



The Weekender

The rhythm of compassion

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

There is something to be learned in the rhythm of Jesus' life. So often we read that Jesus performed some amazing miracle or healing or offered some profound teaching and then he went away by himself to pray or to rest. In living his life and doing the work of God, he creates a rhythm of mission and rest.

Over and over again in Matthew, Mark and Luke we read how Jesus had compassion on those around him. He balances his mission, (to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor) with rest and always covered his daily activities with compassion. Compassion for himself and compassion for others.



"When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34

In the rhythm of Jesus life, he teaches us that:

Mission without rest is unhealthy.
Rest without mission is unhelpful.
Rest and mission without compassion is unholy.

It is this rhythm of compassion that breaks down the walls that divide us. It is this rhythm of compassion that builds a dwelling place for God, a place of transformation. It is this rhythm of compassion that brings about the peace of Christ.

May we embrace the compassionate rhythm of life and may the peace of Christ be with us all.



9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 2021, 11 a.m.

[Online link will be active at 11 a.m. and after](#)

Ephesians 3:14-21; John 16:1-15

Reading Comprehension

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Help grill for SafeHouse Outreach July 29

Are you ready to serve those experiencing homelessness on Thursday, July 29, at SafeHouse Outreach? We are looking for help grilling chicken, and preparing and serving a meal for the homeless in downtown Atlanta. Contact leader Randy Riddell at randyhr8@gmail.com or 770-365-6924 for more information.

Randy Riddell was last year's grill master. Mike DeLisle could use some help on the grill this year.



Sign Ups Now Active for August 22 Event

Prepare highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event. Masks encouraged for all but are not required for vaccinated participants.

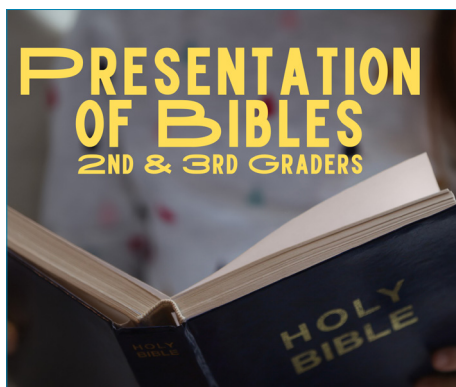
[Sign up online for the packing event](#) or contact the church office for assistance. Our **packing event is fully funded** to prepare 30,000 meals (cost \$10,000). Thank you for your donations. Packing is Sunday, August 22, from 1-3 p.m. in the gym.

Want to be part of a pre-event lunch? We will enjoy a prebagged light lunch: Turkey Sub/Chips/Cookie. Contact the church office, admin@fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313, to reserve lunches for you, your packing group, and your family by August 15. We'll move from the Fellowship Hall lunch at noon to the packing event at 1 p.m.



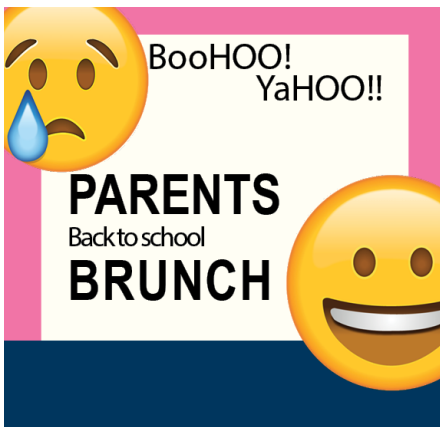
Blessing of Backpacks (briefcases, Chromebooks+) Sunday, August 1 at 11 a.m.

Let's celebrate the new school year and surround it in prayer. All students, teachers, bus drivers, and educational staff – bring your backpacks, briefcases, Chromebooks, or keys to worship August 1 at 11:00 a.m. for a special back to school blessing and celebration.



Bible Presentation Sunday: August 8

Studying Scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God. FFUMC presents personal Bibles to young students as a statement of their growing faith development and as recognition of their becoming old enough to study Scripture on their own. On August 8 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service we celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our third grade students as a gift from this congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God. Plan to attend this special service as we celebrate our Christian journeys together.



BooHOO! YaHOO! August 16 at 9 a.m.

How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 16, from 9 to 10 a.m. Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) for more information.



New Needs List for Fayette Samaritans

Our local community food bank appreciates ALL your donations. [Click here for ongoing needs.](#) Donations may be dropped at the church office.

