

March 20, 2026

# The Weekender



Listening to God  
By Rev. Drew West

“We all know there is a difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is taking in the words that someone else is speaking. But listening means something more. Listening implies an obedience, doing something with the words you hear ... As Leaders, we must be careful not to merely hear Jesus but to also listen to Jesus.”  
From The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer

Near the five-point intersection of the Five Points neighborhood in Denver, Colorado, I sat on a couch surrounded by a group of people I had never met before. This was the first house church meeting I attended, and as we sat in a circle in the host’s living room, he began by welcoming us and explaining that our time of worship would begin with Lectio Divina. Up to that point, I had never heard of Lectio Divina, and to be honest, I thought it was strange at first.

If you don’t know what Lectio Divina is, it’s a way of approaching scripture with a posture of meditation. Typically, one or a few people read the same passage of scripture three times, leaving a silence between readings. It’s slow and unhurried. After the third reading, you can, in the same spirit, share a word, an image, an idea, or a few thoughts that arose while listening to scripture.

I didn’t know it then, but the idea of listening to scripture would become a point of interest in both my devotional and ministerial life. On any given day, many of us are surrounded by so much Christian literature about the Bible. If you’ve attended church for any number of years, you know how much we all anticipate the sermon—the moment when we finally begin to hear possible explanations for what a passage of scripture or a saying of Jesus means for the lives we are living now, and what those words meant in antiquity.

But I have found it necessary, in addition to reading Christian literature and listening to a sermon, to read scripture more reflectively, listening for God’s whisper, echoing and resounding throughout the cosmos. What my ongoing love for a slower-paced reading of scripture has taught me is that we should approach our Bibles like we do any of our prized relationships—ready to receive the details with gladness and not get lost in the specifics of things beyond our understanding.

None of us—or at least, I hope not—meet with a friend and tell them, “Please give me a summary, five bullet points, max, of the recent events of your life.” Something in our desire for connectedness is receptive to the twists and turns of the person’s story. We take it all in and receive it with wonder and curiosity. In those moments, we listen not only with our heads, but with our hearts.

We believe that the Bible is different from other books. We believe, in one way or another, it bears inspired words. We believe it is one of the ways God speaks to us. So next time you read your Bible, or when you hear a scripture read during Sunday worship, consider listening with your whole being, as if sitting down with a friend, seeking companionship.

**FIFTH  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT**



**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MARCH 22, 2026**

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

John 11: 17 - 45

"Cemetery Centered Conversations"

Rev. Charles Robinson

**CURRENT NEWS**

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***Order Easter Flowers – Due By 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!



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PRESENTS

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART'S  
**REQUIEM**

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

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

Nicholas Bowden,  
Conductor

			
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



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 26 – Barb Combs**

**April 2 – Nick Bowden**

***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***

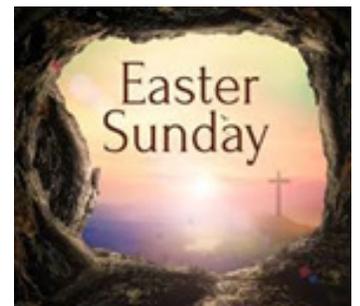
***Celebration and Worship***

***Communion Sunrise Service***

***in the Field – 7:00 AM***

***Worship in the Chapel – 8:45 AM***

***Worship in the Sanctuary – 11:00 AM***



## Great Day of Service: Pick your project!



It's time to pick your service project for the Great Day of Service on Saturday, April 18. We will enjoy an early breakfast and communion together before heading out to sites to work from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Volunteers are provided childcare for children six months to 4 years of age during the event. Look for the Registration Forms on display at worship entrances or in the Welcome Center. To sign up electronically, use the QR code below or [click here](#) to pick your favorite project! These are the places we'll be serving. Choose where you'll get out and do good!

Joseph Sams School  
Bloom  
Pregnancy Resource Center  
Square Foot Ministry  
Fayette Samaritans  
I-58 Mission  
Midwest Food Bank  
Handmade Greeting Cards  
Kids Workshop



### Save the Date – Next SAGE Trip!

Join us on Thursday, April 23rd for a special outing to Atlanta! We'll enjoy a unique guided tour led by the one and only Nick Bowden, whose knowledge and storytelling always make the city come alive.

More details coming soon – you won't want to miss this memorable day!





**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](http://tinyurl.com/PreschoolCarWash) to reserve and purchase tickets. Tickets available while supplies last so get yours soon!"

