



October 17, 2025

The Weekender

Not a Sideline God

Rev. Charles Robinson

What I am about to say will make more sense if you have recently read Psalm 71 from a version of the Bible known as "The Message." The writer of this Psalm has a well developed faith, expressing belief not only in the reality of God, but in the caring presence of God. And, believe it or not, this really is an appropriate Psalm for football season. Verse 12 of Psalm 71 reads like this... "God, don't just watch from the sidelines. Come on! Run to my side!"

Do any of you recall the concept, in some sports, of the Player/Coach? To have been around long enough to have acquired the wisdom to coach, and to still be in physical shape to play the game was quite an accomplishment. That image of the Player/Coach came to mind when I read the words..."God, don't just watch from the sidelines. Come on! Run to my side!"

Retired UMC Pastor, James Harnish, of the Florida Annual Conference, wrote these words in an article titled Prayer That Makes A Difference...

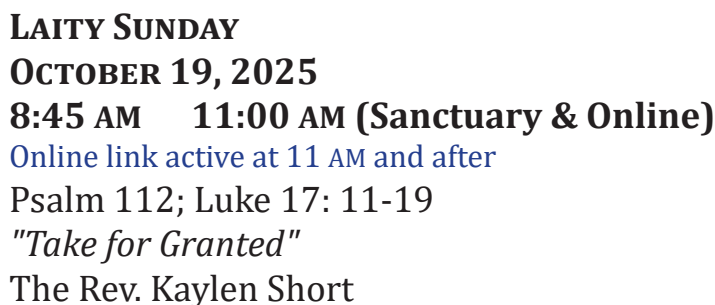
"Just about every Church I know talks about Prayer. But if your experience is like mine, you've attended more than your share of Church meetings that 'opened' with prayer and 'closed' with prayer but nothing that happened between the prayers that would have been any different if it had been a meeting of a civic organization or a corporate board. What we actually do and how we do it does not indicate that we expect the God to whom we pray to become an active participant in the process.

"We offer a polite nod, a tip of the hat to God, but we act as if we are called to make decisions on our own with God sitting on the sidelines, waiting to be asked to 'bless' what we have decided to do."

The Psalmist was imploring God to come to his defense; to get involved in the game. And it was not so much a desperate "Is there anybody up there?" cry for help as it was a calling out to The One whose love and care was as certain as the day was long.

One of my favorite hymns across the years has been How Firm A Foundation. There is a stanza of that hymn that was dropped (or fumbled to use football terminology) long ago, but the older I get the more I like it. It reflects the Psalmist's concerns about the 4th quarter of our lives..."Even down to old age, all my people shall prove, my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; And when hoary (frosty) hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne." But, whatever quarter the game is in for us, and whoever the opponents might be, I have no doubt that the prayer of the Psalmist is constantly being formed in our hearts..."God, don't just watch from the sidelines. Come on! Run to our sides!"

And there is by the side of the road, a Cross, a reminder that ours is a God who refuses to remain on the sidelines.



A close-up photograph of pecans. On the left, a white ceramic bowl is partially visible, filled with pecans. To the right of the bowl, several pecans are scattered on a piece of light-colored, textured burlap fabric. The background is a dark, rustic wooden surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the golden-brown, ribbed texture of the pecans.

*Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze & Enjoy*

Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal!

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 1.

To place a large order for personal use and gifts, [complete this order form](#) or get one on Sunday. Then drop the form along with your **exact payment in an envelope marked “Pecan Sales”** at the church office or in the collection plate by **Sunday, November 2**. Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 6 and 7 from 1 to 2 PM and at 12 noon on November 9. Make checks out to United Women in Faith or UWF.

Storybook Lane: Wednesday Night, October 29

A Sensory Sensitive Trick-or-Treat Experience

October 29 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Sunshine Trick or Treaters:

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church is presenting an opportunity for individuals with special needs to experience door-to-door trick or treating without all the stress! *Have you been looking for a special experience like this?* Join us in the upstairs hallway of building C where each door will be decorated in a storybook theme. All ages are welcome!

Volunteers and candy still welcome!

Would you like to help provide this unique experience for our community? We need donations of non-chocolate and non-nut candy, party favors, and individually packaged pretzels, crackers or other non-sweet treats. Donation boxes are located outside the Sanctuary and the entrance from Parking Lot B.

Can you help pass out treats? We need volunteers to simply hand out goodies to guests at the classroom doors. If you can help, please contact Jami Maguire.

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.





Stewardship Consecration and Celebration Sunday

During both services on Sunday, November 26, we will consecrate the financial commitments we have made for 2026. You are invited to bring a commitment card to the service as we look forward to a new year in ministry together.



