



June 14, 2024

The Weekender

A Different Kind of Family Reunion

Rev. Kaylen Short

Last week, I traveled up to Ohio with my dad to return to the town he was born and raised in. We did so for a kind of surprise family reunion to celebrate my aunt's retirement from teaching and so I could meet my cousin's three-month-old son, Henry. As we stepped off the plane in the Midwest both dad and I had a palpable sense of excitement for all the family we would see and memories we would make. This week I have the same feeling.



Theme: Becoming an ACTS Church

That's because this week United Methodists from all across North Georgia are off to Athens. Bill Webb, Lauren Davis, Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Rev. Drew West, and I are all here on behalf of our church. There are countless other friends of Fayetteville First UMC here. Every year, when I return to Athens for conference, I feel like I'm heading off to a family reunion.

Both my parents have big families and so family reunions always had three elements: 1) Good food, 2) Family you haven't seen in at least a year, 3) people you didn't know you were related to, but you're excited to find out you are. The North Georgia Annual Conference has all of these elements. The food in Athens is worth the trip itself, but it's the United Methodist family that keeps me coming back. Every year, I see laity and clergy that I haven't seen since the previous conference and we pick right up where we left off. Each year, I also meet United Methodists I didn't know before, and I usually walk away amazed at what God is doing all across our state. I think everyone who is a United Methodist should attend Annual Conference at least once. You'll be surprised what you might experience, who you might meet, and what impact it might have. At annual conference a number of years ago I went to dinner with a group of people and met Rev. Allyson Lawrence who was invited too. Now we are teammates in the best church in the conference!

I get so excited to see everyone at Annual Conference that my friends usually tease me that I spend more time in conversations outside the conference hall than I spend in it. Yes, we have important work to do here. We have and will vote on issues that are important to the North Georgia Conference including district realignments. We will also celebrate ordinands and honor the saints of our conference who have passed away this year. All of that is holy work. But my favorite work, and maybe the work I am most known for, is kind of holding my own conference right outside the doors of the larger one.



4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

Psalm 20; Mark 4:26-34 *"Easy to Miss"*

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



It's here! Camp Firelight is just over 1 week away!

We are so excited for the abundance of kids and volunteers who will fill our church building with fun during VBS this year! VBS will teach and remind the future generation that God is always with us and faithful.

You are invited to help us explore this truth with the our VBSers June 24-28. Bible stories and lessons from the lives of Jacob, Ruth, and Jesus are shared in multiple ways. Science experiments, crafts, music, and recreation highlight valuable lessons as we lean into our theme verse: "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3

Can you help by donating or lending the following supplies?

Skateboard

Large, heavy textbooks or dictionaries (8 needed)

Hand weights: 1 to 10 lbs (8 – 10 needed)

Rolls of painter's tape (new or partially used)

Small pop-up tent

Fake trees

We'll need these by Tuesday, June 18, so we can fill in gaps. Contact admin@fayettevillefirst.com or call Flora Lusk in the the church office at 770-461-4313 to see if anyone else has already donated the item you wish to loan or donate. Then bring it to the office. Questions? Contact Drew West, dwest@fayettevillefirst.com.

Capacity is limited and waiting lists have begun.

One more helper in each of these areas is still needed: crafts, recreation/games, snacks and 4th Grade. Contact Rev. Drew West if you can help in any of these areas.

[Register your VBS campers here! Click here to get on the waiting list.](#)



July 7: Baby Shower for the Short Family

A church-wide baby shower for Kaylen and Alli Short will be hosted by the United Women in Faith's Friendship Circle.

Sunday, July 7

Drop in 3 to 5 PM

FFUMC Fellowship Hall

RSVP to the church office: admin@fayettevillefirst.com, 770-461-4313

Link to gift registry: <https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/short>

We will also be collecting donations of small baby items and supplies that will be given to the **Pregnancy Resource Center** in Alli and Kaylen's honor. Please bring these with you to the shower or drop them off in the church office. Needed items: new pacifiers, new onesies 3M-2T, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby wipes, diaper cream, socks, bibs, towels, nursing pads, crib sheets, diapers (sizes 5 and 6 only), books for toddlers. Thank you for your care for infants in our community.



Planning for Sunshine VBS in July

Sunshine VBS will be held July 17 - 19, from 5:30 PM - 8 PM. Please contact Susie Arrington (see Realm) or admin@fayettevillefirst.com if you would like to volunteer or need additional information.



