



The Weekender

August 21, 2026

The Discouragement Bug By Rev. Charles Robinson

One of the easiest things to do in this whole wide world is to become discouraged. The Discouragement Bug is sneaky and persistent, never particular about who it bites. And within seconds the infection develops into a full-blown negativity. Most of us could readily name several folks who suffer from this affliction. From time to time such persons appear in our mirrors. The good news is that this ailment is not terminal, or at least it doesn't have to be. A common antidote is a song, and obviously not just any old tune will do. Some music will drag us down faster than an anchor chained to our ankles. But uplifting music has amazing restorative powers. For some reason one such song has been reverberating in my head. It was recorded by Johnny Mercer during the World War Two years...

"You've got to accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, and latch on to the affirmative, don't mess with Mister In-Between..."

"You've got to spread joy up to the maximum, bring gloom down to the minimum, have faith or Pandemonium's, liable to walk upon the scene..."

To illustrate my last remark, Jonah in the whale, Noah in the ark, What did they do just when everything looked so dark?

"Man, they said, We'd better accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, and latch on to the affirmative." The Discouragement Bug is native to wherever human beings reside. And, believe it or not, this destructive bug has even been known to show up in Church. There are times in Church when some things are not as we wish them to be, and other things are not like they used to be. Discouragement can spread like an infection throughout the Body of Christ. By accentuating the positive we can render a pre-emptive strike against the infection of negativity. And, just maybe, by latching on to the affirmative we can vaccinate ourselves against the diseases brought on by discouragement.

"Accentuate the positive; latch on to the affirmative." Fayetteville First UMC has so much going for us that discouragement doesn't stand a chance. We are blessed with an awesome Senior Pastor, an incredible Associate Pastor, a dedicated Staff, and amazing Lay-Leadership. And recall that earlier I mentioned the power of uplifting music. We have a gifted and graceful Director of Music, instrumentalists and singers extraordinarily talented. Most Sunday mornings I am over-blessed to dwell among such amazing folks. I do believe that I have the best seat in the house!

“Accentuate the positive; latch on to the affirmative.” What can each of us do to “eliminate the negative?” What can we do together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to exterminate the Discouragement Bug? And now, a closing reminder from Nehemiah 8:10, “...The JOY of the Lord is our strength.”



13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026
8:45 AM 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)
[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Matthew 16: 13-20
"The Wait is Over"
The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Join us Sunday, August 30
at 9:45 AM for our Fifth Sunday
Gathering! Enjoy a potluck breakfast
(bring a dish to share), Bible
teaching, fun activities, and songs
old and new. Come enjoy this special
time of faith, family, and fellowship!

For more information,
contact Rev. Allison Keith at
akeith@fayettevillefirst.com

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.





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!



Want to talk about it? Come join us!

Life is better when we share it together! Our Table Talk group meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in Room B-350 for conversation, connection, and a chance to talk about what's happening in our lives, our church, and our week.

Our first gathering is
Wednesday, September 2.

Come check it out!



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.



Thank you to all the Sunshine VBS volunteers and families for making this another incredible week filled with joy, laughter, music, dancing, spiritual growth, and countless blessings. We are truly grateful for a church family and staff who faithfully support and care for the Sunshine Ministry. Your love and dedication make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.



Love in Action

Love in Action

Love in Action is currently helping a family in need of a washer and dryer. We are also looking for a lawn mower that someone may be willing to donate. If you have either item to share, please contact the Cindy Hall. Thank you for helping us put Love in Action!

Wednesday Night Suppers

August 26

Let's eat together! Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall

Adults: \$10; Children under 13 - \$7

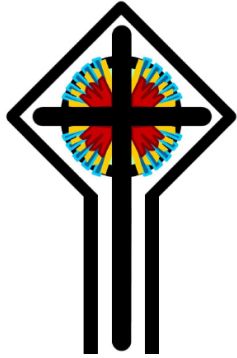
Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday.

Contact the church office

at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

August 26 - Grill Night

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips and Dessert.



August 17, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$811,326.32

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$786,359.06

Difference \$24,967.26

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$0.00

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 Day! Over 30,000 Meals Packed for Those in Need.

This past Sunday, our church community showed up in a big way—packing an incredible 30,038 highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for people facing food insecurity around the world. At the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event, 168 compassionate and caring individuals gathered with a common purpose and made a massive impact in less than two hours. Working side-by-side, we formed an efficient and joyful assembly line to label, fill, weigh, seal, and pray over the meals. Each bag was carefully filled with soy, a vitamin-rich nutrient packet, dehydrated vegetables and rice. The gym was filled with laughter, teamwork, and purpose. Moments like these remind us of the joy found in serving others. The Mission Leadership Team would like to say, "Thanks to each and everyone of you for your support of this mission project."

