



Friday, October 6

The Weekender

Why do people give?

We are beginning our short stewardship journey this Sunday which will culminate on October 22 with Commitment Sunday. That day you will be invited to bring a completed giving card and place it on the altar at the end of the service. In many ways it will be our offering to God for 2018.

We are not making a big deal of this journey. Some churches have several special events connected with the stewardship journey: meetings with key leaders, a Sunday school curriculum for all adult classes and other events. Though we have left out some of the bells and whistles, please know the journey matters. Stewardship is not, of course, the only mark of discipleship. But it is an important one. Jesus talks about money as a rival to God ("Mammon") because we are tempted to worship it! Our ability to give generously opens a window into our souls.

So as we begin this journey let's ask, "Why do people give to their church?" I'll highlight some reasons we give.

One of the main reasons we give to the church is that we believe in its mission and believe the church is fulfilling that mission. Our mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (UM Book of Discipline). We use as our motto "Connecting to God's Kingdom NOW" (Nurture, Outreach, and Worship). We are living out our mission on many levels: at the preschool, the children's ministry, the youth ministry and with adults in Sunday school and small groups. We make disciples by offering opportunities for people to serve the community and the world. We also make disciples by praising God and listening to his word in worship.

People give because of the leadership of the church. People give when they admire the leaders and believe in the work they see them doing. We are blessed with a wonderful staff. Joyce Mucha and our administrative staff watch our finances and facilities. Our pastoral staff, Allyson Lawrence, Michael Phillips, Rick Massengale, Carson Thaxton, Kena Newkirk and Allie Hansen reach out to children and youth, care for our sick and shut-in members, teach and model Christian living, give us opportunities to serve others and help us worship well through music and the Word. We also are blessed with dedicated lay leaders. Ordinary Christians volunteer their time to oversee the committees that oversee the work of the church and do, by far, most of the work of ministry!

Finally, people give because the Holy Spirit leads us to give. God is at work here and his Spirit whispers to you and to me. Give because you believe in the mission; give because you believe in our leaders; and I encourage you to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit!

See you Sunday!

In Christ,

John

This Sunday in Worship
October 8
18th Sunday After Pentecost

Anthems:

Be Still and Know (8:30 a.m.)
Again I Say Rejoice (11:00 a.m.)

Sermon:

Finale (James 5:12-20)
Rev. John Barnes preaching (8:30, 11:00 a.m.)
Rev. Allyson Lawrence preaching (9:45 a.m.)

Donate Blood This Sunday, October 8



Donate blood at the FFUMC American Red Cross Blood Drive this Sunday, October 8, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Contact Tommy Webb, webbthomasw@gmail.com, to reserve a time. Walk-ins also are welcome. Give the gift of life!

Let's Get Ready to Welcome the Community



Order a name badge. Get your Event Staff shirt. These are just two tools to help you welcome the community to FFUMC. To order a personal name badge, please go to fayettevillefirst.com or call the church office at 770-461-4313. Cost is \$5. Another welcome tool is our orange FFUMC Event Staff shirts. They just shout, "How can I help you?" and we want you to have one for every community event we offer. To order, please contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com and include your desired shirt size.

Sign Up Now to Help at FFUMC Fall Festival



We are gearing up to welcome the community to the FFUMC Fall Festival on October 29. Find out all the many ways to help in the Welcome Center this Sunday or online at fayettevillefirst.com, and take your pick! Options: Hospitality/Welcome Tent, Games Attendants, Greeters, Trunk or Treat teams, Cake Walk donations. There's a place for you. Questions? Contact Carson Thaxton, cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com.

Our Month is October for Fayette Samaritans



October is our month to make a special push to help Fayette Samaritans. The following items are most needed; however, anything is greatly appreciated: *canned goods – beef stew, tuna, chili, pasta, mixed vegetables, fruit; saltines or soup crackers; toiletries; and laundry detergent.* The clothes closet needs *new underwear* for women (size 8 and larger), *new socks* and *white T-shirts* for men and boys. Donations may be left in the FFUMC Welcome Center collection basket.

