



April 24, 2026

The Weekender

Confirmation Sunday & Dedicating Our Lives to Jesus By Rev. Drew West

This Sunday, nine middle school students will be confirmed; two of them will also be baptized. This is exciting to witness and is a significant indicator that God's Spirit is actively stirring hearts within our congregation.

Confirmation, baptism, and membership are all ways we respond in commitment to the covenant relationship that God extends to each person, and in the vows we as a church make, to these individuals, we commit ourselves to being a community that supports them in these vows.

The more I reflect on committing our lives to Jesus, the more I realize the significance of what it means to be a Christian. The Christian life is not one of only receiving the goodness of God's love and grace, but about the journey into holiness—the dynamic process of growing closer to Jesus and being set apart to restore all things through exemplifying God's purposes for human life and the world. One of the questions Philosophy asks is, "How can I live the good life?" or "What is the good life?" The Christian life asks, "In response to God's revelation in Christ Jesus, how can I live a holy life?" Our answer is shaped by Christ, who actively surrendered to God's purposes in the shadow of the cross, praying, "Not my will but yours be done." (Lk. 22:42).

We enter holiness through acts of commitment. These are not the end of the road, but the beginning, points at which we say, "My life, whether seen as significant or insignificant, is not my own; I belong to God." The ecumenical Iona Community in Scotland emphasizes commitment in this way: "Jesus calls us to a purpose: the redemption of all things—social, political, personal and religious—in accordance with the revealed will of God." What I appreciate about this statement of purpose is that it leaves nothing out—everything becomes an offering. The Apostle Paul identifies this way of life as being a "living sacrifice." (Rom. 12:1-2).

As we receive, support, and celebrate with these new professing members on Sunday, let us recommit our lives to Christ and Christ's coming kingdom. May our lives reflect the qualities of heaven here on earth. Let us remember that God can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine, and because of this, commitment is essential and an amazing way that God invites us to be co-laborers with Christ here and forever. With joy, we say "Yes" to God who invites us further into love, union, and action in Christ's name.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

John 13: 1-17

"Not Yet"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

UWF Friendship Circle recognizes Mothers May 10th



A special bulletin insert on Mother's Day will recognize our mothers and those who mother others. The United Methodist Women in Faith's Friendship Circle will have a flower in the courtyard on Mother's Day for all those who are recognized. To donate to missions and recognize those who mother us, please use the form and envelope in the April 26th or May 3rd bulletin and return it in the offering plate OR the church office by May 4th at noon.

Proceeds will benefit Bloom, Promise Place and UWF missions. Please make checks to Friendship Circle and include names for "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" and who is placing the recognition. Questions? Call or text Marilyn Harris @ 770-313-4646.

Attention Class of 2026!! Please send your graduate's name, school, degree earned, and a photo to Jenn Hickman at officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com by May 7 to be included. We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 17, in worship. Graduates will be featured in the May 17 Order of Worship, and we want to recognize graduates in our church family. Congrats Class of 2026!





Lunch with Pastor Kaylen is a great opportunity to connect one-on-one and get to know one another better this summer! Whether over lunch, coffee, or a quick chat, you're invited to request a day and time that works best for you. To submit your request, [click here](#) or call the church office at 770-461-4313.

FFUMC Green Team Promotes “5 Rs” to Celebrate Earth Day



Refuse: Avoid single-use plastics by carrying reusable shopping bags and rejecting plastic straws at restaurants

Reduce: Minimize waste generation through conscientious purchasing and avoidance of excess packaging

Reuse: Keep using an item throughout its useful life, and shop second-hand at thrift shops and online

Repurpose: Use glass jars as storage containers, turn cardboard into garden weed blockers and transform yard and food waste into rich soil through composting

Recycle: Visit <http://livethrive.org> to learn about the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM), where a wide range of items can be recycled at no cost within driving distance of Fayette County

The Green Team adds a 6th R – REJOICE! – to encourage gratitude for Creation itself, with the abundance of God’s blessings that all of us share.

Tomorrow is Shred & Recycle Day



The City of Fayetteville is hosting a paper shredding and electronics recycling event on Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. – noon at City Center Park. Details can be found at

[Calendar • Shred & Recycle Day](#) on the City’s website.



**Jerry
Whitaker**

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 to place your order.

Name badges are \$12 each.



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!



Don't miss Children and Youth Sunday on May 17 at the 11:00 AM service as our children and youth lead worship!



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 29, 2026

Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

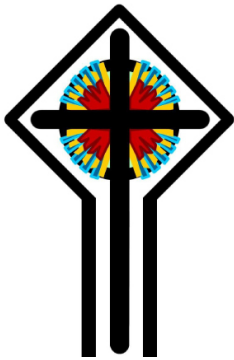
Sign up each week by 4 PM on Mondays by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

On the Menu:

G'Lish - Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread Sticks & 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 20, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$459,260.79
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$392,667.17
Difference	\$66,593.62
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$249.00
54 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$14,285.22

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



Great Day of Service

Doing good all over! Thanks to MANY open hearts and helping hands, we spread love all over our community last Saturday with 61 volunteers involved with the day. After a continental breakfast in the gym and communion in the chapel, we served at seven local charities. Work projects included washing buses, washing windows, pressure washing sidewalks, steam cleaning sanctuary carpet, organizing clothes, spreading mulch, trimming trees and general yard care. The teams provided services to The Joseph Sams School, Pregnancy Resource Center, Square Foot Ministry, Fayette Samaritans, Bloom, The I-58 Mission, and Midwest Food Bank. Thank you!



