

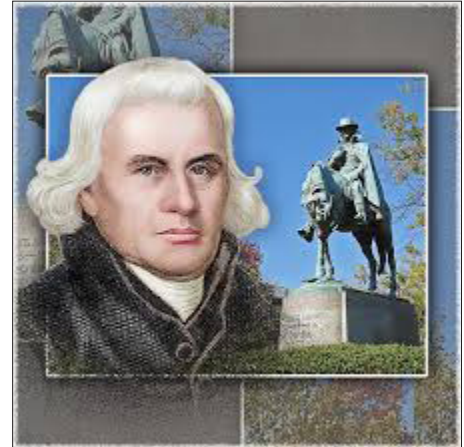
The Weekender

Keeping Company

Rev. Charles Robinson

A treasured colleague and her family once gave me a book titled *If Saddlebags Could Talk*. It is a collection of stories from United Methodism compiled by Frederick Maser and Robert Simpson. Chapter 2 is all about Bishop Francis Asbury, and the first section is called "The Secret Greatness..."

"Francis Asbury (1745-1816) was only 5 feet 9 inches tall, but morally and spiritually he was a giant. He was by no means a great preacher, but his impact on the congregations to which he preached and on the people who served under him was without equal."



"His weakness as a preacher can be illustrated by the story of a time when he and Jesse Lee were traveling together. The Bishop had an appointment to preach about 40 miles outside of Philadelphia. When the two men arrived, Bishop Asbury was not feeling well and he asked Lee to substitute for him. Lee was a powerful preacher and after his address the Bishop gave a brief exhortation. Some of the people said that they liked the Bishop's sermon, but they did not care for what the old man after him said. They had mistaken Lee for the Bishop."

"The Bishop's strength lay not in his preaching but in his sincerity and deep prayer life. It is said that when folks mocked him, his revenge was a prayer that God would bless them."

It seems to me that Bishop Asbury had the attitude and the spirit that the Apostle Paul was recommending in Romans chapter 12...

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them...Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Beloved never avenge yourselves...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

And from Matthew chapter 5, a portion of The Sermon on the Mount, these are the words of Jesus...

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven."

In one of my appointments a brother-in-Christ shared a Richard Blackaby book with me, *Putting A Face On Grace*. The book is full of stories and insights about responding to hurtful, mean-spirited people, with grace. Reading the book reminded me of something John Maxwell often says...

"Hurting people hurt people."

How will we respond the next time someone hurts us? Will we hurt them back? Or will we choose to keep company with Bishop Asbury, the Apostle Paul, Richard Blackaby, and the Nail-Scarred One?



14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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

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

Psalm 98:1-5; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

"Let's Be Fools"

The Rev. Kaylen short

CURRENT NEWS



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!](#)

Saturday

September 20

Great Day

of Service!

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

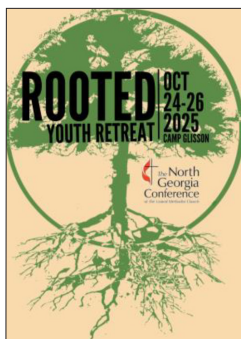
Joseph Sams School
Pregnancy Resource Center
Square Foot Ministry
Midwest Food Bank
The Gathering People

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



Titus II features Arlene McGruder on October 7

Enjoy a good meal at noon on Tuesday, October 7, with friends and hear from Judge Arlene McGruder, Ret. Be sure to ask about her history that influenced her through her career and in her passionate ministry today. Reserve your meal with the church office or with Martha Turner by noon on October 2.



ROOTED Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Glisson

The youth will head to Camp Glisson in Dahlonega October 24-26. Be sure to register your youth as soon as possible.

[Register Here.](#)

If you have any questions, please email youth@fayettevillefirst.com.

