



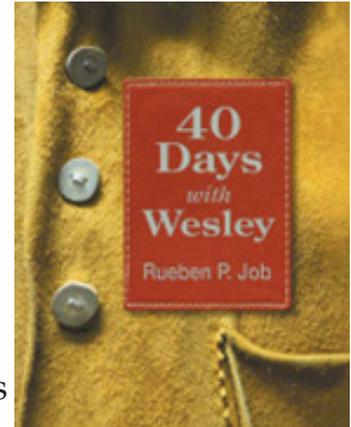
The Weekender

March 6, 2026

A Beloved Invader

By Rev. Charles Robinson

It's been almost a decade since I first used a Lenten devotional guide titled *Forty Days With Wesley*. It was compiled by the late Bishop Rueben Job, former Editor of the *Upper Room* daily devotional magazine. One of the readings out of the book that stood out for me included a Prayer of Presence, and within that prayer were these words that really spoke to me...



“Invade our minds, senses, and hearts like a quiet sunrise, a refreshing rain, a beautiful bouquet, a commanding voice, a trusted companion, and a loving touch – because we want to know You and remember who You are with every breath we take.”

Until I read this prayer, I had never thought of God as an Invader. For me the word conjures up images of an enemy or of someone with criminal intent. Neither of those categories would include the gracious God that I know and worship. But perhaps I have put up so many fences and defenses, that I have left a loving and gracious God no other options. God loves me too much just to walk away, so God launches a full-scale Invasion. Hopefully all of my fences will fall and all of my defenses will crumble; broken barriers will litter the landscape. What might some of those barriers be, for me and maybe for you.

Selfishness? An invading God will turn us inside out, taking our focus off of our wants and desires, turning our attention toward others. Our thriving might have to take a backseat to the surviving of others.

Fear? An invading God will certainly bump us out of our comfort zones into the “Zone of the Unknown” – unknown people and places and situations. Our “Safe Places” might be transformed from destinations to rest stops.

Worry? An invading God will change the way we think about that little phrase, What If. “What if the very worst thing imaginable happens?” might be replaced by “What if I trust in the God who has promised to never leave me?”

And there are so many other barriers that we could identify...fences that we build, defenses that we establish to turn back the advances of a Beloved Invader. My hope and prayer, for you and for me, during this holy season of Lent, is that we open our hearts anew to God, embracing the Invasion!



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

John 4: 18 - 42

" Well , Well"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Order Easter Flowers: Due Monday, March 30

You have the opportunity to enhance our Easter worship space with lilies and hydrangeas while honoring others. Plants are \$15 each. Paper order forms will be available in Sunday's bulletin.

Why order flowers?

Flowers enhance our worship space on Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Plants may be given in memory or in honor of family and friends, and their names will be listed in the Easter Order of Worship.

After the final worship service on Easter Sunday, you are invited to take a lily or hydrangea to plant at home or to share with someone else.

Proceeds from Easter flower orders support the FFUMC Flower Ministry, which provides weekly flower arrangements to encourage and bless others throughout the year.

Please Note:

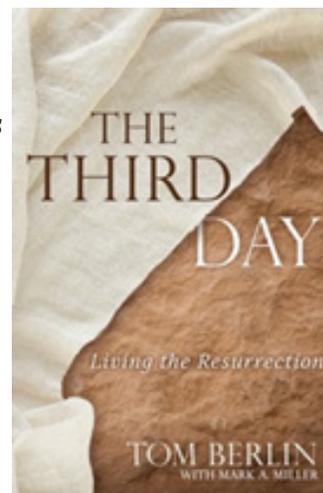
The order has already been placed for lilies and hydrangeas, so you do not need to specify a preference. Plants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis after the final Easter service.

*Lenten Lunches 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 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.



"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!"



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



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!

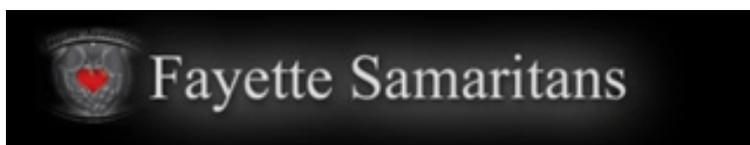
Great Day of Service coming April 18.

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.*



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.

Wednesday Night Supper March 11, 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.

On the Menu: G'Lish Catering - Baked Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Pea Salad & Dessert!





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

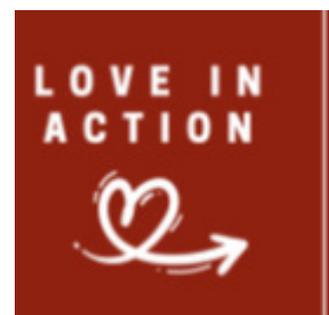
Nicholas Bowden, Conductor
Savannah Cathey, Soprano
Luanne Harms, Alto
Jonathan Pilkington, Tenor
Brett Vogel, Bass



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!





March Events

- **Thursdays, March 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**

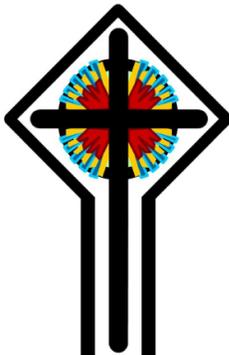
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the cards, texts, calls, flowers, and the beautiful prayer shawl after the loss of my dad. Each expression of love reminded me that I am surrounded by such a caring and faithful community. During one of the hardest seasons of my life, your prayers, kindness, and support have brought comfort and peace beyond words. I am so deeply grateful.

With love and appreciation,

Jennifer Hickman



March 2, 2026 Financials



Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$234,905.73
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$250,700.11
Difference	(\$15,794.38)
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$4,422.00
33 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$8,395.88

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...

ADULTS IN ACTION VISIT TO SPIVEY HALL



On Tuesday, our Adults in Action group enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Spivey Hall. The beautiful music and stunning acoustics made for an inspiring afternoon together.



We are grateful for the time of fellowship, laughter, and shared experience in such a special venue. It was truly a joyful adventure!

