



The Weekender

July 10, 2026

HOPE?

Rev. Charles Robinson

In The Message, Eugene Peterson translates 1 Peter 3:15b like this..."Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy." The NRSV puts it this way..."Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the Hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

What is the hope that is in us? I hope that our hope is in Jesus the Christ!

*The Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last...

*The Solid Rock, the Firm Foundation...

*The One who loves us and became obedient unto death, even unto death on the cross, so that we might live abundantly and eternally...

*The Bright and Morning Star, the Rose of Sharon, the Lion of Judah, the Good Shepherd, the One who calls us friend...

*The Savior, the One to whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord...

How do we come to know this Jesus? By opening our hearts to Him and declaring our faith in Him; by conversing with Him in prayer. We come to know Jesus the same way we come to know other folks...by hanging out with Him! Can we recall when we first heard the name of Jesus? Do we remember the names, the faces of those who introduced us to Him?

If someone were to demand it from us today, could we give an accounting for the hope that is in us? And could we do it with the Utmost Courtesy? It is never appropriate to knock someone over the head with what we believe, and then drag them by their hair back to our particular theological cave. And if the one who is demanding an accounting from us is an antagonist, then our goal becomes their change of heart, not their destruction.

Always and everywhere, by our helpful actions and kind words, we are called to freely share with others the **Hope** that is in us. There is **Hope** in all of us, isn't there? I **Hope so!**



7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 12, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

"Green Growing Days"

Rev. Allison Keith

CURRENT NEWS

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



Give a Little, Eat a Little!

Donate blood at our Blood Drive from 8:00 AM–1:00 PM, then stay after the 11:00 AM service to welcome Rev. Allison Keith and her family at our Welcome Reception.

Save a life... then replenish with homemade peach cobbler and fellowship!



Flood Bucket Month is Here!

We will be collecting cleaning supplies for UMCOR Flood Buckets from July 5 - 26. There are specific items and sizes required to properly fill these buckets.

Please stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a list of the exact items needed. There are two options

available: you may purchase items to fill a full bucket (estimated cost \$60-\$75) or a half bucket. Sunday School Classes, Circles, and other small groups are encouraged to participate in this mission project. The Youth and Mission Leadership Team look forward to a successful church wide mission project. For questions, please contact Charlotte McAdams at 404-862-9791 or charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com



School days are on the way and come with lots of little things to keep track of!



Mabel's Labels help make sure your child's belongings make it back home. Their personalized labels are waterproof, dishwasher safe, and laundry safe, making them perfect for busy preschool families.

Shop campaigns.mabelslabel.com anytime July 1 through August 30 and select Fayetteville First UMC Preschool to support our fundraiser.

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!



Save the Date! The next mission trip to El Salvador is scheduled for April 3-10, 2027. Please mark your calendars and begin praying about how you can participate. You will hear more about ways to become involved in September. If you are interested in going, contact Maggie Clarke at 404-395-8161 or mwclarke195@gmail.com.

Only 2 more weeks of summer lunch!

The time is flying by.



For the last week, 21 we would like to include a hand-written note of encouragement for each student as they start a new school year. In the Narthex and in the Welcome Center, you will find baskets with some blank notecards and stickers. Please take a few and write one of your favorite scriptures and a few words of hope and encouragement. You can write the same message on each notecard if you like.

Then, you can return them to the same basket. We have 344 students. We would love a huge participation from you. Each notecard will only take a few minutes. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers. Thank you for your support of this wonderful ministry!

Mark your calendar for our annual Rise Against Hunger Packing Event



August 16, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
in the Family Life Center.

Our goal is to pack 30,000 highly nutritious, dehydrated meals in just two hours to help fight hunger in crisis areas and school feeding programs

around the world. It is a fun activity for all ages and a great way to help others.

Please note the following details:

- Registration: Rise Against Hunger requires a waiver/registration for the event.

Please complete this as soon as possible via this link

<https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e800537>

- Lunch: Lunch will be provided after worship and before the packing event. There is no charge, though donations will be accepted, and reservations will be needed. You will be contacted after you register for the event, to confirm your lunch plans.

- Dress Code: We are encouraged to wear very casual, comfortable clothes for both worship and the packing event.

Let us all work together for this great cause.

For questions, please contact Charlotte McAdams at charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com or 404-862-9791

Fayette Samaritans – July Donation Needs July's most needed pantry items include Hamburger Helper, canned chicken, boxed mashed potatoes, boxed mac & cheese, peanut butter, canned mixed vegetables, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and pancake mix. The Clothes Closet is also in need of new boys', girls', and ladies underwear & socks, new mens' boxers.



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. If you made a reservation but can no longer attend, please be sure to contact Lauren Davis to cancel.



**Reservations due:
Saturday, July 25**



Help Us Refresh Our Website!

We're updating our church website and would love your help! If you have photos from worship, Sunday School classes, small groups, mission projects, fellowship events, children's or youth activities, or any other church gatherings, please share them with us.

Send your photos to Kelly Anderson at admin@fayettevillefirst.com or Jennifer Hickman at officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com.



July 6, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$682,150.26
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$656,766.29
Difference	\$25,383.97
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$2,342.00
95 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$25,150.89

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

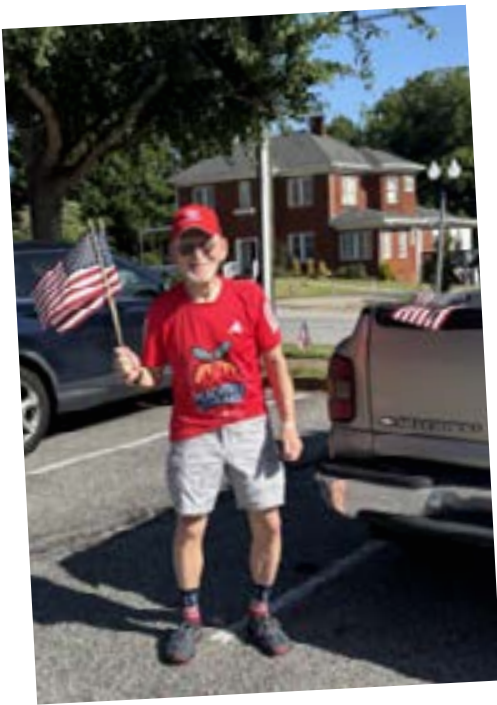
Have information to share? Send your submissions for consideration to Jenn Hickman at officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com by noon on Mondays for inclusion in The Weekender weekly e-newsletter.

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



Thank You, Flag Team!

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing Flag Team for faithfully placing and collecting the American flags across our church campus for each patriotic holiday. Your dedication, hard work, and servant hearts help create a beautiful display that honors our nation and warmly welcomes everyone who visits. We are grateful for your time, commitment, and all you do to serve our church family!

Interested in joining the Flag Team? Contact Jo Springer to learn more and become part of this meaningful ministry.

