



The Weekender

Welcome, Rev. Joe Watson

Meet our Minister of Nurture, Rev. Joe Watson. Joe has just begun his work with us here at Fayetteville First, but he's been part of the Methodist church his entire life.

Born in Noblesville, Indiana, Joe grew up in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area of Florida and remains a devoted Florida Gator fan. A visit to LaGrange College with a friend landed him in Georgia where he has lived since 1971. After earning a BS Degree in history at LaGrange (and meeting his wife, Julie), he continued his education at Emory University's Candler School of Theology gaining a Master's of Divinity Degree.



Joe married Julie in 1976. Julie taught middle school for 35 years before retiring in 2015. They have two sons, Nathanael Watson, who is an attorney in Atlanta, and Joshua Watson who teaches high school and is the head football coach at Salem High School in Salem, Arkansas. Joshua is married to Hannah, and they have two young children, Harper and Gunner.

So how did Joe end up here? After serving in the North Georgia Conference for 42 years, Joe retired from appointed ministry in 2017. He continued to serve, filling in for one Sunday or several months as needed. Following his heart to foster relationships and support others through pastoral ministry, Joe responded to the invitation here as Minister of Nurture. In this role, Joe will assist with care for our church family as well as focus on relationships and leadership within our senior groups.

"How do people deal with life and tragedy without the church?" Joe asks. "My faith nurtured by the church has always been part of my life. I look forward to supporting others and being here when people need me."

Just meet Rev. Joe Watson and you'll be warmed right to your bones by his joy in life, uplifting nature and caring spirit.



15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021, 11 a.m.

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

James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Life Lessons: Be Rich

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS

Growing this Fall - A place for you

We continue to grow into new opportunities in 2021. See details throughout the rest of this issue and contact the church office for more information at 770-461-4313.

Sunday Mornings Beginning September 12

Worship in Chapel — 8:45 a.m.

Coffee & Conversation — 9:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.

Youth Breakfast at The Foundry — 9:45 a.m.

Adult Small Groups/Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary — 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Afternoons Beginning September 12

Children's LIFE with God — 4 - 6 p.m.

Youth Encounter — 4 - 6 p.m.

Disciple I Bible Study — 4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesdays Each month beginning September 14

Titus II resumes - monthly meal and program for those 55+

Wednesdays

Dinner: 5:30- 6:30 p.m. Second Wednesday each month beginning September 8

Weekly Youth 8th Period: after school

Weekly Youth Worship: 6 p.m.

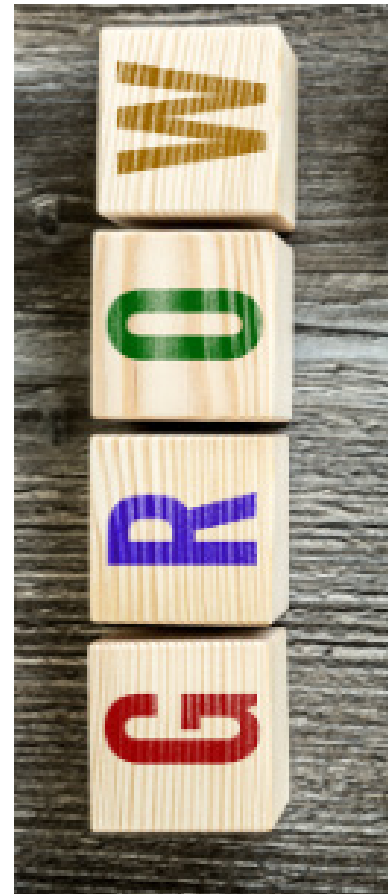
Throughout the week: Adult Discipleship, Study, and Table Groups

Disciple I Bible Study, Sundays 4 to 6 p.m.

Bad Girls of the Bible, Wednesdays, 12 to 1 p.m.

The Wesley Challenge, Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Table Groups — various times



Wednesday Night Dinner Resumes on Second Wednesdays

Are you ready to gather again on a Wednesday in a relaxed setting? Join our church family for a night of food, fellowship, and celebration!

Who? Everybody!

Where? Parking Lot C (the back lot near The Field)

What to do? Nothing. Just come. No signup needed

What to bring? The Georgia Taco Truck will have food available for purchase (prices \$3 and up). The church will provide chips, dessert, and drinks (soda and water).



This is a great time for fellowship, to invite a friend or a neighbor, and visit with each other as the body of Christ. Melissa Seagars Way will be closed to traffic at 5:30 p.m. to provide safety in crossing the street. **Those who desire to park very close are invited to arrive before 5:30 p.m. and park in Parking Lot C.** Tables and chairs will be set up in the parking lot as well as chances for families to picnic and play on the field. Stop by anytime between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and community with our church family.



New door codes

Our access door codes are being “cleaned up” as we prepare for all the new fall activities. If you discover a door code that no longer works, please contact the church office. The general door code will change on the first day of each month.

If you need the code for the month, please contact Dian Nelson, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com.



