



August 23, 2024

## The Weekender

### Always

Rev. Charles Robinson

My favorite passage of Scripture in the Old Testament is Psalm 46. It begins... "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In the body of the Psalm the following refrain is found twice... "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Between the two repetitions of this refrain is sandwiched my favorite line in the entire Psalm... "Be still and know that I am God!" If I had to summarize Psalm 46 in one statement it would be...God is ALWAYS there for us!

How often have you heard someone say, "I'll be there for you." Yet when the going gets tough, they are nowhere to be found. The writer of Psalm 46 is absolutely certain in declaring that God will ALWAYS be there for us, even when the earth shakes and the waters roar. There are recollections of bondage and exile involving the whole nation of Israel and no doubt there are personal memories of God being there for the Psalmist and those the Psalmist loved best.

In the New Testament the presence of God puts on a face, at first the soft face of an infant, and takes on a name – Emmanuel – which means "God with us." Jesus was, and is, with us in darkness and light, in joy and in sorrow, always and all-the-way to a cross. Elizabeth Clephane, in a hymn from 1872, puts it so eloquently...

"Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;  
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,  
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness."

And we are unworthy, aren't we, for someone to "be there for us" in such a life-transforming way.

Leonora Younce is an attorney and sometimes newspaper columnist. A few years ago, she wrote of her father, a WWII Veteran and of the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. She told about being at a theatre where she heard a young woman praising *Saving Private Ryan*, then turning to an older man next to her to ask whether he had seen it. No, he said, he wasn't planning to. He was in the war, he remembered it all too well.

But then unexpectedly, the woman said to the man, "Well...Thank you for being there."

*"O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Thank You for always being there for us. And Thank You for all of those folks who have been there for us. May we, as Your Church, always be there for all of those who need us most. Amen."*



### 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20

"What about your shoes?"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **\$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 - \$21,862 left

**COMPLETED:** \$858,510 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 now collected **\$138,138** which meets the \$100,000 challenge. That leaves us **only \$21,862** away from a 100% funded campaign! Keep up the amazing work!



## WHAT IS HAPPENING SEPTEMBER 4?

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### **Wednesday Night Suppers resume **September 4 at 5 PM****

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together!

Starts September 4 at a new time: **5 PM!**

What's the draw?

**Friendship!** Be with people you really like.

**Hassle Free!** Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

**Affordable!** Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by noon on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.



### **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](mailto: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.



## 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 .

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.

## Youth Weekly Meetings begin September 4

Wednesday Nights at The Foundry resume September 4 from 6 to 8 PM. 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.

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.

*Pictured: Ethan Rotz and Austin Baur in The Foundry*

*Choirs for our young singers have expanded.*

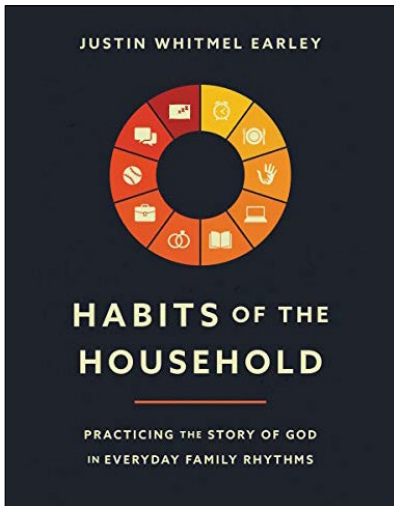
*All in our community are invited to*

*Fayette Young Singers*

*Fayette Junior Choir*

*Fayette Cherub Choir*





## "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 during Fayette Choir 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:Rev.Drew.West@fayettevillefirst.com).

## MORE NEWS



### 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](mailto: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 Beef Stew, Canned Fruit, Canned English Peas, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Laundry Detergent, Coffee, Jelly

**Clothes Closet:** Women's socks and underwear men's underwear and girl's underwear



### 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 is always 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!

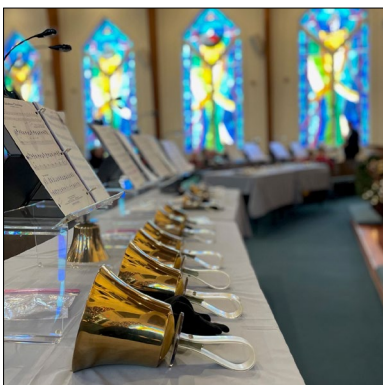
Sign up for upcoming Square Foot Ministry Volunteer Days

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](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.



## Can you help prepare for SafeHouse Outreach?

Did you know that in addition to providing nightly meals for the underserved, lost, and hurting in downtown Atlanta, SafeHouse hosts mission teams from around the US to help serve? Recently, they hosted 29 teenagers and leaders from Broken Arrow, OK. This was made possible by recent construction of dorm rooms at SafeHouse. We have 6 volunteers signed up for next Thursday's Impact meal service so far, and we need another 6 more. Please contact Randy Riddell to sign up for meal service on 8/29 or other opportunities to help.



## 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.



Don Germano  
"Mark Twain"  
September 3

## 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.

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



## Drive ends September 3

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.

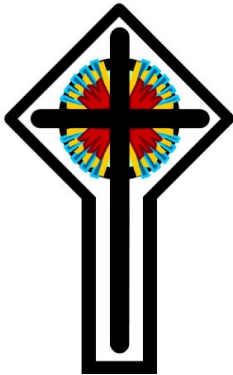


### UMM and Church Gentlemen:

The Let's Do Lunch committee would like to share our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful gentlemen who helped to prepare the salads and serve at our luncheon on August 10. Thanks to all of you this was our most successful luncheon yet! The salads were delicious and we heard nothing but compliments and high praise regarding your friendliness, personality, attention to detail and efficiency. We couldn't do this every year without you! Let's Do Lunch Committee: Susan Burch, Nancy Dennis, Carolyn McKinley and Lauren Davis

### With Gratitude

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in Rise Against Hunger on Sunday. You all worked so hard and did an amazing job! Thanks to the teams who did the labels, the boxes, the weighing and sealing, and passing out the rice and protein, etc. We could not have done this without each one of you. I appreciate you so much! Suzie Lusk



## August 20, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year-to-Date Receipts | \$706,157.56 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$738,954.61 |
| Difference            | -\$32,797.05 |

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,073.00

110 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$28,735.91

### 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

# inspired ...

## Lunch was better TOGETHER!

The third annual Let's Do Lunch event was beautiful and enriching! We were blessed with 18 hostesses (pictured bottom left) whose tables were gorgeously decorated in a variety of themes, including rabbits, hats, Christmas, the Orient, and even vintage Buster Brown. Christian humorist Jinny Henson shared her wit and wisdom, moving the gathering from laughter to tears seemingly without effort. Our church men showed up in a big way to lend a hand preparing the delicious salad and serving the guests expertly. We appreciate all the efforts of the organizing committee (shown below l-r Gloria Wright, Carolyn McKinley, Lauren Davis, Jinny Henson (speaker), Susan Burch and Nancy Dennis), and those who helped with preparation and cleanup efforts ... and everyone who made time to reconnect and just enjoy moments together. What a lovely day! If you were not able to attend, [click here](#) to enjoy Jinny Henson's inspirational performance.

