



The Weekender

February 27, 2026

Holy Dissatisfaction
By Rev. Drew West

The thought crossed my mind while watching yet another TV show, “Does this truly matter? What about that short story I was going to write? What about that book I was going to read? What about those friends I haven’t caught up with in a while? Is what I’m doing something of value, or am I just distracting myself from something more important?”

Normally, I am okay with being distracted. After all, sometimes sitting down and watching a TV show is exactly what I need. Rest is holy. But lately, I’ve been sensing an inner dissatisfaction—one that feels like an invitation.

Lent often becomes a launching point because it gives us permission to recognize those deeper desires. I think I know why, based on my own life, this is the case. Fall came and went in a blur as I raced into the rhythm of the kids’ school year. November and December were filled with good things—holy days, family traditions, meaningful moments—but, wow, where did it all go? Then January arrived, and I spent it recovering.

There’s something about the long stretch between Ash Wednesday and Easter—a season quieter than the frenzy of Advent—that creates space for deeper questions. It allows us to notice what we are dissatisfied with in our lives, our health, our habits, and even the fractures in our communities. During Lent, we finally say, “Enough is enough.” We find new inspiration from Christ’s faithfulness amid difficulty and opposition.

Creation, too, is waking up. The first hints of spring break through the cold, and the light lingers a little longer in the evenings. New shoots and flowers emerge. I find myself asking, “Am I becoming the kind of person I hope to be? What do I need to release? What must I rearrange?”

The United Methodist movement was born from this same holy dissatisfaction—a longing within the Church of England, shaped by Pietist influence, for transformed hearts and faithful living. That restless desire for deeper love and discipline fueled its growth in America, inspiring practices like class meetings, circuit riding, social reform, and a vision of holiness that shaped both personal faith and public life.

And, more importantly, we can trace this impulse back to the life of Christ. Jesus was not content with surface-level righteousness or comfortable religion. He saw the gaps between what was and what could be. He came close to the wounded and hurting. He challenged social norms that harmed the vulnerable. He called his disciples beyond complacency into costly love. His holy dissatisfaction was not rooted in irritation but in a vision of a world made new by redeeming love.

To lean into holy dissatisfaction is to resist numbing ourselves with endless distraction. It is to allow God to unsettle us—not to shame us, but to shape us. If you are feeling dissatisfied this time of year, you are not alone. We are surrounded by so many in our church who are longing and working for deep change. Together and by God’s grace we will do great things.



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

John 3: 1- 17

"The Obvious isn't Always Apparent"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

Messy Church - Musical Messy

Join us for Messy Church on Saturday, February 28, for a special Musical Messy experience! This interactive, family-friendly evening will include music, creativity, fun activities, and fellowship as we explore faith together in a relaxed and joyful setting. All ages are welcome — come ready to sing, create, and have fun!



Titus II Luncheon - March 3 Titus II will meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch: \$8 per person Menu- Picadilly: Corn Beef & Cabbage, Rolls, & Dessert.

Wednesday Night Supper March 4, 2026

Let's eat together!

Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

Advantages: Friendship! Be with people you really like.

Hassle Free! Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by 4 PM on Mondays by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

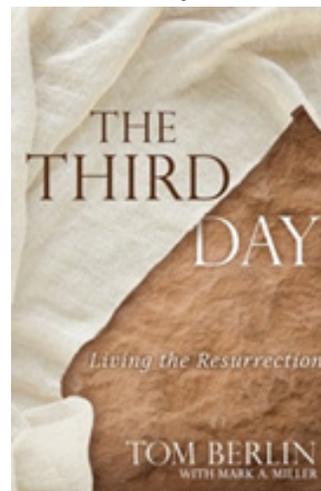
March 4 Tim's Country Kitchen - Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls & Dessert!



During the season of Lent, the United Women in Faith will host Lenten Lunches from 12:00–1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Each week, a different speaker will share a chapter from the Lenten book study *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin.

Lunches in the following weeks will take place on Thursdays. Cost: \$5 per lunch

- **March 5 - Hosts: Marie Lamb Circle | Speaker: Florence Prine**
- March 12 - Hosts: Ethel Taylor Circle | Speaker: Danny Beck
- March 19 - Hosts: Friendship Circle | Speaker: Dave Lee
- March 26 - Hosts: Mary Martha Hope Circle | Speaker: Barb Combs
- April 2 - Hosts: To Be Announced | Speaker: Nick Bowden



Questions about the Lenten Lunches, please contact Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761 or fayecl@mindspring.com.



