journey of faith. With God's help, we promise to guide you and to learn with you as you read from your Bible.

