



The Weekender

October 2, 2026

Looking Back
By Rev. Allison Keith

One sleepy Sunday morning back in June, I discovered something which brought me a great deal of relief. You see, my son Connell was not yet 2 months old and I was, as you might have guessed, very tired.

I tried to do the different activities which would help him develop, but some days, I was too exhausted for any of it. When I couldn't quite manage anything else, I would find myself propping him up on my knees, just looking at him. Maybe I cooed or spoke or smiled, but all I remember is looking into his curious blue-gray eyes wondering what he might be thinking.



Then, on that unsuspecting Sunday, I read a study that reassured me. It said that the very best thing you can do for a newborn baby is to look at them. To make eye contact and cuddle them, to speak to them and smile at them. The phrase they used was “responsive interaction,” and it was a balm to a weary soul. The only thing I felt fully capable of at that time was the very thing he needed most.

Eventually, my spiritual life hit the same breaking point. I thought I would be spending nap-trapped days and sleepless nights catching up on books about faith, searching through old sermons, and preparing to be a pastor. But just as I would find myself too worn out for conducting baby development boot camp, I couldn't muster up the energy for religious overachieving either. All I could manage was to look at God. To see God in the long-awaited sunrise, the meals from friends, the small bursts of sleep, and the face of our beloved baby.

And just as looking at a newborn is the best thing for their development, I think looking at God may be the best thing we can do to grow too. It's like this idea from Ignatian Spirituality that Joan Aycok recently reminded me of, where you start your prayers by looking at God looking at you. Where you not only search for God in your everyday life, but trust that God is present, full of compassion and tenderness for you.

If you are weary and can't keep up with the checklist of religious activity any longer, simply looking at God is a great place to start. You might just find yourself relieved to know that God is already there, looking lovingly at you too.



19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 2026

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

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

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

"The Top Ten Plus"

The Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



Titus II – Tuesday, October 6 at Noon

Join us for Titus II on Tuesday, October 6 at noon! Our guest speaker will be author Mark Maguire, who will share from his book *Father & Special Needs Children*. Lunch will be provided from a local restaurant and is \$8.00.

Giving with Purpose: Faithful Strategies for Lasting Impact

The Second Sunday Seminar Series continues October 11 following the 11:00 am service with special guest Jennifer Camp of Edward Jones. This 1-hour seminar will educate us on high-impact tools like donor-advised funds, qualified charitable distributions, and charitable gift annuities. Jennifer Camp is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. She is a Chartered Financial Consultant, Accredited Asset Management Specialist, and recently received the Certified Financial Planner designation, the gold standard for financial planning. Jennifer became a general partner of the firm in 2020 and today leads over 56 Edward Jones branch teams in south metro Atlanta. Life experience, professional experience, education, and compassion are the bedrock of her success. Jennifer is a Fayette County native, currently living in Senoia with her husband, Scott. A light lunch will be provided in Fellowship Hall starting at 12:15, with the seminar beginning as soon as people are seated. Reservations are not necessary.





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.



Stewardship Sunday

During both services on Sunday, October 25, 2026 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.



Give Blood – Sunday, October 11

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, October 11, from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the FFUMC Gym. Giving blood is one of the simplest ways to make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Signing up is easy—visit redcrossblood.org, select the Fayetteville First UMC drive on October 11, and encourage family and friends to donate as well. Please sign up in advance if possible. For questions or assistance, email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP



WALKING TOGETHER

BECOMING PRAYER: BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Explore ways to embody prayer and pray without ceasing.

Experience three prayer practices during a single hour:

Body (Movement) **Mind** (Meditation) **Spirit** (Breath)

The same class will be offered three times each week with new content presented each of the three weeks. Attend once each week to practice at least nine focus areas. Come to one session or all.

Offered October 7 - 25 in Room B335 (above chapel):

Wednesdays (5:45 PM), Thursdays (9:30 AM), Sundays (9:45 AM)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: DEEPEN FAITH AND EXPLORE

Often described as **spiritual companionship**, spiritual direction offers a safe and confidential space for one-on-one conversation to **ask** questions, **reflect** on life's experiences, and **attend** to the movements of God within our lives. With a fellow seeker, individuals are invited to come as they are and explore their spiritual journey at their own pace. Share thoughts, pray, engage in familiar or new spiritual practices, as desired. There is no prescribed path or expectation, but rather an invitation to listen deeply and notice how God may be present and moving.

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For more information
contact Joan Aycock
Spiritual Formation & Discipleship
770-461-4313

Fayetteville First UMC

SAGE Trip to Ellijay – Apple Gathering

Thursday, October 8

Join SAGE for a fun fall day trip to Ellijay for an Apple Gathering! Enjoy the beautiful fall scenery, time to explore, and lunch together at Double L Cafe.

Meet: 8:15 AM

Departure: 8:30 AM

Lunch: Double L Cafe

Transportation Fee: \$2.00

It's not too late to sign up! If you would like to join us, simply call or email the church office to get your name on the list.



The Methodist Men are meeting on Tuesday,

October 13, in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided starting at 6:15 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship and connection.

All men are invited to join us!



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.

SAVE THE DATE

**WEDS.
NOV. 18
6:30 PM**

We Knead A Little Christmas

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PRE-HOLIDAY MINI-MUSICAL

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE ITEMS?

WE NEED TO BORROW/HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

PLASTIC DECORATIVE BREAD, WOODEN BOWL(S) FAKE TREES/PALM TREES
EARTH-TONE COLORED TOWELS LARGE WOODEN PIZZA/BREAD PADDLE TALL WOODEN BOX (CAN FIT A CAKE)
FABRIC REMNANTS IN EARTH TONES (+1 YARD - WON'T BE RETURNED, WILL BE CUT)
BURLAP SACK(S) OR BEIGE/EARTH TONE PILLOWCASES THAT WE CAN DECORATE
PLEASE BRING YOUR LABELED ITEMS TO THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP ROOM BY NOVEMBER 1. THANK YOU!



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

Messy Church Harvest — AND — Trunk or Treat

**Saturday, October 31st
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**



Wednesday Night Suppers

October 7th 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.

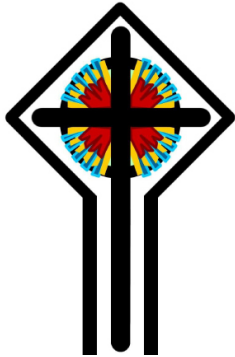
October 7th - Tim's Country Kitchen

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, & Gravy, English Pea 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.



September 28, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$929,384.24

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$900,861.63

Difference \$28,522.61

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$2,500.00

150 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$38,670.79

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