[Most Needed in August:](#) Canned Tuna, Beef Stew, Canned Fruit, Dried Beans, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Laundry Detergent, Toothbrushes

Normal operations for Fayette Samaritans have resumed. The Clothes Closet is now open. Summer clothes and tee shirts of all sizes for men, women and children are needed.



GriefShare begins in August

[Register or get more information here](#)

If you have lost a loved one you may feel isolated and have many questions about things you have never experienced before. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Our GriefShare group is led by people who have walked their own grief journey and understand the deep pain that accompanies loss. Please know, you don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Contact Carol or Bill Webb at carolbass@bellsouth.net with questions. Cost for participant book is \$15.



Love in Action

CURRENT NEEDS: *Electric Stove, Washer, Dryer*

In addition to packing lunches, we appreciate your donations to our Summer Lunch families. If you have an item to donate, just snap a photo of the item and email it to Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net or text the photo to 678-656-4117. Appliances, TVs, furniture, bikes, toys, home décor, kitchen items and more have been given in the past. Beds are always needed.



Notes of appreciation from the Thaxtons

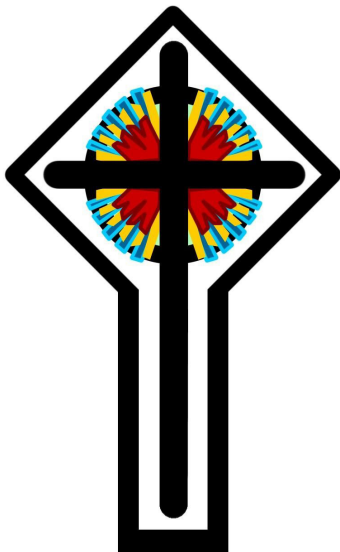
Kathryn and I want to express our immense gratitude to you all. We wanted to express it so much that we wanted to each share our own words to you. Thank you for the financial blessing, the cards, and for your overall Christian kindness. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness to the kingdom of God. You have made me a better person and a more faithful follower of Christ by your good influence over the years. I know you'll keep on letting the light of Christ shine brightly through your lives for many others as you've done for us. That's truly the gift that keeps on giving. Thank you, FFUMC!

—In faith, hope, and a whole lotta love, Rev. Carson Thaxton

Dear FFUMC family,

I wanted to personally express my gratitude for all the cards, kind words, and generous gifts we have received over the last many weeks since Carson received his new appointment. It has been such a blessing to be a member of this church family. As I drove away after our last Sunday in Worship, I looked at the building and thought of all the memories and how this church has been such an important part of our lives. I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for your love and support for me, Carson, and our children. We will always carry wonderful memories of this place. We will keep you all in our hearts as we go forth. Thank you again for everything!

— Love, Kathryn Thaxton



July 21, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 697,581.20
Year to Date expenses	\$ 621,893.03
Difference	\$ 75,688.17

Benevolence

Received this week \$311.00
52 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$20,262.86.

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.

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)
Closed Fridays

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-461-4313
FayettevilleFirst.com

SEE JULY FINANCIAL REPORT AT END OF WEEKENDER

inspired ...

Summer Lunch love and relationships

"When two people are standing and facing each other and between them is a gift and you don't know who's giving it and who's receiving it, that's a Christian act - an act of grace."

— Fred Craddock

This quote and the following note shared by a volunteer reveal the heart of the Summer Lunch Program at Fayetteville First UMC:

Delivering summer lunches and pulling into a driveway where smiling faces in the window begin to shout, "Open the door! It's the lunch lady!"

Handing lunches to a mother who, along with her children, was recently homeless. She is reading her daily devotion and wants to talk about how God is helping her battle fear.

Who is the donor? Who is the recipient? Who knows? It's an act of grace.

Thank you, FFUMC, for all your acts of grace this summer.



Weekly averages over June and July:

