



# The Weekender

March 27, 2026

Did Jesus Have A Bucket List?

By Rev. Charles Robinson

One of my favorite movies is *The Bucket List* starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson. It is about two terminally ill men who escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a “wish list” of “to-dos” before they die. Driving a race car and skydiving are a couple of items on the list. The title of the movie comes from the old expression for dying...To Kick the Bucket. Some sources say the expression comes from execution by hanging and others say it has to do with the apparatus used in killing hogs. I appreciate the movie because it is at times very moving and at times very funny...two characteristics of so many good movies.

Most of us have, I suppose, a Bucket List though few of us actually put it on paper. My list would include some places I have not yet been, some things I have not yet seen, some books I have not yet read, and perhaps some people I have not yet met. Two items NOT on my list are driving a race car and skydiving. I am a certified C.C.C. – A card carrying coward. I have a son who voluntarily jumped out of an airplane, but that will never be for me. (I asked him to call me when he was safely on the ground. And, “if you don’t make it, don’t call!”)

With Holy Week and Easter fast approaching, I’ve been wondering if Jesus had a Bucket List. Matthew 16:21 leads me to believe that He did...”From that time on, Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

“Go to Jerusalem...suffer...and be killed.” I can’t help but wonder if these items were on Jesus’ Bucket List when He had begun His ministry a few years earlier. Preaching, teaching, healing, showing up at weddings...that’s a more pleasant, less offensive list, isn’t it? But that wasn’t to be the way that it all unfolded, was it? Those good things happened more than once. The opposition was not satisfied though (evil is always the other team on the field). And the road to the cross became necessary. Jesus could have “bailed-out” at this point. But instead, He re-wrote His Bucket List and set His face toward Jerusalem.

Bucket List: a)suffering, b)death, c)resurrection. Goodness Gracious! If c) happens, how does that impact our short-term Bucket List of a blessed Holy Week and a Joyous Easter?



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**MARCH 29, 2026**

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

*Matthew 21: 1 - 11*

*"Who is This"*

Rev. Kaylen Short

## **CURRENT NEWS**

---

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.



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!



**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.**



**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.



**Lenten Lunch Series – 12:00 Noon**

**April 2 – Nick Bowden**

**Maundy Thursday – April 2**

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

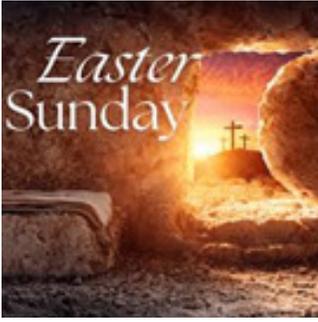
**Rev. Charles Robinson**



**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**

**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



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



### April 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.

The day will include a bus tour of Buckhead homes with an emphasis on the architecture of Neil Reid, a visit to Peachtree Road UMC to hear the magnificent organ— the largest in Georgia and one of the great organs of the world— and lunch at the Swann House Restaurant.

We'll return home traveling down Peachtree Road from Buckhead, enjoying stories about our beautiful capital city, including its buildings, monuments, and parks.

We will depart from the church at 9:00 a.m.



Cost is \$40 per person (lunch not included).

Please sign up through the church office. Your reservation will be confirmed once payment is received.

You won't want to miss this memorable day!



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](mailto:FayettevilleFirstPreschool@gmail.com). We look forward to meeting your family!



"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!"

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



### **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 on Tuesday, March 31.

We are honored to welcome our April guest speaker, Ed Johnson, who will share updates on the City of Fayetteville. Come for fellowship, encouragement, and a meaningful time of connection!



Wednesday Night Supper April 1, 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:

G'Lish Catering - Roast Beef, Fried Corn, Vegetable Medley, Rolls & Dessert



### 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:

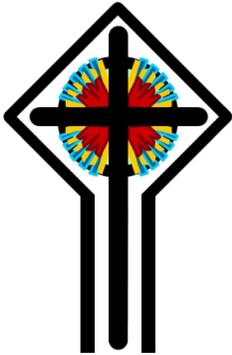
Peanut butter, jelly, dried beans, 2-lb. bags of rice, cookies, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Clothes Closet Needs:

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



## March 23, 2026 Financials



### Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$361,551.83
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$305,241.41
Difference	\$56,310.42
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$127.00
42 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$10,997.46

### 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...*

