



The Weekender

November 28, 2025

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

It’s the day after Thanksgiving. Many of us enjoyed a wonderful day yesterday—full tables, warm laughter, and a deep sense of gratitude. But others may have had a very different experience. The truth is, there is often much not to be thankful for. Rev. Kaylen Short has reminded us in previous sermons of humanity’s “negativity bias”—our tendency to notice what has gone wrong long before we recognize what has gone right. That bias makes me pause when I read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and other scriptures urging us toward gratitude as a central posture of faithful living.

But still, what if we don’t feel thankful? Here, it helps to notice what 1 Thessalonians does not say. It does not command us to “give thanks for all circumstances.” Instead, it invites us to “give thanks in all circumstances.” How is that possible?

The writers of 1 Thessalonians ground their giving thanks in a concrete reality: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of his coming again to renew all things. The events of Christ—past and future—become the anchor we hold onto no matter our present situation. Walter Brueggemann captures this beautifully in *The Prophetic Imagination*:

“The crucifixion of Jesus is not to be understood simply . . . as the sacrifice of a noble man, nor should we too quickly assign a cultic, priestly theory of atonement to the event. Rather, we might see in the crucifixion of Jesus the ultimate act of prophetic criticism in which Jesus announces the end of a world of death.”

If that’s true, then everything that hinders our thanks is merely a feature of a world on its way to redemption. Christian gratitude has never meant ignoring what is wrong or focusing only on what is right. Instead, Christians through the centuries have learned to give thanks in all things because our gratitude is rooted not in the circumstances themselves, but in the One who can always spark hope in the places that seem most hopeless—and who promises that death, and all that resembles it, will be no more.

Rev. Drew West



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Isaiah 2:1-5

Series: "Let Heaven and Nature Sing"

Sermon: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



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

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

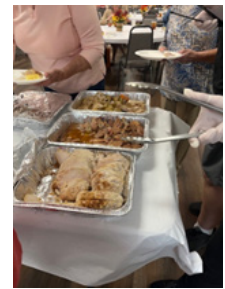


Our Bloom Angel Tree Mission was a huge success!

All 58 "wishes" for Bloom foster children have been fulfilled. Gifts purchased included wigs, dolls, play kitchens, Hot Wheels, skateboards, scooters, and everything in between. Because of the generosity of our congregation, these children will know they are loved on Christmas morning.

Thank you for making such a meaningful difference in their lives!

A heartfelt thank you to Kathy Silva and Bill Webb for sharing their time and talent to make our Wednesday Night Potluck so special. Their delicious turkey and ham were the highlight of the evening, bringing warmth, joy, and the true spirit of community to all who attended.



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 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.

Wendy Hayman's Nativities on Display in Milner

The beautiful nativity exhibit our church enjoyed last year will once again be featured—this time at Rock Spring Church, 219 Rock Springs Rd., Milner.

Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6:

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 7:

3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

(Sunday includes a live nativity, Christmas tree lighting, and additional activities.)



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!



Tell the story! Christmas Pageant Comes December 10

We act out the story of Christmas with our children each year. Just show up for the annual Christmas Pageant. We'll have costumes and a script. No rehearsal needed. After Wednesday night dinner on December 10, we'll get the play together and begin at 6 PM. Questions? Contact Rev. Drew West.

It's almost that time again. Save the date for Christmas caroling and spreading cheer. You're invited to enjoy supper at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall for regular Wednesday Night Dinner; then we'll load vehicles and start caroling at 5:30 PM.





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 Robinson.

Service of Hope & Grief – Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m., Chapel.
A gentle, reflective service for anyone navigating loss this holiday season.



Christmas on the Square – Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m., Fayetteville First UMC. Enjoy John Rutter's Gloria, favorite Christmas carols, and music for brass, organ, and percussion, featuring The Chancel Choir; members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; sopranos Savannah Cathey and Madalyn Mentor; mezzo-soprano Luanne Harms; alto Maria McDaniel; organists Marty Alexander and Charles Higgs; and conductors Nicholas Bowden and Sam Burch.

Christmas Poinsettias – Orders Due Monday, Dec. 16

Bring holiday beauty to our worship space and honor loved ones!

Poinsettias are \$15 each, will be listed in the Christmas Eve Order of Worship, and available to take home after the services. Proceeds support the FFUMC Flower Ministry. Pay anytime online by [clicking here](#) or grab a form in the narthex on Sundays.





Wednesday Night Supper – December 3rd

Wednesday Night Supper – December 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious meal from Piccadilly featuring fried chicken, potato casserole, roasted vegetables, rolls, and dessert.

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

Sign up by noon each Monday: 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com



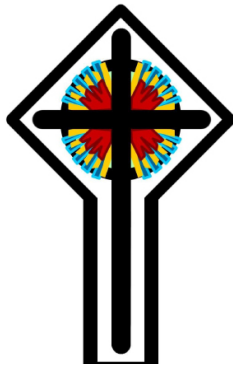
November pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

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 24, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,035,893.70
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,068,667.52
Difference	-\$32,773.82

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$150.00

167 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$40,294.05

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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SAGE Trip to Trilith Studios - What a Great Day!



Our SAGE group had a wonderful time touring Trilith Studios last Thursday! Everyone enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking and the chance to explore one of the premier studio lots in the country. Thank you to all who joined us for a fun and memorable outing. Looking forward to our next adventure together!

