



August 16, 2024

The Weekender

Sixty Days at the Front Desk

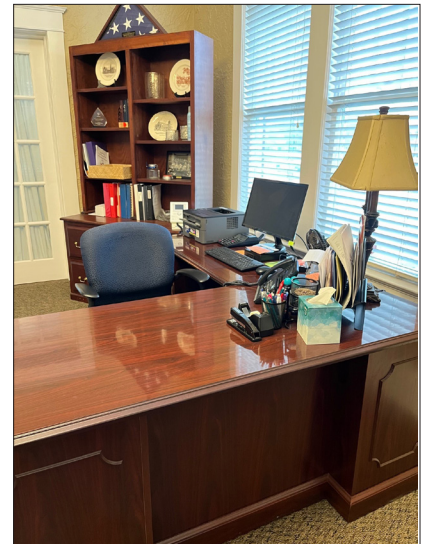
- The city turned my water off and I have two young children. Can you please help us?
- My liver is shot and I cannot stop drinking. My counselor told me your church has a good program. Can you text me days and times? Maybe this will be the good blessing I need.
- I have 12 hams and a turkey to give to the church for families in need.
- I am living in my car.
- He was a good friend and true gentleman. We miss him.
- The music touched us so deeply: we needed that this season.

I was prepared to answer the phone, take reservations, mark attendance, and make copies. I could not have imagined all the touching moments I experienced. Observing the ministerial team, staff, and benevolence volunteers from the perspective of the front desk gave me a whole new appreciation for the work of Fayetteville First. I wish every member could spend 60 days at the front desk. It would intensify your love for our people and deepen your confidence in our mission. Joy, compassion, humor, love, and Godly focus are on display every day.

The respect and love the ministers and staff of Fayetteville First have for our congregation and for each other, their careful handling of our money, and their compassion for neighbors in need across our city and beyond is exceptional. Thank you for the privilege of seeing our church at work from the front desk.

Gratefully,

Nancy Musselwhite



13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

Psalm 34:9-14; I Kings 3:3-14

"What You Seek"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Rise Against Hunger: It's THIS SUNDAY!

Children and families around the world benefit from Rise Against Hunger, a global movement that seeks to end world hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives, and responding to emergencies. What's so great about our part in the process?

We will pack 30,000 highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis areas or school feeding programs around the world. For many this one meal at school or following a disaster is the only one they can rely on each day.

Other Rise Against Hunger programs focus on sustainable agriculture practices to maximize food output.

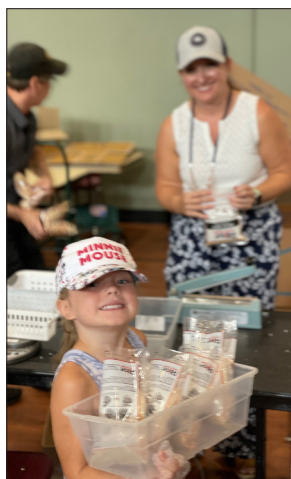
Let us know you're coming!

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

Invite friends, groups, neighbors ... all hands appreciated and needed! Fill up a table with people you know or want to get to know better as you do a fun activity that helps others.

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

Please note: To simplify the event and registration, a churchwide lunch will not be offered this year. The Fellowship Hall will be open following the 11 AM service if you would like to bring a lunch.



\$102,845.00!! \$100,000 match is met! \$57,155 left to avoid needing any construction loan

A new development in the Capital Campaign presents an opportunity to avoid ANY construction loan.

NEW: \$100,000 matching gift from anonymous donor - GOAL MET!

NEEDED: \$160,000 to match gift and complete final piece - \$57,155 left

COMPLETED: \$823,217 from contributions and reserves before this challenge

The challenge continues through September 15. Contribution envelopes are available in the Narthex and church office or you may mark your donation as "Capital Campaign" in any giving format.

UPDATE: We have collected **\$102,845.00** which meets the \$100,000 challenge. That leaves us **only \$57,155** away from a 100% funded campaign! Keep up the amazing work!





*Choirs for our young
singers have expanded.*

*All in our community
are invited to*

Fayette Young Singers

Fayette Junior Choir

Fayette Cherub Choir

Fayette Choirs are coming your way September 4

Have you been looking for choirs for young singers in Fayette County? They're coming to Fayetteville First UMC beginning September 4!

Each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 PM three distinct choirs will be lifting voices in expression of faith, encouragement, and beauty in our world. With each group offering age-specific learning, skill development, and musical repertoire, all children and young youth singers will have access to quality instruction and musical development. Plan to join in ... and invite friends and neighbors!

Fayette Young Singers - Director: Nick Bowden

4th grade through voice change

This new choir which welcomes older young singers will concentrate on sight singing, learning to read notes, team building and leadership skills.

