

The Weekender

Graduation Rev. Kaylen Short

I've been thinking about graduations a lot lately. Two weeks ago, I attended Alli's graduation from Auburn University with her Masters in Industrial Organizational Psychology. Last weekend, Rev. Drew West's graduation with his Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology marked the ten year anniversary of my own graduation from Candler. On Wednesday, I joined the fun at at our space-themed Pre-K graduation here at at the church complete with a rocket cutout for the graduates to take pictures in. Of course, I have been planning in earnest for this weekend's Graduation Sunday.

While I have been thinking about graduations, I have ruminated on their purpose. Why are they looked on societally as such a significant moment in a person's life? While the caps and gowns are great for photo ops and the diplomas are significant, I think graduations are really more about overcoming obstacles, a hopeful future, and the community with someone through all of it.

Let's face it: no one glides through any level of schooling perfectly. High school homework assignments are forgotten. College papers are torn apart by professors. Pre-schoolers have a meltdown during snack time. Things go awry in any level of school, and graduation is about the persistence of the one who has overcome.

Similarly, graduation is about looking forward with hope. There's a lot of times and examples of people talking about the future with anything but hope. Just google any term for a younger generation and you'll find "article" after "article" (I use this term somewhat sarcastically) about what that generation is ruining. But graduation day isn't about some grand generational tug of war for supremacy; it's about seeing the hope that exists because of younger generations.

Finally, graduation day is about the community that has journeyed with the graduate and will continue to do so. It's an acknowledgement that no one accomplishes anything of value on his or her own. Thus it is a celebration of family, teachers, church family, and community organizations as much as it is the accomplishment of one individual.

With a common understanding of the purpose of graduation in place, I propose that this Sunday be a graduation day for all of us. No, I won't request you wear caps and gowns, but I do hope you'll take the chance to celebrate. We have overcome a lot as a church in recent times. We've survived a pandemic and endured during a time of intense political and denominational division. You've even survived almost five months of a new pastor! We also have an incredibly hopeful future. The Spirit is moving and I think a lot of us have seen and felt it. Most importantly, we have overcome and we look forward to a hopeful future because of the community that surrounds us.

This Sunday let's celebrate together: what we are collectively graduating from, what we are graduating into, and those beside us who make it all possible.





PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-21

"A New Beginning"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



General Conference 2024

The United Methodist General Conference met the last week of April and first week of May in Charlotte, North Carolina. For a brief update on the specific legislation passed, please watch this video from our North GA Conference Bishop Robin Dease:

<https://vimeo.com/942483052>

Additionally, if you have questions about specific pieces of legislation that passed please contact Rev. Kaylen Short to set up a time to ask those. If you would prefer to hear a brief informational update on General Conference, you can attend our next church council meeting on Tuesday, May 28, at 7 PM.



Churchwide Graduation Potluck Lunch is this Sunday: 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 for Pentecost this 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.



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.

The Rose Show will be open early just for FFUMC on Sunday at NOON. Stop by after church and enjoy the show!



Serving at SafeHouse Outreach: May 30

Our upcoming meal service at SafeHouse is on Thursday, May 30. Please mark your calendars! Chuck Grayson and Faye Livingston will be leading the preparation and helping Jane Davis in the kitchen on Thursday. We serve meals, prayer cards, devotionals and dignity. All volunteers should arrive by 4 PM. Wayne Harris will be driving and holiday traffic will be heavy, so we need to have the minibus loaded up and ready to go by 4:30 PM.

If you'd like to sign up or have any questions, please call or email Randy Riddell, 770-365-6824, randyhr8@gmail.com.



Summer Delights on Wednesday Nights

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.



**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 rehearsals begin in June. Rising 3rd graders and older are 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 for schedule and advance access to the music.



Time for Summer Lunch - help and donations needed

Our Summer Lunch Program will swing into action to provide food stability for many families in Fayette County beginning June 4. We will be packing lunches at 9:30 AM each Tuesday during June and July and delivering them afterward. Contact Faye Livingston if you'd like to pack or be a driver.

What is needed now? Cookies, either homemade or store-bought (no nuts, please). Feel free to pre-package two cookies per baggie or leave that for our weekly packers. This year we are also looking for donations of fruit. For the first week, we are requesting apples. All donations should be marked for "Summer Lunch" and delivered to the Fellowship Hall, placed on the counter or in the food refrigerator by Monday of each week. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to serve our community. Questions? Contact this year's coordinator, Faye Livingston, fayecl@mindspring.com, 770-401-9761 (text or call).



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.



May Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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*



Look for more Capital Campaign information soon

Our Hope and a Future Capital Campaign is underway as we seek to minister to those touched by Fayetteville First UMC both now and in the future. Follow these links to information already presented and look for more information coming your way very soon. Another information session is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, immediately following the 11 AM service.

[See the Capital Campaign Case Statement](#)

[View the Capital Campaign Presentation](#)

YOUTH NEWS



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. 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.



Just one more reminder: Let's celebrate together!

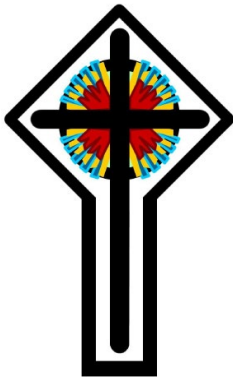
You're invited to the churchwide potluck this Sunday, May 19, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We'll celebrate our graduates and our wonderful faith community. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a really great lunch and some good time together.

GRATITUDE



Flower Ministry

I wish to thank the flower ministry for the lovely flowers I received recently after my hospital stay. They were absolutely beautiful and I loved them. They are still beautiful! Our flower ministry is a wonderful ministry and I would like to thank each individual who is involved in it. You are a blessing to all. — Sue Sheddan



May 14, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$440,016.30
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$450,314.56
Difference	- \$10,298.26

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$586.00

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

inspired ...



United Women in Faith: always at work

You can rest assured that the United Women in Faith are at work — it's just hard to predict where you'll see them next! They invite us to participate ... and you always do!

Earlier this month, the Executive Board of our local unit gave a day of service to Southwest Christian Care. They worked for hours cleaning floors, chairs, bathrooms, and the kitchen. Paul Leslie, Executive Director at Southwest Christian Care, recently presented to the UWF Unit about their ministry with hospice care, educational and respite programs for medically fragile or special needs children, senior support and spiritual care. The UWF delivered the many items you donated in April such as cleaning supplies, paper products, dryer sheets, coffee and other food supplies. Your donations were appreciated by Southwest Christian Care which does not charge for its services.

As part of the UWF's ongoing support of children around the world, a donation to missions was given in honor of each of the babies born to those in our church family since last May. Parents and grandparents received certificates during worship on May 12 (see photo below). In addition, a rose was offered in the courtyard to mothers and those who mother others and a donation was collected by UWF's Bethany Circle for organizations who help children including Bloom and Promise Place. Bethany Circle extends a huge thank you to those who contributed to, helped with, and wore flowers from the Mother's Day Event. The group raised \$2,156 for charity through your efforts.

