

# The Weekender



April 3, 2026

Three Days  
By Rev. Kaylen Short



I don't know what day it is for you right now. That may sound odd, but different people read this at different times. Some of you are reading this right after it arrived in your inbox on Good Friday. Some wait until Holy Saturday. Some of you may not pick it up until Easter morning. And this week I think that's beautiful because it mirrors the way the story itself unfolds.

If you're reading this on Good Friday, we are at the cross. The worst has happened. Jesus who we followed, the one we trusted, has been handed over to death. Everything feels exposed, and nothing has been fixed. Friday asks us to stay present without rushing to resolve things or explain them away. That kind of presence is hard. It is also holy.

If you're reading this on Saturday, we are in the silence. The cross is behind us. The tomb is sealed. Nothing has been resolved yet. This is the day we speak about the least in church, but it may be the day that requires the most faith because today we wait. Many of us aren't good at waiting. Saturday asks us to trust God even in the absence of any evidence that things will be okay.

And if you're reading this on Easter Sunday, then you already know. The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty and love is victorious! But even Sunday only means what it means because Friday and Saturday came first.

So wherever you are in the story this week please know that God is not only present on Sunday morning. God is present at the cross. God is present in the silence. God is at work in the parts of the story where we cannot yet see what God is doing. The resurrection does not begin on Easter. Resurrection begins every moment we join God in refusing to let death have the final word, and that refusal runs through every single day of this week. Wherever this story meets you today, know that you are not alone, and God is already there.



## **EASTER**

**APRIL 5, 2026**

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

*John 20:1-18*

*"I Have Seen The Lord"*

Rev. Kaylen Short

## **CURRENT NEWS**

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**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**



### **Help Decorate the Easter Cross**

Let's celebrate Easter Sunday morning together! Bring cuttings from your yard or purchased flowers to help decorate the cross.

You're invited to come early for this special and meaningful tradition—simply place your flowers on the cross as you arrive.

Don't forget your camera for a great photo opportunity!

### **Family Life Center Closure Notice**

The Family Life Center (Education Building and Gym) will be closed Monday through Wednesday, April 6–8, as floors are being refinished. Access to the building will be restricted during this time and will reopen on Thursday, April 9.





The Legacy committee approved over \$35,000 across 10 grant requests last month. Funds were granted to assist the following missions: Methodist Nomads, Good Grief Gals, Flower Ministry, Sleep In Heavenly Peace and the SHARE Closet.

Grants were also approved to replace the flooring in the Preschool classrooms and hallway, to purchase robes for the Children's Choir, furniture for the Bride's Room in the Narthex, a large video display screen for the Fellowship Hall, and a Legacy plaque to honor our named Legacy funds.

The next round of grants is coming up this fall, with an August 1 deadline for request applications. Legacy brochures and grant request forms are available in the church office. For requests to be considered, a staff signature must be included on the request form. For more information on Legacy donations or grant requests, please contact Rev. Kaylen Short or Lauren Davis, Legacy committee chair.



Working as a team , the FFUMC Women in Faith helped each other provide nurture and nourishment during the Lenten Season by providing lunch and devotion at noon . Several of the smaller circles were assisted by members of the larger circles and food and fellowship were plentiful.

I am reminded of the scripture, Ask and ye shall receive." Just as Women in Faith reach out to women and children around the world , we are blessed to have women in our church family reach out and help when needed.

## 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



*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 – This Tuesday, April 7*

*Join us for Titus II this Tuesday, April 7 at 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are honored to welcome our April guest speaker, Ed Johnson, who will share updates on the City of Fayetteville.*



*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 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!*



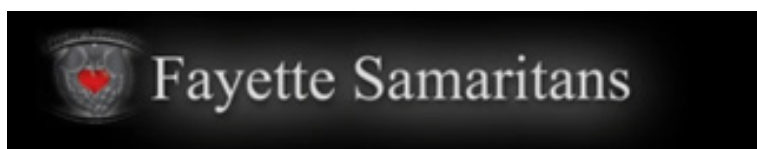
*Help beautify our worship space by providing altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, a special occasion, or simply to the glory of God. Flower dates are available throughout the year. If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please sign up by contacting the church office. Your dedication will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



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 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.**



### **Pantry & Clothes Closet Needs - April**

All donations of food, clothing, or monetary gifts are greatly appreciated!

Our most-needed pantry items this month include: canned beef stew, tuna, corn, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, cookies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.

The Clothes Closet is especially in need of new women's underwear (all sizes), new men's boxer shorts (all sizes), and socks for both men and women.

# NO WEDNESDAY SUPPER APRIL 8, 2026

ON THE MENU FOR:

Wednesday Night Supper April 15, 2026

Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

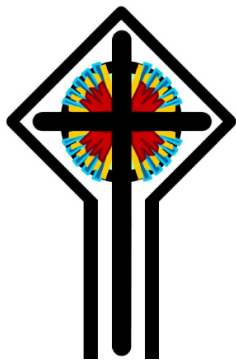


Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

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

On the Menu:

Piccadilly - Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole, Broccoli Salad, Rolls & Dessert



## March 30, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$373,693.66

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$324,684.59

Difference \$49,009.07

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$22.00

42 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$11,514.70

**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...* Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with our Church Work Day!

