



August 2, 2024

## The Weekender

### Mid-year Review Rev. Kaylen Short

We have arrived at the time of year when summer vacation is ending, teachers and students are returning back to school. At Fayetteville First UMC, we will soon begin resuming our normal activities. As activities resume, we have a temptation to look increasingly forward toward Advent, Christmas, and the end of the year. However, despite our temptation to begin looking ahead, I want us to spend a little bit of time looking back on the now completed first seven months of 2024.

In case you've been hiding under a rock, let me sum it up this way: A lot has happened at FFUMC! Lets just start with what's happened during worship services. We've had 29 people join our church. We've celebrated 5 baptisms: one sprinkled, two immersed, and two had the water poured out on them. Our choir loft seems to be bursting at the seams with new members; we have new visitors each week; and we have Messy Church families coming to 8:45 and 11:00 and 8:45 and 11:00 worshippers going to Messy Church. Over the first 30 Sundays of the year, we have averaged more than 276 people in worship each Sunday which represents almost an 11% increase from the same time last year.

But wait there's more! Outside of worship, we are truly being the church. We began a ministry to extend our communion table to church family members who cannot be with us physically on Sundays. We collected 2,079 cans for our Souper Bowl Sunday with Rev. Lawrence taking the trophy (she won't let me forget that part), and more than 150 of you willingly came and ate my cooking on a Wednesday evening with ZERO reported cases of food poisoning. We've had church members serve on mission trips to El Salvador and a youth mission team in Appalachia. FFUMC continues to serve food to the homeless in downtown Atlanta, participate in home builds right across the road from us, and lead worship at Azalea Estates. We collectively delight at serving during Vacation Bible School and during Sunshine VBS.

There are countless other ways we have been an active and loving church over these first seven months. You have made and delivered meals to each other and those in our community; you've made hospital visits to church family members; you've created incredible prayer shawls to help people in difficult moments, and so many other things too numerous to name.

So really what I want to end with is this: I love y'all, I am grateful for every one of you, and I can't wait to see what God does through us for the rest of 2024 and beyond!



### 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

John 6:24-35 "Sustenance"

Rev. Kaylen Short

## CURRENT NEWS

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### We're getting closer to our goal! \$70,650 toward match

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

**NEW:** \$100,000 matching gift from anonymous donor

**NEEDED:** \$160,000 to match gift and complete final piece

**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 \$70,650 toward the \$100,000 challenge. That leaves us \$29,350 away from the full match, and \$89,350 away from a 100% funded campaign! Keep up the amazing work!



### G3: Good Grief Gals meet August 8 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, August 8, at 5:30 PM at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville**. If you can, please bring a box of noodles or rice to donate to Fayette Samaritans. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys or the church office.



### Rise Against Hunger: Let us know you're coming!

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! 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.



## Help another homeowner be our new Church Street neighbor! Sign up for Square Foot Ministry Build: August 1-3

Square Foot Ministry is building another house next to Parking Lot A on Church Street, this time for Sara Brandao. The walls and windows were installed last week. Come join us to install and paint siding on August 1, 2 and/or 3. 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](http://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](http://www.squarefootministry.org/donate). Questions? Contact Tim Aycock.

*Square Foot volunteers: Tim Aycock and Judy Reynolds invite you to help build this weekend! To the FFUMC groups who helped provide volunteer meals: Thank you!*



## Save your old towels

Don't discard your old towels — save them to help us stage Nativities from Around the World, Wendy Hayman's spectacular collection of 500+ nativities. Whatever color or size, and no matter how ragged, please **put your old towels aside until November** when the Season of the Nativity team will collect them. FFUMC will host the exhibit from December 4 through 7.



## 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](http://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.



## 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**



## United Methodist Men meet on August 6

The United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, August 6, at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring food to share. This meeting will be to discuss details about men serving at the women's event, Let's Do Lunch, on Saturday, August 10.

Everyone who has volunteered to serve at Let's Do Lunch is invited, even if you're not a current member of UMM.

Please contact Raymond Mitchely or the church office to let Raymond know you'll be there.

