



The Weekender

March 13, 2026

By Rev. Kaylen Short
Unexpected Encounters

All throughout this season of Lent I have been preaching about growth, ongoing personal transformation, and encountering God in unexpected people. Sometimes when I preach about these things, I grow concerned about the preaching optics. I never want it to sound like I am casting judgment from on high. Instead, I hope these sermons are heard as mutual recognition and mutual confession that we all still have room to grow and become more like Christ. After all, that is what the season of Lent is all about.

Earlier this week I was given a very tangible reminder of how God shows up in unexpected people and of my own need for growth.

On my way back to the office after lunch I received a text. "Someone is waiting here for you. They're asking to pray with a pastor."

My first instinct was not particularly holy. I immediately checked the time and thought about the meeting I was already running late for. If I am honest, I have also become a little skeptical about situations like this. It is uncommon for someone with no connection to the church to simply walk in and ask for prayer. More often there is a sales pitch coming, or a request for money after our Benevolence Team has already given them an answer they did not like.

When I arrived, I met "Vivian" (name changed for anonymity). And it turns out she really did just want prayer.

We sat and talked for a bit. I asked what she wanted me to pray for and listened as she shared what was weighing on her heart. Even as I tried to be attentive and pastoral, part of me still wondered if there was more coming.

We prayed together and lifted those concerns to God. When we finished, I assumed our conversation was over. Then she said, "One more thing," and began digging through her purse. I braced myself for the inevitable bill or flyer.

Instead she pulled out some cash and said she wanted to give it to our benevolence ministry. She had received help from the church some time ago. Now that she was in a more stable place, she wanted to give back so someone else could be helped.

In that moment I realized something. Vivian may have needed the prayer, but I was the one who needed the encounter. During Lent, God still surprises us. Maybe especially us pastors.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Ephesians 5: 8 - 14

"Light Walking"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Order Easter Flowers – Due Monday, March 30

Help enhance our Easter worship space with lilies and hydrangeas. Plants are \$15 each, and order forms are available in Sunday's bulletin.

Flowers may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, and names will be listed in the Easter Order of Worship. After the final Easter service, you may take a plant home or share it with someone else.



Proceeds support the FFUMC Flower Ministry, which provides weekly arrangements to bless others throughout the year.

Note: The flower order has already been placed, so plants will be available first-come, first-served after the final Easter service.

Lost & Found

Missing a pair of glasses? We have several pairs on the table in the narthex. Please check to see if yours is there and collect them today. Any unclaimed glasses will be donated to charity in a few weeks.



Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open at Fayetteville First UMC Preschool! We invite families to join our nurturing, faith-based learning community where children grow socially, emotionally, and academically. If you are interested in learning more or scheduling a tour, please call 678-263-8603 or email FayettevilleFirstPreschool@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting your family!

BenevoLENT Indeed!

What a wonderful response the congregation has made to our plea for help! Nearly \$5000 already has been added to the Benevolence Fund as a result – a timely infusion of support to address emergencies like imminent eviction and utility cut-off.

We are very grateful for your generosity, on behalf of Fayette County folks who call Fayetteville First United Methodist Church in need of help. Our team is privileged to represent your Christ-like spirit to our community.

The Benevolence Team:



Randy Riddell
Linda Ladd
Cindy Hall
Julie Beck
Lea Agnew



Church Work Day – Saturday, March 28 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Men are hosting a Church Workday on Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dust off your overalls and work boots, grab your gloves, and come on out! There will be a variety of projects around campus, and many hands make light work. All are welcome to join in and help care for our church home.



Lenten Lunch Series – 12:00 Noon

March 19 Dave Lee

March 26 – Barb Combs

April 2 – Nick Bowden

Messy Church – March 21

11:00 AM



Chancel Choir Concert – Mozart Requiem

March 22 – 7:00 PM

Palm Sunday – March 29

Worship – 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday on March 29!

