



October 10, 2025

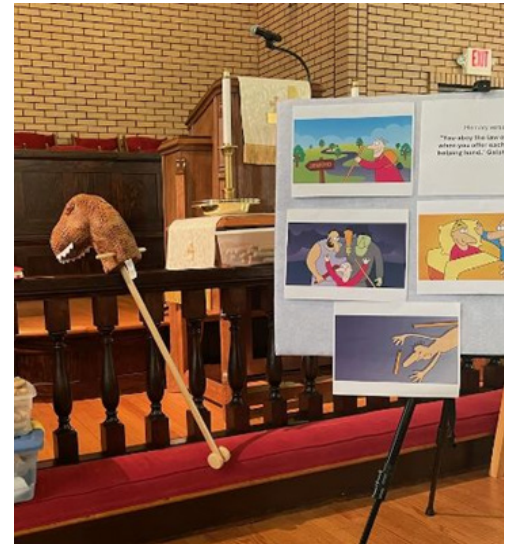
The Weekender

Who Jesus Welcomes

Rev. Drew West

One of the highlights of my week in church life comes on Thursday mornings, when I host chapel for our preschoolers. During the month of September, we focused on the character trait of kindness.

One of the stories we shared was when Jesus welcomed and blessed the children in Matthew 19:13-15. If you remember, the disciples tried to keep the children away. As I retold the story, I asked the preschoolers why the disciples might have thought children weren't important in that moment. Their answers made me smile: "children are loud," "children are messy," and "children are stinky."



In the ancient world, however, there were deeper reasons children were often overlooked. Generally speaking, elders were given respect, while youth were seen as having little to offer. Jeremiah himself resisted God's call because of his age: "Alas, Sovereign LORD, I do not know how to speak; I am too young" (Jeremiah 1:6). Generations later, Paul encouraged Timothy with these words: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young" (1 Timothy 4:12). That verse is often used today to remind young people to live a virtuous life, but in its original context it carried weight in a culture where youth were easily dismissed.

Children may have been loud, messy, and even stinky—but the disciples' rebuke came from a broader belief that children and young people had little value. Jesus' act of welcoming the children challenged that idea and broadcast a message that sees every person as essential.

Today, children and young people have a greater place in our social order, but that doesn't mean everyone in our society is truly welcomed. The story of Jesus blessing the children reminds us that he saw each person as infinitely valuable. There is no unsacred ground. There is no person whom God doesn't love.

Who are the people we could remind in our lives that they are welcomed by Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?



18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 12, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 66: 1-12; Philippians 4: 4-9

"Do Them"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month in the United Methodist Church! Express your appreciation in writing to the remarkable people who lead us in worship, preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer sacraments, and order the life of our church for service in mission and ministry: Kaylen Short, Drew West, Charles Robinson, and Nick Bowden. Drop your notes of appreciation in the offering plate, in the box in the Narthex, or bring them to the church office by Friday October 24. Cards will be presented to clergy Sunday October 26.



Church Directories are being printed

Our 2025 church directories will be here soon! The book should be available later in October or first of November with up-to-date information. We appreciate your patience as many have pitched in to get this to you.

Those who **had a photo taken by The Portrait Café** will receive one **FREE** printed directory per family unit photographed. We will be reserve one for you.

Those who **submitted photos, reused a previous photo, or just want a copy or extra copies** may order directories. Please email admin@fayettevillefirst.com with your contact information and number of requested copies. Cost will be \$10 each. Payment may be made by check, cash, or online with "Directory" clearly indicated as a memo/note.



Save the Date for upcoming SAGE trip

November 20 – Trilith Studios Tour

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

Studio tour is from 9:00 until 10:30 AM

Brunch/Lunch - TBD

Sign up in the church office or at admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

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





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](#).



Christmas Marketplace is coming soon! Our church's largest fundraiser is poised for another record-breaking year. We can use your help! Donate, Bake, Volunteer, Shop & Share!

- **Donate** your gently-used, sellable items beginning Mon, Oct 27, through 12 noon on Thurs, Oct 30.
- **Bake** your favorite homemade cookies, breads, cupcakes, brownies, muffins, or cakes for the Gingerbread House. Bring to C-140 (the nursery) by noon on Friday, Oct. 31.
- **Volunteers** are always needed to help sort donations in Timeless Treasures, make lunch in the Grill, greet guests, and cleanup.
- **Shop** for early Christmas gifts, unique handmade and household items from over 90 vendors.
- **Share** the event with family, friends & neighbors.

