



June 21, 2024

## The Weekender

### Five Lessons from FFUMC Rev. Kaylen Short

The question I receive most often when I tell people that I am a United Methodist Pastor is, “Don’t y’all move a lot?” Many don’t know much about the United Methodist Church, but the one thing that a lot of people know a little about is the itinerant system or the method through which we send our pastors. This notion that UMC pastors move so much more than others has always seemed odd to me. Regardless of denomination, the average stay of a pastor in a church is 3-4 years which is very comparable to the average stay for a United Methodist pastor. However, I do realize that there is something unique and I think beautiful about how our denomination utilizes its pastors. Beautiful because a lot of UM churches like Fayetteville First UMC become experts at welcoming and loving new clergy. I know because I have experienced it!

This Sunday, a lot of pastors across the North GA conference will be saying goodbye to their current church appointment and in a couple weeks they will be moving into new ones. So I wanted to write an article for you to share with your friends in other churches. Here are the five lessons other churches can learn from FFUMC on receiving a new pastor!

- 1. Be welcoming, not smothering.** It’s important that churches receive new pastors and their family/support systems with open arms, but it’s also important not to smother them with requests in their first days. Obviously, pastors need to meet their new church family, but houses need to be organized, and offices prepared. FFUMC has been incredible at welcoming us without smothering.
- 2. Avoid saying, “That’s not how \_\_\_\_\_ did it.”** Since arriving here, FFUMC has given me an incredible gift in allowing me to be myself. Too often churches try to fit a new pastor into a hole left by a recent pastor or by one 50 years ago. God called the new clergy persons as they were. They can only be who they are.
- 3. Accept the honest “I don’t know yet.”** I am pretty sure that “I don’t know” is the most common thing I’ve said since arriving here. Thankfully, you all see it as the honest statement it is, and not as undermining my leadership. Truthfully—even six months in, there are a lot of things that I just don’t know and that come with time. Only just this week I successfully transferred a call in our office for the first time!
- 4. Give balanced feedback, not only criticism.** Most clergy that I know desire honest feedback. It improves communication and leadership as it models humility. However, if feedback is always negative, then it isn’t feedback: it’s criticism. Feedback must balance what a new pastor is doing really well with what few areas they could iron out. Fayetteville First has done this remarkably and should serve as a model for other congregations.
- 5. Remember it’s shared ministry.** One of the greatest things about Fayetteville First is that lay people are deeply invested in the daily leadership of the church. This is a tremendous thing for a new pastor. Too often a church expects the clergy person(s) to do everything because they are the hired staff, but churches can’t operate their best if staff carry any more than a fraction of the responsibility for leading the church. Ultimately, the church will always be best when laity and clergy are working right alongside each other day in and day out.

I remain deeply grateful for the ways you all have modeled how to accept a new pastor well, and I ask you to be in prayer for those UMC churches and pastors experiencing change in these next few weeks.



## 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41 "Rainy Days"

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### We are ready for VBS!

Camp Firelight starts this Monday, June 24, and we are excited!

**We are FULL!** All available camper slots have been filled and confirmed.

**Volunteer needs have been met.** Thank you for saying, "YES"! If you did not volunteer but find you have availability even for a few hours, contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence or Rev. Drew West to see where you can help out.

We can all pray for a great week as we remember our theme:

**"Whenever I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3.**



### 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.



### July 7: Baby Shower for the Short Family

A church-wide baby shower for Alli and Kaylen 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) if you would like to volunteer or need additional information.



## Can you help at Summer Lunch?

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM

Lunches packed for 260 students 11 Routes

### Needs:

Cookies, especially homemade, **no nuts**

Substitute drivers

Apples - 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.



## A few ornaments remain on the tree

### Christmas Shoeboxes are due 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.



## 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 Superintendent at the end of June to return to full-time ministry in a local church. A presentation will be given at 4 PM.





## 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!



## 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.



## SAGE visits Infantry Museum on July 12

Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE) will be going to the National Infantry Museum on **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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) for reservations.



## 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) to schedule a donation.



## 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) or let Rev. Kaylen Short know and we can coordinate a Sunday that works for you.



## 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.

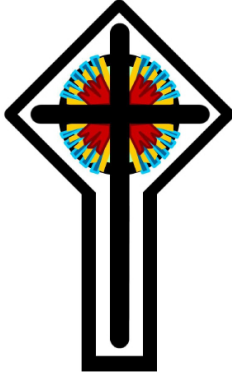
## Shawl Ministry

We don't even know who you are but you mean so much to us. I wish you could have seen Larry's face when he opened the shawl. He immediately put it across the back of a rocking chair. You don't realize how many lives you touch. — Becky & Larry Voyles

## Flower Ministry

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that you bring to my mother, Sara Morgan, at Azalea Estates. They always brighten her room and her day. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. — Marilyn Howard





## June 19, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$525,538.93
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$558,646.71
Difference	- \$33,107.78

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$262.00

89 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$22,648.44

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)



# inspired ...

## Beach to Appalachia to VBS — Youth are amazing!

Our youth have had a big June! They started with a fun trip to Port St. Joe for the high school beach retreat. There, they had some quality time at the beach, pool, and even a little kayaking. The theme for the retreat was “Trust” and Austin Baur led devotionals centered on Peter, Noah, and Philippians 4:13.

When they got home they quickly were given the opportunity to learn to trust God as they served their neighbors. Combined with Inman UMC, our youth shared in a commissioning service on June 3 and left for their week of serving with the Appalachia Service Project on June 9. They broke into three serving teams when they arrived in Kingsport, TN. The students learned how to build a deck, underpin a home, and how to HUG a house with insulation.

And now, they are ready to serve again with Vacation Bible School starting this coming Monday. Our youth are amazing!



*June has offered a chance to be together in service and fun.*

