



The Weekender

December 12, 2025

The Importance of a Good Interruption

By Rev. Drew. D. West

My confession: I do not like interruptions. I begin each day with a, somewhat, clear idea of how I want to spend my time and what I hope to accomplish. Lately, though, I've realized that some interruptions are actually good—worth noticing, even worth welcoming. At the same time, those good interruptions are often the hardest to notice when our schedules are packed full. And during the Christmas season, that busyness seems to multiply. Yet it is precisely in these full, crowded seasons that paying attention to holy interruptions may matter most.

So I have some work to do here, and maybe you do too. Where might we learn the value of a good interruption?

I'm first reminded of Moses and the burning bush. An encounter that Moses had not planned or envisioned for his day of watching over sheep, and yet it was that interruption that ended up being one of the most important moments of all time. Moses didn't do much with it, he simply turned towards it.

There is another account of a story recalled by the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 4th and 5th centuries about a certain saint who handled an interruption well, the story goes:

St. Agathon, one of the great Desert Fathers of Egypt, was walking one day on the road toward the marketplace when he came across a paralyzed beggar lying by the side of the road. The man called out to him: "Where are you going, abba?" Agathon replied, "To the market to sell some of the baskets I have made." The beggar said, "Out of love for me, carry me there."

Rather than arguing or hesitating, Agathon lifted the man onto his shoulders and carried him all the way to the marketplace. When they arrived, the beggar said, "Put me down where you will sell your baskets." Agathon did so. After some time, Agathon sold one of his baskets. The beggar immediately said: "What did you get for that?" Agathon told him the price. "Give it to me," the beggar said. And Agathon gave him the money without protest. Agathon then sold another basket. Again the beggar asked for the money. Again, Agathon handed it over freely.

Finally, all the baskets were sold. The beggar then said: "Now, take me back to the place where you found me." Once more, Agathon lifted him onto his shoulders and carried him back to the roadside where he had first found him. Then, as Agathon gently set the man down, the beggar said: "Agathon, you are blessed by the Lord in heaven and on earth." And in that very moment, the beggar vanished. Only then did Agathon realize that the one he had carried, fed, and served was an angel, sent by God to test his love.

I don't share that story to suggest that everything is a test from God, but rather to say that sometimes what feels like a distraction or an interruption isn't a distraction at all. A good interruption can become an opportunity for our faith and our sense of wonder to grow, and for us to realize that God is even more present and active than we first imagined. I pray we open our eyes to the good and holy interruptions before us.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

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

Service of Lessons & Carols

CURRENT NEWS

Service of Hope & Grief – Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 PM, Chapel

Join us for a gentle, reflective service in the Chapel as we come together to acknowledge grief and offer hope. This special service provides a quiet, comforting space for anyone experiencing loss, change, or challenges during the holiday season. Through prayer, scripture, and music, we will find moments of peace, remembrance, and encouragement. All are welcome to attend, whether you are seeking solace, support, or simply a time of reflection.



Christmas Caroling – This Wednesday, December 17

It's that time again! This Wednesday, December 17th, join us for a joyful evening of Christmas caroling and spreading cheer. We'll begin with a 5:00 PM supper in the Fellowship Hall as part of our regular Wednesday Night Dinner, featuring Anthony's Pizza.

At 5:30 PM, we'll load up vehicles and head out together to share carols, smiles, and Christmas joy with our church family and community. All ages are welcome—come be part of the music, the fellowship, and the holiday spirit!

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 \$42.00 per person and includes the transportation fee, ticket, and a Chick-Fil-A box lunch. 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.

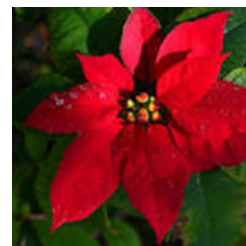




Christmas on the Square – Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.,

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. 15 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.



CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24 | 4 PM, 6 PM, 11 PM

Celebrate the Christ Child with traditional Candlelight Worship and Communion. Services are at 4 & 6 PM in the Sanctuary and 11 PM in the Chapel.

Save the Date: Blood Drive

Give the gift of life this season! Our next Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, December 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the gym. Mark your calendars and plan to donate!



Holiday Office & Program Schedule

The church office will be closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve & New Year's Day.

Wednesday night programs will resume January 7:

- Wednesday Night Supper – 5 PM
- Children, Youth, and Adult Programs – 5:30 PM



Wednesday Night Supper – December 17th

Wednesday Night Supper – December 17 | 5:00 p.m.

One the Menu: Anthony's Pizza

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

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



Fayette Samaritans – December Needs

Pantry: Peanut butter, jelly, soup, boxed cereal & mashed potatoes, beef & chicken broth, feminine products.

Clothes Closet: All sizes of women's/girls' underwear and men's/boys' underwear.

Thank you for helping those in need!



December 8, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,080,680.45
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,105,518.32
Difference	-\$24,837.87

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,325.00

170 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$41,091.88

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 ...



Messy Church Fun!

We had a wonderful time celebrating the season at last week's Messy Church! Families enjoyed hands-on activities, crafts, storytelling, and even a visit from Santa. Thank you to everyone who joined us—your smiles made the day extra special!



Christmas Fun With Gingerbread Houses!

Our youth had a great time getting creative and a little messy as they decorated gingerbread houses together! From candy-covered rooftops to frosting masterpieces, it was a festive afternoon filled with laughter, teamwork, and Christmas cheer.