Hope to see everyone there!



Timeless Treasures Donation Drop-offs

Do you have gently-used, sellable items you'd like to donate to a worthy cause? We would love to have your donations for the Timeless Treasures sale at Christmas Marketplace. Use the following schedule to deliver your donations to the Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, Oct. 27, and ending on Thursday, Oct. 30. Contact Lauren Davis at lauren-davis@comcast.net for more information.

Donation Drop-off schedule:

Monday – Wednesday, October 27 – 29 from 9 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday, October 29 from 5 PM – 7 PM (After hours drop-off)

Thursday, October 30 from 9 AM - 12 noon

Use the Sanctuary driveway (off Jack Dettmering Way) and follow the signs to place the items as directed in the Fellowship Hall. Please be mindful of preschool pick-ups between 12:45-1:15 PM, and park on the street to carry your donations inside.

Be sure to have all your donations delivered no later than 12 noon on Thursday, October 30.

Tax-deductible donation receipts will be available in the Fellowship Hall.



October is our month! 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 (new or used) and Underwear (new only) in all sizes for adults and children, and clothing sizes 4 and above.*



Got vases? We can use 'em!

Ready to help spread some cheer? Our Flower Ministry is in need of vases!

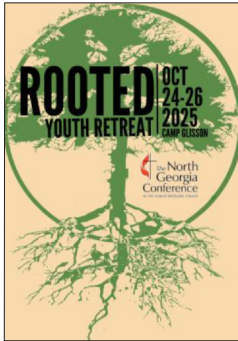
How you can help:

Leave clean vases in the Flower Ministry Room (B240) in the hall behind the chapel.

Only medium-sized vases are needed (no bud or small vases, please).

Vases may be new (\$1.25 from Dollar Tree!) or recycled/returned.

You can help share sunshine and smiles!



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



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.

October 15 - Tim's Country Kitchen

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Banana Pudding



Church Family

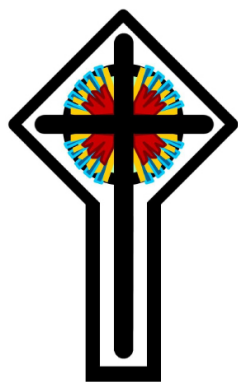
We are grateful to our church family for the love, prayers and support we received during our brother John's illness and at the time of his passing. Borrowing from Kaylen's sermon title last week, FFUMC embodies the spirit of 'True Riches'. - Lea Agnew and Jeffrey Ray

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you for the blanket and for your kindness to my sister. She loved her friends at the church. She will be missed. - Jane Novakoski

Flower Ministry

Thank you so much for the lovely floral arrangement. I appreciate your thoughtful and kind wishes brought to me through the beauty of flowers. God Bless, Rita Middleton



October 6, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$870,001.58
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$944,021.21
Difference	-\$74,019.63

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,682.00

139 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$34,096.86

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 AM to 4 PM (closed 12-1 PM 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



The church office will be closed

Monday, October 13, in observance of the national holiday.

Regular hours resume Tuesday, October 14.

inspired ...

What we can do to deliver hope

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can. You did that over the last few months as you collected pill bottles to be reused through Matthew 25 Ministries. Faye Livingston and Virginia Pope recently transported your "collection of love" to the ministry's headquarters near Cincinnati, Ohio. What do they do with them? Matthew 25: Ministries takes the donations of clean, empty, recapped, label and residue-free plastic pill bottles and includes them in shipments of medical supplies. Their pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment through reuse. In addition, Matthew 25 Ministries provides humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the poorest populations and those affected by disasters. The charity collects product donations from corporations, organizations, and individuals, then sorts, processes, and ships these items to people in need, partnering with local groups to ensure proper distribution to "the least of these." To contribute to this program in the future, **just collect your clean pill bottles at home.** Then look for a collection announcement in The Weekender in a few months or contact Faye Livingston. Working together, every little bit can make a big difference.



*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can."*