March 7th - Local Retreat at the Calvin Center

Cost is \$25 per attendee

(a discount code is available for families who may need assistance)

Register -> <https://onrealm.org/FFUMC/PublicRegistrations>

[Event?linkString=NDcyMGVhNGYtNGMwNi00MTZkLWE5Y2QtYjNjODAxNmNhMThj](https://onrealm.org/FFUMC/PublicRegistrations?linkString=NDcyMGVhNGYtNGMwNi00MTZkLWE5Y2QtYjNjODAxNmNhMThj)

Save the Date: Great Day of Service April 18

Get ready for another Great Day of Service, a work time set aside for us to go be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

What to do right now? SAVE THE DATE!

Registration will open soon!

Great Day of Service coming April 18.



BenevoLENT

To fulfill the sacrificial spirit of the Lenten season, think no further than our own church and community. The Fayetteville First UMC Benevolence Program is one of the few sources of financial help for Fayette County people struggling to pay bills.



There are many such families and individuals around us. The economic troubles we hear about in the news – layoffs, reduced work hours, rising rents, and skyrocketing utility bills – are very real to several of our neighbors.

Following the recent cold weather, requests have surged for help to avoid disconnection of gas or electric service. As a result, our Benevolence Fund balance has dipped to an uncomfortable level.

So please think BenevoLENT as a fitting way to sacrifice some of our discretionary resources, in order for our neighbors to have necessities.

The Benevolence Team

You're Invited: VBS 2026 Kick Off Party!

Join us for our VBS Kick Off Party on Sunday, March 15th, at 12 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy food, fellowship, and prayer as we prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School. Whether you are a returning volunteer, a parent, or new to FFUMC VBS, we invite you to be part of the excitement!



- *Theme: Snowball Mountain Challenge*
- *Theme Verse: Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*
- *VBS Dates: June 22-24 at the church.*

March Events



- Tuesday, March 3 – Titus II
- Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Lenten Lunch
- Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Saturday, March 21 – Messy Church
- Sunday, March 22 – Mozart Requiem Concert
- Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt



"Don't let clouds of pollen get you down, buy your Tidal Wave Car Wash tickets today! During March, you can get a \$30 value car wash for only \$10 and support the future generation of FFUMC. All proceeds will go towards funding a new playground space to support the next generation of believers and students at FFUMC. You can buy your tickets directly during the 11a service (see Sandra Watson), during Wednesday Night Suppers (see Lauren Davis), or at any of the Lenten Lunches in March (see Faye Livingston). If you'd prefer to order your tickets online, you can fill out this form tinyurl.com/PreschoolCarWash to reserve and purchase tickets. Tickets available while supplies last so get yours soon!"



Our Summer Lunch family is in need of the following items: ■ Bedside tables and dresser. If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net. Thank you!



March Donation Needs

Thank you for continuing to support our neighbors in need! All donations of food, clothing, and monetary gifts are appreciated.

Most Needed Pantry Items:

Peanut butter, jelly, dried beans, 2-lb. bags of rice, cookies, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Clothes Closet Needs:

New women's underwear (all sizes), new men's boxer shorts (all sizes), and socks for men and women.

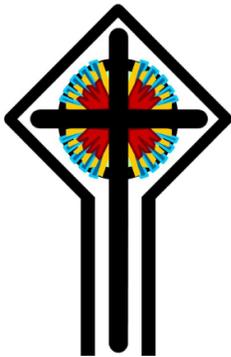
Thank you, dear Fayetteville First family, for all your support through our unexpected journey. We are grateful for each card, phone call, meal, visit, message, e-mail and expression. The resonance with Nan Merrill's paraphrase of Psalm 46:10 is deep:

*"Be still and know that I am Love.
Awaken! Befriend justice and mercy;
Do you not know you bear my Love?
Who among you will respond?"
O Blessed One, You know all hearts,
You are ever with us;
May Love ever guide our lives!*



You have responded as Love shines brightly through you in beautiful, creative and unanticipated ways. We are blessed. Thank you.

– Tim and Joan Aycock and June Hanks



February 23, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$208,981.08
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$199,168.16
Difference	\$9,812.72

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$100.00

31 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$7,795.88

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...

In Case You Missed It — Sunday Night with Nathan Avakian



Sunday evening's concert with Nathan Avakian was truly inspiring. Through powerful organ selections and beautifully expressive moments at the keyboard, he filled the church with music that was both uplifting and deeply moving.

If you weren't able to attend — or would love to experience it again — take time to watch the concert. It was a special night of faith, artistry, and amazing talent you won't want to miss.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/BjgVVBVaxOg?si=tez6-w-bqd19OHYh>