Help the Christmas Marketplace Raise Money



You can help raise money for local charities by collecting gently used, sellable items for the United Methodist Women's Timeless Treasures sale at the Christmas Marketplace on November 4. If you need help with large items, call Cindy Hall at 678-656-4117 to arrange pickup. Save your documents for the shredding service offered by the United Methodist Men all morning during the Marketplace. The UMM also need your help before, during and after the event. Contact Bobby Hamil, bhamil6@gmail.com, to see all the ways you can lend a hand.

Share Closet Stocked with Helpful Equipment



The Share Closet at FFUMC, operated by the United Methodist Men, is stocked with medical equipment for the community to use when needed. Inventory includes such rehabilitation equipment as wheel chairs, walkers, rollators, portable toilets, shower stools and chairs, crutches, portable bed, knee braces, and more. All are in good working order. Contact the church office to arrange pickup at 770-461-4313.

Life Line Screening Comes to FFUMC



Life Line Screening, a provider of preventive health screening, is coming to FFUMC on Tuesday, November 14. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems and take from 60 to 90 minutes to complete. More information is available in the Welcome Center, toll free at 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word "circle" to 797979.

Ponies at MainStreet Fayetteville Courtesy of FFUMC



We have a very unique opportunity to reach out and meet our neighbors. Partnering with MainStreet Fayetteville, we will be providing pony rides at the "Trick or Treat on MainStreet" event in downtown Fayetteville Saturday, October 28, from 3 to 5 p.m. We are looking for church friends to meet new people in the pony lines and invite them to the Fall Festival the next evening and to our church! Shake some hands, give some high fives, and represent Fayetteville First UMC with an orange event shirt. Within this small two hour block of time, we have the potential to meet hundreds of families. We want them to know we are here for them and they are welcome at our church. Plus we always love to support Fayetteville and our friends at MainStreet who put on this great event! Sound interesting? Contact Carson Thaxton: cthaxton@fayettevillefirst.com

Upcoming: Get more information on this and other events at fayettevillefirst.com or 770-461-4313.

October 11 — Celebration of Discipline, 6:15 p.m., Room C-270 NOTE ROOM CHANGE,
Topic: Confession

October 14 — Dadurday, Church Street Park, 10:30 a.m.

October 19 — SAGE Trip, Biblical Antiquity Center, Tour and lunch (\$39), Register and pay in church office

October 22 — Stewardship Commitment Sunday

October 22 — Charge Conference, 3 p.m., Fellowship Hall

October 22 — Food and Fellowship, 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall

November 4 — Christmas Marketplace, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper Menu



Come enjoy food and fellowship! Order your meal by October 9 at noon for the next Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper. Sign up each week or for the entire 2017-2018 season. Just go to fayettevillefirst.com, e-mail admin@fayettevillefirst.com, complete a pew card, or call the church office at 770-461-4313. October 11 Menu: Fried Chicken, Rice, Gravy, Vegetable or Chicken Tenders Meal or Grilled Chicken Salad Meal. Come join in!

Financial Update for October 3

Income: \$1,049,714.08

Expenses: \$1,122,085.83

Play Ball, Y'all!

Just look at this fine FFUMC Softball Team! Would you like to play in the spring season? Contact Jack Gilson, coach, at 770-845-6037 or jackgilson47@gmail.com and get outside to play, make some friends and breathe in fresh air!



FFUMC Fall 2017 Softball Team: *Back Row:* Rick Dorsey, Chris Mucha, Chris Parker, Matt Hansen, Bobby Arrington, Mark Hoekstra *Front Row:* Lou Baldwin, Anthony Allen, Jack Gilson, David Anderson *Not Pictured:* Nick Hansen, Nelson Quinones, Susie Keaton, Carl Martin