

January 16, 2026

The Weekender



"By Hand"
Rev Kaylen Short

At 36 years old, I'm not quite in my prime reminiscing years yet. I am sure there will be a time when I sit on a porch swing most days a long for the way things were before, but I'm really not there now. I do not wish for the return of dial up internet or yearn for a time when someone had to stop for directions. I do not want to eschew ATMs, mobile deposits, and online bill pay and return to physically stepping into a bank during rigid hours to access my own money. However, there are somethings I do already miss.

Handwritten notes are one of them. It's why you're reading this a little differently today. So much of "written" communication isn't written at all. It's typed. Admittedly, this makes it easier to read, and allows spell-check to fix mistakes we have made in spelling or grammar. Even acknowledging that there is probably an extra comma or ones I've missed, and even if I have misspelled or used a word incorrectly, I still find myself longing for more handwritten things in my life. Because they seem to contain a piece of the one who writes it, mistakes and all.

For me, the ultimate example of this is letters I have from when I went through walk to Emmaus as a teenager. Those dear to me wrote handwritten letters to me. I still have them and review them from time to time. Handwritten notes of encouragement from high school friends I haven't talked to in over a decade, words from pastors who have left an indelible mark on my life, and letters of love from my grandparents who have now all passed on to the Church Triumphant. The words all mean so much, but the handwriting means just as much.

For all of us, may 2026 be a year of many life-giving words. And may some of them be hand-written.



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 18, 2026

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

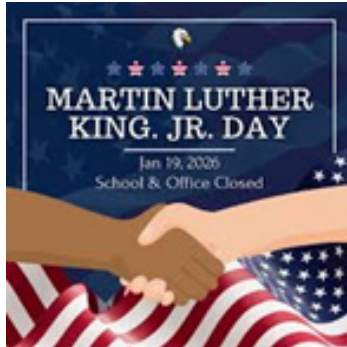
Online link active at 11 AM and after

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

"The Way and Power of the Cross"

Rev. Drew West

CURRENT NEWS

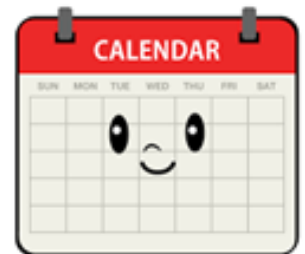


Church Office Closed – Monday, Jan. 19

The church office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

2026 Church Calendar

All committees, ministries, and groups are asked to please submit their room requests for 2026 to the church office as soon as possible. Even if your meetings or events were on the 2025 calendar, we still ask that you contact us to confirm details so nothing slips through the cracks. This will help us keep the church calendar accurate, up to date, and conflict-free. Call Church Office at 770-461-4313 or email at admin@fayettevillefirst.com

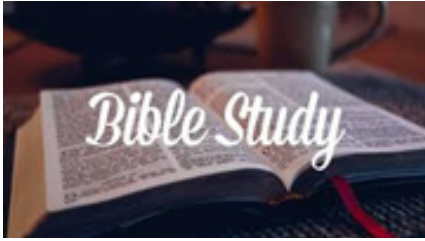


SOUPER BOWL V

sponsored by
**FAYETTEVILLE FIRST
UMC**

SOUPER BOWL V — Is Underway

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). We will have four teams this year represented by team captains Kaylen Short, Drew West, Charles Robinson, and Nick Bowden. Our goal is to collect 2,600 cans this year and eclipse 10,000 since the start of FFUMC's Souper Bowl!



4S Bible Study

The 4S Bible Study will meet for the next four Fridays, beginning Friday, January 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we sip, snack, study, and share! Our theme for this study is Our Identity in Christ.

For more information, contact Jami at jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com.

Delta Flight Museum Trip Thursday, January 22, 2026

Meet at the Church Office at 8:30 a.m. for an 8:45 a.m. departure.

The tour begins at 9:30 a.m.

Cost is \$22, which includes the museum ticket and transportation.

(Veterans receive free entry!)

After the tour, we will enjoy lunch at Pit Boss

BBQ in Hapeville. Lunch is pay on your own.



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers from the Flower Ministry and all the food, cards, and flowers after my recent foot surgery. I am so blessed to be able to worship at FFUMC with my wonderful church family.

Thank you,

Judy Hames

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

Join us for Messy Church on Saturday, 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 21

Time: 5:00 PM | Location: Fellowship Hall

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

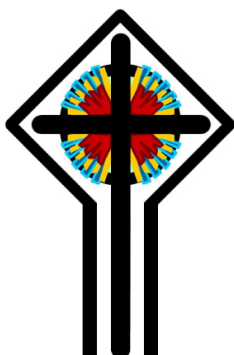
Menu: G'Lish Roast Beef, Fried Corn, Vegetable Medley, Rolls & Dessert

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



A Note from Pastor Kaylen about 2025 Finances

I know not everyone reads this far into the Weekender, but those who do closely follow our financials. Along with Bill Webb, who spoke Sunday, I'm grateful that in 2025 our operating income exceeded expenses, even if by a narrow margin. Beyond the budget, there is so much more good news. We received over \$85,000 in a retroactive tax credit, all of which replenished reserves used in the 2024 capital campaign. We also added more than \$225,000 to the principal of our Legacy Funds, representing the largest single year of donations since inception and ensuring ongoing interest for the future. These milestones give us many reasons to celebrate the strong financial health of FFUMC and the faithfulness of our members.



January 12, 2026 Financials

Operating Budget 2026

Annual Operating Budget Receipts	\$49,605.94
Annual Operating Budget Expenses	\$18,316.31
Difference	\$31,289.63

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,130.00

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

SOUPER BOWL V



SOUPER BOWL V has started! 2,600+ cans is goal!

KICKOFF! SOUPER Bowl V is officially underway to collect soup for healthy meals for those in need. Bring any variety of 16.3 - 18.8 ounce ready-to-eat soup, **not condensed**, to the Welcome Center and join the friendly competition.

The Challenge:

This year two divisions have been established. Teams within those divisions will be competing to see which minister will win the playoff and Lead Coaching rights on January 25.

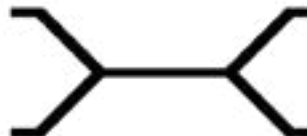
How It Works:

Tallies will be taken at 10 AM on Sunday, January 25, to determine which team within each division will be the **Division Champion**. The Division Champion minister will be announced at the 11 AM service. Each division winner will be the **Lead Coach** to take their entire division to the Souper Bowl IV Championship on Sunday, February 8.

Alpha Division: Last Names A-K:

Rev. Kaylen Short (Last Names A-D)

Rev. Charles Robinson (Last Names E-K)



Omega Division: Last Names L-Z

Rev. Drew West (Last Names L-R)

Nick Bowden (Last Names S-Z)

Final tallies will be taken at 10 AM on Sunday, February 8. The Souper Bowl V Champion will be announced at the 11 AM service.

2026 Extra Challenge: 2,600+ Cans

Exceed the 2,600 total can donations from last year's competition, and the entire church staff will prepare and serve a FREE Wednesday Night Supper for a church-wide celebration.

Mark Your Donations:

Mark the bottom of each can with the **first letter of YOUR last name**. A Sharpie will be available at the donation site. Cans will be credited to the Team Captain for those letters. Any cans that are received without letters will be divided between the two teams.

Who will be the Lead Coach for each division? We'll find out on Playoff Sunday, January 25.

Who will be the Souper Bowl V Champion with all the bling and bragging rights? You decide on Souper Bowl V Sunday, February 8.

Hut, Hut, Hike! Let's get going!