



# The Weekender

July 31, 2026

Where Are We Going?  
By Rev. Charles Robinson

This week I would like to share with you some words that were written by a colleague of mine several years ago. I hope that you will find these words thought provoking. Or, as I once heard it put, to Wax Contemplative.

“I had just boarded the airplane traveling to Atlanta. There was a mother traveling with two little girls ages three and five who were seated just ahead of me. The flight attendant spoke to the mother and then asked the little girls if they knew where they were going. To her amazement the little girls replied that they were going to Germany. They informed the flight attendant that they had to change planes in Atlanta. They expected to arrive in Germany about nine o’clock the next day.

“The flight attendant was really impressed that these little girls knew so much. She said, ‘I am amazed that you girls are so young and you know where you are going. I have a lot of adults who get on the plane and when there is a question about where they are going, they don’t know.’

“It made me think – how many of us know where we are going. It is reported that one day Dr. Albert Einstein was on a train leaving Princeton. In those days a conductor came along and checked your ticket and punched it. When the conductor came to check his ticket, Dr. Einstein started checking his vest pocket, his coat pocket, and his pants pockets and could not find his ticket.

“The conductor quickly said, ‘Dr. Einstein, you don’t need a ticket. I know who you are. I know you are an honest man and that you have a ticket. Don’t worry about it. I know who you are.’ Dr. Einstein thanked him.

“As the conductor started to leave and go to the next car he turned around and saw Dr. Einstein on his knees on the floor looking for his ticket under the seat. He came back again and said, ‘You don’t need to find your ticket. I know who you are. There is no problem.’ Einstein got up from the floor and looked at the conductor and said, ‘Thank You. I also know who I am. But I need to find the ticket so I will know where I am going!’

“It is good every now and then just to stop and ask ourselves, ‘Where am I going?’ It’s also a good thing to remind ourselves that we have a Good Shepherd who walks beside us and guides us, every step of the way, even in the darkest of valleys.”



10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 2, 2026

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

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Matthew 14: 13-21  
"Read It Again: Generosity"  
Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **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!*

### **Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday August 2**

As a new school year begins, we want to surround our students, teachers, and administrators with prayer and encouragement!

8:45 AM Service Following communion, we will offer a time of consecration and blessing for all students, teachers, and administrators. Bag tags will also be distributed during this time.

11:00 AM Service Students, teachers, and administrators are invited to bring their backpacks or bags to worship. During the service, we will pray over the upcoming academic year, and each person will receive a special bag tag as a reminder that God goes with them into every classroom and hallway. Come and help us lift our school community as we begin this new chapter together!



**August 2  
Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks**

**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](https://campaigns.mabelslabel.com) anytime July 1 through August 30 and select Fayetteville First UMC Preschool to support our fundraiser.

A vibrant poster titled 'VOLUNTEERS Needed!' in large, colorful letters. It encourages people to 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SHARE GOD'S LOVE. CHANGE A LIFE.' and lists three volunteer opportunities: 'WONDERS OF WORSHIP' (Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. Service), 'SUNDAY SCHOOL' (Sundays at 9:45 a.m.), and 'WEDNESDAY NIGHTS' (Children's Arts Programming). It includes an email address 'childrenministries@fayettevillefirst.com' and a footer with the church's name 'FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH' and the tagline 'Growing in Faith. Serving in Love. Sharing God's Grace.'

## 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](mailto:email_admin@fayettevillefirst.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



**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](mailto:mwclarke195@gmail.com).



### **Walking with others through grief**

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, a new session of classes will meet Mondays August 17 through November 16 from 10 AM to 12 PM in Room B-350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact Carol or Bill Webb or visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).



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](mailto:charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com) or 404-862-9791

## September SAGE Trip!

Our next SAGE outing on Thursday, September 17! We'll travel to Oakland Cemetery for a guided tour, followed by lunch together at 6 Feet Under.

Cost: \$10 (includes the tour and transportation)

Please note: Tour space is limited to the first 25 participants.

