



The Weekender

January 30, 2026

The Final Act

Rev. Charles Robinson

I believe that it was Teddy Roosevelt who first said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." There is an old English Proverb that states, "Everyone must row with the oars she or he has been given." There are other ways of saying the same thing like: Play the hand you are dealt. Bloom where you are planted. Arrange whatever pieces come your way.

DOING WHAT WE CAN – It's so easy to dwell on our inabilities or disabilities instead of focusing on what we can do, on what our God given opportunities and abilities are. A few thoughts for those of us who are blessed to be friends, members, leaders of FFUMC...

-Use your influence to encourage and build others up.

-Use your time to show others that being at Church matters...It demonstrates our loyalty.

-Use your resources to undergird all of our life-changing ministries.

WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT – Worrying about what we don't have can lead to a form of paralysis.

Knowing what we have and employing these gifts for the Glory of God frees us up to make a difference. And it is certainly not necessary that we all have the same abilities and resources. It is not intended to be that way. One of the primary New Testament images of the Church is that of the Body of Christ. If we were all noses, how would we see? If we were all arms, how would we walk?

WHERE WE ARE – There are days for all of us when we wish we were elsewhere, far away from the hindrances, the headaches, the heartbreaks. But everybody has to be somewhere, and here we are. What has God called us to do, right here and right now? Feeling inadequate about who we are and what we have to offer? Let's remember that the outcome is always up to God.

A Danish theologian of another generation tells the tale of a needle worker who was asked by her Priest to make a new Altar Cloth. She was honored by the request and then frustrated by the work. It had to be just right. And she put into this Altar Cloth flowers and morning dew, stars and clouds and skies of blue. She was a masterful worker, but something was missing.

The Priest called and said, "I must have it." / "It isn't finished!" / "Bring it!" / She brought it apologetically. The Priest took it, and with a prayer of dedication, placed it on the Altar. And lo, it was beautiful. And it was complete. And she saw that The Final Act was not hers.

Amen.



4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 1, 2026
8:45 AM 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)
Online link active at 11 AM and after
Matthew 5: 17-26
"Isn't That Excessive?"
Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



SOUPER BOWL V

sponsored by
**FAYETTEVILLE FIRST
UMC**

SOUPER BOWL V Update! Team Kaylen versus Team Drew for the final!

Souper Bowl V is getting closer to its dramatic conclusion. Team Drew leads the way and upset Team Nick to reach the final. Team Kaylen is close behind team Drew and managed to beat Team Charles in round 1. Now Team Charles joins forces with Team Kaylen and Team Nick joins forces with Team Drew. Who will win? Those in need of a good meal of course!

Please continue to donate any variety of 16.3–18.8 oz ready-to-eat soup (not condensed). Our goal is to collect 2,600 cans this year and surpass 10,000 total cans donated since the start of FFUMC's Souper Bowl!

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

Join us for Messy Church on Saturday, 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!

Legacy Grant Requests

Please remember that grant requests for funding from the Legacy Committee are due by end of the day on February 1st. They must be reviewed and signed off on by a staff member in order to be considered complete. If you have questions contact Legacy Committee Chair, Lauren Davis, or the church office.





Titus II Luncheon – February 3

Titus II will meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 3, in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Valentine's program will feature singer Penny Miller.

Lunch: \$8 per person (Chicken pot pie, canberry congealed salad, and dessert)

SAGE TRIP

Sage is going to Moreland to visit the Lewis Grizzard Museum and the Erskine Caldwell Museum on Tuesday, February 10. Those participating will meet at the church office at 8:15 am and depart at 8:30. The group will go to Sprayberry's BBQ in Newnan for lunch after the tours. The cost is \$12 plus a \$2 transportation fee. Please contact the church office to sign up ASAP.

Our Summer Lunch family is in need of the following items:

- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Stove

If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net.

Thank you!

Please be in prayer for our El Salvador mission trip

Please be in prayer for Rev. Short and our team that will be in Ahuachapan, El Salvador beginning on January 31st. They'll be hosting VBS, distributing food, and performing construction on the Methodist school in that region.



Leadership Consecration Service on February 15th

We had to delay our leadership consecration service this year due to the weather on 1/25. However, we will be acknowledging our 2026 lay leadership on Sunday February 15th and giving out a list of leaders for you to be in prayer for this year.



Wednesday Night Supper — February 4th

Time: 5:00 PM | Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Adults \$10 | Children under 13 \$7 (pay at the door)

Menu: Hog Pit- Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips & Dessert

Sign up by 4:00 PM Monday via the church office (770-461-4313), admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or a pew card.

Upcoming February Events:

Titus II Luncheon – February 3

Sage Trip to Lewis Grizzard Museum (Moreland) – February 10

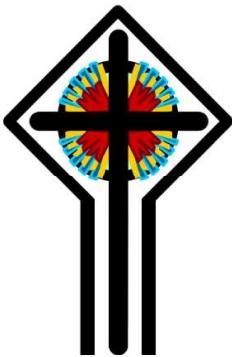
Lenten Lunch – February 18

Ash Wednesday Service – February 18 at 6:00 PM

Messy Church – February 28



January 26, 2026 Financials



Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$102,584.01

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$91,419.37

Difference \$11,164.64

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$140

13 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$3,438.28.

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

Oh Where Oh Where Have Our Directories Gone?

Rev. Kaylen Short

I heard rave reviews on my overcommunicating how weather decisions were going to be made in last week's weekender. Thus, I decided to overcommunicate again about a topic we have received a lot of questions about: the printed directories. I'll try to keep this to the Short version (that's a pun, you see).

When we first began the process of updating our 2025 church directories, the work naturally fell under Joan's care as our Communications Director, as she had so faithfully handled previous directories. Midway through 2025, Joan requested, and the SPRC voted to support, her transition into a new role beginning January 1, 2026. She would step into the position of Director of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation and gradually roll out of her communications responsibilities. We anticipated plenty of time for a smooth handoff to other team members or to bring in additional support if needed.

As you know, things did not unfold as planned, as Joan is currently on leave from the responsibilities of her new role. Somewhere in the midst of all that transition, the directory process was unintentionally lost in the shuffle.

I was given the materials the directory company needed to move the project forward and sent them along as instructed. After a lengthy delay, however, the company responded that additional items were required. I worked with our team to prepare what they requested, but since none of us had handled this process before, it took longer than expected. Eventually, it turned out those additional items weren't needed after all and they were already included in the original materials sent.

Blessedly, our beloved Joan came to the rescue once again at the beginning of 2026. She resubmitted everything with a clearer, more thorough explanation, and this time nothing was lost in translation. We now have a draft of the (now 2026!) directories, which we are currently reviewing for errors. I promise—I've seen the draft with my own eyes, and it really does exist!

Once the draft is approved, printing will begin, and I'll be able to provide a more concrete timeline for when you can expect your printed directory. I apologize for the ordeal this has become, and I am deeply grateful for your patience, grace, and understanding along the way.

Grace,
Kaylen