



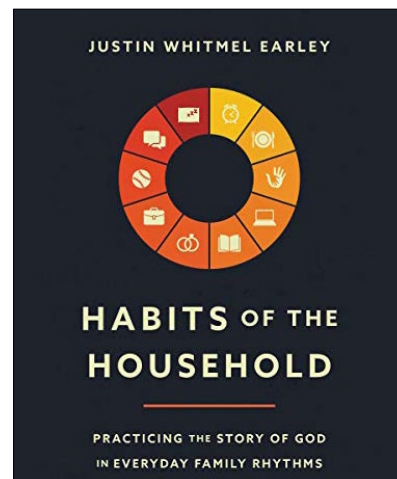
August 30, 2024

## The Weekender

### Holy Habits

Rev. Drew West

Beginning on September 4 with the launch of our church's new children's choirs on Wednesday evenings, I plan to begin working with parents of children through the book *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Rhythms* by Justin Whitmel Earley (2021). Through this book, I started to realize just how important our daily and weekly habits are. Whitmel says, "Our routines become who we are, become the story and culture of our families." This intersects with the practices of "Spiritual Disciplines." Spiritual Disciplines are things like prayer, scripture reading, fasting, etc. Sometimes Spiritual Disciplines sound grand and glorious, but at the end of the day, they are habits that help a person be more aware of God's constant and limitless love.



But why do we need a new set of habits or practices? If you're like me, you already have a whole bunch of habitual patterns in your life, and your schedule might be full. Why add something new? We may need new habits because our patterns can either help us engage with God and our neighbor meaningfully, or distract us from all that God is doing in our midst: God is omnipresent. Spiritual Disciplines or spiritual habits have a way of interrupting our life patterns, in a good way, to help lift our hearts and minds to God's unconditional love and grace. Without good interruptions, we can become lost in the traffic of life.

I want to list three habits that I've found helpful in assisting my awareness of God. These all come from Whitmel's previous book *Common Rule* (2019). (1) The first is kneeling prayer three times a day. This entails kneeling in the morning, mid-day, and evening. Kneeling is not something we do often, but because it is so unusual it has a way of making my day more different and committed to Jesus. (2) The second is Scripture before phone, or before a screen. You can also silence notifications if you read your Bible on your phone. This is simple but effective. Screens often tell us what we should want, pay attention to, and do. By beginning our day with Scripture we can set our minds and hearts on things above. (3) Lastly, one hour without a phone/screen per day. Like the second practice, phones can shape and change who we are if we are not careful. By stepping away from them for a time we can regain a better sense of reality. I would encourage you to begin to try some of these habits and see where they might take you. I often forget these simple habits, or I make excuses not to do them. Yet, each time I do the small things above I find more joy and purpose in my day.



### 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

James 1:22-27

"The Changing of the Season"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS

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### **\$149,033!! \$100,000 match is met! \$10,967 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 - \$10,967 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 collected **\$149,033** which meets the \$100,000 challenge. That leaves us **only \$10,967** 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.

**September 4 Menu: Wings & Things Boneless Chicken Wings**



### **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.



*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 .

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**

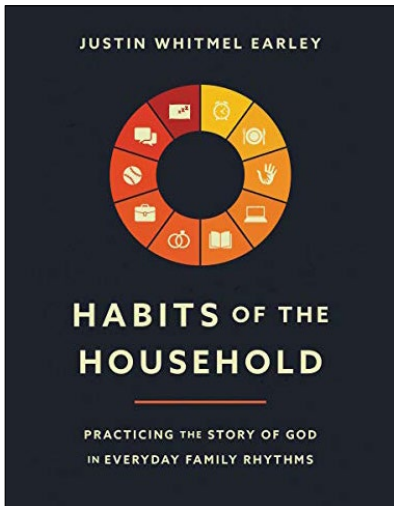
Wednesday Nights at The Foundry resume September 4 from 6 to 8 PM. This will be the first Wednesday Night at the Foundry of the school year! Unless otherwise noted, we will plan on meeting every Wednesday night for the rest of the school year for fun, games, and Bible study.

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*







## "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).

## MORE NEWS



### Adults in Action performs a Melody & Music Celebration at the UWF Unit Meeting on September 19

Come and bring a friend to the next United Women in Faith Unit Meeting on Thursday, September 19, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll learn more about Adults in Action and enjoy their musical performance!

This is a covered dish luncheon so there's no cost to join us. Let your UWF circle chair know you are coming. All others, please contact Susan Burch or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) to let us know you are attending.

