

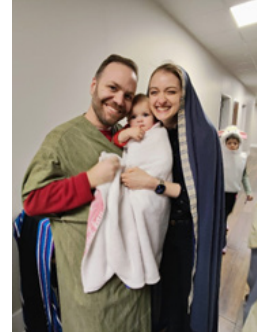


# The Weekender

December 26, 2025

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

**The Rev. Kaylen Short**



If you are reading this article on the day it was sent out via email, then on this exact day two years ago Alli and I moved out of our parsonage in Pine Mountain to embark upon a new adventure here in Fayetteville. Since then, our lives have changed a lot. In just nine months, I started here at FFUMC, we bought a house and moved into said house, I began my MBA coursework, we announced that we were expecting, Abby was born. We now sit at nearly the two year mark of our arrival here, and while a lot has continued to change in our life, you, beloved church, have been the constant.

You've continually shown up for us in ways big and small. You've celebrated with us, prayed for us, and given us the grace to find our footing in a new community. You've welcomed our family with open arms, and you've trusted us to walk alongside you in ministry. That kind of support doesn't go unnoticed, and it certainly doesn't go unappreciated.

As we look ahead to 2026, I find myself genuinely excited about what's in front of us. There's a sweet Spirit here. There's possibility. This a congregation full of people who love God, care for one another, and are willing to make a difference in this community. I'm grateful for the work we've already done together, and I'm even more hopeful about what's still to come. Thank you for being the kind of church that makes pastoral ministry not just possible, but joyful.



## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28, 2025

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon "What Difference Does It Make?"

Rev. Charles Robinson

## CURRENT NEWS

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**All blood types are needed.**

Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.



### Give Blood – December 28

8 AM–1 PM | FFUMC Gym

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is coming up on Sunday, December 28, from 8 AM to 1 PM in the gym. Signing up is easy! Visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org), select our Fayetteville First UMC drive on December 28, and encourage others to donate as well. Please sign up in advance if possible. For questions or assistance, email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com)

### Holiday Office & Program Schedule

The church office will be closed 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



### Epiphany Potluck Breakfast – January 4 at 10 AM

Bring your gifts of breakfast casseroles, sticky buns, fruit, and all your favorites as we celebrate Epiphany together with a church-wide potluck breakfast on Sunday, January 4, at 10 AM. Join us for warm fellowship, delicious food, and a joyful start to the season. All are welcome!



### Be Vigilant This Christmas

Unfortunately, the Christmas season is a busy time for scammers and fraudsters too. There are already reports of several churches receiving scam emails from scammers pretending to be the senior pastor requesting gift cards. Thus far, we do not know of any of these emails targeting our folks this time around, but we encourage you to stay vigilant. Any gifts that the church is giving to the staff have already been distributed and we will never request gift cards directly from members.

### Titus II Luncheon – January 6

Titus II will meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 6, in the Fellowship Hall.

Our program will feature music by Danny Beck & Bill Webb, with an

“Opening Act” performed by our amazing Adults-in-Action!

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



We hope you'll join us for a delightful time of fellowship, music, and good food. Call Martha Turner or the church office to make your reservation by Tuesday, December 30th.



### Messy Church – January 31 | 11:00 a.m.

Join us for Messy Church on Tuesday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. for a Ren Faire

Mess full of fun, creativity, and hands-on faith for all ages!

We're excited to welcome special music guests Barehead Bards, bringing lively, Renaissance-inspired sounds to our celebration.

Come ready for a joyful, interactive morning of music, activities, and fellowship—costumes welcome!

## **Preschool and Tidal Wave Car Wash Fundraiser!**

Looking for the perfect gift for that hard-to-shop-for person? We've got you covered! Support our Preschool by purchasing a Graph-X4 Car Wash ticket—a \$30 value for only \$10!

To reserve your tickets, email  
fayettevillefirstpreschool@gmail.com.

Payments can be made online (choose "Preschool Car Wash" from the drop down menu) or by cash/check. Give the gift of a sparkling clean car and support a great cause!



## **Coming Up in January**



**Janaury 1 - Noon Year's Day Party**

**January 7 – Wednesday Supper & Programs Resume**

**Kick off the new year with a great meal and the return of all midweek ministries.**

**January 11 – Souper Bowl V Can Drive Begins**

**Help us kick off our annual collection of canned goods for our community partners.**

**January 31 – Messy Church**

**Bring the whole family for hands-on faith, crafts, and fun!**

**Mark Your 2026 Calendar!**

**Stay tuned for details as we begin preparing for next year's events.**

**No Wednesday Night Supper December 31 2025.**

**Supper and programs will resume January 7, 2026**

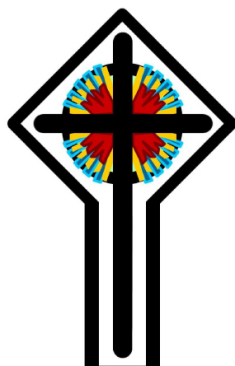


**Fayette Samaritans – December Needs**

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

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

**Thank you for helping those in need!**



## **December 22, 2025 Financials**

**Operating Budget 2025**

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Year-to-Date Receipts | \$1,134,146.42 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$1,162,018.12 |
| Difference            | -\$27,871.70   |

**Benevolence**

Benevolence funds received this week: \$890.00

184 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$43,481.23

**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

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)



*inspired ...*



MERRY *Christmas*  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!