Piedmont Fayette Support

Locally, our hospitals are crowded and in need of support. We have partnered with Piedmont Fayette in the past to supply food and other snacks to the hospital. Recently, we have been contacted to offer meals to those working. The cafeteria staff has been cut back and they are limiting visitors. The Finance Committee has approved a special offering to be collected to provide meals to hospital workers. If you would like to give, you may designate your gift to Hospital Support. We will take the collected donations and purchase meals for the workers as we are able. [You can give online](#) or in person.



UMCOR Giving

UMCOR (which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. If you would like to give to [recovery efforts in America from Hurricane Ida](#), for [relief in Haiti from the earthquake](#), or for assistance to [those in need from the Afghanistan crisis](#), you are invited to do so through giving at www.umcmission.org. Or you may [give through the church](#) and designate your gift appropriately in the memo section online or by check.



Coffee and Conversation Beginning September 12

Discipleship and fellowship are essential to growth as a Christian. Several groups meet on Sunday mornings between 9:45-10:45 a.m., and we encourage you to join one of them. However, if you are not in a small group on Sunday morning, you are invited to coffee and conversation with Rev. Thomas Martin. There is no formal curriculum. Maybe you are new to the church and have questions about Methodism. Maybe you are new to the area and have questions about Fayetteville First. Maybe you want to stump the pastor (it’s really not that hard to do). Whatever the case may be, you’re invited to meet in the Family Life Center Gym for an informal time of gathering together beginning September 12. Coffee will be provided.



Fall Discipleship Opportunities

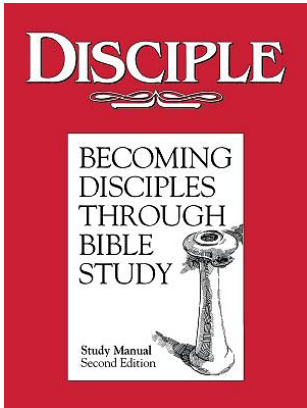
Ready to dig deeper with scripture and fellowship with others who want to do the same? Sign up now or contact the office for more information.

Disciple I - Sundays, 4 - 6 p.m., September 12 - May 2022

The Wesley Challenge - Saturdays, 10 - 11 a.m., September 11 - October 23

Bad Girls of The Bible - Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., September 8 - November 10

New Table Groups - Days and times vary. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.



Disciple Bible Study: Sundays, 4 to 6 p.m.

Disciple Bible Study is a 34-week study in which participants read almost 90% of the Bible. It is focused on small group and individual study, personal discipline, and fellowship. Participants are encouraged to miss no more than two sessions. This study, led by Thomas Martin, begins Sunday, September 12, from 4-6 p.m. Children's Ministries offers programming for children 4 and up and childcare is available by request. [The materials needed are a Bible and a study manual available for \\$40 through the church office or registration here.](#) If you would like to know more about Disciple Bible study or have questions, please reach out to Thomas at tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com.

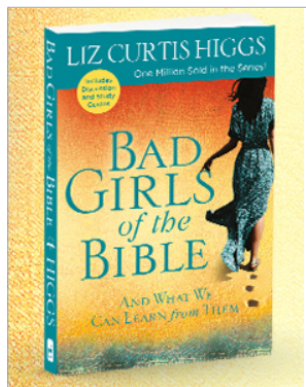


Going beyond the ordinary: The Wesley Challenge Saturdays: September 11 - October 23 10-11 a.m. C-270

Do you want to open your mind, your heart and your hands to develop a lifestyle of practicing the disciplines of our Christian faith?

Join Len Blalock as she leads a fall study, The Wesley Challenge, by Chris Folmsbee, for those who seek to go beyond words in developing spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead toward a thriving Christian life. As part of the study, the group will decide on a local service project where they can share the love of Jesus with others. Get your book from Cokesbury or your favorite bookseller.

[Register online.](#) Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, or Len Blalock, lenblalock@bellsouth.net, for more information.



Bad Girls of the Bible Wednesdays: September 8 - November 10 12:10 - 12:50 p.m.

Grab a lunch and join Rev. Allyson Lawrence and others on your lunch hour from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. each Wednesday as we study ten unforgettable women of the Bible and what they can teach us today.

You can order your own book by Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs from Cokesbury or your favorite book seller. [Let us know you are coming by registering here.](#) Read Chapter One: All About Eve for the first meeting on September 8 in room A-40.



Table Groups: Be real, stay honest, go deep

Connect with others in small groups and grow deeper in faith through Table Groups at FFUMC. [Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#) to find out more and get connected to a group just right for you.



September 13: Deadline for college addresses

UMW's Bethany Circle is sending Back to School care packages to the college students of our church. To ensure your student receives a package, please share your student's mailing address and cell number (if you would like your student to receive a text that a package has been sent) by Monday, September 13. The FFUMC church family is invited to participate in this project! Anyone wishing to take part in or support this effort, please contact Karen Neuner.

