



May 10, 2024

## The Weekender

### Did you know?

Rev. Kaylen Short

"I haven't seen that in a United Methodist Church before." That's the most common response I got to the full immersion baptism that happened as a part of our larger Confirmation Service this Sunday. The number of those responses surprised me. After all, I've performed at least one immersive baptism in nearly every church I've served and immersion is one of three approved methods for UMC baptism (with the other two being sprinkling and pouring). Yet even though the specific method of baptism is always up to the individual and family, I confess I get some delight in the response. After all isn't experiencing new things supposed to be a huge aspect of our faith?



It did get me thinking about some other less known United Methodist practices and how I should share those with you. For example, the United Methodist baptism must always be done publicly. We do not have private baptisms in bathtubs. Even if a baptism is to be done off church grounds, the congregation should be notified of the time and place so they can be present if they would like. The reason for this is that at baptism we believe three entities are connected: God, the individual, and the church at large. Thus, all must be present.

Additionally, in the UMC Easter isn't merely a Sunday. Easter is a season. We are actually still in the Easter season now, which is why we clergy are still roaming around in white. The resurrection is worth celebrating more than one day!

Furthermore, there are three commonly used and acceptable ways for receiving Holy Communion. One is to stand in line to receive the elements; another is to kneel at the altar rail; and the third is to pass the elements down the pews with neighbor serving neighbor. I bet the third one is the one that surprises some of y'all! An important part of this is that while there are restrictions on who consecrates the sacraments in the UMC, there's no restriction on who actually serves Communion once it's been consecrated. So everyone can serve it!

Finally, there's a stance that Welch's grape juice is the only acceptable form of grape juice for Communion... Okay, I'm kidding about this one. However, Thomas B. Welch was a member of Vineland Methodist Episcopal Church, now First United Methodist Church of Vineland, and created his famous grape juice so that his congregation could celebrate Communion year-round without utilizing alcohol.

Hopefully you've learned something from this article, even if it's just that I am a giant UMC nerd.



### 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Psalm 1, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

"Next One Up"

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **Wesley Woods offering is this Sunday, May 12**

Wesley Woods was founded in 1954 by The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church to provide affordable housing for older adults. Each year churches receive a Mother's Day offering to help provide financial assistance for meals and housing to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their resources. In addition, the Mother's Day Offering supports on-site chaplains and an innovative wellness program. Donations may be sent directly to Wesley Woods with check payable to "Foundation of Wesley Woods" and mailed to 1817 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329. Donations online are through this link: [Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering at wesleywoods.org/donate](https://wesleywoods.org/donate).



### **Summer Delights on Wednesday Nights**

Beginning May 15, you're invited to gather on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM with your FFUMC friends. Those who want to meet up should gather at Line Creek Brewing Company at the Bus Barn behind Fayetteville City Hall, 200 City Center Parkway. Be sure to wear your nametag (if you can) to help newcomers find you. Pack a meal from home or pick up some delicious food or a treat on site and stay connected through the summer until Wednesday Night Suppers resume at the church in September.



### **Messy Church makes plans**

The Messy Church Leadership Team will meet on Wednesday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7 PM in Room C-260 to make plans for the future. Would you like to participate? All are welcome to come and share the energy of this fresh expression of church. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com).



### **Churchwide Graduation Potluck Lunch is May 19**

We will be celebrating graduates of high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 19, in worship and at a churchwide potluck luncheon. Please bring something to share and help us celebrate our graduates!

Graduates are invited to wear regalia for the 11 AM service and sit on the front pews to be honored.



### **Wear Colors of Fire on Pentecost Sunday, May 19**

This year, during our worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, wear red, yellow or orange to represent the celebration of the birth of the church and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.



Limited Capacity  
Register NOW!

## VBS 2024 at Camp Firelight - June 24-28

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS! Camp Firelight runs June 24-28  
**Capacity is limited and so waiting lists may begin at any point.**

[Select your preferred volunteer spot here!](#)

[Register your VBS campers here!](#)

**Praise Team returns this year!** Are you a rising 3rd grader or older? You're invited to be on the VBS Praise Team. This group will learn music before VBS and be our on-stage leaders during VBS group times. Contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com) for details.



