



The Weekender

January 2, 2026

A Safe Place?



A while back I received an email that was titled “The Safest Place-How to Stay Safe in the World Today.” There were 5 suggestions listed...

- 1 – Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- 2 – Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
- 3 – Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.
- 4 – Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water since 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- 5 – Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all, avoid hospitals.

But you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in Worship Services in Church and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at Church!

And, Bible Study is safe as well. The percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even less. So, attend Church and read your Bible. It could save your life. And your soul!

This particular piece of correspondence made me smile, and then it caused me to think. Is it a compliment to the Church to call it a “Safe Place?” It seems to me that the Trustees do a great job of keeping the buildings and grounds safe at Fayetteville First UMC. And, of course, those folks who work with our children and youth and vulnerable adults take every advised precaution to protect these persons. But my question keeps hanging around...Is it a compliment to the Church to call it a “Safe Place?”

*Is the Church a safe place to be if we insist on nurturing grudges? I hope not!

*Is the Church a safe place to be if we insist on clinging to old prejudices? I hope not!

*Is the Church a safe place to be if we insist on putting ourselves first? I hope not!

*Is the Church a safe place to be if we insist on rejecting new ideas? I hope not!

*Is the Church a safe place to be if we insist on bearing our burdens alone? I hope not!

And then there is the previously related notion that Bible Study is safe. I'm not so sure that's true. I keep searching the four Gospels for a statement by Jesus that says..."Blessed are those who always play it safe." I haven't found it yet. But I'm still looking!

As we step into a New Year, what are we praying in regard to our Church and our own spiritual journeys? Are we praying to keep things safer, or to take more risks? Our Lord, whose birth we've just celebrated, has scars in His hands. How would He answer that question?

Charles Robinson



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 4, 2026

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Series "Let Heaven and Nature Sing"

Sermon "We Three Kings"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Epiphany Potluck Breakfast - January 4 at 10 AM

Bring your gifts of breakfast casseroles, sticky buns, fruit, and all your favorites as we celebrate Epiphany together with a church-wide potluck breakfast on Sunday, January 4, at 10 AM. Join us for warm fellowship, delicious food, and a joyful start to the season. All are welcome!

Titus II Luncheon – January 6

Titus II will meet at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 6, in the Fellowship Hall.

Our program will feature music by Danny Beck & Bill Webb, with an “Opening Act” performed by our amazing Adults-in-Action!

Lunch: \$8 per person (meal from local restaurant)



SOUPER BOWL V — Begins January 11!

Get those cans of soup ready! SOUPER Bowl V kicks off January 11, and we'll be collecting soup to help provide healthy meals for those in need. Please donate any variety of 16.3–18.8 oz ready-to-eat soup (not condensed). More details about how this year's event will work are coming soon—stay tuned!

Preschool and Tidal Wave Car Wash Fundraiser!

Looking for the perfect gift for that hard-to-shop-for person? We've got you covered! Support our Preschool by purchasing a Graph-X4 Car Wash ticket—a \$30 value for only \$10!

To reserve your tickets, email fayettevillefirstpreschool@gmail.com.

Payments can be made online (choose "Preschool Car Wash" from the drop down menu) or by cash/check. Give the gift of a sparkling clean car and support a great cause!



Our next SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere) Trip will be Thursday January 22nd to the Delta Flight Museum. We will meet at the Church Office at 8:30 a.m. and depart at 8:45 a.m. for the tour that begins at 9:30 a.m. Please sign-up with the Church Office ASAP. The maximum number of folks we can have attending is 25. Cost will be \$20 plus \$2 transportation fee. Here is some really Good News...Veterans go for FREE...A much deserved bonus! Please contact Charles Robinson for more information.



Messy Church – January 31 | 11:00 a.m.

Join us for Messy Church on Tuesday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. for a Ren Faire Mess full of fun, creativity, and hands-on faith for all ages!

We're excited to welcome special music guests Barehead Bards, bringing lively, Renaissance-inspired sounds to our celebration.

Come ready for a joyful, interactive morning of music, activities, and fellowship—costumes welcome!



Wednesday Night Supper — January 7

Kick off the new year with a meal and fellowship!

Time: 5:00 PM | Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Adults \$10 | Children under 13 \$7 (pay at the door)

Menu: Tim's Country Kitchen:

Grilled & fried pork chops, dressing w/ gravy, broccoli casserole, rolls, & dessert.

Sign up by 4:00 PM Monday via the church office (770-461-4313), admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or a pew card.

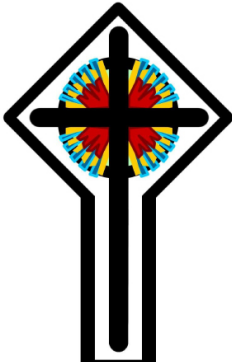




NEW! January List: Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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: Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate mix, Jelly, Feminine Products (Pads)



December 29, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,186,393.92
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,179,601.00
Difference	\$6,792.92

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$890.00

184 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$43,481.23

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.

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
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

inspired ...



Special Thank you letter from Bloom

My dear Ms. Charlotte all the members & friends at Fayette First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of myself and everyone at Bloom, I want to thank you for your support to our Angel Tree program this year. The kindness & generosity you've shown by making so many Christmas wishes come true, is priceless. You were an absolute JOY to meet, & the care and enthusiasm in which you gave those gifts just blessed my heart. Please make sure everyone knows how grateful & thankful I am to you all.

We would not be able to serve and reach as many of our foster children and families as we do without your support. What began as a local outreach to the Fayetteville area now spreads across our entire state. And none of that would be possible without you. You are the true difference makers of the world.

In a world so often focused inward and only on themselves, you have shown the joy of giving back and helping others. There is truly no better feeling than knowing that somewhere smiles are being shared, and laughter is filling a room because of a simple act of kindness from you, our beloved community.

It has been a joy to work alongside you and oversee Angel Tree this year. I hope to remain connected with you as we get ready to jump into 2026 and begin a new year.

The needs of our children do not end at Christmas, so if you would ever like to volunteer with us or hold a collection drive sometime this year, please reach out to me.

Thank you again for your amazing support. Life is truly better together.

Most grateful,

Jennifer Waters