



The Weekender

October 16, 2026

Lunch Money
By Rev. Kaylen Short

Cooking alongside my dad is one of those gifts I never want to take for granted. So when the two of us teamed up in the kitchen for lunch two Sundays ago, I figured the best part of the day would be the time together. I was wrong. Beloved church, you were the best part.

I'll make a confession. Going into this lunch, my dream was that we would raise \$5,000. Then you showed up hungry and gave with open hands. We announced this past Sunday that we had collected over \$11,500, and you've kept giving since. All told, we have raised more than \$14,000 for the Methodist clergy in El Salvador. That's nearly three times what I dared to dream.

The second best part of the whole thing? Picking up the phone to tell my dad what we'd raised. There aren't many calls I've enjoyed more.

Here's why that number matters so much. Most of the churches we work with in El Salvador sit in rural communities, and their pastors don't receive regular pay for their work as pastors. Yet they do everything Pastor Allison, Pastor Charles, and I do. They preach and teach. They pray with people who are sick and are with families when someone is dying. They baptize babies, marry couples, and bury the dead. The difference is that the three of us get a regular paycheck for it. They do all of it around a second job, and often a third, that actually provides for their families.

The average worker in El Salvador earns somewhere around \$400 a month, and out in the country it's often less. At that rate, your generosity adds up to roughly 35 months of income, and likely more. For a season, the work these pastors were called to do will come with a paycheck. For a season, a little of that weight comes off their shoulders. That's because of you, Fayetteville First!

It feels fitting that all of this happened in October, which is Pastor Appreciation Month. I'll be honest: watching you pour that kind of generosity into the lives of pastors you may never meet is the greatest gift I could have asked for. This month, you didn't just appreciate your own pastors. You appreciated several you don't even know.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. My dad and I may have done the cooking, but you're the ones putting food on their tables, and in turn, you've filled me up too.



Twenty First
Sunday
After
Pentecost

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 22:15-22

Exodus 32:1-14

"Instant Gratification"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Christmas
Marketplace
November 7
9 am - 3 pm

Christmas Marketplace is coming up fast! Our church's largest fundraiser is poised for another record-breaking year. We can use you help! Donate, Bake, Volunteer, Shop & Share!

- * **Donate** gently-used, sellable items beginning **Monday, Nov 2, through noon on Thursday, Nov 5.**
- * **Bake your favorite homemade cookies, breads, cupcakes, brownies, muffins, & cakes** for the Gingerbread House. Bring to room **C-140** (the nursery) by **noon on Friday, Nov 6.**
- * **Volunteers** are always needed to help sort donations in Timeless Treasures, make lunch in the Grill, greet guests, and cleanup.
- * **Shop** for early Christmas gifts, unique handmade and household items from over 90 vendors.
- * **Share** the event with family, friends & neighbors.

Hope to see everyone there!

Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month in the United Methodist Church! Express your appreciation in writing to the remarkable people who lead us in worship, preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer sacraments, and order the life of our church for service in mission and ministry: Kaylen Short, Allison Keith, Charles Robinson, Dana Lamb-Schaubroeck and Nick Bowden. Drop your notes of appreciation in the offering plate, in the box in the Narthex, or bring them to the church office by Thursday October 22. Cards will be presented to clergy Sunday October 25.



Clergy
Appreciation



Timeless Treasures Donation Items

We need your gently-used, sellable items for our Timeless Treasures sale. All proceeds go to local charities. Donations will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall beginning **Monday, NOV. 2, through 12 noon on Thursday, NOV. 5.** Contact Lauren Davis for more information.

Acceptable Items (including but not limited to):

Entertainment: Books, CDs, DVDs, Record Albums, games, puzzles, children's toys & stuffed animals

Housewares: Home décor, baskets, vases, floral centerpieces, picture frames

Kitchenware: Coffee cups, mugs, glasses, plates & bowls

Linens: Towels, napkins, tablecloths, placemats, blankets, quilts, table runners, throw rugs, bathmats

Furniture: Chairs, rocking chairs, tables, end tables, cabinets, dressers, lamps & lampshades, room rugs

Holiday decorations: Christmas, Halloween, July 4th, Easter

Jewelry: Necklaces, earrings, rings, brooches

Sporting goods: golf clubs, footballs, bicycles, volleyballs

Accessories: Purses, hats, belts, scarves

Kitchen tools & utensils: Mixers, blenders, appliances, mixing bowls, spatulas, plastic containers

Office & paper products: Scrapbooking materials, copy paper, paper cutter

Health & beauty: Curling irons, blow dryers, hand mirrors, bathroom accessories

Items not accepted: Computers, printers, cell phones, mattresses, cribs, clothing, shoes.

All items must be delivered clean, unbroken and in working condition.

Please be sure to have all your donations delivered **no later than noon on Thursday, NOV. 5TH**

Tax-deductible donation receipts will be available in the Fellowship Hall.