Youth Ministry Team



Special Events for Messy Church: Volunteers Needed

Woofstock

October 11

Woofstock - October 11 1-6 PM City Center Park, Fayetteville

Messy Church is hosting a booth at the city-wide Blessing of the Animals! Volunteer opportunities (Even an hour makes a difference!):

- Help set up at noon
- Greet families & share about Messy Church
- Assist with the Blessing of the Animals
- Help with wrap-up at 6 PM

Trunk-or-Treat

October 25

Trunk-or-Treat - October 25 11 AM -1 PM FFUMC Campus

- Spooky Messy Church & Trunk-or-Treat
- Volunteers or groups to host decorated trunks
- Cars to be parked by 10:30 AM

Ask questions or sign up with Chase Leonard or [Rev. Drew West](#).



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).



Save the Date for upcoming SAGE trips

October 9 – Apple Trip

Gather at church office at 8:45 AM for 9:00 AM departure for the Panorama Apple Orchards. Lunch will be at the "Double L" Cafe in Ellijay. \$2 Transportation fee.

November 20 – Trillith Studios Tour!

Meet at church office at 8:15 AM for 8:30 AM departure. Tour is from 9:00 until 10:30 AM - Brunch/Lunch TBD



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.

September 17 - G'Lish Catering

Roast Beef, Fried Corn, Vegetable Medley, Rolls, Strawberry Shortcake



September 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, Tuna, Dried Beans, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal - single serving, Grits - single serving, Corn Soup, Bar Soap, Jelly, Feminine Products

Clothes Pantry Needs: Socks for girls and boys, Boy's undershirts, Men's undershirts



October Save-the-Date Announcements

Put these things on your calendar for the coming month:

Charge Conference

Wednesday, October 22 at 7 PM

Stewardship Sunday

October 26



35th Annual Christmas Marketplace!

November 1 from 9 am - 3 pm

This UWF-sponsored fundraising event will need church-wide support again this year! Working together, we raised over \$13,300 last year and is our church's largest annual fundraiser.

The Christmas Marketplace offers:

- A tremendous outreach opportunity as we open our doors to the community, who come by the hundreds onto our campus for a glimpse of what FFUMC has to offer.
- All profits go to support local charitable organizations.
- Volunteers from our church family enjoy fellowship and get to know each other better as we work together to setup and cleanup, donate baked goods and household items, and welcome shoppers.
- Much-needed support for local small business owners, who depend on events like this every year.

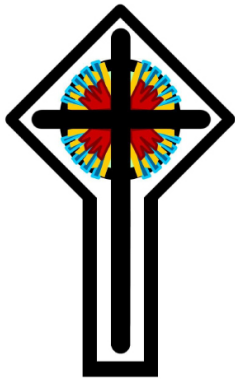
We hope you'll put it on your calendar to help make the 2025 Christmas Marketplace our best one yet! Look for more information soon.



Legacy Committee

There are no words to describe my gratitude for naming a Legacy Fund in Robbie's memory. what a beautiful and lasting way to honor his life which was spent in service to others both professionally and personally. FFUMC was such a wonderful and integral part of Robbie's life and he definitely left a lasting legacy with the many children, youth, and adults that he taught and mentored.

— Dottie Gray and family



September 8, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$787,452.69
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$831,929.57
Difference	-\$44,476.88

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$2,190.00

126 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$31,210.79

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 ...

Messy Church Is Always Out of this World!

Messy Church — our monthly intergenerational worship experience — invited us last month to consider what the heavens tell us about God. Participants have been prompted online to answer questions like "When looking at the sky, what do you find most beautiful?" and "How can we proclaim God's greatness in our own lives?" as they continue to engage with the theme. What are your answers?

Join in the Messy Church experience ... either as a participant or volunteer! You'll likely to see your world a little differently ... and perhaps meet a new friend. It's for ALL ages!



**Upcoming
Messy Church
Saturday**

11 AM - 1 PM

September 27

Stained Glass Messy

October 25

Spooky Messy

& Trunk-or-Treat

*Share the Messy Church
invitation with our community
during the Woofstock event at
City Center Park October 11.
Volunteer with Chase Leonard.*