



July 12, 2024

The Weekender

Like a tree Rev. Drew West

On our local church's order of worship, there are asterisks next to parts of the worship movements indicating that worshippers are invited to "Stand in body or spirit." At first glance, this means something quite simple, but the idea of standing in spirit is quite profound. It hints at something unique about being human: we can at any moment, despite how we appear on the outside, be connected to God on the inside. I may be seated at home and family and friends are unaware of how I might be standing in my spirit lost in wonder, love, and praise in response to God's amazing gift in Jesus. I may be in line at the grocery store, but my spirit is praising God for how God was present daily with us at Vacation Bible School just a couple of weeks ago.



At any moment, we can be deeply connected to God despite appearances. We can stand in spirit. This is an ancient idea. If you look for it, you'll find it all over the pages of Scripture, in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. One of my favorite examples is Psalm 1. In Psalm 1:1-3, the author writes about people who are connected to God in an enduring way because they "delight in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither." Notice how the writer of Psalm 1 speaks about certain people being "like" a tree which is planted by streams of water.

It's hard for us to notice the difference between trees being planted by streams of water or not where we are because we have a tremendous amount of rain each year, but many people who wrote parts of the Bible lived in dry areas and knew the difference a stream could make for the vegetation near it. Like standing in the spirit, Psalm 1 describes how we can flourish because of where we are planted in spirit. It suggests the possibility of how simple a person's life might look on the outside, but on the inside, they might be planted near the stream of God's presence and rejoice in the overflow of God's love from being connected to God.

I don't know about you, but I quite like the idea of being like a tree planted by a stream of water. This is what is available especially since Jesus has given us a new story. What seemed impossible is now possible. Jesus showed us that it is possible to be connected to the heart of God and stand in spirit, even during everyday life. Where might you stand in spirit and connect with God outside of Sunday worship?



8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

Matthew 15:1-20; Psalm 1

Rev. Drew West

CURRENT NEWS



Give Blood This Sunday, July 14

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, July 14, in the gym from 8 AM to 1 PM. Signing up is easy!

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at redcrossblood.org and choose our drive on July 14 ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com for questions or assistance.

Pictured: Nancy Ricciardi serving through giving!



Great ways to cap off the summer!

Believe it or not the summer break is nearly over. Public schools start the beginning of August and teachers and staff go back even earlier than that! Let's celebrate at the end of summer and get ready for the new year!

Back to School Bash: Saturday, July 27

We are going to celebrate the ending of summer and the beginning of a new school year with a fun back to school bash on July 27, 3-5 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to join the party!

Blessing of Backpacks: Sunday, July 28

On July 28, join us during the 11 AM worship for a blessing of the backpacks as we pray for all those starting a new year.



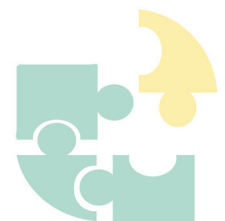
Sunshine VBS is next week

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.

Special announcement on Sunday about Capital Campaign

Be in place this Sunday to hear about new developments in the capital campaign. If you're away, you can catch up online at the Worship Links page on our website.

It's an exciting "piece" of new NEWS!





UMVIM Mission Trip Opportunity

Have you always wanted to experience how people do Christianity in another country? You can do that in El Salvador, just a short three-and-a-half-hour flight south of here. Don't speak Spanish? Not to worry. We have translators and a lot of people speak English, or a few words, anyway. And a smile and a hug don't need translation. Food concerns? There's chicken and veggies and eggs and bacon and cereal. They even have Coke Zero!

You will participate in Vacation Bible School, visit people in the local communities, and do light construction work (no skills necessary) if you desire. You will come back wondering who blessed whom.

Join us either February 8-15, 2025, or February 15-22, 2025. The final cost will depend on the number of people on the team, actual activities, and donations. Cost is currently estimated to be \$1,300 plus airfare. To reserve your spot, send a \$250 donation to FFUMC. Indicate "El Salvador" on the memo line. Contact Maggie Clarke for more information.



Holy Doodle Winner Revealed

The winner of the June Holy Doodle is Jocelyn, a rising sixth grader. Thank you for sharing your art! Look for a prize coming your way from Pastor Kaylen!

