



The Weekender

October 23, 2026

S'more to Love
By Rev. Allison Keith

At the start of October, the youth group and sunshine ministry gathered together for a bonfire out on the field next to the church. It was a fitting welcome to fall, with cups of apple cider, and marshmallows to roast. At the start, the two groups were mostly siloed off, but it didn't stay that way for long.

I watched with delight as one of our special needs friends asked every single youth one-by-one what they were going to be for Halloween. The answers were sweet and surprising. A few elves. A moon fairy. Big bird. No eye rolls or dismissive replies. Just basic human kindness and connection.

As we ran back towards the fire, I was glad to see a few other conversations sparking across the groups. That's the beauty of this place; you don't have to fit a certain mold or act a particular way to be loved. You can be yourself - however silly or chatty or shy or sarcastic that may be - and find acceptance.

The bonfire wasn't the start or end of it, either. The sunshine ministry and its long history at the church has continually made a place for difference to be celebrated. Likewise, the youth team has worked hard to allow teenagers to be themselves and prevent cliques from forming. It is my deep hope that these relationships will continue to grow.

One place this is sure to happen is on Halloween at Harvest Messy Church. Instead of two separate events (trunk-or-treat and storybook lane), the gym will be transformed into an indoor festival designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities. There will be decorated tables for trick-or-treating, craft and game stations, a harvest-themed music and storytime, and bagged lunches to offset the sugar rush.

I hope you'll find a way to take part, no matter who you are or what your age or abilities may be. You may just find that this is a place you can be yourself, even if you're dressed like Big Bird.



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.



Christmas Marketplace is coming up fast! Our church's largest fundraiser is poised for another record-breaking year. We can use your 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!

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.



Please join us for our next Second Sunday Seminar Series presentation,

"Life-Saving Steps: Save Someone Else, Save Yourself,"
on Sunday, November 8, at 12:15 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Battalion Chief Sean Venza of the Fayetteville Fire Department will lead the session, covering stroke recognition, CPR basics, and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use as time permits. You will learn key actions to take during an emergency, how to support others lending aid, and the locations of AEDs at Fayetteville First. Additionally, Nancy Musselwhite will demonstrate uninjured fall recovery, followed by a Q&A session with Battalion Chief Venza.

A complimentary pizza lunch will be served. We hope to see you on November 8 for these crucial, life-saving lessons.

This arose from some congregants who had been asking for recommendations:



We are compiling a list of recommended caregivers to share upon request with members of the congregation.

If you or a loved one has had a positive experience with a caregiver, please send their name and the type of care they offered to Rev. Kaylen Short.

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!





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!

Timeless Treasures Donation Drop-offs



Do you have gently-used, sellable items you'd like to donate to a worthy cause? We would love to have your donations for the Timeless Treasures sale at Christmas Marketplace. Please use the following schedule to deliver your donations to the Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, Nov. 2, and ending at NOON on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Contact Lauren Davis at lauren-davis@comcast.net for more info.

Donation drop-off schedule:

Monday – Wednesday, November 2-5

9 am – 4 pm

Use the Sanctuary driveway (on Jack Dettmering Way) and follow the signs to place the items as directed in the Fellowship Hall. Please be mindful of preschool pick-ups between 12:45-1:15 p.m. in the preschool turnaround, as parents may be parked on Jack Dettmering as they wait.

Wednesday, November 4

5 pm – 7 pm

This after-hour period is for those unable to deliver donations during the day. Again, use the sanctuary driveway and follow the signs to place items in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, November 5

9 am – 12 pm

You must have all your donations delivered by noon or we will not be able to accept it.

Please be sure to have all your donations delivered no later than NOON on Thursday, November 5.

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

Wednesday Night Suppers

October 28th 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.

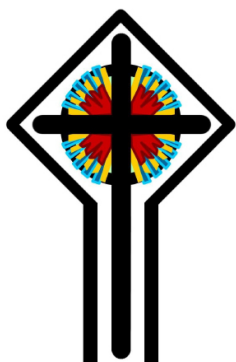
Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com

October 28th - G'Lish - Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread sticks 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 18, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts \$993,167.88

Annual Operating Budget Expenses \$990,726.87

Difference \$2,441.01

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,429.09

164 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$42,141.87

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...