35 volunteers

10 drivers

Lunch: Sandwich(s), Chips, Carrots,
Donated Fresh Fruit

Mondays: 36 lunches

Tuesdays: 199 lunches/230 sandwiches

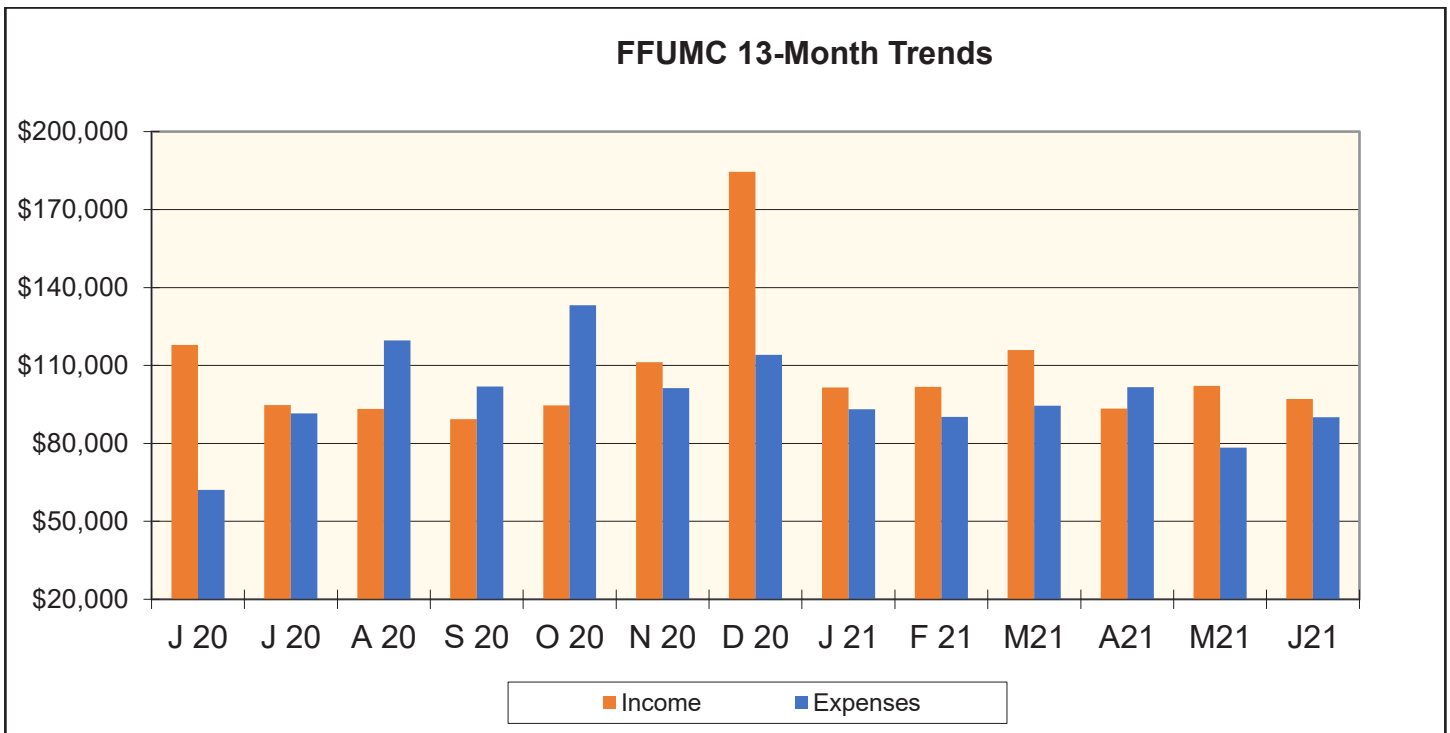


A note from Virginia Pope FFUMC 2021 Summer Lunch Coordinator:

"I feel unworthy to thank the many people of FFUMC, Inman UMC, Providence UMC and Mt. Olivet Church for the support, work, paper, gas, etc. given to the 2021 Summer Lunch Program. We do this for the love of God and his children. We could not have done it without many loving hearts and willing hands. Thanks to each of you for completing computer work for me, setting up and cleaning up, labeling bags, packing lunches, going shopping and praying each week that from what looked like a hopeless "mad house" the lunches would get made and delivered. Thank you! Thank you!

Virginia Pope pictured with volunteer Jacob Hartley.

What's Happening Fiscally at FFUMC?



Uncountable Giving

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

The monthly messages of the Finance Committee to the FFUMC congregation typically focus on money and budget matters. Just as important are the abundant non-monetary contributions of our congregation. Your generosity with time, talent, skill, expertise and energy cannot be quantified, other than to say it is invaluable.

This generosity takes many forms. Volunteering with our youth and children, making shawls, sending cards, staying in touch with folks who can't attend, working on a committee or team, helping with mission projects, driving the bus, improving our property, serving meals to the homeless, making and delivering summer lunches, leading a group, preparing the pews for Sunday worship, participating in blood drives, folding bulletins and helping with mailings, fixing and delivering flowers – all of these, and many more, are acts of love for God, for each other and for our neighbors.

Thank you for helping to build the Kingdom with your uncountable giving.