

# The Weekender



June 12, 2026

The Downward Journey  
By Rev. Drew West

“We are all frail, but think no one more frail than yourself.”<sup>1</sup>

- Thomas à Kempis’

The sentence pierced like a bullet. I started reading Thomas à Kempis’s *The Imitation of Christ* out of historical interest. One of the most influential abridged English translations was translated by John Wesley in 1735 and titled *The Christian Pattern*. Wesley’s version was reprinted many times throughout his life. My hunch was that acquainting myself with *The Imitation of Christ* would deepen my growth in holiness of heart and life.

What surprised me most is how Thomas views holiness and humility as inseparable. It is often easy to think about holiness and humility as separate virtues, but if we carefully study Jesus’ life, that’s not entirely the case. One of the best summaries of Christ’s life is in Philippians 2:6-7: “Though [Jesus] was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking on the form of a servant.”

Holiness is a downward journey, marked by humility. Jesus stooped lower than any religious Jew at the time—he shared meals with tax collectors and sinners, damaging his own credibility as a rabbi. Jesus was close to people with disastrous lives.

My reading so far of *The Imitation of Christ* is revealing an important lesson: humility gets you closer to God and closer to others, and fast. Humility is both the first and a recurring stop on our pilgrimage to the Kingdom. Wesley writes in *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* (1777), “True humility is a kind of self-annihilation; and this is the centre of all virtues.”

In the third chapter of *The Imitation*, Thomas à Kempis writes, “A humble understanding of yourself is a surer way to God than a profound searching after knowledge.” There are a lot of things we must learn, but one thing is certain: humility is the foundation upon which we discover the abundant life offered to us in Christ.



**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JUNE 14, 2026**

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

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

**Matthew 9: 35-10:8**

**"Cycles of Care"**

**Rev. Kaylen Short**

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **Church Office Closed – Juneteenth**

The church office will be closed Thursday, June 18, in observance of Juneteenth.

We will reopen on Monday, June 22.



### **Annual Conference 2026 June 18–20, 2026**

Please keep our pastors, and all those attending Annual Conference in your prayers as they gather for worship, learning, fellowship, and important decisions that impact the ministry of our church and conference.



### **Calling all young people with a flair for music & dance**

Join the VBS Praise Team and lead worship in the Sanctuary during VBS assembly.

Worship songs and dance steps make VBS motivational, inspirational, and fun.

VBS is June 22-26, daily from 9 am – 12 pm. Praise Team practice will be Wed-Fri the week before VBS:

- Wed. June 17- 9:30-11:30 am
- Thur. June 18- 9:30-11:30 am
- Fri. June 19- 9:30-11:30 am



We meet in the Junior Choir room upstairs, B-320. Dress comfortably and get ready to have fun. Call Nancy Musselwhite at 678-637-6681 or email her at nmusselwhite1@gmail.com to ask questions or sign up.



Mary Martha Hope Circle will honor fathers with a small thank you on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21. If you would like to honor a father who is special to you, please consider making a contribution to the Benevolence Fund in their honor or memory.

Lunch with Pastor Kaylen Lunch 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.



### **Vacation Bible School Sunday – June 28**

Join us on Sunday, June 28, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as we celebrate Vacation Bible School! Come support our VBS participants and celebrate all that God has done through this special ministry! We look forward to worshipping with you.



*You're Invited!* ♥

# FAREWELL *Reception* for Rev. Drew West

Please join us as we celebrate the ministry of Rev. Drew West and wish him well as he begins a new appointment.

Drew has been appointed  
Associate Pastor at  
Boynton United Methodist Church  
in Ringgold, Georgia,  
beginning in July.

We are grateful for his faithful leadership, compassionate spirit, and the many ways he has blessed our church and community.



Come share in this special time of fellowship as we thank Drew for his ministry among us and send him forth with our love, gratitude, and best wishes.

*You will always be part of our church family!* ♥



*Join us!*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

**12:00 PM**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## **SAGE Annual Peach Trip – July 7**

Join us for our annual SAGE Peach Trip on Tuesday, July 7! We'll travel to Dickey Farms to enjoy fresh Georgia peaches and then head to Blackbird Cafe for lunch and fellowship.

We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and depart promptly at 10:15 a.m. Transportation fee: \$2.00

To reserve your spot, please call the church office. We hope you'll join us for this fun summer tradition!





## **Summer Lunch volunteers are the best!**

Thanks to all of you who have provided cookies and apples these last 2 weeks!

