



# The Weekender

November 21, 2025

## Gratitude in the Darkness

Rev. Charles Robinson

If every month of the year were to be assigned a theme, there are many of us who would claim Gratitude for the month of November. For those of us living in this blessed land, we are strongly influenced by the fourth Thursday of the month, Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday. I understand the connection between Thanksgiving and harvest time, but I also know that as the month progresses the days grow shorter and the dark nights longer. For me, that observation begs the question, "Is it possible to give thanks in times of darkness?" Not only is it possible, but there are numerous precedents.

In the Old Testament book of Psalms, there are numerous examples of the psalmist expressing gratitude while surrounded by the shadows. Psalm 30 has been subtitled "Thanksgiving for Recovery from Grave Illness." The Psalm concludes with these words from verses 11 and 12..."You have turned my mourning into dancing; You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever."

In the New Testament, countless times the Apostle Paul gives thanks from the depressing darkness of a prison. These thoughts are recorded in Colossians 4:2-3..."Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with Thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the world, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison."

Letters and Papers from Prison is a collection of writings from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Pastor imprisoned in Germany during the darkest days of World War II. Time and time again he concluded his letters with Thanksgiving. On June 4, 1943 he wrote to his parents..."Today is Ascension Day, and that means it is a day of great joy for all who can believe that Christ rules the world and our lives...Is everything all right with you? All is well with me; I'm better again, have enough to eat, sleep fairly well. Love to all the family, the children and friends. With love and many Thanks, your Dietrich."

Many of the great hymns of the Church were composed during times of darkness. August Ludvig Storm, at the age of 37, suffered a back ailment that left him crippled for life. In the second stanza of a hymn titled Thanks to God he wrote these lyrics..."Thanks for thorns as well as roses, Thanks for weakness and for health; Thanks for clouds as well as sunshine, Thanks for poverty and wealth! Thanks for pain as well as pleasure."

Earlier this month we observed All Saints Day. When I recall the Saints who have shaped my life, I remember folks who were able to give Thanks in times of darkness. You probably recall some folks like that as well. How can we become like that, able to Give Thanks in the darkness? Perhaps by practicing in the light.



## CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 6:25-34

"The Power of Gratitude"

The Rev. Charles Robinson

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Angel Tree Gifts – Drop Off by Sunday, November 23

Thanks to everyone who is participating in our annual Angel Tree. This mission provides the opportunity to share Christmas gifts with Bloom foster children. The gifts will be given out at the Bloom Christmas party.

The unwrapped gifts are due by Sunday, November 23.

Please return the angel ornament with your gifts. Gifts may be returned to the church office or Welcome Center. Any questions, please contact Charlotte McAdams at

404-862-9791 or [charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com)



### FFUMC Preschool Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser!

Get ready for the holidays and support our preschool! From November 1–30, 2025, you can help us reach our fundraising goal by purchasing a delicious Honey Baked Ham—or any of their other tasty goodies—through our special link below.

Whether you're planning a family feast or looking for the perfect gift, every order helps our preschool thrive!

□ Order here: [https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/FFUMC\\_Preschool\\_Thanksgiving](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/FFUMC_Preschool_Thanksgiving)

Thank you for supporting FFUMC Preschool and making this holiday season extra sweet!"



### Thanksgiving Week Schedule

- Tuesday, Nov. 25: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7-9 PM
- Wednesday, Nov. 26: Church office closed;  
No programs for children, adults, or choir
- Thursday, Nov. 27: Church office closed

### Intergenerational Sunday School – 5th Sundays in the Gym!

Starting November 30, join our Children's, Youth, and Sunshine Ministries in the Family Life Center Gym for a fun, faith-filled morning for all ages! Enjoy games, music, crafts, a short devotional, and a breakfast potluck (bring something to share). It's a great way to learn, play, and grow together in God's love. Contact Rev. Drew West at [dwest@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:dwest@fayettevillefirst.com) with any questions!



Titus II – December 2

Begin December with music and joy! The Inman Elementary Chorus will present Christmas music at the Titus II Lunch & Learn program for our seniors.

When: Tuesday, December 2 at Noon Where: Gym

Lunch: \$8 per person (meal from a local restaurant)

Call Martha Turner or the church office to make your reservation by Wednesday, November 26.

### Join us for a very festive Messy Church!

Come celebrate the season on Saturday, December 6th, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in the gym. We'll enjoy a festive time together as we explore the wonder of Jesus' birth through hands-on activities, crafts, and storytelling. Families can grab a photo with Santa, share in a warm lunch, and soak in the joy of this special season. All are welcome—bring a friend!





## United Women in Faith – Christmas Banquet

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 • 6:00 PM

“Advent Expressions Through Music”

Highlighting the poetry of Ann Weems and featuring favorite singers accompanied by Dr. Judy Hames.

Dinner: Chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, cranberry salad, and chocolate cake

\$10 at the door • Reservations due by Thursday, Dec. 4

Contact Deb Cole at 770-826-7451.

Hosted by Bethany Circle – all are welcome!

Our next SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere) Trip is Thursday December 18th. We are headed for the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta. Meet at the Church Office at 8:30 a.m. for departure at 8:45. Cost is \$30.00 per person and includes the transportation fee. Plans are to enjoy a Chick-Fil-A box lunch (approximate cost \$12). This should be a fun and exciting trip. Please sign up by contacting the Church Office no later than noon on December 16th. Questions? Contact Charles Robinon.



### December Save the Dates

Make plans to join us throughout December as we celebrate the season together:

- Children's Christmas Pageant – Wednesday, December 10
- Service of Grief and Hope - Sunday, December 14
- Christmas Caroling - Wednesday December 17
- Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 21
- Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary 11:00 pm in the Chapel

We hope you'll mark your calendars and be part of these meaningful moments in the life of our church.



## NO Wednesday Night Supper – November 26th

Wednesday Night Supper will resume Dec. 3 with Piccadilly: fried chicken, potato casserole, roasted vegetables, rolls & dessert.

Cost: Adults \$10 | Children under 13 \$7

Sign up by noon each Monday: 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com)



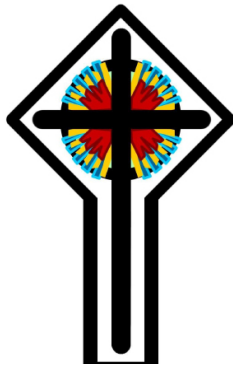
## November pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

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, Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Boxed Mac & Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Hamburger Helper, Jiffy Mix Cornbread, Coffee

**Clothes Pantry Needs:** All sizes of women's and girl's new underwear.



## November 17, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,020,228.65
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,054,948.85
Difference	-\$34,720.20

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$400.00

165 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$39,931.96

### 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

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## Messy Church Goes Vintage at Azalea Estates

Messy Church hit the road last Saturday for a special "Vintage Messy Church" experience at Azalea Estates! Residents and volunteers enjoyed an afternoon of crafting, singing, and celebrating the spirit of gratitude in this season. It was a joyful opportunity to share God's love across generations, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it a meaningful day.