[Contact Nick Bowden for more information.](#)

Fayette Junior choir - Director: Joan Aycock

1st - 3rd grade

Students will explore a variety of musical experiences as we learn more about faith and the art of singing and music theory. We'll fill our "Suitcase of Songs" with quality music that will go with us through life. In addition to repertoire, students will learn and practice music notation, sight reading, tuned vowels and more as we have fun together with games from the Kodaly approach and fast-paced practice. We will sing in worship and take two field trips to share songs. [Contact Joan Aycock for more information.](#)

Fayette Cherub Choir - Director: Anna Mayhew

4 years - Kindergarten

Our youngest choir will start singing right away as they learn foundational songs. Guided introduction to learning rhythm, internalizing the steady beat, and knowing the musical alphabet and beginning notation will give students important basics for building skills and enjoying music. This group will sing in worship throughout the year. Contact Joan Aycock for more information.

Nick, Joan, and Anna are excited to start this musical adventure with you on Wednesday, September 4. Register by contacting Nick or Joan or calling the church office.

Fayette Ringers invites you!

Fayette Ringers, the new name for the Fayetteville First Handbell Choir, is welcoming new bell ringers! You are invited to join this fun, friendly group of musicians who enjoy coming together to make music for the glory of God.

The group meets on Thursdays, beginning September 12 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. We play for services about once a month. Musical experience is not required, but is very helpful. Youth are encouraged to join with us as well as adults of any age. If you are interested in playing bells with us, contact Judy Hames or call the church office.





How can we keep our hard-to-recycle items out of the landfill?

Anyone interested in learning more about the CHaRM Train and preparing recyclable items for CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials), please contact Tami Kemberling. She will be making a trip there on August 20 and would be glad to talk with anyone who is interested.

The FFUMC Green Team will meet again in September. Look for details soon!



Help another homeowner be our new Church Street neighbor!

Sign up for upcoming Square Foot Ministry Volunteer Days

Square Foot Ministry is building another house next to Parking Lot A on Church Street, this time for Sara Brandao. Painting has begun and final details will begin soon. All skill levels are needed and "many hands make light work." 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.

Square Foot volunteers: Tim Aycock and Judy Reynolds invite you to help!



Bible Study for Caregivers, Special Needs Ministry

Join Jami Maguire, Director of Special Needs Ministry, and other members of the special needs community to share God's word and life concerns over coffee and muffins. Six sessions on the theme *The Rest of the Story* are scheduled for Fridays from 9:15 AM to 11 AM at Fayetteville First UMC in The Foundry, Room C280.

September 6, 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11

Contact Jami for more information at jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com.

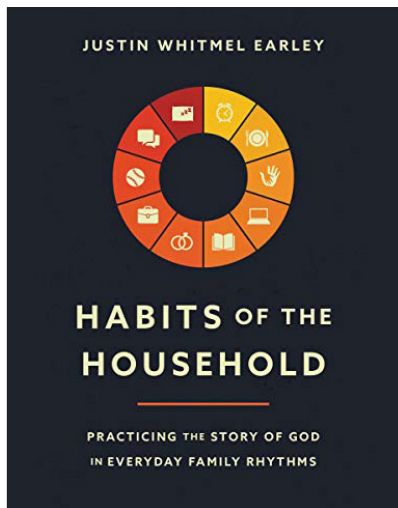


Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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 Green Peas, Canned Black-Eyed Peas, Canned Pinto Beans, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Rice (2 lb. bags), Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Cookies, Feminine Products (Pads)

Clothes Closet: Women's socks and women's underwear size XL and larger



"Growing As Parents Together" begins September 4

Calling all parents who may or may not have it all together

I'm a parent of two kids and some days it feels more like attempting to survive than anything else. I know parenting is a sacred task, yet many moments with my children feel hectic and overwhelming. My first impulse is often frustration and hoping that none of my ugly parenting moments happen in public, rather than remaining a witness to God's unconditional love. Can you relate? Are you raising other humans in your household? If so you are invited to join me on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM beginning on September 4 for a study through Justin Whitmel Earley's book *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Rhythms*. Through this book and our collective wisdom, we can support one another to become the parents we desire by practically looking at personal and collective family habits that may be working against us. Justin Earley says, "We become our habits, and our children become us." For more information contact [Rev. Drew West, dwest@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:dwest@fayettevillefirst.com).



Sunshine Youth Group begins September 4

Join us for Sunshine Youth Group—a youth group for individuals with special needs.

Wednesday Nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM (time may be adjusted)

Starting September 4

Ages 13 and up

We will enjoy music, bible study, games, crafts and more!

PLEASE Contact: Jami Maguire at jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com if you plan to attend or if you plan to send your loved one so we can be properly staffed and prepared.



Wednesday Night Suppers resume September 4

Let's gather with friends and our church family over a meal each week. Join the fun on Wednesdays beginning September 4 at 5 PM with a meal from a local restaurant. Signup for the weekly meal by noon each Monday. Complete a pew card or contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

Adults: \$10; Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Menu details will be available soon.



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.



Youth News

It's hard to believe that Summer is wrapping up and the school year is upon us. A special welcome to our sixth graders. With so many new sixth graders joining us this year, our Youth Team is super excited to get back into our regularly scheduled programming with FFUMC Youth.

