



The Weekender

May 15, 2026

The Power of Words By Rev. Drew West

Many churches have offered youth groups the opportunity to lead most of the church's worship annually. Central Presbyterian Church in Longmont, Colorado, where I grew up, did so as well. Well, we had a certain church member who, let's just say, lacked any capacity for encouragement. This was my first time taking on a leadership role in a church service. I played an instrument in the youth group's worship band.

I was surprised to receive a letter from a church member later that week. In that letter, the writer expressed how I ruined the church service. I was a bit shocked. Panicked, I reached out to a few youth group members, wondering what I had done wrong. I discovered that they, too, had received similar letters.

Luckily, I was able to rationalize this by telling myself, "This person feels the need to criticize anyone, not just me. I'm not the problem I first thought I was." We try our best to shake off the effects of negative words, but sometimes it is harder than we wish it were. The power of words is emphasized by relationship experts John Gottman and Julie Gottman, who suggest that there is a 5:1 ratio for repairing a relationship after a negative exchange: it takes about five positive words to counteract one negative one.

This Sunday, during the 11 a.m. service, we can use our words to encourage and uplift the youth and children who lead us in worship—not by sugarcoating or offering empty praise, but by genuinely appreciating these children and youth who are seeking to grow in their Christian lives. This reminds me of M. Scott Peck's challenging definition of love, highlighted in bell hooks' book *All About Love: New Visions*: "The will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth." Peck suggests that love is both intention and action. This definition of love helps us to recognize our responsibility—to love these children and youth through encouragement that fosters their growth. I am looking forward to Sunday, and I'm sure you are too!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY

MAY 17, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 68: 1-10,32-35

Acts 1:6-14

CURRENT NEWS



On May 16th, the Southern Crescent Concert Ringers will present Rings and Sweets: A Handbell Harmony Happening in the Fellowship Hall at 2 PM. Desserts will be served during the concert. We would love to see you there.



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.



We are four short weeks away from our youth ASP mission trip to Fayette County, West Virginia!

Please be praying for the youth and adults going on this journey as they prepare their hearts, bodies, and minds. If you'd like to write personalized notes or give agape love items to those attending this trip, a drop of box will be in the church office. These notes of encouragement and love will be opened mid-week during the trip.

Those attending: Jasmine Akeman, Austin Baur, Caroline Creel, Nicholas Frank, Sophia Friday, Connor Hansen, Nick Hansen, Xander Hansen, Jordan Hart, Tami Kemberling, David Martin, James Martin, Patrick Mayhew, Ethan Rotz, Liam Swanger, Jack Travis, and Joey Travis.

If you have any questions, please email Caroline at youth@fayettevillefirst.com.

Thank you.

JOIN THE FLAG TEAM

The Flag Team works during the summer on Patriotic Holidays to place American Flags outside around our church. The holidays are: Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Patriot Day September 11, and Veterans Day.

We need volunteers to assist and be responsible for the installing and takking down of the flags for each of those holidays. The flags are provided by the church and it really adds to the appearance of the church grounds. It only takes around an hour to complete the job. if you or a team or group would like to sign up for one of the holidays, please contact Jo Springer at 770-378-7876 to learn more about the details. Thank you!



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!



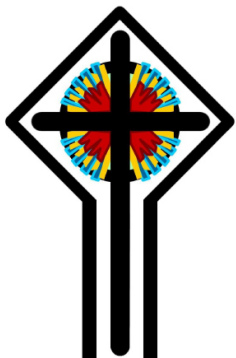
Are you missing glasses, kids' headphones, children's storybooks?

Please check the table in the Narthex in the Sanctuary. Any items not picked up soon will be placed in the Lost & Found box.

Snowball Mountain Challenge Vacation Bible School 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.



May 11, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$511,328.54

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$467,962.20

Difference \$43,366.34

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$350.00

65 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$17,555.57

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...

Pre school Field Day 2026

