



The Weekender

August 14, 2026

Original Sin
By Mr. Nicholas Bowden

Dear Friends,

I have a preacher friend who describes 'Original Sin' (from the Genesis story when Adam and Eve listened to a serpent rather than God) as – ingratitude. Ingratitude is defined as “a lack of appreciation or thanks for a kindness, help, or gift received.” Usually, the Theologues on our staff write this article, therefore, it seemed appropriate to talk about some weighty issue, so there it is...

While none of us are without sin, it has been my experience that this corner of Methodists in Fayetteville is home to one of the most grateful, caring, and warm congregations anywhere. If you are reading this, surely you understand it to be so; to which is the actual point of this article!

By God's grace, through your commitment, we are in a renewed season of energy and growth at the church. We have a full and energetic staff in place and expanded programming for all ages. Worship attendance is up, Giving is strong, and new members are being added. This is a happy, busy time. Last week after church, Kaylen hosted a gathering of about 25 people from the recently closed Fayette Friendship UMC. Many of them have been attending church here for some time and he was quite intentional they understand we have a place for them. We are grateful to God for sending them our way. They were grateful, it appeared, to know there is a place for them.

Our wonderful new Children's Director, Dana Lamb (also the longtime and much-loved Choral Director at Whitewater High School) will begin new programming Wednesday, August 19th at 5:30 for Children which will include drama and music. It is so rare, in fact almost nonexistent, to find someone with her skill set which so directly matched our needs. Your Music Director is very grateful for Dana, both professionally and personally.

Our new Associate Minister, Allison Keith is someone for whom we are all grateful. She is focused, enthusiastic, intelligent, with a real heart for ministry. You will find, in short order, God's clear hand in her call to this congregation.

I am grateful to Almighty God, for the gift of you all. What an exciting time to listen to God and be grateful! Thank you for all you do and are. Call me anytime.

Your good friend,

Nick Bowden, Minister of Music



12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 15: 10-20

"The Heart and Mouth Connection"

Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



Rise Against Hunger Packing Event: This Sunday
Our annual Rise Against Hunger Packing Event is this Sunday, August 16 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Our goal is to have 200 volunteers 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.

Rise Against Hunger requires a waiver and registration for this event. It is not too late! Register NOW through the following link:

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

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



Let us all work together for this great cause.



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:admin@fayettevillefirst.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



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.

VOLUNTEERS Needed!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
SHARE GOD'S LOVE.
CHANGE A LIFE.

WE NEED CARING, ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS FOR:

WONDERS OF WORSHIP
Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. Service
Help lead worship through music, storytelling, and more!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Help build faith and friendships by sharing God's Word and encouraging young hearts.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Children's Arts Programming
Help lead music, drama, art and more while discipling and inspiring kids in a creative, fun and faith-filled environment.

INTERESTED IN SERVING? EMAIL US AT childrenministries@fayettevillefirst.com

Let's work together to help kids grow in faith, build friendships, and discover God's amazing love!



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.



September SAGE Trip!

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

We have reached our first 25 participants and have started a waitlist!

If you have already signed up, please pay your \$10 to reserve your spot. The \$10 covers the tour and transportation.

If you have questions or need to make your payment, please contact the church office.



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.



Love in Action

Love in Action

Thank you for all the support! Our Summer Lunch family who recently experienced a house fire now has everything they need. We are so grateful for everyone who donated items and helped provide for this family during a difficult time.

Your generosity is a beautiful reminder of what it means to love our neighbors in a tangible way. Thank you for being

Love in Action!



Titus II – September 1

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

Enjoy a delicious chicken salad lunch provided by a local restaurant for \$8 per person, followed by a special program featuring a speaker from the Fayette County Senior Center. Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday, August 25 by calling the church office or contacting Martha Turner.