If you'd like to join us, sign up by calling the church office or emailing [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## THANK YOU from Summer Lunch!

The weeks of our summer lunch program went by really fast this year. All of a sudden we were at week 8 and finishing up. We served 156 families and 346 students each week, from pre-school through high school. This year we served a rotation of pasta cups with cheese or peanut butter crackers, hot dogs or corn dogs with chips, and, on the last week, chicken tenders. They, also, had fruit (usually apples), a small bag of carrots, and cookies.

I am so grateful for all of the volunteers who are so dedicated and faithful to the program and who gave of their time to help with preparing the food, packing, and delivering the lunches. I am, also, grateful to all of our members who donated food, baked cookies, wrote the encouragement notes for the last week, and who supported this ministry with thoughts and prayers. It is a wonderful ministry and a way to reach out to those in need in our community. Please continue to keep these families in your prayers as the students start a new school year. Please, also, give thought to joining us next year to make it all happen. If you have questions, please ask. Thank you again for being a loving, compassionate, and supportive congregation!



## 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) or

Jennifer Hickman at [officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com).



Love in Action

### Love in Action

One of our Summer Lunch families recently experienced a house fire. They are in need of a TV, entertainment center, bookshelf, plates, bowls, cups, pots and pans, and a floor lamp.

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Cindy Hall at 678-656-4117. Thank you for helping us love our neighbors in a tangible way.



