



Friday, December 21

The Weekender

Ready for Christmas

This Saturday we are celebrating Christmas. Katie and Ben are traveling to Tennessee to visit Ben's family. We got them for Thanksgiving this year. They get them for Christmas. Catherine has wrapped most of the presents under the table (don't ask). I haven't sunk so low as to ask her to wrap her own presents although I am not beyond that kind of thing! We are ready to open the presents and host a Christmas meal.

We'll celebrate the last Sunday of Advent this Sunday. Micah will help prepare the way for Jesus. And then Monday night we'll celebrate Christmas with our three Christmas Eve services. The last one should end around midnight, so technically it will be Christmas and if you and your family are up Christmas, presents could be opened before going to bed!

Are you ready for Christmas? We have the presents wrapped and the food prepared. We'll be here for the fourth Sunday of Advent and the Christmas Eve services. But are you ready for Christmas? Of course, you can have presents and food, attend Sunday worship and Christmas Eve worship and still not be ready for Christmas. May the story of the savior's birth grab your attention more than presents! May the promise of Jesus' return spur you to action! May you be ready for Christmas in your heart—and life!

See you Sunday.

In Christ,

John



This Sunday in Worship
December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Anthems:

Lullaby

The First Noel

Sermon:

Out of the Little

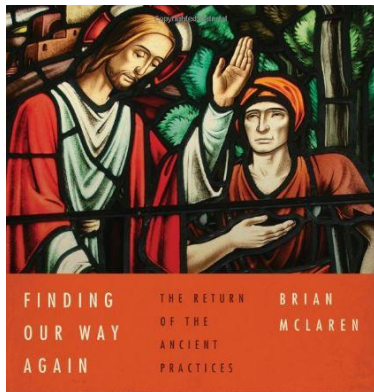
Rev. Allyson Lawrence (8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.)

CURRENT NEWS



Connect with Others at Six for Supper

Meet new people and eat good food. Join a Six for Supper group and experience church family in a new way. New groups will be forming soon for the months of January, February, and March. How does it work? Three couples (or two couples and two singles or any similar variation) are grouped together for a three-month period. Over the course of the three months, the participants will gather at each other's homes or at a restaurant to share a meal together, perhaps supper, or even breakfast or lunch! Once you sign up, a coordinator will assign the groups and will notify you by email with contact information for other members of your group. Then groups will coordinate details among each other. Sign up at FayettevilleFirst.com or contact the church office at admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Ancient Meets Contemporary in January Book Club

A Sunday Morning Book Club will meet in January to discuss Brian McLaren's book "Finding Our Way Again: The Return of Ancient Practices." We'll join a quest exploring spiritual practices, many of which go all the way back to Abraham and the establishment of Israel. In the midst of contemporary Christianity, we'll discover the beauty of these ancient disciplines and the transformation through Christ that each can provide. Beginning Sunday, January 6, at 9:45 a.m. in Room C-200 with discussion of the first two chapters. Contact Tim Aycok, timaycock@gmail.com, with any questions.



Find Your Group Around the Table

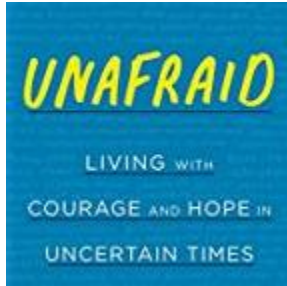
More fully experience God and see your day-to-day life through the lens of faith within a small group connection called Table Groups. Consider intentionally making time for continued spiritual transformation. Enjoy real, honest, and deep conversations about where and how God is active in our world and in our lives. Table Groups are made of 5-12 people who meet at the church or off-site for an hour a week to engage in the Christian journey together. Find a time that suits you best and join a table group. Email Rev.

Allyson Lawrence, ALawrence@FayettevilleFirst.com, to find out schedule options, to sign up or to get more information by January 2, 2019. In addition, an informational class on Table Groups called "Class Meeting" starts January 9 on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. A book by this title by Dr. Kevin Watson along with Steve Harper's "Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition" will help guide the study led by Rev. Michael Phillips.