Share your artwork at Holy Doodles display - Can you make a thought from Sunday's message visual? Want to just share a cool drawing or message with Pastor Kaylen? Look in the pew pockets, take a Holy Doodles card and get creative! Drop your masterpiece in the collection box in the Narthex. Your artwork may be displayed. In addition, one person will be selected as the "Artist of the Month" and win a prize (kids only are eligible for this part) and be featured in The Weekender.



Park + Snack FFUMC Kids: Come play July 22 and 29

Join Rev. Drew West along with his kids Oliver (2) and Lillian (6) on two Mondays at 9:30 AM at the FFUMC playground before school starts. Enjoy a relaxed time on July 22 and 29 to play and get to know each other. Please bring your own snack/lunch. For more information contact Drew at 770-461-4313 or dwest@fayettevillefirst.com.



Summer Lunch Continues Through July 23

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.



Let's Do Lunch — Reservations due July 27

Saturday, August 10, at Noon

Special Guest: Jinny Henson

Lunch: Grilled Chicken Salad Cost: FREE

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

Ladies, this lunch is a don't miss this event!

You'll be served by the men who attend...now that's special!



New session begins Monday, August 19

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, classes meet Mondays August 19 through November 18 from 10 AM to 12 PM in Room B350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact the Webbs at 404-234-1056 or visit GriefShare.org.



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.



Help another homeowner be our new Church Street neighbor! Sign up for Square Foot Ministry Build



Square Foot Ministry will be building another house next to Parking Lot A on Church Street, this time for Sara Brandao. Come join the wall build in the church parking lot on Friday, July 19, and/or help put up siding on Saturday, July 20. All skill levels are needed and "many hands make light work." Additional volunteer dates are also offered in August and September. Go to the easy sign up to let us know you're coming at www.squarefootministry.org/volunteer and also sign the build waiver. If you would like to donate to the build for this great family, please go to www.squarefootministry.org/donate. Questions? Contact Tim Aycock.



Rise Against Hunger: Registration Open

You're invited to help fight hunger by preparing highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world at the Rise Against Hunger Packing Event in the FFUMC gym.

August 18, 2024 1 - 3 PM Pack 30,000 meals in 2 hours

Invite friends, groups, neighbors ... all hands appreciated and needed!

[Register here and let us know you're coming.](#)

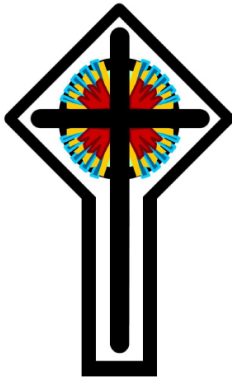


NEW LIST: July pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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 Tuna, Peanut Butter, Green Beans, Dried Beans, Rice, Mac and Cheese, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant (Men's and Women's), Toothpaste and Toothbrushes, Bar Soap

Clothes Closet: Men's Boxer Shorts sizes large and extra large



July 10, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$599,426.52
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$636,568.79
Difference	- \$37,142.27

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,114.00

92 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$23,548.44

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

inspired ...

UWF Circles lead birthday and baby celebrations

The Fayetteville First UMC family loves to celebrate and serve at the same time!

This May, the Marie Lamb Circle helped us celebrate Rev. Kaylen Short's 35th birthday with a nod to his penchant for unique socks. During the surprise drive for his birthday, you gave 587 pairs of socks for men, women, and children! These were donated to Fayette Samaritans and Rushton's Hope, a non-profit in Griffin, Georgia, which helps people on the margins of society.

This past Sunday, the Friendship Circle hosted a shower for Alli and Kaylen Short to help welcome baby Abigail Kay Short. For the soon-to-arrive special girl you gave sweet outfits and a table full of gifts. In addition and at the Short's request, you also helped other mothers with your many donations to the Pregnancy Resource Center. The day was a lovely and memorable way to express your excitement for this coming addition to our church family.

To right: Sweet shower for Alli and Kaylen along with many donations at bottom right for Pregnancy Resource Center.

Below: Sock Surprise on Sunday, May 31, to celebrate Kaylen's 35th birthday. Sorting socks are Faye Livingston and Nancy White, members of Marie Lamb Circle, and Raymond Mitchely, President of UMM.

