

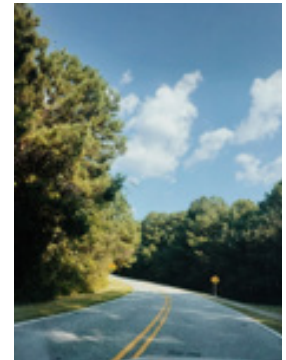


The Weekender

September 11, 2026

Home By Another Way
By Rev. Allison Keith

I finally learned the way home. Not just any way, but a lovely one, with minimal time on the interstate and calm residential roads mostly void of strip malls. Even on days when my Apple Maps app (try saying that three times fast!) claims to have a faster route, I've made a concerted effort to disregard it, trading a few minutes for the extra dose of beauty.



The first day I drove to Decatur by memory, I was struck by what a relief it was. It seemed like maybe I was getting a hang of this whole commuting thing, however temporary it may be. That with one small choice each day, I could remind myself of the kind of life I want to live. That I could choose tree-lined streets over those filled with fast food chains; to cope with slow drivers more often than long lights; to wind through neighborhoods and watch the sunlight slant across the kudzu rather than fighting my way through the gray blur of traffic.

But as I was leaving church on Sunday, a new way appeared - one full of roads I'd never been on and a stretch of highway I was largely unfamiliar with. I decided to take it. I turned left sooner than I usually would and was transported. The route was lush and green with beautiful houses and wide-open spaces. I felt almost giddy as my shoulders unlocked and my face lightened. I had found another way home.

As I turned towards a tunnel of trees, I was reminded of the magi, a group of wise astrologers from a far-off land who were warned in a dream to go home a different way. In their case, they faced violence on the familiar path, as a bloodthirsty king looked to rob them of the hope they had found. They were entrusted with an incredible story and couldn't go back the way they came.

Even though I hardly think such horrible things awaited me on highway 314, there was still wisdom in the lesson. That we must be open to learning new things, even when we thought we had it all figured out. That doing what we did before won't always work in a new place. That every day, we get to make a choice about the type of path we want to take.

Sometimes that means turning left a little sooner than you usually would, only to discover a new way home.

**16th
Sunday
after
Pentecost**

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

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

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

Matthew 18:21-35

"Don't Pay It Back, Pay It Forward"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Join our community as we gather to remember and honor those affected by the events of September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of this historic day. The commemoration will be held on Friday, September 11, from 6:00–7:30 PM at City Center Park. We are honored that Rev. Kaylen Short has been asked to give the invocation as part of this special time of remembrance and reflection.



Where do you find joy in your life? Do you have joy in your life? Can you find joy not only when life is going good and all seems right with the world, but also in the pain and struggles of life? Join us for our new Bible study on the “Epistle of Joy”.... the New Testament book of Philippians. This 6-week study will meet on Tuesday afternoons, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the upstairs Classroom C-260, beginning on September 15. Barb Combs will be leading our discussions each week. If you are interested in this study, please contact Barb at 419-680-2103 or bcombs220@gmail.com for your study book. Come and see what it’s all about as we “Rejoice in the Lord always.” (Philippians 4:4)



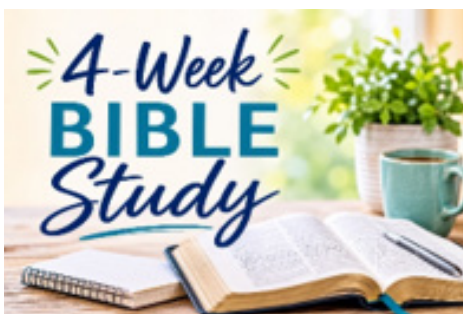
Wednesday Nights:

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.

Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams



The Second Sunday Seminar Series kicks off Sept. 13 after the 11:00 am service with Sgt. Scott Israel of the Fayetteville Police Department. This 1-hour seminar will deliver practical tips to protect you and your family from scams and fraud, online and offline. Sergeant Scott Israel serves in the Community Activity, Resource & Education Unit of the Fayetteville Police Department. Sgt. Israel has spent nearly 35 years in law enforcement including his experience with the Fayetteville Police Department and Fayette County Sheriff's Office. At the Fayetteville Police Department, Scott served as patrol officer, juvenile detective, gang investigator, crime scene technician, school resource officer, community resource officer, chaplain, and now in the Community Activity, Resource & Education Unit. He also runs the Citizen's Police Academy which includes sessions on fraud and scams.

A light lunch will be provided starting at 12:15, with the seminar beginning as soon as people are seated. Reservations are not necessary.

