



The Weekender

May 22, 2026

Leaf Blowers and the Spirit By Rev. Drew West

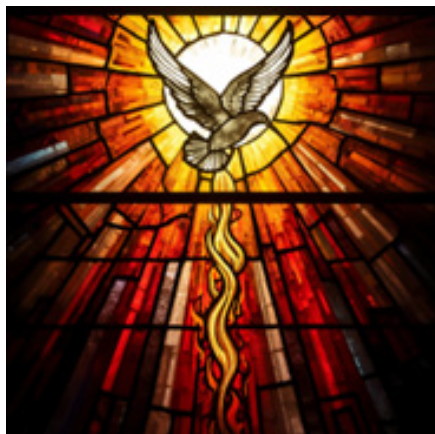
Rev. Allyson Lawrence had her leaf blower in hand. In a few hours, families would be on the church property for Messy Church. I walked up to her and said, “Every time I use a leaf blower, I think about the Holy Spirit.” She told me she would now think about the Spirit every time she would use a leaf blower in the future. More likely, she thought my comment was the strangest thing anyone had ever said and was trying to be nice.

Why did I say this? I constantly think about how the things we use, or encounter relate to the Christian life, but it’s long been known that the word for Spirit in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament can be translated as wind or breath.

On the Day of Pentecost, there was the sound of a mighty rushing wind, which was the first notable sign that the Spirit of God had arrived (Acts 2:2). The same word translated as Spirit ranges in our Bibles from describing the cool of the day in Genesis 3:8 to describing moments of divine presence. This has made the topic within Christian theology called Pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit) a perplexing endeavor. In the Apostles’ Creed, all we confess about the Spirit is, “I believe in the Holy Spirit,” whereas the affirmations about God and Christ Jesus have a bit more substance.

But perhaps it is this lack of clarity about the Spirit that helps avoid idolatry, since idolatry happens most easily when we can, metaphorically speaking, put God in a box. We can comprehend God, but never completely. Yet, I still like to think about the Spirit each time I use a leaf blower because I often feel like my life can be a dusty path, as, over time, various kinds of debris cover up the truth of who I am. Whether that is related to my sense of self-worth, my abilities, or the truth that I am loved, regardless of my good or bad decisions. During seasons when I feel particularly covered up by this and that, in prayer it feels as if the Spirit’s strong breeze blows all the clutter away and I settle once again into understanding how God sees me.

As you approach this Pentecost Sunday, consider what about your life currently feels a bit hidden, or not as clearly in focus. Perhaps you’re in a season with many wants and it’s hard to know what to focus on. My prayer for you: may the nurturing breeze of the Spirit surround you, and may you be led into all truth—truth about God, yourself, and this world that God so loves.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 24, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Acts 2:1-21

"A Spirit-ed Discussion"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

We will reopen Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.



WORK IN PROGRESS
ALL LOCATIONS CLOSED

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, all locations will be closed due to projects.

- PARKING LOT B CLOSED**
The entire parking lot is closed.
- FAMILY LIFE CENTER (BUILDING C) CLOSED**
The entire building is closed.
- PRESCHOOL HALLWAY & CLASSROOM (FLC) CLOSED**
Re-flooring project in progress.
- GYM (FLC) CLOSED**
Re-roofing project in progress.
- PLAYGROUND CLOSED**
The playground is closed for the duration of the projects.

PRESCHOOL HALLWAY & CLASSROOM
Re-flooring project is expected to take approximately **one week**.

GYM REROOFING
The re-roofing project is expected to take approximately **two weeks**.

PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS | USE CAUTION IN WORK AREAS | THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE IMPROVE OUR FACILITIES!

Work in Progress

Beginning Tuesday, May 26, the Family Life Center (Building C), Playground, and Parking Lot B will be closed or have limited access due to two improvement projects: the preschool hallway and classroom re-flooring project and the gym reroofing project.

The preschool flooring project is expected to take approximately one week, and the gym roof project is expected to take approximately two weeks.

Please observe all posted signs, use caution in work areas, and thank you for your patience as we make these improvements to our facilities.

Intergenerational Sunday School

5th Sundays in the Gym!

May 31, join our Children's, Youth, and Sunshine Ministries in the Family Life Center Gym for a fun, faith-filled morning for all ages! Enjoy games, music, crafts, a short devotional, and a breakfast potluck (bring something to share). It's a great way to learn, play, and grow together in God's love. Contact Rev. Drew West at dwest@fayettevillefirst.com with any questions!



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.



Mission Team Leader Training Available

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) offers online training for people interested in leading mission teams. There will be two opportunities this Fall – September 3-24, 2026, and November 7-21, 2026. The once weekly sessions will be 1.5 – 2 hours long. Participants must attend all sessions to complete the training. This training is helpful for those wishing to lead teams within the United States and for foreign mission trips (e.g., El Salvador). Click the link for more information. [UMVIM Trainings – UMVIM](#). You can also contact Maggie Clarke mwclarke195@gmail.com or 404-395-8161 or Rev. Kaylen Short for additional information.





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 off 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 taking 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!



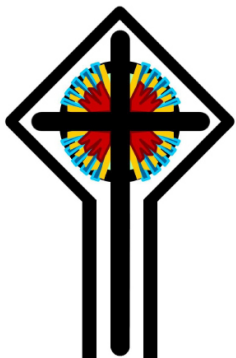
Are you missing glasses, kids' headphones, children's storybooks?

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. Last day of registration is June 6, 2026.



May 18, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$546,447.19

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$493,513.93

Difference \$52,933.26

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$600.00

68 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$18,349.56

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...

Mothers & Babies Recognition
2026