Jerry
Whitaker

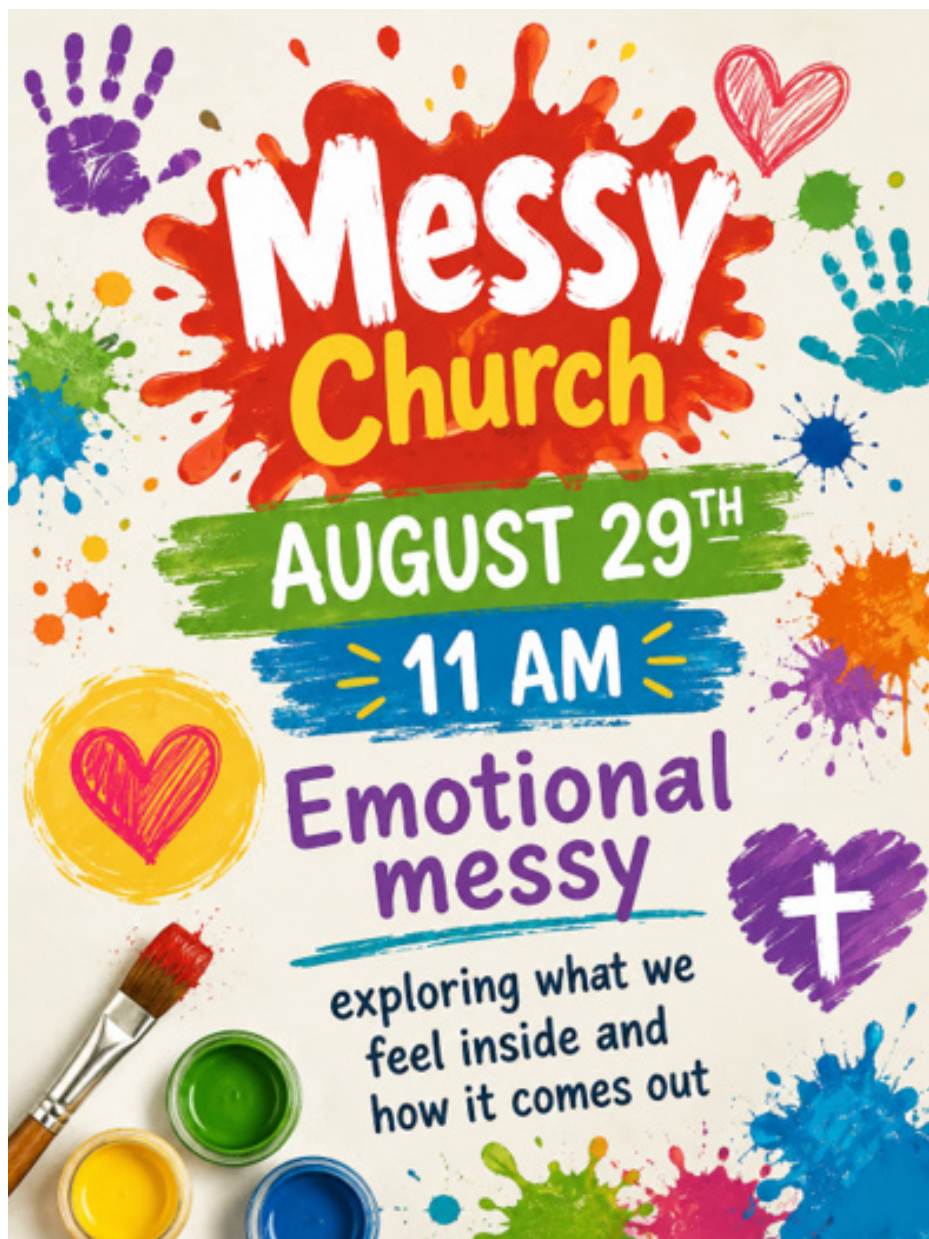
Want a Name Badge?

Need a new or replacement name badge? Name badges are \$12 each.

To order, contact Jennifer or Kelly in the church office at 770-461-4313 or officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com.



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.



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 19.

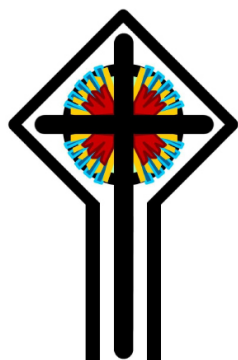
Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday.

Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

August 19 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.



August 10, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$782,260.86

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$743,096.12

Difference \$39,164.74

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$950.00

112 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$39,164.74

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

What a wonderful time we had at Let's Do Lunch! It was a joy to gather, share a delicious meal, and enjoy great fellowship together. Be sure to check out all the beautiful and creative table decorations—each one was unique and full of personality! A big thank-you to everyone who helped make the day so special.

Click here to check out the magician's performance!

<https://youtu.be/G-ARfG1y6Bk>



