



August 22, 2025

The Weekender

"Invited Still" - Poems & Invitation to Midweek Creative Pause

Rev. Drew West

Inspired by Jeremiah 1:4-10

I can think of a thousand reasons
why I cannot
welcome God's vision for my life.

I look too young.
My past hangs heavy
like an old, worn-out coat.
My daily clumsiness tumbles down—
an avalanche of mistakes
burying me in something more palpable
than shame.

Surely all this disqualifies me.

So I say:
"God, choose someone else."

But God answers:
"I am with you.
Before your excuses were ever born,
I formed you with intention.
Before you measured
your worth in failures,
I set in motion glorious potential.
I invite you still

into something bigger
than your narrow dreams.

Trust me."



By now, you may have heard that I've begun a new small group called Midweek Creative Pause. This gathering takes place on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room C200 (the Conference Room), following Wednesday Night Supper and during children's choirs.

The purpose of Midweek Creative Pause is to provide a space where participants can reflect on scripture and engage with it through various art forms—such as creative writing, sketching, painting, crocheting, and more. Often, when we exercise our creativity while inspired by God's promises, the message of scripture takes root in new and meaningful ways, and the resulting work can become a powerful testimony of God's presence in our lives.

I especially want to invite you to join us on Wednesday, August 27, when we will welcome a special guest, Mark Wallace Maguire—author and husband to our own Jami Maguire. Mark will present his paper, "Why Has American Protestantism Failed to Nurture the Arts and Why It Matters," which he first delivered at the C.S. Lewis Foundation's Annual Conference and Faculty Forum in 2024. This will be an inspiring opportunity to explore the role of creativity in faith and community.

I look forward to seeing you there!



11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - AUGUST 24, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 13:10-17

"Hypocrites"

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. Now - 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.



**Saturday
September 20
Great Day
of Service!**

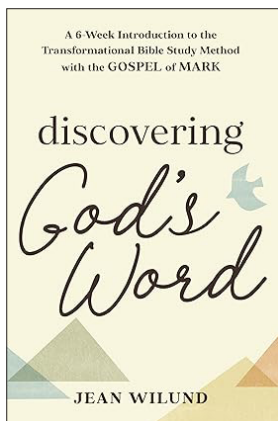
Great Day of Service: Pick your project!

It's time to pick your service project for the Great Day of Service on Saturday, September 20. We'll enjoy an early breakfast and communion together before heading out to sites to work from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Volunteers are provided childcare for children six months to 5 years of age during the event. Look for the display at worship entrances or the Welcome Center to sign up manually or follow the [QR code on the card or sign up online \(click here\)](#) for your favorite project!

These are **some** of the places we'll be serving. Choose where you'll get out and do good!

Joseph Sams School
Pregnancy Resource Center
Square Foot Ministry
Midwest Food Bank
The Gathering People

Southwest Christian Care
Card Ministry
Fayette Samaritans
Promise Place
I-58 Mission



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.](#)



**Hear Patsy Kent
September 18**

UWF Salad and Sweets Luncheon features Patsy Kent

You're invited to a Salad and Sweets Luncheon sponsored by the United Women in Faith. Please bring a salad or sweet to share. No reservations are needed; however, UWF members are requested to let their group leaders know what dish they are bringing to ensure a variety is offered. All are welcome!

Thursday, September 18 11:30 AM Fellowship Hall

Patsy Kent presents "Great Is Thy Faithfulness: A Missionary Story"

"What if God invited you to go to another country to live and build friendships with people who don't know Jesus? Would he show you how? Would he help you learn their culture? Would he take care of your kids? Yes! He would and He did." Patsy Kent, Deb Cole's sister, loves to share stories of how her family experienced God's faithfulness over 28 years in East Africa and in Laos.

A love offering will be collected to benefit REI (Resource Exchange International).



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.



SAGE heads to monastery September 5

September 5 - Monastery of the Holy Spirit tour in Conyers and lunch
Gather at church office at 8:15 AM for 8:30 departure

What's life like in a Trappist monastery? Would you like to ask questions about faith in another tradition? Go with our Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) to the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers on Friday, September 5. After a tour and visit with a docent at the museum with a Q&A session, the group will enjoy the excellent gift shop and a boxed lunch from Honey Baked Ham. Questions? Contact Rev. Charles Robinson.

Register in church office by Wednesday, noon, on September 3.

Cost: \$2 transportation payable on September 5.

Reserved Honey Baked Ham boxed lunch payable at monastery. Cost is about \$15.



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.

Art and Faith Presentation: Wednesday, August 27



Fayette County resident and author Mark Wallace Maguire will present his paper, "Why Has American Protestantism Failed to Nurture the Arts and Why It Matters," at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, August 27, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The presentation will explore the historical and cultural factors shaping American Protestantism's relationship with the arts and emphasize the importance of renewed artistic engagement within faith-based communities. Maguire first delivered this paper at the C.S. Lewis Foundation's Annual Conference and Faculty Forum at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in November 2024. "Fayetteville FUMC is an ideal fit for this presentation," Maguire said. "The church has long emphasized creativity—from its preschool program to its hosting of arts and craft events—and reflects the very spirit of what I hope to encourage within faith communities." The event will be held in the church's conference room and is free and open to the public.



Called to the Next Generation

Nurturing children and younger members is essential to the life of the church. 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. As the saying goes, many hands make light work, so Rev. Drew West and Jami Maguire are hosting a Lunch and Learn "Called to the Next Generation" right after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, September 7 (free lunch included!). Children, parents, and guardians are invited to join us as we get an overview and share lots of ways to get involved. Safe Sanctuary training (required every two years) will be offered.

[Sign up here to attend](#) (and ensure we have a lunch ready for you).

Contact [Rev. Drew West](#) or Jami Maguire for more information.



Wednesday Night Suppers 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

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

Adults: \$10; Children under 13 - \$7

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

August 27 - Grill Night

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Peach Cobbler



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



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.

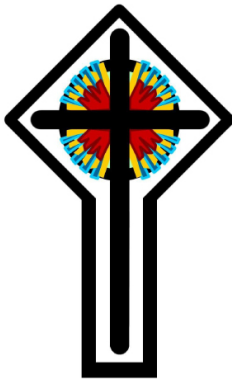
Contact Faye Livingston if you have questions.



Flower Ministry

The flowers from the Flower Ministry were so beautiful. It meant so much to receive them.

— Nancy Weinmeister



August 18, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$702,303.93
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$742,697.60
Difference	-\$ 40,393.67

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$257.00

115 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$27,845.19

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 ...

What a Day! Over 35,000 Meals Packed for Those in Need

This past Sunday, our church community showed up in a big way—packing an incredible 35,208 highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for people facing food insecurity around the world. At the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event, 222 compassionate and caring individuals gathered with a common purpose and made a massive impact—in less than two hours!

Working side-by-side, we formed an efficient (and joyful!) assembly line to label, fill, weigh, seal, box (2,934 boxes to be exact), and pray over the meals. Each bag was carefully filled with soy, a vitamin-rich nutrient packet, dehydrated vegetables, and rice—and yes, it's true that RICE GOES LAST!

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, teamwork, and purpose. One volunteer remarked, “Being together to do this is like a big party!” Another shared, “This is a favorite day of the year for me!” Moments like these remind us of the joy found in serving others.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to be the hands and feet of Christ in such a visible and meaningful way. Your love made a difference—and will continue to bless lives far beyond our walls.