Here are some important dates and announcements:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 5:30-10 p.m - Movie and Game Night at The Foundry! Snacks provided, come ready to have a good time!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1-3 p.m. in the gym - Rise Against Hunger. All Youth and their families are encouraged to sign up to participate in this church-wide meal-packing event to help combat hunger worldwide . It's always a really fun time!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 6-8 p.m. - Wednesday Nights at The Foundry resume. This will be the first Wednesday Night at the Foundry of the school year! Unless otherwise noted, we will plan on meeting every Wednesday night for the rest of the school year for fun, games, and Bible study.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. - Minecraft Messy Church! While there are more Messy Churches planned coming up as well (August 17 and October 26), our own Chase Leonard has special requested as many youth volunteers as we can wrangle to help out with this special Minecraft-themed Messy Church service.

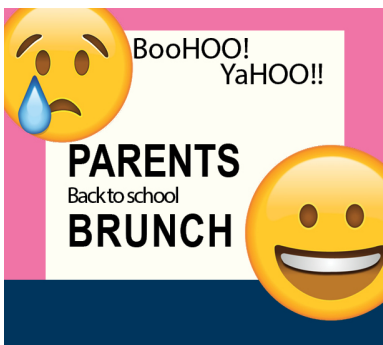
EVERY SUNDAY, 9:45-10:45 a.m. - Breakfast at The Foundry. Each Sunday we meet for a light (probably not very healthy) breakfast, Bible study, and discussion.

More information will be coming soon about 8th Period (where we pick you up from your school), retreats and events, and what to expect later into the fall semester as the school year goes on.



Can you help prepare for SafeHouse Outreach?

We are now being asked to serve more than 200 meals – preferably 270-300 each time we help the clients on the margins at SafeHouse Outreach! In the 1st and 2nd quarters this year, we have served about 530 meals. This means that in addition to cost increases, more volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve – not just on Thursday, 8/29. To volunteer or to learn more about the opportunities, contact Randy Riddell.



BooHOO! YaHOO! August 19 at 9 a.m.

How does the start of school find you? We're here for you either way! Put your feet up, enjoy breakfast and share back-to-school BooHOO! and YaHOO! moments with other parents or just sit in silence in a space where no one needs anything. We'll have tissues, food, and smiles in The Foundry (above the gym) on Monday, August 19, following preschool dropoff to celebrate and comfort parents as they transition to having a child or children at school. Contact [Rev. Drew West](#) for more information.



Titus II resumes September 3

Come for the meal, fellowship and a special program by Don Germano, former FFUMC member and good friend to many in the congregation. Don will share his presentation of Mark Twain, the latest in the cast of historic characters he artfully depicts. Make your reservation by calling the church office or Martha Turner no later than Monday, August 26.

**Don Germano
"Mark Twain"
September 3**

Lunch continues to be \$8, with the meal provided by a local restaurant.



Last few days to help with UMCOR kits

United Women in Faith is 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.



Come to Messy Church this Saturday



Did you know that Messy Church is SOOO much fun for everyone? Come find out this Saturday as we celebrate PETS!

August 17 11 AM to 1 PM FFUMC Gym

This ALL ages community event includes games, crafts, music, worship and a meal. See you Saturday.

Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."

Questions? Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#).



CPR/AED/Choking Training Session August 28

All are invited to attend a **FREE** session on Wednesday, August 28, at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall on CPR, AED devices and choking. A light meal will be provided at 5 PM. **Please call the church office and let us know you are coming [or RSVP here](#).** This is valuable training for ushers, small group participants, those who attend worship or Sunday School, preschool leaders, volunteers on any team ... everyone! This training session has been arranged with the Fayette County Fire Marshal's office by the FFUMC Trustees.

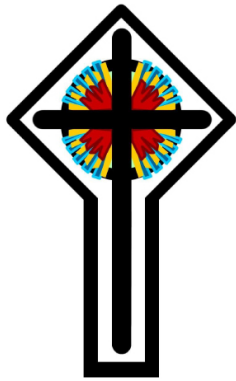


FFUMC Shawl Ministry:

Thank you so much for the baby blanket. It is beautiful and will be well loved by our daughter. It is special knowing she will be literally wrapped in prayer. Thank you for sharing your gift with us! — Alli and Kaylen Short

FFUMC Flower Ministry:

I was pleased to have the nice ladies bring pretty flowers from the church yesterday. It is so nice to be remembered in such a special way. I appreciate what you do very much. It sure makes my day. — James Watkins



August 11, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$678,046.64
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$715,153.60
Difference	-\$37,106.96

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,332.00

109 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$28,435.91

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, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7 PM

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

inspired ...

How many at Summer Lunch? A LOT!

The June and July season for the Summer Lunch Program was a huge success because of YOU—the many volunteers who stepped up each week -- 35 to 40 people strong! You donated fruit and cookies, packed lunches for more than 260 participants each week, and drove on 11 routes. "I was so blessed by the many volunteers each week. Some came from other churches, but most were from right here. Faithful volunteers that I so appreciate," said Faye Livingston, 2024 Summer Lunch Coordinator for FFUMC. Thank you everyone!

