



# The Weekender

April 17, 2026

The Last Word  
By Rev. Charles Robinson

Having the Last Word...Here are some of my thoughts about that as we move through this Easter Season, the Great 50 Days from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost...

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.” (from Genesis 1)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. And the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.” (from John 1)

God had the first Word! All that is, including us, was created by God. (We were recently reminded of that by the launch, flight, and return of Artemis II.) And we were created to kneel before the Lord our Maker, to offer our praise and gratitude.

On a fateful Friday long ago, a Friday that we now strangely call Good Friday, it sure looked like evil had dealt good a fatal blow; it certainly appeared that evil would have the Last Word. All of evil's representatives were there, standing not too far from the foot of the Cross: greed, envy, pride, prejudice, hatred and the rest of their kinfolk were all “present and accounted for.”

That evening, as they sat around the Cozy Corner Café nursing their mugs of coffee, they were all smiles. Laughter came easily as they joked about “that troublemaker” being out of their hair for good. “Yeah!” One of them was heard to say. “Now we see who had the Last Word!”

But a couple of days later, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early. It was empty, except for two Angels. “Why are you crying?” they asked her. “They’ve taken my Lord and I don’t know what they have done with Him.” Then she turned around and saw Jesus. But she didn’t know that it was Jesus until He called her by name, “Mary.”

Jesus was alive! RESURRECTION was and is God’s Last Word over trouble, loneliness, pain, suffering, and anything else destructive and hurtful...even death! All that will be, including us and what we are becoming, will continually be created and re-created by God. And we are continually being created and re-created to kneel before the Lord our Maker, to offer our praise and gratitude.

God had the first Word. And God will always have The Last Word!



**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 19, 2026**

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Luke 24: 13-35

"Keep the Fire Burning"

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **The Great Day of Service is tomorrow: April 18**



We are ready to go out and serve at our Great Day of Service tomorrow, April 18. Didn't sign up? Come on out and we'll place you at a project that needs your help. We start the day with breakfast in the gym from 7:45 to 8:15 am followed by communion in the Chapel at 8:30 am. Then we will head out to sites to work from 9 am to 12:30 pm to do good!

#### **Blood Drive – April 19**

FFUMC, in partnership with the American Red Cross, will host a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 19 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The need for blood is constant, and your donation can help save lives in our community.



To schedule an appointment, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>, enter your ZIP code, and select April 19. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.

Thank you for giving the gift of life!

FFUMC Blood Drive Team



A Called Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 12:00 PM. The purpose of this conference is to review and approve a new salary package for the incoming Associate Pastor. All members are encouraged to attend.

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.



**April SAGE Trip! Space is filling up quickly Sign up through the church office your spot is confirmed once payment is received.**

**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 makes 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!**



**Jennifer  
Hickman**  
Office Manager

**Want a name badge? Order one today!**

Would you like a customized name badge, or need to replace one you've lost? We've got you covered. Simply contact Jennifer H. or Kelly in the church office at 770-461-4313 or [officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com) to place your order.

Name badges are \$12 each.

**A KICKING GOOD TIME!!!**

**Messy Church**

**April 25**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

*You and all your friends are invited!*

**FREE LUNCH GAMES AND WORSHIP**  
175 E. Lanier Ave, Fayetteville

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!



## *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 is open [Click Here to Register](#), 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.*

The South Metro Rose Society will be holding its 39th Annual Rose Show on May 2nd and 3rd at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church. Local rose growers are invited to enter their roses into competition. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded. Members of the society will advise newcomers on entering their roses.



Entries must be made at the show site by 9:30 a.m. on May 2nd for judging. After judging, the show is free to the public from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday and 11-4 on Sunday to view, smell, and photograph hundreds of exhibited roses and rose arrangements. Rose bouquets will be sold and there will be an Information Table where questions will be answered by ARS Consulting Rosarians. Items to be raffled include restaurant gift certificates, rose bushes, custom-blended fertilizers, art work, gardening books, and more. New this year is a floral art exhibit and sales by local Pearl Ranch Studio artists.

ON THE MENU FOR:

Wednesday Night Supper April 22, 2026

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.

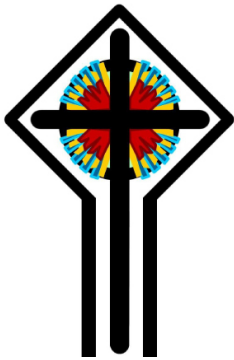
On the Menu:

Hog Pit - Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips & Dessert



We are currently in need of canned beef stew, tuna, corn, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, cookies, and basic hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, and feminine products. The Clothes Closet especially needs new women's underwear, men's boxer shorts (all sizes),

### April 13, 2026 Financials



Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$421,736.34
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$378,674.58
Difference	\$43,061.58
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$385.00
51 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$13,681.79

**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