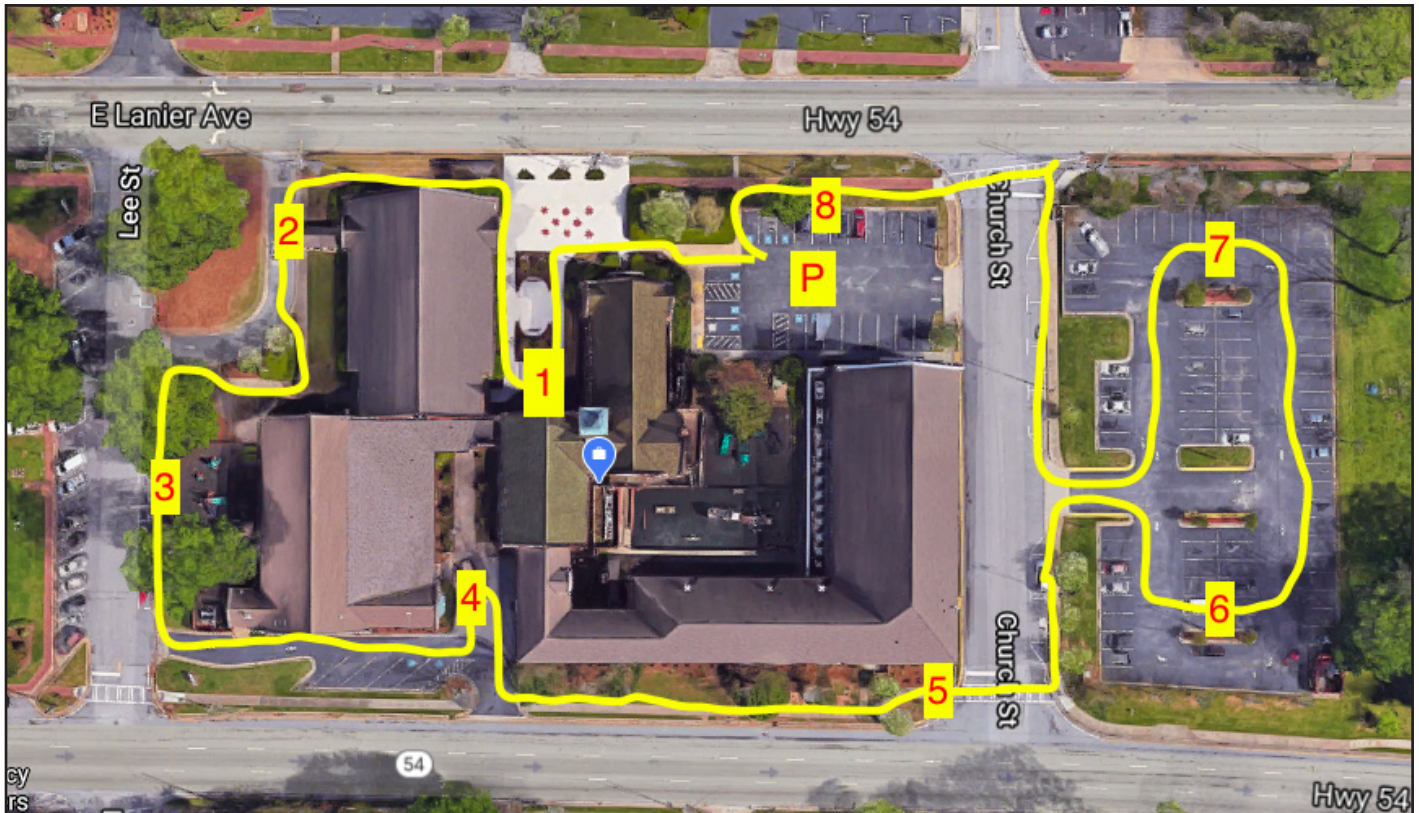




As Far As East to West

A prayer walk for our church, our community,
and our world



Welcome

You are invited to participate in a guided prayer walk on the FFUMC campus. We intend this collection of scripture, short devotions, and prayer prompts to enrich your experience.

Know that there is no right way to pray. There is no wrong way to pray. If you are listening for God's voice and not your own, you are praying. If you are seeking to love God and neighbor more everyday, you are praying. If you are seeking the Lord's countenance, then you are praying. What follows is a guide. It is not mandatory, but invitational. The scriptures chosen are not exhaustive or exclusive, but a narrative of the way God's stories inform and shape us.

At each station, you may be prompted to pray for yourself, for our church, for a specific person, or our community. All that we ask is that you be open to what God may be saying to you. And know that God may be saying something else to another person. The beauty of the church is that we don't have to fill in the map to get started, we simply have to begin the walk together. So be safe and walk with God wherever God may lead.