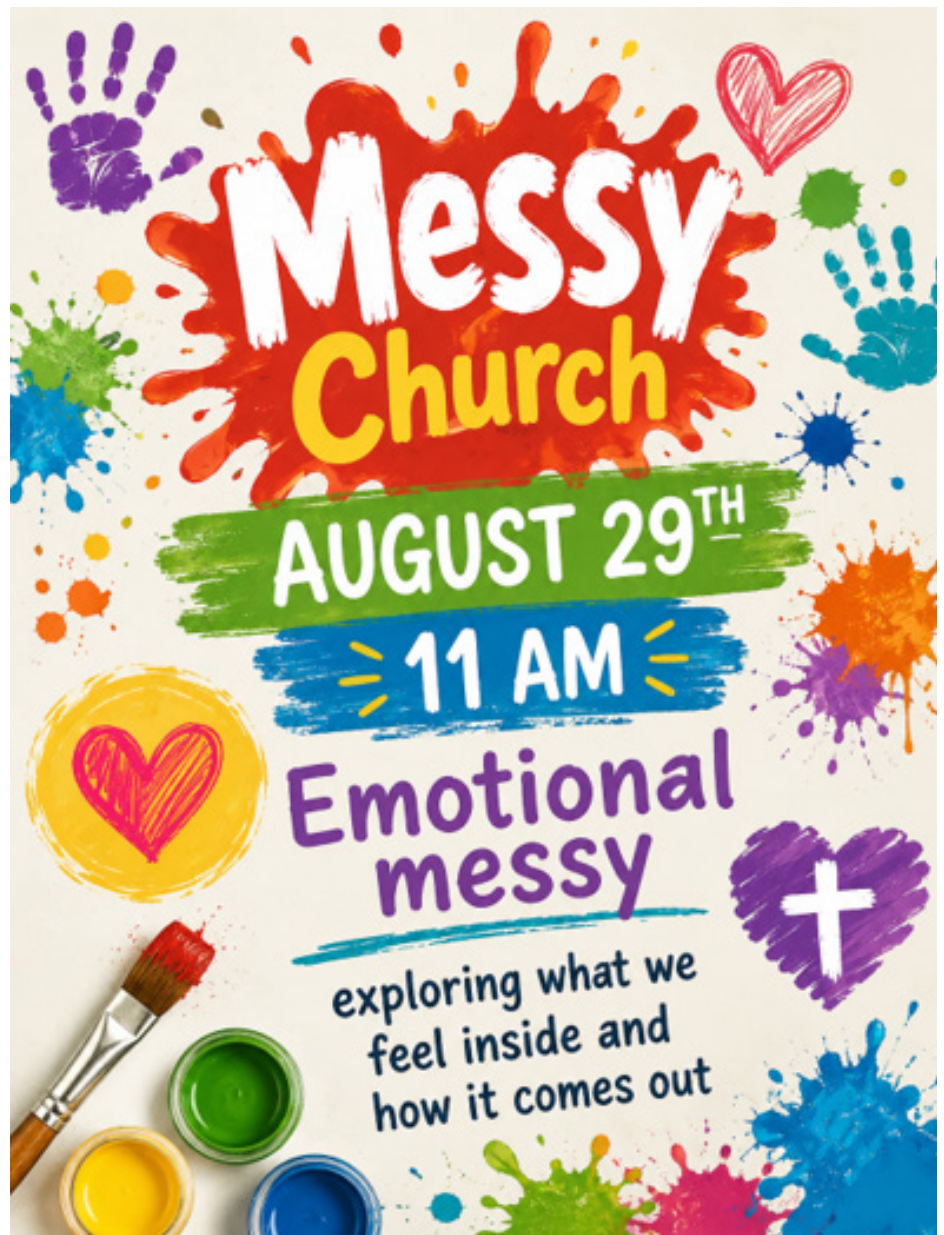
**Titus II – Sept. 1**

**Join us for Titus II on  
Tuesday, September 1  
at noon in the  
Fellowship Hall!**



You're invited to join us for our **Fifth Sunday gathering on August 30th!** We will enjoy a delicious breakfast, have a Bible teaching and activity, and then sing songs both old and new. It's a wonderful, intergenerational time of faith, family, and fellowship.

For more information, contact Rev. Allison Keith at [akeith@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:akeith@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Wednesday Night Suppers

### resume August 19 with Potluck

Let's eat together!

Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

Regular Wednesday programs

for all ages resume August 20.

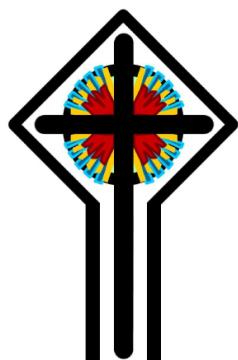
Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday.

Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).

August 20 Meal - Potluck!

Bring a side dish to share. (Piccadilly Chicken Tenders and Dessert provided).

No charge, but reservations are needed by noon on August 17.



## July 27, 2026 Financials

### Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$736,965.76

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$673,218.10

Difference \$63,747.66

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$450.00

107 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$28,515.45

### 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.**

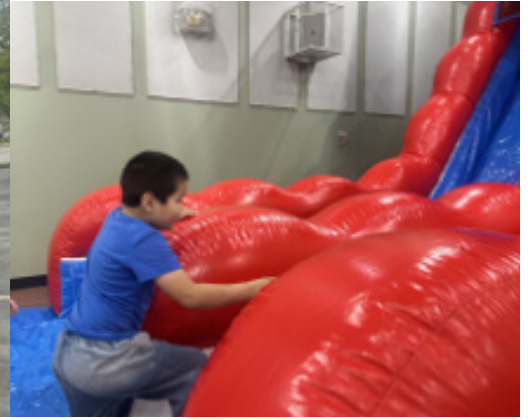
### Regular Church Office Hours:

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



Saturday, July 25th, Messy Church hosted our Back to School Block Party on the Fayetteville Square, welcoming 75 children and adults for a free afternoon of celebration before the start of the new school year. Families enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, balloon art, crafts, music, dancing, and Kona Ice, creating smiles around every corner. One of the greatest blessings of the day was seeing so many first-time guests join us. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with new families, build relationships, and share the love of Christ in a fun and welcoming environment. We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, and hearts to make this event possible. Their hospitality helped create an atmosphere where every family felt welcomed and valued. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, prayed, and supported this outreach. As the new school year begins, we pray for every student, teacher, school staff member, and family. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Messy Church, August 29th @11am.

Grace and Peace,  
Chase Leonard

