



September 5, 2025

The Weekender

Time to Leave

Rev. Charles Robinson

Another change of seasons is upon us. Autumn/fall is my favorite season of the year. Summer loosens its stifling, suffocating grip, and the brisk air invites us to breathe deeply and to live fully. All too soon the bitter cold of winter will come knocking. Life is passing by. Careful, lest life pass us by. Better than any writer that I've ever read, Frederick Buechner makes me aware of these truths. In his 1970 book, *The Alphabet of Grace*, he writes...



"Life will be bad for the children someday, needless to say, bad for us all before we're done, but I wake them up anyway into this rainy morning because it is not good for mortals to be alone and I need them more than they or I know to be whoever I am. I suppose that if the occasion presented itself, I would even die for them – not heroically like the dinner jacketed millionaires on the Titanic helping their ladies into the last lifeboats, but just piggishly as usual, because I couldn't help myself.

"I am Adam, and it is my birthday and the world is mine to name, and Katherine, I say, and the whole creation stops breathing as I reach out to touch the sleeping hand. All flesh is grass and like the flower of the field fades, and yet the morning stars sing together and all the sons of God shout for joy as she raises her head and opens one eye the color of wet slate. 'Two is not twice one,' G.K. Chesterton wrote. 'Two is a thousand times one. For all I know, maybe it was not even good for God to be alone.'

"Creation is underway. Breakfast is underway. Steam from the kettle is fogging up the windows. The cat mews to be let in out of the wet. Getting her bathrobe hooked on the knob of a drawer as she tears by, my wife throws up her hands 'Is it going to be this kind of day?' With my ear to the radio, I try to catch what the weather will be. Somebody is crying while somebody else says it is her own fault she is crying. We break fast together, break bread together fast, with the clock on the wall over my wife's head tick-tocking our time away, time away. Soon it will be time to leave for school. Soon enough it will be time to leave."

The 6th day of this month will mark the 20th anniversary of my mother's death. It is one of the many mile-markers reminding me that every journey has a terminal point, a finish line. Life is passing by. Careful, lest life pass us by without us having made the most of it.

Perhaps there's a word in all of this for each of us.



13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

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

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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

"For Such A Time As This"

The Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS

Sept. 7th @ 12:30 pm

Fellowship Hall.

Free lunch!



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.



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

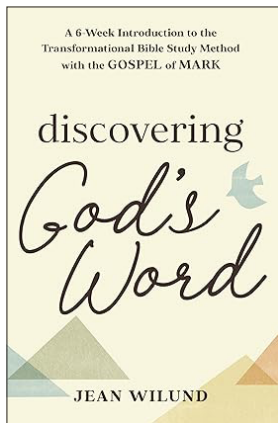
September 20

**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



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).



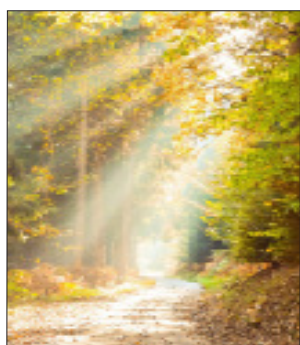
Save the Date for upcoming SAGE trips

October 9 – Apple Trip; details soon!

November 20 – Trillith Studios Tour!

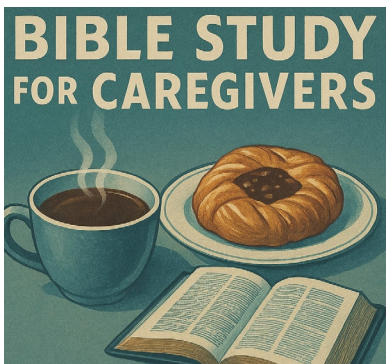
Meet at church office at 8:15 AM for 8:30 AM departure.

Tour is from 9:00 until 10:30 AM - Brunch/Lunch TBD



Good Grief Gals get together in Fellowship Hall this month

The next gathering of the Good Grief Gals will take place on Thursday, September 11, at 5:30 PM. **Note the place: the September meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at FFUMC.** This location will allow for easier sharing and group discussion. A dinner of sandwiches, chips, and dessert will be provided. Please let Janet Baileys know if you will attend so an accurate food order can be placed. We look forward to being together for a fun and uplifting evening.



Bible Study for Caregivers begins September 5

Join Jami Maguire, Director of Special Needs Ministry, for a weekly Bible Study every Friday in September. Come to sip on a cup of coffee or tea, snack on a treat and study together. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM. Questions? Contact Jami Maguire.



Support the Preschool AND get Anthony's Pizza!

Grab some slices and support our sweet preschool on September 9! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us!

A portion of all sales will be donated to FFUMC Preschool.

When: September 9 Time: 5 to 7 PM

Where: Anthony's Pizzeria Fayetteville



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 10 - Olive Garden

Lasagna, Salad, Bread Sticks, Cheesecake



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



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. 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.

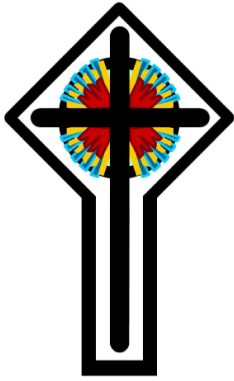
Sunday Morning Small Groups

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.



September 2, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$768,930.64
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$830,564.38
Difference	-\$61,633.74

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$50.00

124 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$30,431.74

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

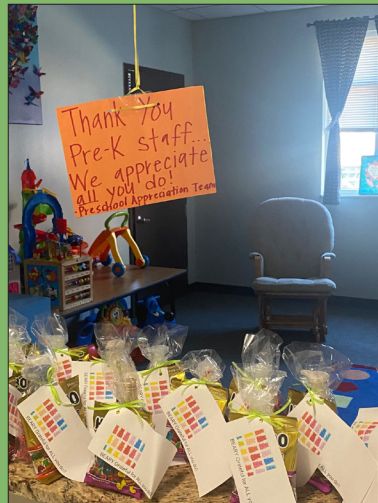
Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

inspired ...

Preschool SPLASHES into a new year!

We had a SPLISH-SPLASHING good time at Water Day! Students explored various sensory experiences (sand, dirt, and water, oh my!), practiced hand-eye coordination with pouring and scooping, and sharpened collaboration skills through play. Time flies when we're having fun!

Want to support Fayetteville First Preschool? Join us for Spirit Night this Tuesday, September 9, at Anthony's Pizzeria in Fayetteville! From 5 to 7 PM, a portion of all purchases will be donated to the preschool. Great food! Free money! It's a win-win! See you there!



Our Preschool Teacher Appreciation Team gets creative as they show gratitude for the hard work of the teachers. A package of gummy bears expresses, "BEARY grateful for all you do." Yes, we are!