**Potluck & Prep**

**August 6, 6:15 PM**



### **Men: You're invited to serve at Let's Do Lunch**

Let's Do Lunch is August 10 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Men, you have this opportunity to serve at this luncheon for ladies.**

**What to do:** Simply contact **Raymond Mitchely** or the church office and say, "Yes! I'll serve."

**What to wear:** Servers are asked to wear dark pants and white dress shirts.

**When:** Saturday, August 10, plan to arrive at 10:30 AM; doors for guests open at noon; lunch begins at 12:30 PM; cleanup follows.

Let's enjoy serving our ladies for their third annual event.

## Tour the Fox Theatre with SAGE in August

Let's take a trip to Atlanta and see the Fox Theatre! Our Senior Adults Going Everywhere will take an architectural and historical tour of the facility -- all while enjoying time together! After we'll enjoy a fun lunch at The Varsity.

DATE: Thursday, August 15

COST: \$15 plus \$2 transportation

DETAILS: Meet at church office 8:45 AM; Depart 9 AM; Tour 10 AM

Sign up and pay in the church office or call 770-461-4313.



### **Enhance worship and honor someone with flowers**

Flowers often enhance our worship in the sanctuary and provide an opportunity to honor a loved one or share a celebration. We currently do not have commitments for sanctuary flowers on the following dates:

August 18, September 1, September 29

Two arrangements cost \$150. Those ordering sanctuary flowers may take both arrangements home or donate one or both arrangements to the Flower Ministry, a ministry that re-arranges and delivers the flowers following worship to brighten the lives of many members and friends. To order, contact the church office.





## 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 extra large and larger*



## FFUMC Preschool can use our help!

The school year is fast approaching, and our preschool here at FFUMC could use our help! Please browse our wishlist on Amazon and consider making a donation to our phenomenal group of students and teachers. They're truly the best around and always appreciate your love.

Thank you so much!

Maria Ruhe, Fayetteville First Preschool Director

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/SKR8WIF3AVR8?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/SKR8WIF3AVR8?ref=wl_share)



*Photos show how past donations have been used and loved!*



### FFUMC Family

I would like to send my thanks for all the calls, prayers, and thoughts from the church family after my recovery from back surgery.

— Bob Garrett

### FFUMC Flower Ministry:

You guys have no idea how much I have enjoyed the Scarlet Star Bromeliad. It's just drop-dead gorgeous. It really has been appreciated as I recuperated. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

— Lawrence Otwell

### FFUMC Youth

Thank you for serving with us in Sullivan County! We are so grateful for you and your impact on our community. Keep building kindness!

— Appalachian Service Project, 2024 Sullivan County Staff



## Share music at Fayetteville First!

**Summer Choir:** We have enjoyed glorious songs from our Summer Choir over the past few months. This Sunday is their last offering for the season. Thank you for your gifts!

**Chancel Choir:** A new season for the Chancel Choir begins Wednesday, August 7, as regular rehearsals resume from 7 to 9 PM. Interested in joining this group? Contact Nick Bowden, Director of Music and Organist.

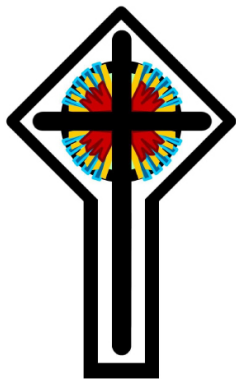
**Handbell Choir:** Rehearsals will resume for the Handbell Choir on September 12. Look for details soon or contact Judy Hames right away.



## So glad you're here! Welcome, new members

On Sunday, July 28, we welcomed Chase and Alyssa Leonard and their daughter Anastasia (Anya) as new members at Fayetteville First UMC. Anya was also baptised. The family also includes Anya's younger twin brothers: Chas and Grayson.

Contact information for the Leonards and other members may be found on Realm, our church database. Contact the church office if you have questions about access to this resource.



## July 28, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$628,182.82
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$ 667,245.63
Difference	-\$39,062.81

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$140.00

102 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$26,335.91

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

# inspired ...

**Where do we see God at work? Right here!**

We can enjoy this mid-year review in pictures and give thanks for the presence of the holy in our midst ... and look forward to all that is to come.