All children are invited to gather in the courtyard

at 10:45 AM to receive palm fronds and prepare for the Palm

Processional at the beginning of the 11:00 AM worship service.



Easter Egg Hunt Sunday March 29

Following worship, families are invited to parking lot B for food, bouncy houses, and an Easter egg hunt in the playground area. It will be a joyful time of celebration for children and families!

Questions? Contact Rev. Drew West.



Maundy Thursday – April 2

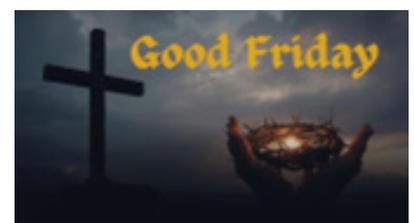
Service of Word & Table in the Sanctuary – 7:00 PM

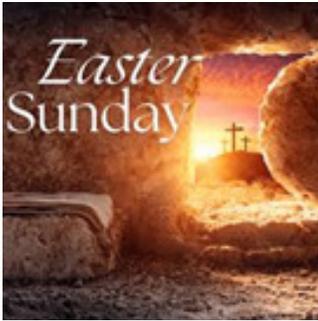
Rev. Charles Robinson

Good Friday – April 3

Service of Remembrance in the Sanctuary – 7:00 PM

Rev. Drew West

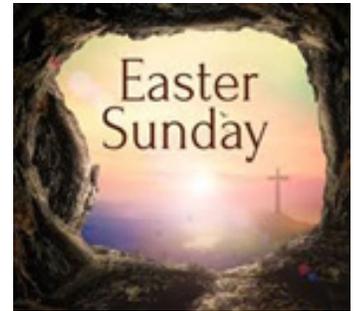




Easter Sunday – April 5
Celebration and Worship
Communion Sunrise Service
in the Field – 7:00 AM

Worship in the Chapel – 8:45 AM
Worship in the Sanctuary – 11:00 AM

Rev. Kaylen Short



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART'S
REQUIEM

SUNDAY Chancel Choir and Orchestra
MARCH 22, 2026
7:00PM

Nicholas Bowden, Conductor
Savannah Cathey, Soprano
Luanne Harms, Alto
Jonathan Pilkington, Tenor
Brett Vogel, Bass

			
Savannah Cathey	Luanne Harms	Jonathan Pilkington	Brett Vogel

FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
175 East Lanier Ave. | Fayetteville, GA 30214 | 770.461.4313 | fayettevillefirst.com

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!



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

PRESCHOOL



**PURCHASE A GRAPH-X4 CAR WASH
& SUPPORT OUR
FUNDRAISER TODAY!**

\$10
A \$30 VALUE!

"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!"



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.



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 22-26 at the church.*

Wednesday Night Supper March 18, 2026

Let's eat together!

Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

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.

On the Menu: Tim's Country Kitchen -

Grilled/Fried Pork Chops, Dressing with Gravy, Broccoli Casserole, Rolls & Dessert!



March Donation Needs

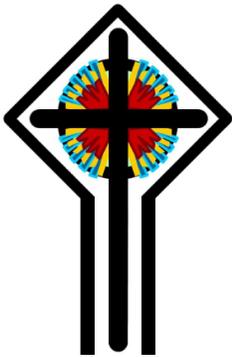
Thank you for continuing to support our neighbors in need! All donations of food, clothing, and monetary gifts are appreciated.

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.



March 9, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$270,468.20
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$260,968.26
Difference	\$9,499.94
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$636.00
34 Families Assisted Year-To-Date:	Total distributed \$8,597.46

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...

YOUTH RETREAT AT THE CALVIN CENTER



Our youth had a wonderful retreat last weekend at the Calvin Center! It was a meaningful time of fellowship, fun, and growing in faith together. We are grateful for the time spent connecting with one another and deepening our relationship with God. Please continue to keep our youth and leaders in your prayers.