Feel free to bring your donations for the UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kits to the luncheon.



### 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



## 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.

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

## SAGE goes to the Savoy Classic Car Museum September 12



On September 12, SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere) is going to the Savoy Classic Car Museum in Cartersville. Savoy aims to connect people to the cultural diversity of the automobile. So, whether you are a serious car collector, an automobile enthusiast, or someone just curious about cars, you are invited to pause for a moment and take in the artistic beauty of the magnificent machines found inside. Gather at 8:15 AM at the church office for a departure at 8:30 AM. Tickets are \$17 plus \$2 for transportation. No pre-payment is necessary as guests will pay for their ticket at the museum. The group will eat lunch at the cafe in the museum. Call the church office at 770-461-4313 or email [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) for reservations.

## 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.



## Titus II resumes September 3

**Don Germano**  
"Mark Twain"  
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. Titus II will begin at noon on September 3 in the gym.

Lunch continues to be \$8, meal provided by Tim's Country Kitchen: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, deviled eggs, rolls, peach cobbler.



## Drive ends September 19

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 drive runs through September 19.



### 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.

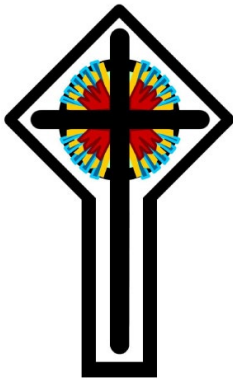
The FFUMC Green Team will meet again in September. Look for details soon!



### FFUMC Shawl Ministry:

We would like to thank the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful, "very blue" blanket we received in honor of our three new grandsons! We will certainly enjoy using it and will always remember the special hands that created every stitch. We sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Love, Bobby & Susie Arrington



## August 27, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$736,870.50
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$747,762.30
Difference	-\$16,891.80

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$369.00

113 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$29,852.68

### 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

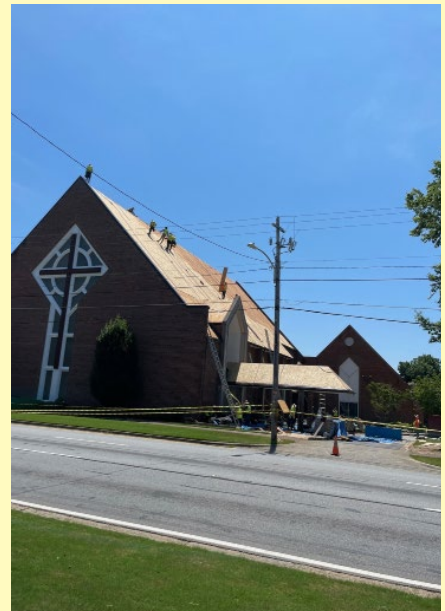
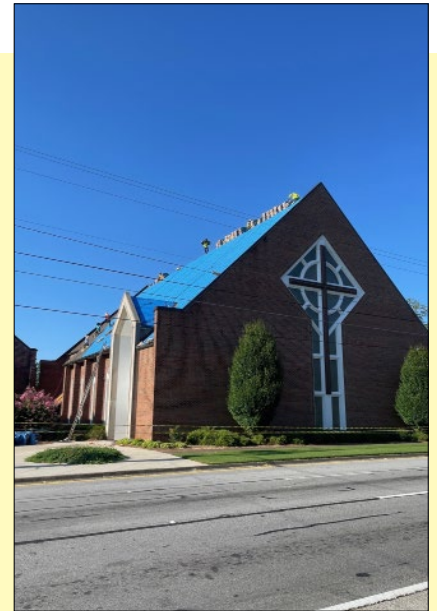
**NA Meetings:** Thursdays 7 PM



# inspired ...

## We have a new roof!

Earlier this month, it was raining shingles! Literally! In the midst of the Capital Campaign projects already in motion, we are blessed to have been able to move quickly to replace the sanctuary roof when a leak was discovered. Over a hot few days in mid August, a whole team of dedicated workers got busy to get the job done. This was made possible by the strong donations to the Capital Campaign which allowed funding from existing reserves to be redirected to the new roof. Thanks for all your donations to make this happen! It looks really good!



More projects are in the works or completed:

### **Completed**

Driveway redirection  
Narthex floor, walls, ceiling & lighting

### **In Progress**

Fellowship Hall Kitchen upgrade  
Organ restoration  
Choir room flooring  
and more!