



September 19, 2025

## The Weekender

### The Doorman

Rev. Drew West

*After Luke 15:1-10*

*There is joy in finding  
And grief in losing.*

*A discovered friend brings delight,  
a lost job creates an aching void.*

*Jesus sees many today—  
like coins beneath couch cushions,  
like sheep longing for true streams—  
each and every worth searching for.*

*We sometimes decide to be distant, lost.  
Yet the heavens roar in gladness when we finally come home.*

*I'd like to be the doorman.*



Luke recalls an interesting account in Luke 15 when tax collectors and sinners came to Jesus to listen to him speak. The writer of Luke points out that some Pharisees and scribes—who were presumably there first—were annoyed and grumbled with disdain, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus then tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. These parables expose how quickly we can judge others, labeling their choices as intentional rebellion and even writing some people off as hopeless.

But people are rarely that simple. Sure, some people choose to walk paths of unending defiance, but the truth is that the majority of us, myself included, fail to live up to the highest ideals of character and action.

The point of Jesus’ parables isn’t to say who is better or more worthy. Instead, they celebrate the joy of someone turning back—responding to God’s gracious invitation to come home.

What might our church and the world look like if we were the first ones to hold wide the door of God’s grace and say, “Welcome, we are so glad you are here!”



## 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

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

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

Psalm 113; Philemon 4-21

*"That's What It's All About"*

The Rev. Kaylen short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Great Day of Service is tomorrow: September 20

We are ready to go out and serve at our Great Day of Service tomorrow, Saturday, September 20. Didn't sign up? Come on out and we'll place you at a project that needs your help.

We start the day with breakfast in the gym from 7:45 to 8:15 AM followed by communion in the Chapel at 8:30 AM. Then we will head out to sites to work from 9 AM to 12:30 PM to do good!



### Stain Glass Messy Church is Saturday, September 27

Messy church, a different expression of church for all ages, gathers next Saturday, September 27, from 11 AM to 1 PM.

You can participate! How?

- Bring a neighbor, a friend, a child, a grandchild, or just yourself and share the experience together.
- Volunteer to be a helping hand. Contact Chase Leonard.



### Special Events for Messy Church: Volunteers Needed

**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

**Woofstock**

October 11

**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](#).**



## **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.



## **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 – Trilith 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

Sign up in the church office or at [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## **35th Annual Christmas Marketplace!**

### **Save the Date! 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.



## 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*



## Wednesday Night Suppers 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

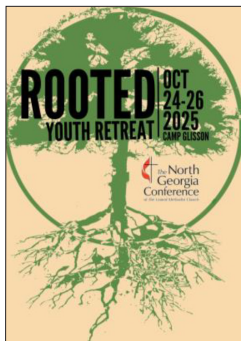
Let's eat together! Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).

### September 24 - Piccadilly

Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole, Mixed Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, Cake



## 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](mailto:youth@fayettevillefirst.com).

Youth Ministry Team



## 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



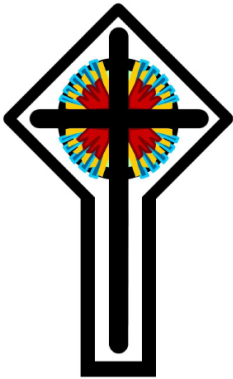
## Children's Sunday School makes a move!

You'll find Children's Sunday School in a new location this Sunday!

Go to C-140

Across from nursery near gym

Teachers will meet you there for large group time before breaking to age-level classrooms. See you Sunday!



## September 15, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$828,727.81
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$861,569.68
Difference	-\$32,841.87

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$725.00

129 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$31,736.16

### 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

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770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)



# inspired ...

## She's GREAT at 108!

We've shared many wonderful years together, and this week, we joyfully celebrate a truly remarkable milestone—Ms. Mildred Fitzgerald turned 108 on September 17!

With her snazzy style, radiant smile, and a heart full of love, Ms. Mildred continues to inspire everyone around her. Her warmth and grace light up every room, and we are so honored to celebrate this special day with her.

*Happy 108th Birthday, Ms. Mildred! Here's to you and the joy you bring to us all!*