Did you lose anything?

Missing something you may have left at church? Please check out our lost and found box located in a marked cabinet near the gym. Umbrellas, jackets, a blanket, some toys, and more have found their way to this spot for unclaimed items. We'll be clearing that out on **Thursday, June 20**.



UMCOR Feminine Kits collected by UWF District

United Women in Faith are collecting Feminine Hygiene Kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief this summer. You are invited to [check the list of needed items](#) and bring any donations to the church office. The collection is from now through September 3. Bins will be available in the Welcome Center area during August.



Wellspring Living

United Women in Faith meeting features Wellspring Living

You are invited to the next United Women in Faith Unit Meeting Luncheon on Thursday, June 20, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker will be Victoria Stroud, Development Director at Wellspring Living, who will help us understand the ongoing tragedy of sex trafficking in our own community and how Wellspring provides survivors the tools and resources needed to overcome trauma and thrive. This is a covered dish luncheon so there's no cost to come. Let your UWF circle chair know you are coming. If you're not in a circle, please contact Lauren Davis or admin@fayettevillefirst.com and let us know you are attending so we can ensure enough seating for everyone. Also, **let us know if you need childcare.** [2024 Unit Meeting Invitation](#)

UWF Meeting

June 20



Summer Lunch needs cookies and substitute drivers

Come help with Summer Lunch any Tuesday at 9:30 AM.
Lunches packed for 260 students 11 Routes

Needs:

Cookies, especially homemade, **no nuts**

Substitute drivers

Apples (June 25 and later) - a group or individuals could supply

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. Contact Faye Livingston or the church office to volunteer.



Farewell reception for District Superintendent Susan Landry

All are invited to a Farewell Reception for Susan and Louis Landry in the Fayetteville First UMC Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 23, from 3 to 5 PM. Susan will be leaving the district office and her position as South West District Superintendant at the end of June to return to full-time ministry in a local church. A presentation will be given at 4 PM.



Christmas Shoeboxes prepared now through July 1

United Women in Faith (UWF) are sponsoring the third annual Christmas Shoebox drive in cooperation with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Warehouse in Decatur, AL. This project helps spread the joy and love of Christmas to children ages 2-12 in Central America.

The Christmas Tree in the Welcome Center has 100 ornaments for girls and boys of various ages listing the items needed as well as 20 ornaments for monetary donations.

Put the items in a bag and place the bag under the tree or return it to the church office **no later than July 1, 2024**. Monetary donations should be marked "Christmas Shoeboxes" and sent to the church office or given online through Realm and will be used for shipping costs and the bulk items (e.g. underwear, pencils, crayons, etc.) the UWF has purchased.

Very Important – Put the ornament in the bag with the items so that we will know what age group the items are for. Members of the UWF will pack the boxes by the end of July (date to be decided later) and deliver them to the warehouse no later than August 22, 2024. Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke.



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. 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.



Spread beauty, love and encouragement with flowers

The FFUMC Flower Ministry shares joy through the flowers. Arrangements may be donated to honor or remember a loved one or any special occasion with recognition included in the Sunday bulletin. The cost for two arrangements is \$150. After the service, arrangements may be removed by the donor or one or both may be given to the Flower Ministry. The team will take donated flowers and make them into many beautiful arrangements to be shared with our church family and friends for encouragement and cheer. Contact admin@fayettevillefirst.com to schedule a donation.



We'll get "peachy" and go to Blackbird Cafe in June

Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) will be going to Dickey Farms for peaches and to lunch at the Blackbird Cafe on Wednesday, June 19. Gather at the church office for a 10:30 AM departure. Cost is \$2 transportation, plus lunch and any Dickey Farms purchases. Please call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com for reservations.



SAGE visits Infantry Museum on July 12

Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) will be going to the National Infantry Museum and has been **rescheduled to Friday, July 12**.

Meet at the church office at 8:15 AM & depart at 8:30 AM.
Tour will be from 10:30 AM – 12 PM.

Lunch will be at the Wicked Hen restaurant in Columbus.

Cost: Museum \$5, Transportation \$2, plus lunch.

Please call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email admin@fayettevillefirst.com for reservations.



June 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.

