

The Weekender

What Constitutes Worship?

Rev. Drew West

During worship this past Sunday, I found myself quietly responding in the pew. Not with a shout, but with a subtle, almost unnoticeable gesture of agreement with something Kaylen said (though I can't recall the exact words). It was as if my whole body was caught up in the Spirit's tug—a gentle reminder that worship can touch us in unexpected ways.

That moment made me reflect on a question we seem to be asking together here at FFUMC: What constitutes worship?

For many of us, worship comes alive through familiar practices—singing hymns, hearing the sermon, passing the peace, praying the Lord's Prayer, or receiving the sacraments.

These are deeply meaningful and beautiful expressions of praise. Yet, others may not always feel touched in the same way, and this leads to other forms of worship that may look or feel different but are no less authentic.

Even within our own Methodist tradition, worship has taken many shapes. When Methodism began in England, early Methodists were often called "enthusiasts," a not-so-flattering term at the time. Their preaching and practices pushed against the boundaries of respectability, but what drove them was a desire for a holy life—one that engaged heart, mind, and body in full devotion to Christ.

I have experienced this question most clearly through our monthly Messy Church worship service. Some see Messy Church as simply an outreach, or suggest it "counts" as worship only if participants also come back on Sunday morning. After all, Messy Church can feel...well, messy. But I've come to see the games we play, the crafts we create, and the interactive storytelling we share as genuine acts of worship. Different, yes—but no less holy. In the same way, others find themselves closest to God while gardening, painting, cooking, or walking in nature. These moments, too, can become worship when they lift our hearts in gratitude to the One from whom all blessings flow.

For me, writing poetry is often a profound act of worship. Something about putting pen to paper with a posture of devotion draws my mind to God and fills me with praise.

If you've never explored worship in a new way, I invite you to join us this Saturday for Messy Church in the gym from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You might discover a fresh sense of God's presence as you engage your body, mind, and heart in a new expression of praise to our good and gracious God.





16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

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

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

Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19

"True Riches"

The Rev. Kaylen short

CURRENT NEWS



**Giving that lasts
and grows**

Legacy Giving Makes a Difference!

The FFUMC Legacy Endowment Fund committee is pleased to announce these grants were awarded in August 2025:

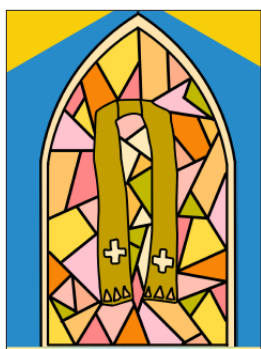
- \$700 to provide durable signage for Messy Church. This grant was provided from the Lawrence Mission Fund..
- \$5500 to help cover the costs of construction, food distribution and VBS supplies during the February 2026 El Salvador mission trip. This grant was also provided from the Lawrence Mission Fund.
- \$22,346 to help our Trustees replace one of the two HVAC systems in the Family Life Center. This grant was split between the Robbie Gray Facility Maintenance fund and the Special Needs fund.

Our Legacy Giving program has grown to just over \$840,000 in just 10 years. There are currently nine Legacy Giving funds:

Steve McAdams General fund
Carol Webb Childrens Choir fund
Joel Blalock Music fund
Special Needs fund
Youth Ministry fund

Rev. Allyson & Kevin Lawrence Mission fund
Robbie Gray Facility Maintenance fund
Clara Martin Stained Glass Window fund
Children's Ministry fund

Grants are approved by the Legacy committee in February and August each year. The next round of requests must be received no later than February 1, 2026. If you'd like more information, Legacy brochures and grant request forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Kaylen Short or Lauren Davis, Legacy Committee chair.



Stain Glass Messy Church is Saturday, September 27

Messy church, a different expression of church for all ages, gathers 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.



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.



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.



Woofstock

October 11

Trunk-or-Treat

October 25

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

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](#).

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.



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!



October is our month!

October is our special month to help at Fayette Samaritans

We are called to help our neighbors always, and each year in October our church helps Fayette Samaritans with great intention! Our donations 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, Canned Fruit, Boxed Mac and cheese, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Rice - 1 or 2 pounds, Pasta Sauce, Corn, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Feminine Products*

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



Wednesday Night Suppers 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

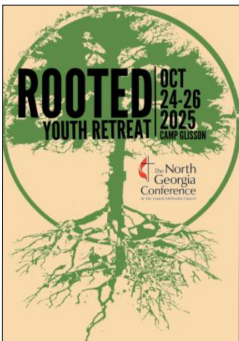
Let's eat together! Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

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.

October 1 - Hog Pit

Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Potato Chips, Dessert



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



Church Family and Flower Ministry

I would like to thank the flower ministry for the gorgeous flowers I received this week. You certainly know how to make this girl feel special! I would also thank you for your prayers, cards, texts, visits and calls I have had since surgery. We are truly blessed at FFUMC with such loving people. May the Lord Bless You and Keep You!

— Lynne Wood



Children's Sunday School makes a move!

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

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!



October Save-the-Date Announcements

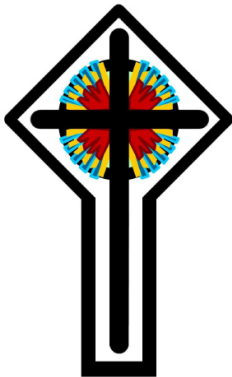
Put these things on your calendar for the coming month:

Charge Conference

Wednesday, October 22 at 7 PM

Stewardship Sunday

October 26



September 22, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$839,652.24
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$861,569.68
Difference	-\$21,917.44

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$0

131 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$32,176.15

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 ...

Great Day of Service ... Doing good all over!

Thanks to MANY open hearts and helping hands, we spread love all over our community last Saturday with 68 volunteers involved with the day. After a continental breakfast in the gym and communion in the chapel, we served at seven charities and two homes. Work projects included painting, washing windows, cleaning outside furniture, repairing and staining two decks, steam cleaning sanctuary chairs, organizing clothes and canned foods, spreading mulch, trimming trees and general yard cleanup. The teams provided services to The Joseph Sams School, Pregnancy Resource Center, Square Foot Ministry, Southwest Christian Care, Fayette Samaritans, The I-58 Mission, Midwest Food Bank and two private residences. Thank you!

