



June 7, 2024

## The Weekender

### One of the Best Things About Our Church

Rev. Kaylen Short

A while ago, I was invited by a member of our church family to visit one of the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings that our church hosts in order to celebrate his milestone sobriety anniversary. Before attending, he told me AA was one of the best things about our church, even if most people would never know it. After visiting that meeting, I understand why. So here are some things I believe the church can learn from AA.

First, AA is all about community. In AA meetings, individuals share their stories, struggles, and triumphs in a safe, non-judgmental space. Similarly, churches should cultivate a sense of community where members feel accepted and supported regardless of their struggles. AA encourages each member to practice radical honesty with where they are in their journey and what their current challenges are. By sharing these things, they can be supported more easily by others in the group. I think we should be more willing to share our most authentic selves with those we are connected to in the church.

Second, AA has a clear purpose which they articulate regularly. So often churches don't really know why their specific church exists as opposed to all the other churches down the road. Even if members of the church do know, it's rarely said. I think we would do well to emulate our siblings in AA and to clarify our mission and purpose and repeat it often.

Another really amazing thing about AA is their mentoring. Everyone has a mentor and others who help hold them accountable. What would it look like if every new member of our church got a mentor who checked in on them? What would it look like if every new leader got a mentor to help carry the burdens that sometimes come with leadership?

Finally, members of AA celebrate together! They celebrate every single milestone and anniversary. In the church, we don't celebrate near enough. We have so many reasons to be joyful, but you might not always know it. We too should recognize and seize opportunities to celebrate all that God is doing here.

I left that meeting feeling so inspired by what AA does and grateful that we get to all play some small part in it by setting aside some of our space for them. My hope is that a little of the wonderful spirit and love of this church flows into our AA group, and that a little bit of their best flows into our community too.



**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

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

Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 *"It's a Team Sport"*

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### Great start to summer: Pops Concert at FFUMC June 9

**This Sunday** kick off summer with your church family! Join the Chancel Choir and guest musicians Sunday, June 9, at 7 PM in the Fayetteville First UMC Sanctuary for a Pops Concert. This inspiring event will feature popular favorites and a patriotic mood. [This concert will also be streamed online](#). Plan to attend and bring family, friends, and neighbors to this free event. Dessert reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. [Share the invitation and get more detailed information here and at FayettevilleFirst.com](#).



### Save the Date: 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](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.



**Messy Church  
June 8**

### Messy Church is WET!!! Saturday, June 8

Come experience a very WET Messy Church this Saturday, June 8, from 11 AM to 1 PM. Our celebration and games will focus on Ephesians 4:5: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" and the story of Nicodemus from John 3. We will end up in The Field for water games and wet play, so come in clothes that you don't mind getting WET. Thank YOU for making our community always feel welcome with a meal and a smile!

[Volunteer here and get ready for THE BEST CHURCH EVER!](#)



### 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) and we can coordinate a Sunday that works for you.



## 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 waiting lists have begun.**

[Select your preferred volunteer spot here!](#) Volunteers still welcome!  
[Register your VBS campers here! Click here to get on the waiting list.](#)



### 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

The United Women in Faith is collecting Feminine Hygiene Kits for the United 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.



### Let's pack lunches! Volunteers needed June - July

#### Impact of the Summer Lunch Program that started June 4:

Lunches packed for 260 11 Routes  
26 volunteers from FFUMC and Inman UMC

#### Needs for June 11 (begins at 9:30 AM):

Cookies (homemade or individually packaged - no nuts)  
A few more volunteers to help pack lunch and some backup drivers.

Ethel Taylor Circle is providing fruit for June 11. Could another group volunteer for fruit on another Tuesday? Contact Faye Livingston or the church office to volunteer.

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.



Wellspring Living

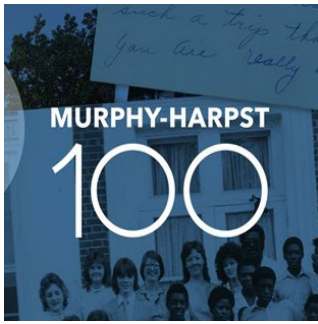
UWF Meeting

June 20

### 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](mailto: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](#)





## Offering for Annual Conference: Murphy-Harpst

Bishop Robin Dease has named [Murphy-Harpst the 2024 Annual Conference Special Offering](#). Donations to the offering may be made to Fayetteville First UMC with "2024 Annual Conference Offering" in the memo line. Over the last 100 years Murphy-Harpst has served Georgia's most vulnerable children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect by providing residential treatment, specialized foster care placements, and community programs.



## 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.



## Got socks to share? Bring them by Sunday!

Thanks for all the sock donations for charity. If you'd still like to participate in the Marie Lamb Circle's project to celebrate and Rev. Kaylen Short's recent birthday by sharing socks with others, you have until Sunday to get them here. A donation box will be available on the church office side porch and near the gym (marked "Marie Lamb Circle") through June 9 if you would like to add socks to the collection. Questions? Contact Robertine Mitchely.



## 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.



## 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. **Note the destination and date change for the June trip.** 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) for reservations.

*(The trip to the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, has been rescheduled for July 18. Look for those details soon.)*



## 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.



## G3: Good Grief Gals meet June 13 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the **SECOND THURSDAY**. Our next gathering will be held on Thursday, **June 13, at 5:30 PM** at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville. If you can, please bring a food item to share with Fayette Samaritans. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys or the church office.



## Let's Do Lunch — Save the Date!

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 June 2 meeting. 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.

## YOUTH NEWS

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### Youth leave for Appalachian Service Project this Sunday

FFUMC Youth will head out Sunday for their Appalachian Service Project June 9 – 15. Let's be in prayer for them as they partner with Inman UMC and share God's gracious love with others.

*These youth and adults participated in a commissioning service at FFUMC this week. Please be in prayer for them as they serve others.*



### 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

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### Park + Snack FFUMC Kids continues June 10 & 17

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 Mondays at 9:30 AM at the FFUMC playground June 10 and 17. At these playdates 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](mailto:dwest@fayettevillefirst.com).



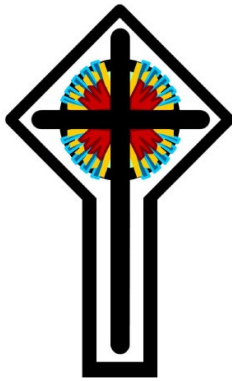


### Flower Ministry

This morning I arrived to find the most lovely arrangement of roses on my desk. What a lovely and thoughtful surprise! I am grateful to each of you for all you do for others. You are an inspiration and I pray God's tenfold blessing on you. — Nick Bowden

### Shawl Ministry

What a kind, loving, thoughtful and compassionate gift! The shawls are just beautiful and we will certainly enjoy using them. I already have and do indeed feel wrapped in God's comfort and peace. — Brian and Sue Davy



## June 5, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$492,616.18
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$538,198.68
Difference	- \$45,582.50

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$974.00

84 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$20,283.04

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

# inspired ...

## Park + Snack



Our young ones are having a great time together at the new Park + Snack times arranged by Rev. Drew West, Assistant Minister of Families & Children. Did you miss out this week? Come join the group on the Fayetteville First UMC playground and in the gym at 9:30 AM on Mondays June 10 and 17 for two more days of summer play for elementary age and younger children. Children and adults had a good time getting to know each other. Bring a yummy snack and a friend! Questions? Contact Rev. Drew West, [dwest@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:dwest@fayettevillefirst.com).

