



The Weekender

October 9, 2026

Addition Proof
By Rev. Charles Robinson

Most every day, when I was in full-time ministry, I would receive information about Continuing Education events for Clergy and other Church Leaders. Obviously, due to time and financial limitations, I had to decide which events to participate in and which ones to ignore. I'm remembering now something I received while I was serving at Jonesboro First UMC that contained an unforgettable typo. The intended title should have read Addiction Proof Your Ministry, Family and Congregation. But instead of Addiction it read Addition.

Addition Proof Your Ministry. I laughed, and then I started to think about how easy it would be to teach a course about *Addition Proofing the Church*. The course outline would have looked something like this...

A. Put Hospitality on the back-burner. Extend warm, friendly greetings only to those folk that you've known for a long time and are comfortable being around. Don't ever install easy to read signage that would help newcomers navigate the buildings and grounds.

B. Employ folks who are *invisible* six days a week and *incomprehensible* on the seventh day. Staff the Church with persons who would push-back against Father Henry Nouwen's statement that "My interruptions are my work."

C. Utilize *insider language* that non-members cannot comprehend. Take advantage of initials and acronyms to save space in printed publications.

D. Make sure that children and youth are seldom seen and never heard. After all, this is Holy Business that we are about. Young eyes and voices just cause us to see and hear things differently. And who wants such as that?

E. Act as if we're in this sacred enterprise all alone. If we don't have immediately available what it takes to get it done, then take that idea off the table. Pay no attention to that *little story behind the curtain*, the story about Jesus feeding five-thousand plus people with two fish and five loaves of bread. If *Addition* is a sin, then *Multiplication* must be on the list of the seven deadliest sins!

Okay, sorry. I'm having too much fun with this piece of mail that I received several years ago. Thankfully I'm privileged to be a part of Fayetteville First UMC, a Community of Faith that is constantly multiplying its ministries and adding to its membership. Because of the excellent leadership of our Senior and Associate Pastors, our committed Staff, and our great group of Laity in Leadership, I believe that the *Addition* and *Multiplication* will continue to illuminate our future. And if we quit growing, I'd really miss the delicious Publix cake!



20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 2026

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

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

Numbers 20:1-13

"But You Said"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

Campus Closed – Columbus Day

The church campus will be closed Monday, October 12, 2026, in observance of Columbus Day.

We will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, October 13.



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.

WALKING TOGETHER

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP

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.

For more information

contact Joan Aycock

Spiritual Formation & Discipleship

770-461-4313

Fayetteville First UMC



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.



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



Gingerbread House

Join us by donating homemade baked goods at our 36th Annual Christmas Marketplace. Please bring your donations to Room C-170 by noon on Friday, November 6. Volunteers will price your donations for consistency.

We need homemade breads, rolls, biscuits, cupcakes, brownies, fudge, muffins, cakes, pies, cookies, candies, cheese straws and snack mixes.

DO NOT bring canned jams or jellies, or ANYTHING that require refrigeration, including pies.

Please include a note identifying your item, such as “Iced Peanut Butter Bars”, “Chocolate Cake with Sour Cream Frosting”, and indicate any ingredients that may be potential allergens, such as peanuts, or if the item is Gluten-free.

Place cheese straws, snack mixes, candy, etc. in individual sandwich-size baggies.

For Cookies, please place 2 large or 3 small in each baggie.

For Brownies, please cut them as follows: If baked in a 13x9” pan, cut into 20 pieces

If baked in an 8x8” pan, cut into 16 pieces.

Place 2 brownies in an individual sandwich-size baggie.

For Fudge, please cut into 1.5” squares and place 4 in each sandwich-size baggie.

For pricing uniformity, all other items requiring cutting will be cut by volunteer staff.

Your baked goods and baggies will be displayed with your identifying **note**.

Cover cakes, cupcakes and pies with plastic wrap or a see-through top. If possible, place cakes on a disposable plate.

Please bring all your goodies in a disposable container. Otherwise, be sure to prominently indicate your name on any containers you want to pick up later in the gym kitchen.

Thank you all, in advance, for your delicious and generous donations!!

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 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. To sign up, please call
 the church office. We hope
 you can join us!



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

Join us for our CHARGE CONFERENCE



**Wednesday,
 October 28th**



at 7:00 pm



**in the
 fellowship hall**



**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

**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.

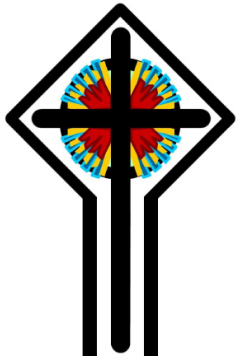
Come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship and connection.

All men are invited to join us!



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 5, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$968,026.24
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$954,155.92
Difference	\$12,870.32
Benevolence	
Benevolence funds received this week:	\$1,983.00
157 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed	\$40,437.53

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

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214

INSPIRED...

