



The Weekender

December 5, 2025

Who Wins? (Begin by reading Luke 21:25-36) Charles Robinson

When the clock runs out in the fourth quarter as the field goal attempt sails toward the crossbar...When we are reading the last chapter of a captivating novel...When we see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great glory."

Most of us seem to be endowed with a healthy sense of curiosity. We want to know when something is going to end and what the final score will be...Who Wins? The passage of Scripture mentioned above begins by saying that there will be signs in the sun, the moon, the stars...and on earth; distress, confusion, and fear. Then they/we will see the Son of Man coming. When these things are starting, we are told, we should stand up and raise our heads because our redemption is drawing near.

Folks have always been fascinated with how it might all end. Look at the popularity of the Left Behind series of novels from 1995 – 2007. Some folks have told me that the books were fantastic and others have said that the writing was not very well done and the theology was even worse. What is not debatable is our curiosity about how its all going to conclude.

Early December and we find ourselves standing just inside the door of Advent, the beginning of a new Church Year. It's a time to recall and celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ, a time to acknowledge anew His daily comings, and a time to prepare our hearts for the final coming. The Word of Hope that I want to lift up is from Luke 21:28..."Raise your heads (lift up your heads), because your redemption is drawing near."

"Lift up your heads!" That's not an uncommon phrase throughout Scripture. Sometimes we are able to lift our own heads; sometimes assistance is required because the load is heavy and our strength inadequate. Psalm 3:3 says..."But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the One who lifts up my head." We miss so much when we fail to look up. So many folks shuffle through life with their heads hung low...health concerns, financial burdens, children who struggle, conflicts at work, an empty chair at the table. I'm reminded of the Merle Haggard song..."If We Make It Through December."

"And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low. Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow. Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary roads and hear the angels sing."

"Behold, I bring you Good News of great joy."

"Lift up your heads! Your redemption is drawing near!"

We don't know, exactly, all the details of how it will end, or when. But we do know Who Wins!

Here's to a blessed Advent, and a Merry Christmas!



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025

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

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

Mark 1:1-8

Series: "Let Heaven and Nature Sing"

Sermon: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



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!

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.)



Thank You, Preschool Teacher Appreciation Team!

The December gift bags were delivered on December 1 – what a lovely way to start the season of lights! Your thoughtfulness brings joy to our teachers and helps brighten the season.



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! Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling and spreading cheer. We'll enjoy supper at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for 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 and joy with our church family and community.

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.



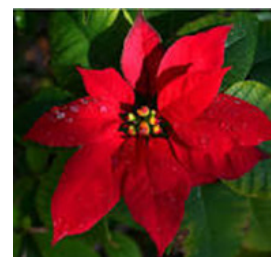
Service of Hope & Grief – Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m., Chapel. A gentle, reflective service for anyone navigating loss this holiday season.



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



Blood Drive

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!

Dear Church Family,

I appreciate all the ways you've shown love and support to me and Nancy as I recuperate. The prayer blanket, flowers, cards, calls, fruit, and texts have been an inspiration and a comfort. Thank you so much.



Love, Wayne Musselwhite



Wednesday Night Supper – December 10th

Wednesday Night Supper – December 10 | 5:00 p.m.

Dig in! Hog Pit is serving up some BBQ, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, and dessert.

Come hungry!

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

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

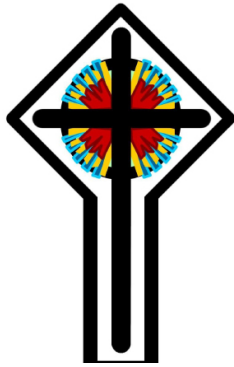


Fayette Samaritans – December Needs

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 1, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,056,748.90
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,100,377.57
Difference	-\$43,628.67

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$650.00

168 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$40,594.05

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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December Titus II Luncheon



Our annual December Titus II Luncheon continued the beloved tradition of welcoming the Inman Elementary Choir. Their joyful holiday music filled the room, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. Guests enjoyed good food, fellowship, and the spirit of the season. It was a wonderful way to celebrate community and the season of lights!