Please consider attending this important educational event to safeguard you and your family against the rising tide of fraudulent activity.





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.



Love in Action

Love in Action

Love in Action is currently helping a family in need of a washer and dryer. If you have either item to share, please contact the Cindy Hall. Thank you for helping us put Love in Action!



El Salvador Mission Trip April 3-10, 2027

Over the past 30 years, a thriving Evangelical Methodist Church has developed programs of worship, education, and community outreach in Ahuachapán, El Salvador. Salvadoran Mission Projects has been working with the Church in El Salvador since 2010. Fayetteville First UMC has been participating in this mission since 2014.

You can participate in this ministry by joining us as we:

- Worship and pray with people in the community
- Conduct Vacation Bible School for 50-60 elementary school-age children
- Distribute essential food supplies and connect with local families
- Support the expansion of the church's school facilities



You can also participate by providing financial support for the team. Team fees cover the following. Any amount you can provide toward these expenses is greatly appreciated.

- Team member room and board - \$60 per day
- Interpreters - \$20 per day
- Bag of staple food items - \$16 per bag
- VBS Supplies - \$500-\$600 for the week

Secure your spot with a \$250 deposit by November 1, 2026.

Make checks payable to and send to:
Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
175 East Lanier Avenue
Fayetteville GA 30214



PAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FFUMC Youth

2026–2027 Schedule

Grades 5–12

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 & Dragons (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

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





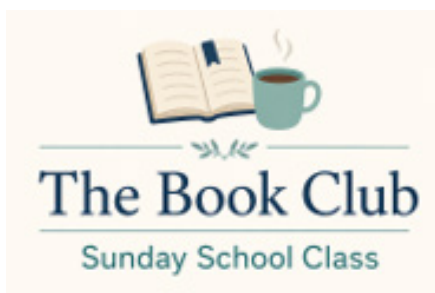
All dates subject to change. Please be on the lookout for emails, text messages, and Discord posts from Caroline and Austin regarding schedule announcements throughout the year.

Benevolence — team —

Spanish Speaker Sought

The Benevolence team is seeking a fluent Spanish speaker in the congregation who would be available on occasion to interpret for a client.

The need comes up rarely, but when it does, we would utilize your skill to make sure there is clear communication and understanding between the client and our team member who is on the case. Please be in touch with Lea Agnew at leaagnew@bellsouth.net.



The Book Club Sunday School Class will begin a discussion of *Simply Jesus* by N. T. Wright on Sunday, September 13, 2026. In this accessible and thought-provoking book, Wright explores who Jesus was, what He came to do, and why His life and message continue to matter today.

The class welcomes anyone interested in thoughtful conversation about faith, Scripture, history, and the person of Jesus. You do not need to be an expert or agree with every viewpoint to participate—questions, differing perspectives, and respectful discussion are encouraged. Skeptics are warmly welcome. Room C260.

Wednesday Night Suppers

September 16th 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 16th - G'Lish Catering -

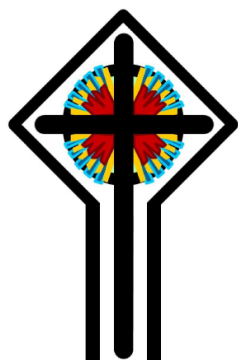
Roast Beef, Fried Corn, Broccoli Salad, Rolls, and Dessert.



September Needs!

As we head into September, Fayette Samaritans Inc. is especially in need of the following pantry items: Peanut butter, Canned green beans, Canned mixed vegetables, Canned corn, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Tea, Jelly, Hamburger Helper, Pasta Sauce, Feminine Products.

The Clothes Closet also has a need for new women's socks.



September 8, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$863,191.06
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$857,265.95
Difference	\$5,925.11
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$1,921.00
1248 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$33,610.70

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

Need a New Name Tag?

If you need a new name tag or a replacement, please contact Kelly Anderson admin@fayettevillefirst.com or Jennifer Hickman officemanager@fayettevillefirst.com in the church office. Name tags are \$12.00 each.



Coffee & Conversation

Do Sunday mornings call you to relax? Want some coffee and a little talk time?

Whether you're running too late for Sunday School, a bit early for 11:00 worship or simply want to hang out, just drop by the Fellowship Hall any Sunday between 9:45 and 10:45. Join Rev. Kaylen Short for a cup of coffee, a light nibble, and some good conversation before heading to your next thing. Come as you are, stay as long as you like, and enjoy a little time to connect.

INSPIRED!!!

PRESCHOOL WATER DAY FUN!!!