The Grill at Christmas Marketplace serves hot lunch to our guests & vendors, and raises over \$1000 for our local charities in just over 3 hours! You can help by donating a batch of chili or vegetable beef soup. You can find the [chili and soup recipes here](#). Please deliver your chili or soup donation to the gym kitchen by 9 AM on Saturday, November 1. Any questions, contact Janet Baileys or Lea Agnew. Hope you'll join us!



Timeless Treasures Donation Items

We need your gently-used, sellable items for our Timeless Treasures sale. All proceeds go to local charities. Donations will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall beginning **Monday, Oct. 27, through 12 noon on Thursday, Oct. 30**. Contact Lauren Davis for more information.

Acceptable Items (including but not limited to):

Entertainment: Books, CDs, DVDs, Record Albums, games, puzzles, children's toys & stuffed animals
Housewares: Home décor, baskets, vases, floral centerpieces, picture frames
Kitchenware: Coffee cups, mugs, glasses, plates & bowls
Linens: Towels, napkins, tablecloths, placemats, blankets, quilts, table runners, throw rugs, bathmats
Furniture: Chairs, rocking chairs, tables, end tables, cabinets, dressers, lamps & lampshades, room rugs
Holiday decorations: Christmas, Halloween, July 4th, Easter
Jewelry: Necklaces, earrings, rings, brooches
Sporting goods: golf clubs, footballs, bicycles, volleyballs
Accessories: Purses, hats, belts, scarves
Kitchen tools & utensils: Mixers, blenders, appliances, mixing bowls, spatulas, plastic containers
Office & paper products: Scrapbooking materials, copy paper, paper cutter
Health & beauty: Curling irons, blow dryers, hand mirrors, bathroom accessories

Items not accepted: Computers, printers, cell phones, mattresses, cribs, clothing, shoes.

All items must be delivered clean, unbroken and in working condition.

Please be sure to have all your donations delivered **no later than noon on Thursday, Oct, 30**.

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

SAGE
SENIOR ADULTS
GOING EVERYWHERE



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.

Charge Conference on Saturday, October 22



Please remember our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 22, at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, as we welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Julie Boone! This special event is a time for our church family to celebrate the ministry of Fayetteville First UMC, reflect on the past year, and participate in electing leadership for the upcoming year.

Rev. Dr. Boone brings exceptional experience, leadership, and vision to our district, and we are excited to hear her guidance. We hope to see you there!

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.

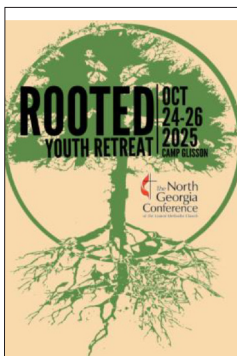


October is our month! Pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

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.



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



Acolyte Training

Incoming 3rd graders are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 11 AM service on November 2. After lunch, there will be training for acolytes and crucifiers. We invite those who are already serving to join us!



Wednesday Night Suppers 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

Let's eat together! 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

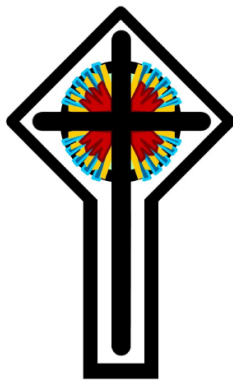
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Banana Pudding



Church Family

To the entire membership, my many thanks for the cards, calls and gestures of love and care. I especially wish to thank the Flower Ministry. FFUMC will always be my 2nd home. Love, Paul Wiley

Thank you so much to my beloved Church family for the beautiful flowers and plants that have been delivered to me. I cannot express how much joy they have brought to me and how greatly my spirits have been lifted.
Harriett Hazelton



October 14, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$888,468.63
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$936,222.03
Difference	-\$47,753.40

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$927.00

144 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$35,141.77

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

inspired ...

A Volunteer-Led Landscaping Project

The JAG volunteers have nearly finished the landscaping project located in The Field area centered on the Harp Memorial Bench and picnic area. In the near future, at least two more picnic tables will be added to this space under the trees to complete the project.

Gil Cook and Wayne Harris designed the plan and initiated the project. JAG volunteers working on the project included Gil, Wayne, Ron Disney, Jeff Hansen, Danny Beck, Faye Livingston, John Kimmons, and Bob Dunn.

Danny had several trees cut down on his property and shredded into mulch by the tree company he hired to do the work. Pickup trucks furnished by JAG team members were loaded with mulch at Danny's place and ferried to the Field, where the mulch was unloaded and distributed. The area was then bordered by landscape stones.



The Board of Trustees approved the funds to cover the cost of the stone border and to underlie the area with landscape cloth. Danny contributed the mulch at no cost to the church.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