## LOVE in action: Items needed

Thank you for helping those on the margins with your donations. What is currently needed? **Living Room Furniture, Bedside Table, Lawn Mower.**  
[Contact Cindy Hall at harvecin@charter.net](mailto:harvecin@charter.net) with donations or questions.



## The 37th Annual Rose Show comes to FFUMC May 18-19

Come see, smell and photograph roses of all varieties and enjoy beautiful arrangements as the South Metro Rose Society presents the 37th Annual Rose Show at Fayetteville First UMC on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, in the gym between 1 and 4 PM each day. Get answers to your rose questions from ARS Consulting Rosarians. FREE admission and parking. Rose bouquets will be sold. Raffle prizes include restaurant gift certificates, rose bushes, gardening items, and more. Questions? Call the Rose Society at 770-631-3885.



## May Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans: NEW LIST

Donations are one way to help those 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:** Canned Chicken, Hamburger Helper, Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Jelly, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Feminine Products

**Clothes Closet:** Women's clothing size extra large



## YOUTH NEWS

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### High School Beach Retreat May 31 – June 3

High Schoolers (rising 9th graders through graduating seniors) -- Your beach retreat is here!!!! Save the date: May 31 through June 3! Cost per student will be \$250 plus some spending money for two meals on the road. We will be going to Port St. Joe, Florida. We will have beach time and shopping time; we will cook together, play together and worship together. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at [alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com). You can [sign up at this link](#).



### Youth Summer Mission Trip to Appalachian Service Project

FFUMC Youth are excited as they prepare for our youth summer mission trip in Appalachia June 9 – 15. Last year, teams from FFUMC and Inman UMC served in Breathitt County, Kentucky, which had been damaged from major flooding. Two teams repaired floors and put in a new kitchen while another team installed a new roof for a family. This year's projects have not yet been assigned, but the youth are eager to again partner with Inman UMC as they experience and share in God's gracious love. The church is invited to a commissioning service for this group on June 4 at 6:30 PM in the FFUMC chapel.

## GRATITUDE

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### Flower Ministry

I want to thank the Flower Ministry for the lovely arrangement that was delivered after my recent knee surgery. It brightened an otherwise dreary day! I am looking forward to in-person worship soon!

— Beth Refuss

### Shawl Ministry

What a wonderful blessing and surprise it was to receive the beautiful shawl. The colors are perfect and the pattern is just lovely! I felt so blessed and seen when I unpackaged your unexpected gift. My heart jumped and I felt so loved! Thank you so much for the time and patience it took to create such a beautiful gesture of love. Please know your ministry blessed me and my family.

— Cynthia Lanford (daughter of Raymond & Robertine Mitchely)

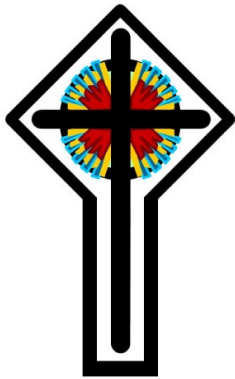


## Hope and a Future Capital Campaign is underway

We have an opportunity to help everyone touched by Fayetteville First UMC both now and in the future. Follow these links to learn more.

[See the Capital Campaign Case Statement](#)

[View the Capital Campaign Presentation](#)



## May 8, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$428,886.52
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$427,886.03
Difference	\$1,000.49

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,450.00

### 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 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

Closed Fridays

**AA Meetings:** Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;  
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

**NA Meeting:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-461-4313 [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

# inspired ...

## Confirmation Class received into church

We welcomed the 2024 Confirmation Class into full membership of the church on May 5. During this special service, three students remembered their baptism and one student was baptized. All made their commitment to Christ and to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. They immediately began living out their commitment by serving communion to the congregation. Welcome!



## 2024 Confirmands

**Sophia Allgood**

**Ginny Fernandes**

**Xander Hansen**

**Aspen Kemberling**

**Instructors:**

**Rev. Drew West**

**Faye Livingston**

