



The Weekender

July 3, 2026

This past week, our church welcomed 85 students from Pre-K4 through 5th grade for an incredible week of Vacation Bible School! Our winter-themed journey was centered on Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Each day, we discovered a new “Lift Lesson” through Scripture:

Day 1: Joseph taught us, “I can share my gifts.”

Day 2: Esther showed us, “I can be brave.”

Day 3: The widow reminded us, “I can give my all.”

Day 4: Jesus taught us, “I can pray.”

Day 5: The disciples and the lame man showed us, “I can have hope.”

Our campers also put their faith into action through our Bloomers for Bloom campaign, collecting 655 items—including underwear, pajamas, toiletries, deodorant, and art supplies—for children in need, many of whom are in the foster and adoption system.

A heartfelt thank you to our 50 incredible volunteers, including 20 youth volunteers, who decorated, led music and activities, taught classes, welcomed families at check-in, and worked behind the scenes to make VBS possible. Thank you as well to everyone who donated supplies, prayed for this ministry, and supported us throughout the week.

What an amazing week of growing in faith, serving others, and discovering that with Christ, we can do all things! Thank you for helping make VBS such a wonderful success!

Thank you for all that you do!

Grace & Peace,

Chase Leonard



6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 11:16-30

"Be Teachable"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



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!

2026 Mid-Year Giving Statements Sent

As part of our commitment to keeping our church family informed and connected, we tried something a little different this year by providing mid-year giving statements in addition to our traditional year-end statements. We hope this helps you review your giving records and plan for the remainder of the year.



2026 mid-year giving statements were sent via email on June 30, 2026.

You may also access your giving statement through Realm. If we do not have an email address on file, your statement was mailed on July 1, 2026.

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.



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.

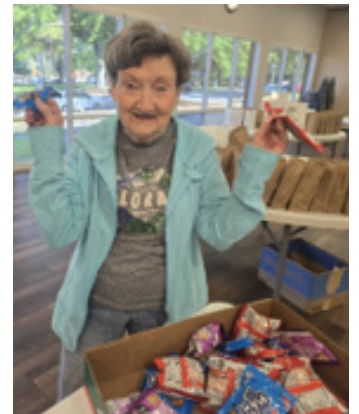
Flood bucket supplies will be collected, assembled and delivered to the Conference Disaster Response warehouse in East Point.

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.



Help make a difference this summer by joining our **Summer Lunch Program** team! Volunteers are needed to help serve our community and share Christ's love through this important ministry. If you'd like to be part of the team, please contact Faye Livingston at 770-401-9761.



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!



To FFUMC,
Thank you all so much for
the cards, flowers, visits
and assistance to Sylvia & me
after my accident. Y'all
have been a blessing to
both of us.

Oh Daisee
Special Thanks to Randy
Riddell and Marilyn and
Wayne Harris for the
wheelchair and food.

Thank You!!

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.



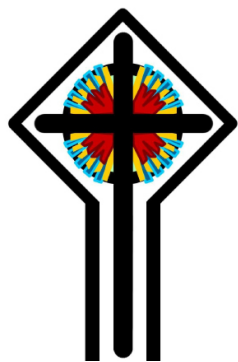
**Reservations due:
Saturday, July 25**



Fayette Samaritans – July Donation Needs

Fayette Samaritans welcomes donations of food, clothing, and financial support to help care for our community. 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' and girls' socks.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



June 29, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$661,280.31
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$618,039.95
Difference	\$43,240.36
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$0
85 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$22,508.61

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



As Rev. Drew West and his family begin their next chapter, we want to offer our heartfelt gratitude for their time, leadership, and ministry among us. We are thankful for the ways they have shared in the life of our church and community. Please join us in wishing Rev. Drew and his family many blessings, joy, and God's guidance in all that lies ahead.