Our team of volunteers do a great job of packing the lunches, and we have good fellowship in the process. Our drivers are very dedicated and show up before 11 to deliver to the families.

We are still in need of drivers who can substitute. We have a couple of routes open without a regular driver, and we need those routes to be covered each week. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for at least one week. The deliveries are finished by early afternoon, and depend on the length and location of the route. Bring a friend with you, and you have a navigator and a runner, and you finish even quicker.

The benefit? You get to see the faces of the kids!

## **Coming in July...Flood Bucket Mission Project**

July is "Flood Bucket Month" at FFUMC, and we are launching a mission project to support UMCOR's Disaster Response Teams.

Flood bucket supplies will be collected, assembled and delivered to the Conference Disaster Response warehouse in East Point. In partnership with state agencies, the UMC will distribute these buckets to areas of greatest need following natural disasters. This church-wide project is sponsored by the Mission Leadership Team and the FFUMC Youth.

A list of specific items needed for the flood buckets will be available starting July 5 at the Welcome Center. The project will conclude on July 26.





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](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com) or 404-395-8161 or Rev. Kaylen Short for additional information.

### **Let's Do Lunch: Saturday, August 8**

It's time to make reservations for our 5th Annual Let's Do Lunch! All ladies are welcome and remember to bring friends, neighbors and family with you.

This year, we are delighted to have David Widener as our special guest. Get ready for laughter, encouragement and mystery that includes stories from his life and the wonder of magic.

Guests will enjoy a chicken Caesar salad for lunch, as well as the chance to browse all the uniquely decorated dining tables in the Fellowship Hall.

There is no cost to attend this event, but reservations are required. There are 2 easy ways to make your reservation:

Online: [Click this reservation link, fill in the form & hit Submit.](#)

Phone: Call the church office at 770-461-4313.

Don't wait! Make your reservation today! You may make reservations for you and your friends at the same time. You don't want to miss this special event. When all seats are filled, we will start a waiting list.



**Reservations due:  
Saturday, July 25**

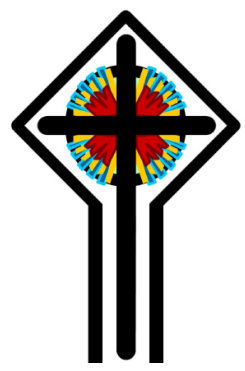


## Fayette Samaritans – June Donation Needs

Fayette Samaritans appreciates your continued generosity in supporting neighbors in need throughout our county. Donations of food, clothing, and monetary gifts are always welcome.

For the month of June, the most needed pantry items are:  
Hamburger Helper, Canned Corn, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Dried Pasta, Rice (3 lb. bags), Canned Mixed Vegetables, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Products.

The Clothes Closet is also in need of boys' and girls' socks.



### June 8, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026	
Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$600,744.19
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$556,381.34
Difference	\$44,362.85
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	916.00
77 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$20,633.75

#### 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.

#### Publication Deadlines

**Have information to share? Send your submissions for consideration to Jenn Hickman at [officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com) by noon on Mondays for inclusion in The Weekender weekly e-newsletter.**

#### Regular Church Office Hours:

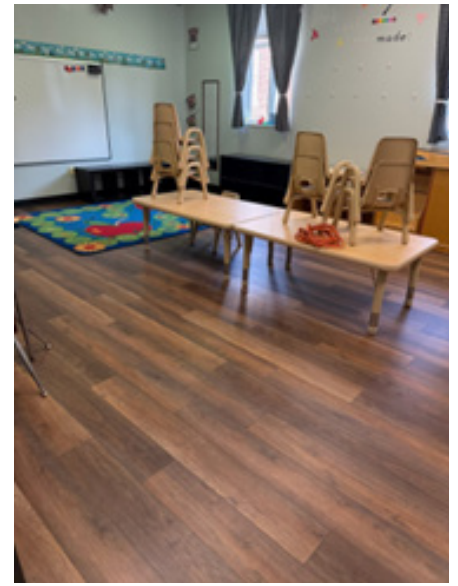
Monday – Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed 12-1 PM lunch)

Closed Fridays

**AA Meetings:** Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

**NA Meetings:** Thursdays 7:30 PM

*INSPIRED...*



**Our Church Campus is fully open again!!**

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding during the Preschool flooring project and the Building C reroofing project. Our Church Campus is fully open again!! We would also like to extend a special thank you to our contractor, RJH, and to Teri Smith, along with all of the crews involved, for another amazing job. Your hard work, dedication, and attention to detail are truly appreciated. Thank you for helping make these projects a success and for caring so well for our church facilities.