Youth: Register for Renovatus by January 1

It's time to register for Renovatus, THE youth event of the new year. The retreat will be held in Dahlonega, GA, January 18 – 20. Cost is \$160. Register online at FayettevilleFirst.com. Contact Kena Newkirk, youth director, at KNewkirk@FayettevilleFirst.com with questions.



Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

Join the conversation as we learn to untangle the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, financial insecurity, loneliness, insignificance, and aging. Develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace Jesus's recurring counsel "Do not be afraid" in this ten-week study by Adam Hamilton. Order your book through Cokesbury.com and register at FayettevilleFirst.com. This group will meet with Rev. Allyson Lawrence on Wednesdays, January 9 to March 27, at 10:30 a.m.



Making a Difference NOW: Capital Campaign Update

Our capital campaign to raise funds for the anticipated youth space renovation, fellowship hall and courtyard renewal, and reserve fund replenishment continues. Currently \$196,491 has been pledged and \$143,991 has been given.



Titus II Welcomes James Watkins in January

Join a very special guest at the next Titus II Lunch Program on January 8 at noon. James Watkins, who just celebrated his 99th birthday, will speak on "A Life Long and Well-lived." He should know! Make your lunch reservation with Martha Turner by Thursday, January 4 (770-461-2802). Menu: Meatloaf, Fried Okra, Peas. Cost: \$7



Creation Care: Explore Ways To Live in Greater Harmony with God's Creation

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - is this your mantra? If not, do you want it to be but don't know where to start? Join Tami Kemberling and friends for a two hour discussion on how we as Church and members of this community can more actively care for God's magnificent creation. The guest speaker for this informative session is Dr. Michael Black, an EarthKeeper commissioned by The Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, a member of

Caretakers of God's Creation, and an organizing member of the annual United Methodist Caring for Creation Conference. As United Methodists are becoming more aware of the ecological challenges in our world today, we have a renewed awareness of our calling to be part of a movement to transform the world. Make plans to attend this important discussion on January 2 from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Give Blood at FFUMC on January 13

Make plans to share the gift of life on January 13 at the next FFUMC Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Request a reserved time at ffumc.blooddriveteam@gmail.com.

Steven Stinchcomb contributed at a recent drive. You can too!



New Testament Study Class Begins January 9

This engaging study of the New Testament rooted in the curriculum from Disciple Fast Track is a transformational study series that will move you from student to disciple. Discover the biblical story and uncover your own spiritual gifts as you dedicate 12 weeks to this amazing group experience. The leader of the group is Kathie

Hansen. Class starts January 9 at 6 p.m. in Room C-250. Contact Rev. Michael Phillips to sign up at MPhillips@FayettevilleFirst.com.



Save the Date: District Training Event is February 10

Our district provides valuable workshops for church leaders and volunteers. The next one will be held at Cornerstone UMC in Newnan on February 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. Workshops include training for Staff Parish Relations and Finance committees, Church Council as well as workshops on caring for the elderly, Fresh Expressions, and ministering to children experiencing trauma. Please make plans to participate.

Stay connected and get details for these and other upcoming events at FayettevilleFirst.com.

- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services, 4, 6, & 11 p.m., Nursery at 4 and 6 p.m.
- Dec. 30 – Azalea Estates Worship, 10 a.m., Led by Rev. Carson Thaxton
- Jan. 1 – Renovatus Youth Retreat signup deadline
- Jan. 2 – Creation Care Discussion, 1 – 3 p.m., Fellowship, Dr. Michael Black/Tami Kemberling
- Jan. 9 – Wednesday Night Supper and programs resume
- Jan. 13 – Blood Drive, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gym, Reserve time at ffumc.bloodriveteam@gmail.com
- Jan. 17 – SAGE Trip, Green Manor, Meet at church at 10:30 a.m., Register in office.
- Jan. 18-20 – Renovatus Youth Retreat at Camp Glisson
- Feb. 10 – District Training Event, Cornerstone UMC in Newnan, 3 to 5 p.m.

Current Financials as of December 18, 2018

Year to Date receipts	\$ 1,365,036.53
Year to Date expenses	\$ 1,463,530.41
Shortfall	\$ 95,311.88



Share this invitation for the Candlelight Christmas Eve Services with a friend!