



February 6, 2026

# The Weekender

## ***Inward Minimalism: A Poem after Micah 6:8***

Rev. Drew West

I befriended complexity,  
convenience,  
and cast off the essentials.  
I reached for the heavens  
and missed Heaven  
coming down.

My thirst lives on—more, more, more.  
My soul, like a cluttered cupboard,  
could not find its true form.

But then the Whisperer  
explained a surprising truth:  
“Seek inward minimalism—  
Carry and radiate only a few things, not many.”



*Justice. Kindness. Reverence.*

During the season of Epiphany, we begin to see what good news enfleshed looks like. The world awakens to Christ—God of true God, Light of true Light—made known in ordinary places and human lives. The Baptism of our Lord, the calling of the disciples, and the Sermon on the Mount all reveal something surprising: our assumptions about holiness may be misaligned.

Epiphany calls us back to the basics. Returning to this form of Christianity does not mean ignoring the complexity of our faith. Rather, it means grounding those complexities in God’s original intent for human life, made clear in Jesus: love God and neighbor with your all.

This year, the Jesus stories we encounter during Epiphany are paired with the prophetic voices of Isaiah and Micah. Like Jesus, the prophets were not inventing something new; they were calling people back from a misdirected religion toward faithfulness, justice, and mercy.

Many of us know what it feels like when religious life becomes confusing or exhausting. We do need a variety of disciplines and avenues for growth. But the gospel makes a radical claim: Christ comes to a searching, longing people, and invites all people to treat the world and others as God would. The Christian faith is not meant to bury us, but to set us and others free.

When I read Micah 6:8, I’m reminded of Jesus’ invitation: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29–30). Today, and in this season, remember that God in Christ reaches for you and invites you to reach to others.



**5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2026**  
**8:45 AM 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)**  
Online link active at 11 AM and after  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
"The Posture of True Renewal"  
Rev. Drew West

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **SOUPER BOWL V**

sponsored by

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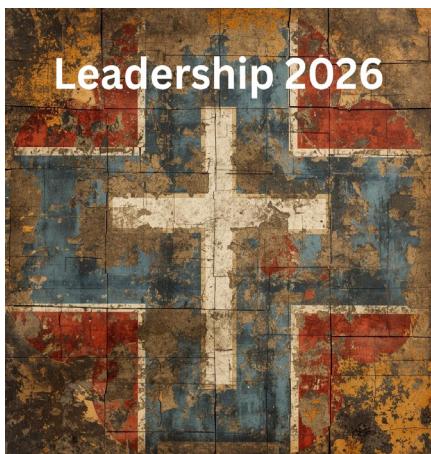
#### **SOUPER BOWL V Update!**

#### **Team Kaylen versus Team Drew for the final!**

The finish line is in sight! The Souper Bowl contest is heating up as the deadline approaches—current scores as of Wednesday evening show **Drew in the lead with 797** followed closely by **Kaylen with 715**. We're just **1,100 cans away from our goal of 2,600**, which would bring our grand total to 10,000 cans donated since the start of Souper Bowl. It's not too late to make a big impact! Publix is running a Campbell's soup BOGO, and Aldi has their brand at a similar price, making it the perfect time to stock up. Please place your soup on the table in the **Welcome Center** by **10:45 AM on Sunday, February 8**, so it can be counted. And one last reminder — ***no condensed soup, please!*** Let's rally and finish strong!

#### **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.



#### **Leadership Consecration Service on February 15th**

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



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

- Bedroom dresser
- Sofa
- Living room chair
- Stove

If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact Cindy Hall at [harvecin@charter.net](mailto:harvecin@charter.net). Thank you!

## Wednesday Night Supper February 11

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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

**February 11:** G'Lish Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread Sticks & Dessert!



### Upcoming February Events

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

Lenten Lunch – February 18 at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall

Ash Wednesday Service – February 18 at 6:00 PM

Messy Church – February 28

## Good Grief Gals get together at Partners Pizza this month

The Good Grief Gals is a support group for widows in our area who are moving through the loss of their spouse. We gather at **Partners Pizza in Fayetteville at 5:30 pm** on the second Thursday of each month.

**February 12** will be our next opportunity to meet. We look forward to sharing this evening together and being present to listen and support each other as we walk this grief journey together.



If you would like to bring a donation with you that evening, we are collecting cans of soup to contribute to the Souper Bowl Challenge at FFUMC. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Baileys.



## Winter Break is Coming: No Wednesday Night Programs

These Wednesday Night Programs will not meet during Winter Break on **February 18**:

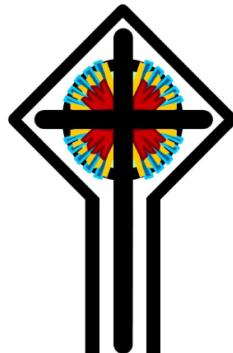
Wednesday Night Supper

Children's Choir Programs

Youth Ministry

Adult Parenting Group

We'll see you again on February 25!



## February 2, 2026 Financials

### Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$130,336.41
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$142,283.04
Difference	(\$11,946.63)

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1058

17 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$4,584.94

### 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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770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)