



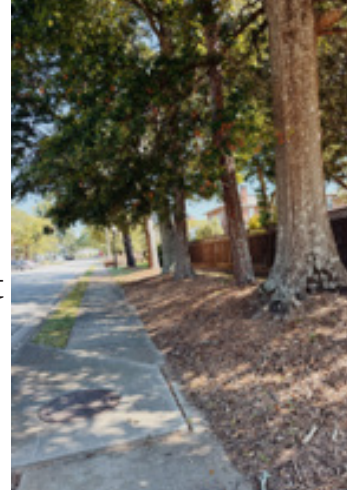
The Weekender

August 28, 2026

Fall for You
By Rev. Allison Keith

Earlier this week, I was walking down Lee Street when out of nowhere, I completely face-planted. I'm talking a trip-on-air, stuff-flies-everywhere kind of fall. And just my luck, there were witnesses.

I immediately did the mental math of how likely it was that one of the people who saw me fall flat on my face would have some connection with the church. I reasoned that I was new here, so maybe there was less of a chance of being recognized.



In a weird way, I thought that I had gotten away with it (as if falling down was some sort of crime I was worried about being convicted for). But then, a car circled back and the woman driving asked if I needed a ride. In that moment, all I wanted was to save face. To get back up like nothing had even happened. So I thanked her, but declined, and walked the final minute towards my destination.

Then, as I waited for coffee, there she was in line behind me. Of course. We laughed about it, realized that she did in fact have a connection to the church, and I was overcome by the strangest feeling.

I felt known. Like God could see that I was trying to keep it all together and put my best foot forward (in this case, the one that was not broken!), but that I just needed to be stopped in my tracks. To look down at my scraped knee and slight limp and acknowledge that I need help.

I'm not saying God made me fall—in fact, the culprit is more likely my longstanding clumsiness and a pair of shoes I probably need to toss out. But I do think God uses moments like this to remind us to accept help. To not be afraid of stumbling around a bit as we find our way. To let people see us when we're not at our best.

So even though I would have much rather fallen in secret—or better yet, not fallen at all—I can't help but laugh at how embarrassment is often our best teacher. May we stay open enough to learn from it.