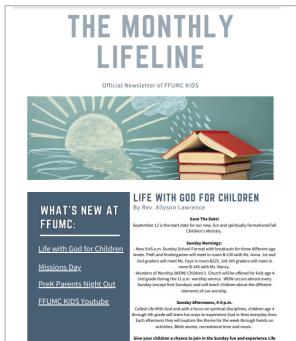
Contact details: Karen Neuner, neunernotes@gmail.com, 404-538-4528



UMW Meets September 14

September 14, 2021, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

All are invited to the next United Methodist Women Unit Meeting at 11 a.m. on September 14. The presentation is on "Mothers of the Church" and the mission project is collecting food items for Fayette Samaritans ([see needs list here](#)). Questions? Contact Connie Hyder at 770-310-6115.



What's happening in FFUMC KiDS?

Read the [September issue of The Monthly Lifeline](#) and find out what's going on with FFUMC KiDS. Sunday morning and afternoon offerings, a new Parents' Night Out just for preschool parents, mission opportunities ... and more. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com, with any questions.



Update your church photo

Have you joined FFUMC recently? Have you been here but want to update your photo in our online database and directory? You can upload your own photo into our REALM database any time or send your photo to Joan Aycocock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, and she'll take care of it.

Don't have a photo you want to use? Come to the Fellowship Hall (A-40 kitchen end) on Sunday morning October 3 or October 24 between 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Photographer Wayne Harris will be glad to take your photo. There is no charge. You'll have the option to purchase individual prints at a low cost if desired.



Entire church campus closed Labor Day, September 6

The church buildings will be locked and alarms set throughout the Labor Day holiday. Alarms will be active Sunday evening, September 5 at 9 p.m. through Tuesday morning, September 7, at 7 a.m. Please do not enter the building at all, even with a door code, to avoid activating the alarms and notifying the police. Thank you!



Thank you

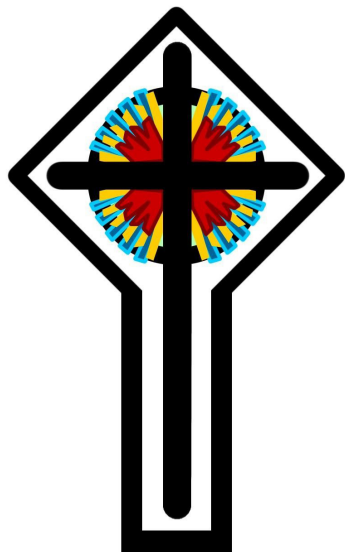
Thank you all so much for your generous donation to Promise Place. So far this year we have provided safe shelter to 54 adults and 65 children. We appreciate your support in our mission to prevent domestic violence. Thank you for making an investment in the lives of others.

— Karla Fulgham, Assistant Director, Promise Place



Honor others with flowers

Birthdays, anniversaries or memorials can be made special with flowers. Have you considered celebrating a loved one by donating worship flowers? After the flowers enhance the service, you can take them or donate to the flower ministry to be made into arrangements for our church family and others. Contact Dian Nelson, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, to schedule. September 26 is the next available date.



August 31, 2021 Financials

Operating Budget

Year to Date receipts	\$ 808,381.83
Year to Date expenses	\$ 734,694.83
Difference	\$ 73,687.00

Benevolence

Received this week \$282

57 families assisted in 2021 for a total of \$ 22,603.86

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

Happy Labor Day!

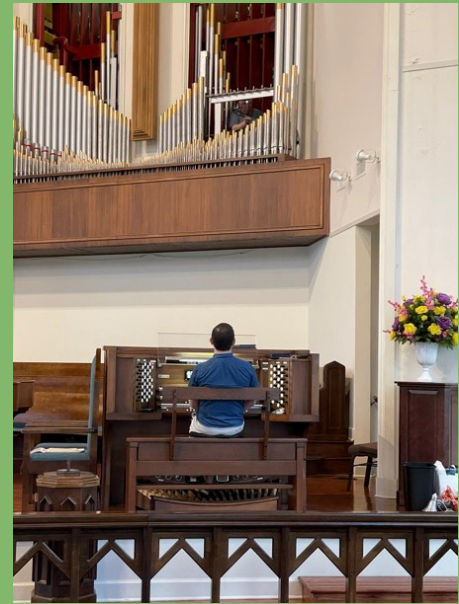
The FFUMC Campus will be completely closed Labor Day.

See article for details.

inspired ...

Always getting ready

We as a church are always preparing: meeting others to share joy and ease needs, keeping the church buildings inviting and update-to-date, making sure the space is safe and comfortable, reaching out in love to our community. Some special efforts over the summer have kept us on that path. From freshly painted decks to doors to walls ... from welcome areas to exit signs ... from landscaping on The Field, in the preschool garden and around the church and office ... from drainage ditches to organ repairs ... We appreciate the talent, supplies, and effort that always keep us moving forward, looking and being our best.



*Can you find the organ repair person?
Hint: It's not Justin.*