Titus II – Tuesday, November 10 at
Noon

Join us for Titus II! A representative
from the Fayette County Marshal's Office
will be our guest speaker.

We'll enjoy a Thanksgiving Day feast for
lunch!

Meals are \$8. Please sign up by
contacting Martha Turner or the church
office.



New Website

We are excited to announce that our new website will launch early next week! It will include a link to the church calendar, updated information about the many ministries at the church, and the ability to access the latest services right from the home page. While it is a complete redesign, you will still be able to access it at the same website address: fayettevillefirst.com. As you check out the new site, let Rev. Allison Keith know if you see anything that could use further updating or that you would like to see added in the coming weeks.



Stewardship Consecration and Celebration Sunday

During both services on Sunday, October 25, we will consecrate the financial commitments we have made for 2027. You are invited to bring a commitment card to the service as we look forward to a new year in ministry together.

Join us for our **CHARGE CONFERENCE**



Wednesday,
October 28th



at 7:00 pm



in the
fellowship hall



Pecan Time!

*Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze & Enjoy*

Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal!

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 7.

To place a large order for personal use and gifts, [complete this order form](#) or get one on Sunday. Then drop the form along with your **exact payment in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales"** at the church office or in the collection plate by **Sunday, November 8**. Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 12 and 13 from 1 to 2 PM and at 12 noon on November 15. Make checks out to United Women in Faith or UWF.

We are committed to raising funds for others. All proceeds will go to a worthy cause supported by UWF. With pecans, everybody wins!

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Harvest Messy Church is coming!

This year, we're switching from our traditional trunk-or-treat event to a new indoor Harvest Messy Church celebration in the gym. We'll still have fun trick-or-treating booths (similar to trunks, but set up indoors)

along with games, music, food, crafts, and more!

Oct 31st | 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

We need your help to make it happen!

We are looking for volunteers to:

- Host an indoor trick-or-treat booth in the gym
- Run games and help with crafts
- Donate candy, small prizes/toys, and individually packaged baked goods for the cake walk

Whether you can host a booth, volunteer your time, or donate a few items, every contribution helps!

To volunteer or donate, please contact Chase Leonard or Allison Keith.



Be a Part of Our Jail Ministry

Our Jail Ministry is always looking for more volunteers to help share God's love with the men and women at the Fayette County Jail. Please prayerfully consider participating in this rewarding experience, which involves visiting, listening and offering encouragement to inmates. There will be an annual, mandatory

training session for Jail Orientation on December 3 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. Before this meeting, the following steps must be completed:

- Pick up an application: Forms are available at the Church office.
- Complete paperwork: Fill out the required forms and background check materials.
- Get fingerprinted: This must be done at the Sheriff's Department.

- Submit all paperwork: Completed application should be submitted to the Chaplain at Fayette Jail prior to the December 3 orientation. As a volunteer, you can decide your own level of commitment, whether you would like to go every week, twice a month, or once a month.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Springer, Phyllis Williamson, or Danny Beck.



November will be Bloom

Angel Tree Month

Share the Joy of Christmas! Our annual Angel Tree will be available on Sundays, November 1 - November 22, at the Welcome Center. This mission provides an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with Bloom foster children. Last year we made 58 "wishes" of the Bloom foster children come true. This is a way to give cheer and love to foster children this Christmas season. For questions, please contact Charlotte McAdams.



November SAGE Trip –
Arthur Blank Soccer Center
Join SAGE on Monday,
November 16, for a tour of the
Arthur Blank Soccer Center!
The cost is \$20 per person.
Please arrive at the church by
9:15 AM as we will leave at
9:30 AM. Lunch after the tour
is TBD.

The trip is currently full, and
a waitlist has been started.

If you are already on the
confirmed list, please submit
your \$20 payment in advance
to secure your spot. Those on
the waitlist will be contacted
if a spot becomes available.

To make your payment or
for more information, please
contact the church office. We
look forward to a great SAGE
outing!

Wednesday Night Suppers

October 21st 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.

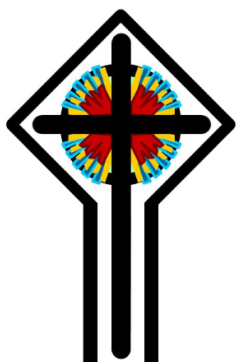
Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com

October 21st - Piccadilly - Chuckwagon Stew, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert.



October is our month! Pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those in our community with food insecurity and other needs. Food and clothing donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.. Most Needed List: Canned Chicken, Tuna, Dried Beans, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal - single serving, Grits - single serving, Corn Soup, Bar Soap, Jelly, Feminine Products.



October 13, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$979,999.93

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$963,903.08

Difference \$16,903.08

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$270.00

162 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$41,653.05

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

INSPIRED...



You're the Type That Saves Lives!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated blood! Your generosity makes a life-saving difference in our community. We're so grateful for each of you who took the time to give the gift of life!