Help beautify our worship space by providing altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, a special occasion, or simply to the glory of God. Flower dates are available throughout the year. If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please sign up by contacting the church office. Your dedication will be included in the bulletin for that week



Ed Travis Scholarship applications due by Sunday April 19th. A \$2,500 scholarship is available to a graduating senior at FFUMC entering an accredited college, university or technical school for the upcoming school year. Print off the [Ed Travis Scholarship Instructions](#) and [Ed Travis Scholarship Application](#) here or request a copy from the church office



Join us for our 5th Sunday Together Breakfast on March 29 from 9:45–10:45 AM in the church gym! This special morning brings all ages together for a time of food, fellowship, and faith. Instead of separate Sunday School classes, we'll gather as one church family for a relaxed Bible study and potluck breakfast. Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share and come enjoy meaningful conversation, connection, and community. Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

### Wednesday Night Supper March 25, 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

On the Menu: Olive Garden - Lasagna, Salad, Bread Sticks & Dessert



### Titus II Gathering – Tuesday, April 7

Join us for Titus II on Tuesday, April 7 at 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is \$8 per person (meal provided by a local restaurant).

Please reserve your meal with the church office or Martha Turner by noon Tuesday, March 31.

Come for fellowship, encouragement, and a time of connection!



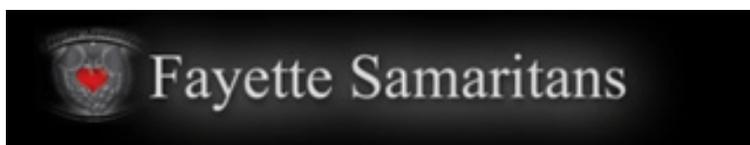
Our Summer Lunch family is in need of the following items: • Bedside tables and dresser. If you are able to donate or help in any way, please contact Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net. Thank you!



### Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS, June 22nd – 26th



Children ages 4 through rising 5th grade are invited to join FFUMC's Vacation Bible School, June 22–26, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each day. This year's theme, Snowball Mountain Challenge, will guide us as we discover how "we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us" (Philippians 4:13). Registration opens Monday, March 30, and the cost is \$10 per family. There is no cost for volunteers with children, and nursery care will be available for volunteers with children under age 4. We can't wait to grow in faith together and discover our strength in God! **For more information, contact Rev. Drew West.**



### March Donation Needs

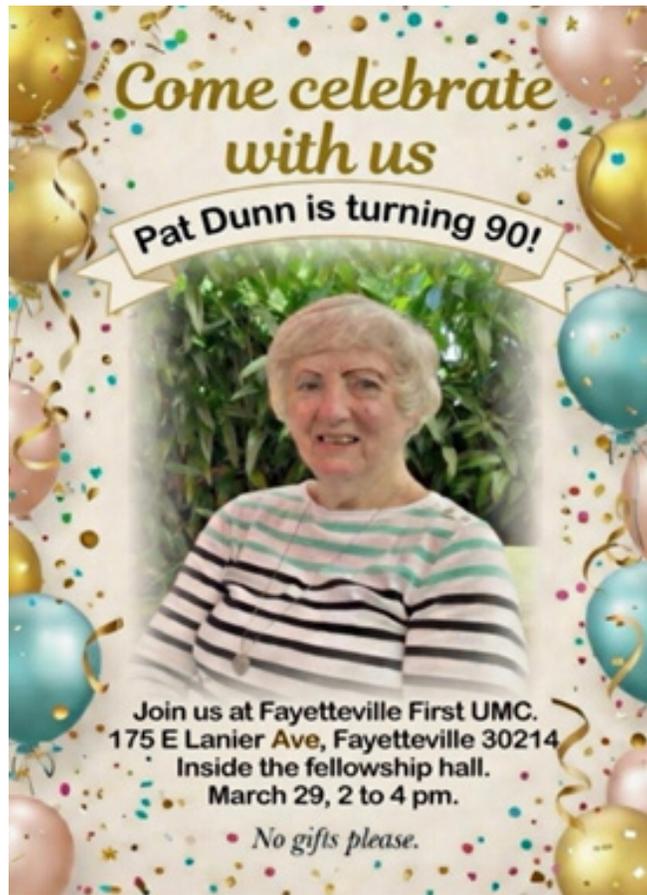
Thank you for continuing to support our neighbors in need! All donations of food, clothing, and monetary gifts are appreciated.

Most Needed Pantry Items:

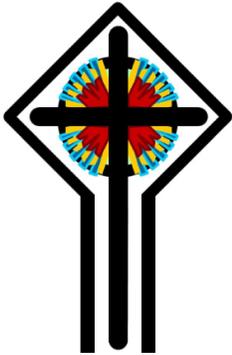
Peanut butter, jelly, dried beans, 2-lb. bags of rice, cookies, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Clothes Closet Needs:

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



## March 16, 2026 Financials



### Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$337,701.73
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$294,592.54
Difference	\$43,109.19
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$445.00
38 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$9,797.46

### 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