



The Weekender

July 17, 2026

The Grace that Goes Before Us
Rev. Allison Keith

Growing up, my mother was the queen of hospitality. When friends would come over, she would bake them chicken parmesan and brownies dusted with powdered sugar. When guests would come to stay, she would have a set of fluffy towels awaiting them and a candle lit on the bedside table. When her teacher friends would come over for their end of year party, she would have enough food for everyone to take home leftovers. After giving away nearly all of her tupperware, she started to stock the pantry with to-go boxes, insisting that no one should leave empty handed.

Even now, with both of her daughters well out of the nest, I still hear of her incredible hospitality. She'll invite friends with kids over to swim and make them hot dogs shaped like octopuses with goldfish crackers for lunch. She'll host Easter brunches where everyone - and I mean EVERYONE - is invited. She'll let friends of mine stay over when they're passing through town, even if she hasn't seen them in years.

There is something sacred about this sort of hospitality.

It reminds me of John Wesley's concept of prevenient grace. It describes the grace that goes before us and makes a way for God's love to flourish in our lives. It is grace that is given to us freely, before we have done anything to deserve or understand it. It is the grace we recognize at work in baptism, the kind that reaches out and invites us in.

Throughout my first week at this church, I have seen this type of grace at work firsthand. It has shown up in prayer shawls and engraved hymnals; in flower arrangements and peach cobbler; in banners and cards; and of course, in more diapers and wipes than I ever could have dreamed of.

This is a church that prepares the way for others, showing them love before they do anything to deserve or understand it. I am grateful God's grace led me here and that it continues to welcome us in, all throughout our lives.



8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Luke 15: 11-32

"Read It Again: Homecoming"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

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!



Let's Try Something New

The Second Sunday Seminar Series is an opportunity to meet for an hour over a light lunch after the 11:00 am service and learn something new. We will bring in a subject matter expert each month to present a topic, take questions, and provide immediate steps we can take to safeguard ourselves, improve wellness and mental health, fill knowledge gaps, or hack everyday challenges. The first three Second Sunday Seminars will be September 13, October 11, November 8. Here's where we need your help. If you have a burning topic that we can turn into a one-hour seminar series, please call the office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



Legacy Grant Requests Due August 1

The Legacy Committee is grateful for the opportunity to support the ministries and programs that help our church community grow and thrive. Our next round of Legacy Grant funding requests are due by the end of the day on August 1. To be considered, each request must be reviewed and signed by a staff member before submission.

If you have questions about the process or need assistance with your request, please reach out to Legacy Committee Chair Lauren Davis or the Church office. We look forward to hearing how your ideas and ministries continue to strengthen our church family!



LAST WEEK OF SUMMER LUNCH COMING UP!!!

We have had a great summer with the volunteers and lunches. This last week we could use some extra help. Some of our packers will be on vacation, and this would be a good opportunity to experience what we do. Please consider spending an hour or 2 getting the lunches put together with us. We work together and spend time in fellowship. Please text Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761 if you are interested or would like more information.

THANK YOU!

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



Help Us Refresh Our Website!



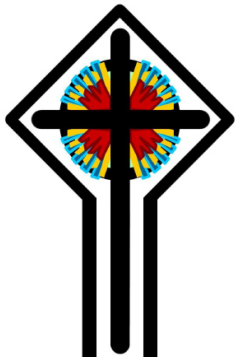
We're updating our church website and would love your help! If you have photos from worship, Sunday School classes, small groups, mission projects, fellowship events, children's or youth activities, or any other church gatherings, please share them with us.

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



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.

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.



July 13, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$702,282.96
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$665,129.77
Difference	\$25,790.36
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$290.00
97 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$25,790.36

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



A Warm FFUMC Welcome!

What a wonderful Sunday it was as we officially welcomed Rev. Allison Keith and her family to Fayetteville First United Methodist Church! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who stopped by the welcome reception to introduce yourselves and help make them feel at home.

We also want to say a big thank you to everyone who donated diapers and wipes for the Keith family. Your generosity is such a beautiful example of the love and hospitality that make FFUMC so special.