Praying as you go ...

P-Parking

As you come into the parking lot adjacent to the Family Life Center and Chapel, prepare yourself for a spirit of worship and peace. As you begin, notice that most of your walking will be taking a pattern of east and west movement. Remember the words of Psalm 103:11-12:

*“For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us”*

As you begin to notice the traffic and movement around you, receive the grace and forgiveness of God and pray for those traveling around you to receive the same grace we have come to know through Christ.

1-Children’s Courtyard

This is one of the more recently repurposed areas in our campus. It serves as a beautiful contemplative space during the week or before worship. There always seems to be something blooming and growing. If you cannot see the growth, know that with the changing seasons, there is hope. Consider the Garden of Eden and how God called everything good. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

“And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).”

2-Sanctuary Entrance on Historic Courthouse Square

Whether you are in a season of being able to join us for in-person worship or you are worshipping with us from a safe distance on-line, we are reminded that the House of God has not always been permanent. When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they created temporary places for worship. Worship was always about God and never a place. However, this sacred space has been used by God’s people for worship. Whether you pray with longing and hope or mourning and sadness, remember Psalm 84:1-4, 10:

*“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.”*

Pray for those who worship and that our worship may be a way of life and not just a once a week activity.

3-Historic Courthouse Square

As you approach prayer prompt three, you will be walking alongside the Historic Fayette Courthouse square. As you see that piece of our city’s history, remember that we are given the freedom to worship freely because of the sacrifices by many for our country. While we believe in separation of Church and

State, we are not separated through prayer. The prophet Jeremiah speaking to the Israelites in exile said,

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper (29:7).”

As Christians, we know our home is with God in heaven. But living in this world, we are workers for peace and prosperity for all citizens of Fayette County and beyond. Pray for our civil leaders and all those who serve this city.

4-Breezeway from Fellowship Hall to Preschool

As you begin to travel, you are moving east. The sun rises in the east. If you have ever seen a cemetery, you will notice that the headstones are facing east. Moving east is a sign of hope. The book of Lamentations captures human emotions. In the midst of the pain of the book, we hear the words of the author,

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” (Lamentations 3:22-24).

You have arrived at the breezeway in which people pass through from fellowship to children’s ministries and more. Pray for all those who are transitioning in big or small ways.

5-Corner of Melissa Segars Way and Highway 54

Pray to cross the street safely. As you do, you will want to be mindful of your surroundings. Notice that Melissa Segars Way leads to Church Street. To your right is a Baptist church. Further down to your left is another Baptist church. We are surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses. In today’s world, it is easier to find divisions and things that set us apart. Rather than live with division, let us remember Jesus’ prayer and make it your own,

“As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” John 17 21-23.

6-Southeast Back Lot

You have reached the point on our campus with perhaps this highest natural elevation. You have made it to the mountaintop, so to speak. It’s all downhill from here. Scripture is filled with stories of mountains. It seems that some of the most important stories happened on a hill or a mountain or an elevated place. Yet it does not always come to us in a way that seems dramatic. Consider words of the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12:

“He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.”

Prayer:

God who is ever more ready to listen and hear than we are to speak, allow us to be filled with the peace and calm to sense when you are revealing yourself to us on the mountaintops. More importantly, God we pray that you would make us available to hear you in the stillness of life, even in the quietest of places. Amen.

7-Northeast Back Lot

Moving from the sixth prayer prompt to the seventh, you pass the longest portion of green space on our property. It is a space with potential for growth; it came at great cost from the saints before us who acquired it; and it symbolizes that which God can still do through us. Yet in its simplicity, be reminded that we are God's sheep. We follow the Good Shepherd. Pray Psalm 23 and know that it is not just for you, but for everyone.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

8-Parking Lot

As you complete your prayer walk, you are invited into the chapel for a time of prayer and reflection. The chapel is open every weekday from noon to 1 p.m. for quiet prayer. You are welcome to come inside but also be mindful of others who are there and practice good social distancing measures. As you enter the church or enter your car, remember the gift of the church in the second chapter of Acts. In that story the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. Many people think the miracle of the church is that everyone spoke in tongues, but upon closer inspection, we find that the gift the church was given was the chance to finally hear one another. Acts 2:8 says:

"And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

As we seek to be the church that reaches in and reaches out, how will we hear one another? How will we listen? How will we be the church to those who call this their church home and those who do not yet know God's love in their lives? We have a lot to do, church. But thanks be to God that we have each other and the ability to hear one another.

As you leave,
go with the grace that God gives you,
the peace of Christ that sustains you,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide you now and all the days of your life.



Fayetteville
First
united methodist church

175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214

770-461-4313 fayettevillefirst.com