

The Weekender

June 26, 2026



Here I am. Send me!
By Rev. Drew West



"I have always been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted; then I realized that the interruptions were my work." -Henri Nouwen

There it was again—the beachball. For weeks I'd noticed it, often when singing hymns and receiving the benediction. The ball was stuck in a small crevice between the wall and the ceiling above the choir loft in the chapel. I thought to myself, "Someone needs to get that ball down from there." Eventually, it occurred to me that I was that person!

So, between the 8:45 a.m. service and Sunday School, I went up the stairs and found a closet near the chapel's stained glass. I could see the opening where the ball was lodged. Finding a broom, I began pushing through the gap until I heard a faint thud. Hallelujah!

Being in ministry here at Fayetteville First for the last 129 Sundays has taught me this lesson well. Whether through "The Box" at 11 a.m., Messy Church, acolyte training, VBS, Friday Bible study at Gremlin Growlers, Creative Pause on Wednesday nights, writing Weekender articles (where I first debuted my poetry), and chapel services at the Preschool.

I give thanks to God for all of these opportunities and for all of you who have participated, volunteered, and encouraged me along the way. I wasn't always sure what the outcomes would be, but I thank God for it all. I thank you all for welcoming my youngest son, Theodore, and for constantly surrounding my family with care and support. As I leave FFUMC and go to Boynton UMC, I pray that all of us will see the big and small opportunities and interruptions as pathways to serve Christ our Lord. I pray we would keep the words of the prophet Isaiah near our hearts: "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)



5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 28, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 10:40-42

"Love the Story"

Rev. Drew West

CURRENT NEWS



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.

Join us!
SUNDAY, JUNE 28
12:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

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! ♥

Last Day of Amazon Prime Days is today June 26th! If you're looking for a simple way to support our preschool, we invite you to check out our classroom wishlist. Many of the items on the list help enrich our learning environments and provide hands-on experiences for our students throughout the year. Every gift, big or small, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for helping us create engaging spaces where children can learn, grow, and thrive!

Check out our wishlist at:

<https://a.co/oiDY7cYm>



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!



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.



Give Blood – Sunday, July 12

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, July 12, from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the FFUMC Gym.

Giving blood is one of the simplest ways to make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Signing up is easy—visit redcrossblood.org, select the Fayetteville First UMC drive

on July 12, and encourage family and friends to donate as well. Please sign up in advance if possible. For questions or assistance, email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com



Messy Church Back to School Block Party

Saturday, July 25 | 3:00–5:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate the end of summer and get ready for an exciting new school year! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon filled with outdoor fun, games, music, and community celebration.

This event is FREE and open to all ages—everyone in the community is welcome!



Thank You!!

Dear FFUMC,

I would like to thank the Shawl Ministry for the beautiful lap robe and to thank the members of our church family whose prayers, encouragement and generous meals have supported my recovery from surgery. Your love & care, together with a wonderful medical team & the blessing of early detection, have contributed to my quick recovery & positive prognosis.

Tim Aycock

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.

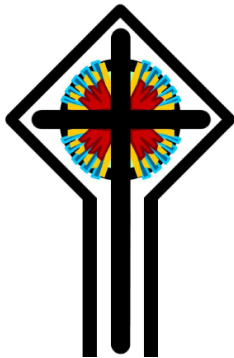
The Clothes Closet is also in need of boys' and girls' socks.



**The church campus will be closed
July 2nd and 3rd
for the Independence holiday**



June 22, 2026 Financials



Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$648,050.82
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$607,584.77
Difference	\$40,466.05
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	1,250.00
81 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$21,633.75

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 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

So Much Fun at Vacation Bible School 2026!

What an incredible week at Vacation Bible School 2026! Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who gave their time, energy, and love to make this week so special. From games and music to learning and laughter, VBS was filled with joyful moments and unforgettable memories.

A huge thank you as well to all of the wonderful children and families who joined us this year. We loved spending the week together and are grateful for everyone who helped make VBS 2026 such a success. We can't wait to see you again next year!