New Most Needed List: Canned Chicken, Canned Beef Stew, Tuna, Canned Beans (Black, Pinto, Navy, etc.), Mixed Vegetables, Mac and Cheese, Canned Corn, Jelly, Dried Spaghetti Pasta, Coffee

Clothes Closet: Women's socks, women's underwear sizes 5-9 and larger than 10; Men's tube socks in dark colors.



Could you lend your voice on Sundays as a Lay Liturgist?

You are invited to participate on Sundays as a Lay Liturgist assisting in reading scripture and creeds. If you would like to share in this part of worship, please contact admin@fayettevillefirst.com or let Rev. Kaylen Short know and we can coordinate a Sunday that works for you.



Let's Do Lunch — Reservations are open

Saturday, August 10, at Noon

Special Guest: Jinny Henson

Lunch: Grilled Chicken Salad Cost: FREE

Reservations required. [Click here to make your reservations NOW!](#)

Don't miss this event!



Hope and a Future Capital Campaign Update

Members of the congregation attended Hope and a Future Capital Campaign information sessions on April 17 and June 2. Here's a quick update for those who missed the meetings. The campaign fund has \$687,000 on hand to meet the total campaign estimate of \$1,116,200. Fayetteville First will apply for a construction loan of \$325,000 from the Georgia United Methodist

Foundation to allow capital campaign projects to move forward while fund-raising efforts continue. With the \$325,000 loan, there is still a gap of \$104,200 so we encourage members to consider a sacrificial gift to address facility and sacred space deterioration. These projects are needs, not merely desirable enhancements. Each is necessary to sustain our capacity for effective outreach, joyful praise, active witness, and loving fellowship with one another far into the future.



LOVE In Action: Some things still needed

Thank you for helping those on the margins with your donations. We are still in need of **living room furniture (a sofa or sectional) and a washing machine**. Contact Cindy Hall with donations or questions.

YOUTH NEWS



Movin' On Up: 5th graders move to 6th grade and youth

It's hard to believe that our 5th graders are moving up to youth this summer. We have loved being part of their faith journey through FFUMC Kids ministries. To help them transition well, we have developed a series of next steps for 5th grade students as they move into 6th grade. We're calling it: Movin' On Up!

Rising 6th graders are invited to be part of our VBS Blowout. Each afternoon immediately following VBS, rising 6th graders and all our youth will be doing a different activity each day. You'll also want to be part of our "What to Expect Going Into Middle School" as our older youth offer good advice on how to navigate those first months of middle school. Look for details in your email inbox soon. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

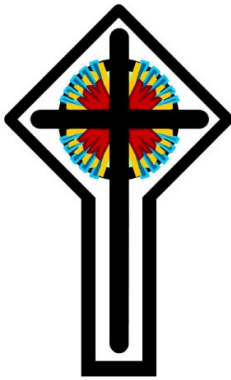


One more Park + Snack in June

Summer is here ... What in the world do I do with my preschool and elementary age kid(s)?? Join Rev. Drew West (dad of Oliver who is 2 and Lillian who is 6) on Monday, June 17, at 9:30 AM at the FFUMC playground. We will play on the playground together and fellowship as well as eat. Please bring your own snack/lunch. For more information contact Drew at 770-461-4313 or dwest@fayettevillefirst.com.

Flower Ministry

Thank you for the flowers you sent after my surgery. They brightened my days and reminded me of the people who love me. — Joe Goodwin



June 12, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$505,815.32
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$547,459.93
Difference	- \$41,644.61

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$448.00

86 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$20,883.04

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 Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214

770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

inspired ...

Music filled the air ... Thank you!

The Chancel Choir kicked off summer for us with a beautiful concert this past Sunday. Much of the music presented was patriotic along with some sacred and popular favorites. Did you miss it? Want to hear it again? Follow our YouTube Channel at Fayetteville First UMC - Fayetteville, GA or [access the archived livestream here](#).

A message from Nick Bowden, Director of Music & Organist: This note is written with a grateful heart to God and in thanksgiving for the dedication and hard work of our Chancel Choir! Last week we presented a Patriotic Concert which was both inspirational and moving. People of many faith backgrounds were present along with our church members to participate in a first-class experience made possible by the generosity of our choir. Thank you as well to all those who baked the copious sweets and organized the dessert reception – it was a perfect ending to a full day! Our church is filled with smart, talented people who give of themselves at a high level. Surely last week was a dazzling display of the good things God is doing in our midst! Your entire church staff thanks you for all you do and are!

*Most sincerely,
Nick Bowden*