14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 30, 2026

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

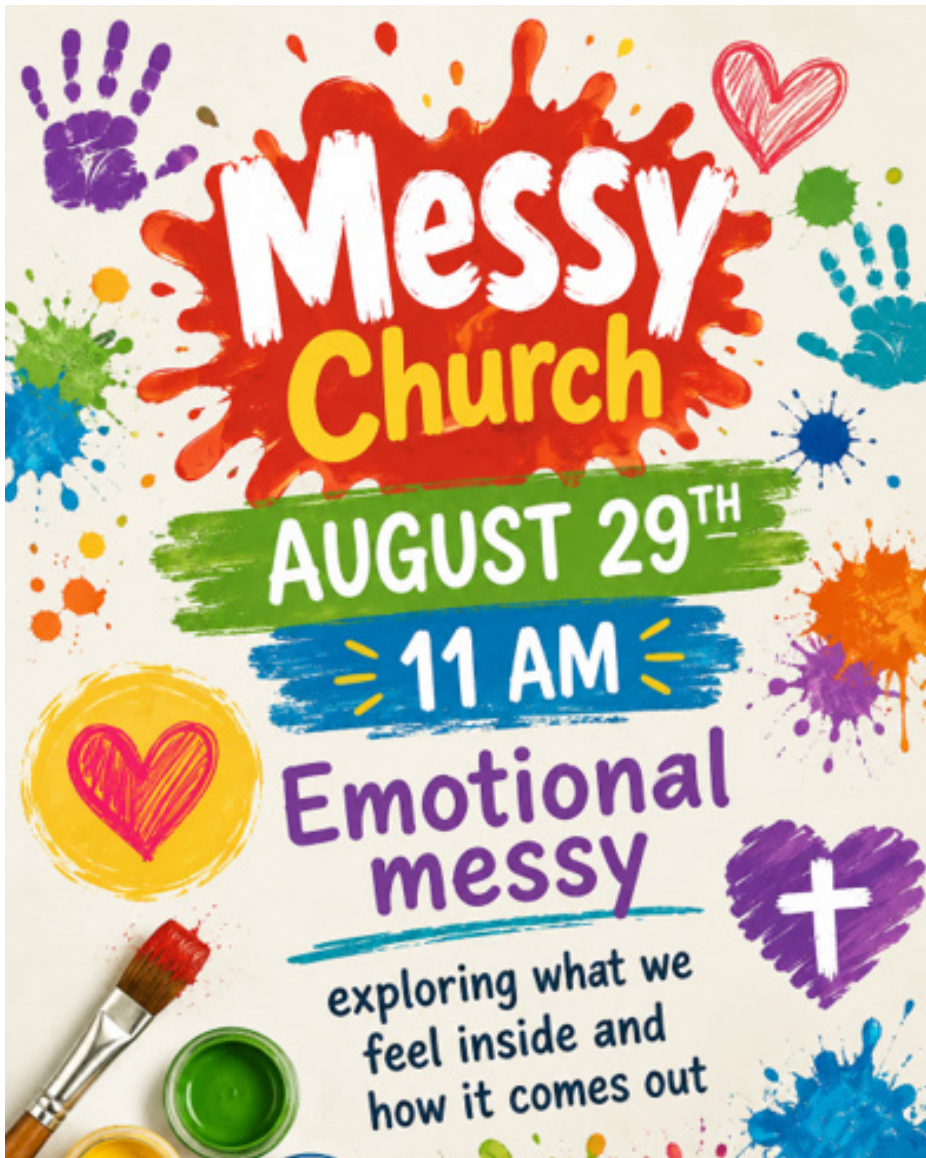
Online link active at 11 AM and after

Exodus 3:1-15

"Who God is"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

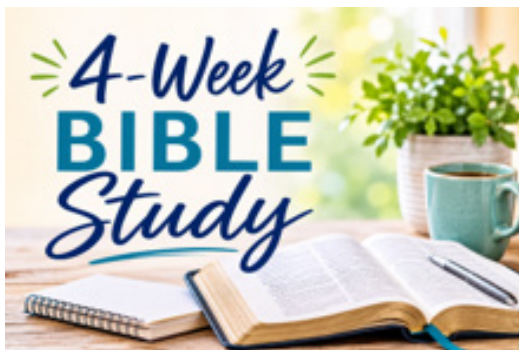


Join us Sunday, August 30 at 9:45 AM for our Fifth Sunday Gathering in the Fellowship Hall! Enjoy a potluck breakfast (bring a dish to share), Bible teaching, fun activities, and songs old and new. Come enjoy this special time of faith, family, and fellowship!

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.





Wednesday Nights:

The Sermon on the Plain
Four-Week Bible Study With

Rev. Kaylen Short

September 9, 16, 23, 30 | 5:30 P.M.

Luke tells the story of Jesus' most well-known sermon differently. Jesus comes down from the mountain and stands on a level place, and what he says there is blunt: blessed are you who are poor, you who are hungry now, you who weep.

Four evenings in Luke 6:17-49, from the blessings and woes to the two builders. Bring a Bible. Come for one week or all four.



United Women of Faith Fall Unit Gathering
Join us for the United Women of Faith Fall Unit Gathering on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall! Enjoy a delicious Soup Smorgasbord with mini croissants, dessert, and a beverage. No reservations are needed—just come and enjoy!

Our program will feature the Healing Bridge Clinic. We hope you'll join us for a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and inspiration!





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.



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.



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 portable basketball goal 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!



FFUMC Youth 2026–2027 Schedule

Grades 6–12
August 2026 – August 2027

The Default Week

WEDNESDAYS

8th Period After School
After school until 5:00 p.m.

Church Dinner
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Free Time
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Sunday School
Breakfast at the Foundry
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

 **Dungeons & Disasters (DND)**
Hosted by Nick Hansen
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Missions & Special Events

Oct 17	Local Retreat (Fall) — Saturday
Jun 16	ASP Commissioning Service
Jun 20–26	Appalachia Service Project (ASP)
Jul 12–16	Vacation Bible School
TBD	Spring Retreat — Beach Trip
TBD	College & Young Adult Mission to El Salvador

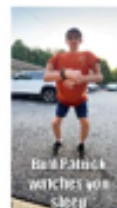
Special Dates & Exceptions

■ NO YOUTH ■ SPECIAL NIGHT

Aug 12	Parent Meeting (Tonight!)
Aug 19	First Youth Group of the school year · 8th Period begins
Oct 7	Bonfire Night with the Sunshine Group
Oct 14	NO YOUTH — Fall Break
Oct 28	CHARGE Conference Night — regular Youth Group; all youth welcome at CHARGE
Nov 25	NO YOUTH — Thanksgiving Break
Dec 9	Christmas Pageant
Dec 16	Christmas Caroling
Dec 23 & 30	NO YOUTH — Christmas Break
Jan 6	Youth Group resumes — first Youth Group of 2027

Feb 10	Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 17	NO YOUTH — Winter Break
Apr 7	NO YOUTH — Spring Break
Apr 28	Bounce House Night — bring friends!
May 12	Last Youth Group of the year
May 23	Youth/Children's Sabbath + Graduation Sunday

MEMES TO FILL PAGE SPACE



All dates subject to change. Please be on the lookout for emails, text messages, and Discord posts from Caroline and Austin regarding schedule announcements throughout the year.



Methodist Men's Meeting

The Methodist Men are meeting on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship and connection. All men are invited to join us!

Wednesday Night Suppers September 2nd

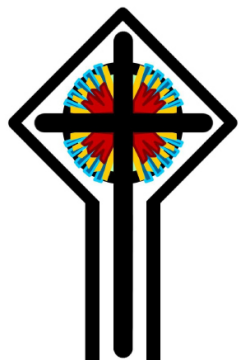
Let's eat together! Time: 5 PM Fellowship Hall Adults: \$10; Children under 13 - \$7
Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday.

Contact the church office

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

September 2nd - Tim's Country Kitchen

Grilled/Fried Pork Chops, Dressing w/gravy, Broccoli Casserole, Rolls and Dessert.



August 24, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$830,553.41

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$803,431.58

Difference \$27,121.83

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$160.00

122 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$31,810.70

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