



# The Weekender

May 1, 2026

National Day of Prayer at FFUMC  
By Rev. Drew West

Is there anything more mysterious than prayer? How is it possible that we, finite and limited beings, are invited to know, speak with, and be heard by the Creator of all?

Yet this is exactly what prayer is—it is both a bewildering and joyous invitation.

Prayer doesn't always "work" in the way we'd expect. An early ministry mentor once told me about a friend in her church who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Naturally, the church was fervent in prayer for healing. The cancer didn't slow down—it sped up, and soon after the diagnosis, death followed.

Everyone grieved in their own way, but my mentor told me something strange: "Praying for that person changed me." All of those involved in praying for their friend realized the severity of the diagnosis. They didn't necessarily assume that prayer alone would heal, but why would praying change the person praying when it seemed more important that the person being prayed for should be impacted? Of course, the prayers and support from the friends in prayer did provide shelter for the one in the throes of terminal illness, but that wasn't the only outcome.

Here we need to consider a crucial fact about the genius of Christianity—not a set of beliefs or doctrine alone, but an encounter with the risen and living Christ. All Christians must dive into the reality that the Christian faith is different from many other journeys. Faith is about building trust, union, and transformation through divine encounters and knowing. John Wesley himself spent much time learning and being formed in the Church of England and by his parents' commitment to Christ, but it wasn't until his own heart was strangely warmed that he understood just how nourishing and essential radical proximity to Christ was.

Throughout the day on May 7th, we as a church will seek to join together with Christians across our nation for the National Day of Prayer. Each of us is invited to sign up for an hour of prayer. That hour can be spent in the Bride's Room off the Narthex on the church campus, or at home, or at a place of work or leisure. We will pray for many things—some of which we cannot anticipate. How will praying for those in our lives, the conflicts around the globe and those people who need help change outcomes? We have yet to find out, but we do know that God can immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine.

Scan the QR code below to sign up



***FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER***

***MAY 3, 2026***

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

***Online link active at 11 AM and after***

John 14: 1-14

***"The Way"***

***Rev. Kaylen Short***

## **CURRENT NEWS**

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### **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.

## Blood Drive Success – Thank You!



Thank you from the FFUMC Blood Drive Team to everyone who helped make our April 19 Blood Drive a success! With 27 scheduled donors and 6 walk-ins, we collected 33 units—surpassing our goal of 32.

We're especially grateful that 70% of donors were from our FFUMC family.

Next Blood Drive: July 12 — mark your calendar!

### SAGE Trip – May 29

Our May SAGE trip is scheduled for Friday, May 29! We'll be visiting the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, with our tour beginning at 10:00 a.m.



We will leave the Church Office at 8:30 a.m., which should get us there on time. After the tour, we'll depart around 11:30 a.m. for lunch (location to be determined).

Cost: \$10.00 total (includes admission and transportation)

To sign up, call the church office at 770-461-4313.

Please let us know if you have any questions, and thank you for your continued support of our SAGE ministry!



**Attention Class of 2026!!** Please send your graduate's name, school, degree earned, and a photo to Jenn Hickman at [officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto: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.



### Titus II – May 5

Join us for Titus II on Tuesday, May 5  
at noon in the Fellowship Hall!

### 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.



**Jerry  
Whitaker**

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](mailto: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 May 6, 2026

Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

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

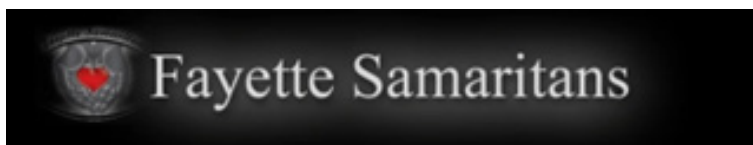
Sign up each week by 4 PM on Mondays by contacting the

church office at 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

## On the Menu:

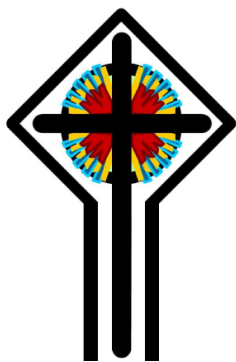
Tim's Country Kitchen -

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls & 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 27, 2026 Financials

### Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$479,719.14
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$408,273.46
Difference	\$71,445.68
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$1,035.00
55 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$14,585.22

### 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



## It's Never Too Early to Steward God's Good Earth

On Earth Day, FFUMC pre-schoolers learned that even at their young age, there are many ways to protect the environment. They were entertained by Tami Kemberling and Jeffre Ray of the Green Team in a skit about politely refusing items like plastic straws and bags. Kim Toal of the Fayette County Extension Service taught about composting using breakfast cereal, gummy worms, pretzels and other kid-favorite foods. A good time was had by all!

