



September 13, 2024

The Weekender

We Are the Church Together

Florence Prine, Lay Leader

For the past month I've been unable to attend Sunday School or church due to my husband's fall and surgery. I have missed the church named Fayetteville First United Methodist Church. When I open any door to enter the church building, I always feel at home. It's a blessing to have our worship services online, but for me, it's not quite the same as actually being there. I miss the people and their collective energy, the music that seems to fill the sanctuary and, of course, our cherished ministers, Kaylen, Allyson, Drew and Charles who lead us in worship. Being in church helps me feel more connected. It reminds me of hymn the we sometimes sing:

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together."

Last Sunday morning, September 8, I entered the sanctuary between the church services. It was quiet and empty except for the beauty of the sun shining through the stained glass windows and the huge cross behind the choir loft. In that moment the only words I could say were, "Thank you. Thank you." My prayer was one of gratitude for my husband's ongoing recovery and that I was home again to a place I've loved for a long time.

I joined FFUMC in 1979 and it's been home to me ever since. Being a member of this church is part of my identity. I'm proud to be a Methodist and a member of this congregation. The year I joined we worshiped in the beloved chapel; then the sanctuary was built in the 1980s; next the Family Life Center was completed in 1999; and a few years ago The Field was established. Now we're in the process of restoring the organ and remodeling projects. FFUMC is truly blessed!

Through the years I've seen our church change and grow. Sometimes it was easy and yes, sometimes it was hard; however, much was accomplished by working together.

This year FFUMC is 176 years old. Just imagine since 1848 how many people have called this church home and how many thousands and thousands of prayers have been said by those people called Methodists. I realize that all of the original buildings and locations are gone, but the history is still here. It's overwhelming! It's amazing! FFUMC is still here for a reason. We the church have more work to do and with God's help I believe we can continue to grow as a congregation.

If fact, this year I've been praying for 40 people to join FFUMC in 2024! If you feel led, would you also pray for more members to join us? Just maybe our new members will feel at home here too!

Yes, we are the church together!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.



17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1; James 3:1-12

"Who Do We Say We Are?"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Watch for updates and news soon!

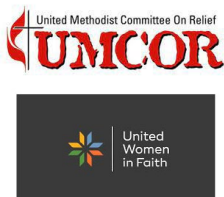
We are in the final moments of the Hope and a Future drive to fully fund our Capital Campaign. We look forward to receiving final pledges and donations to be attributed to this matching funds effort.



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 to let us know you are attending. Feel free to bring your donations for the UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kits to the luncheon.



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.



Attention all current and future Acolytes and Crucifers (3rd grade and up):

Join Faye Livingston and Rev. Drew West for a special training session on **Saturday, September 28**, at 3 PM in the sanctuary. Whether you're already serving or looking to start, this session is for you! Acolytes and crucifers play a vital role in worship, carrying on a long-standing tradition that reminds us of God's presence among us and our call to share Christ's message with the world. Children can begin serving as acolytes starting in 3rd grade, and students in 7th grade can serve as crucifers.



Messy Church is tomorrow, September 14: 11 AM to 1 PM

Come experience church in a new way at Messy Church. This month's theme is "Crafting" (as in Minecrafting) and focuses on Matthew 7:26: "But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand." All ages are invited to this free community event for games, crafts, music, worship and a meal. [Follow this link to volunteer](#) or just show up to simply join in the experience.

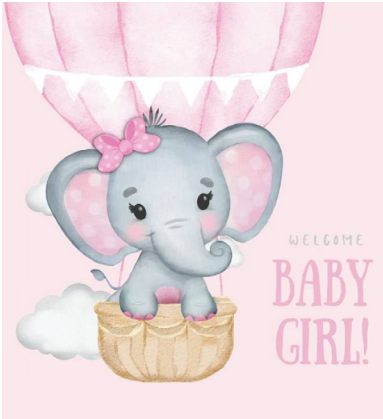


Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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



Meal Train for Short Family is in motion

A Meal Train sign-up is now available for those who would like to provide a meal for Kaylen and Alli Short as they adjust to their new role as parents to Baby Abigail. Meals are scheduled twice a week starting next week through Christmas. Please sign up online if you would like to participate. Scheduled meals should be delivered to the church office by 4 PM on their assigned day and we will make sure the Short family receives it. The Meal Train is intended for ready-to-eat meals, and suggestions are provided on the sign-up form. Call the church office if you have questions.

Meal Train Link: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/010kgz>



Seasoned Singers begins new season at NEW TIME

Do you enjoy singing old familiar hymns and songs of faith to cheer your heart and encourage others? Seasoned Singers welcomes you! A new season has begun. Join the group on Tuesdays from 11 AM - 12 Noon in the choir room. **NOTICE THE NEW TIME!** This year we plan to visit and sing with some of our shut-ins and also go to lunch together occasionally. Questions? Contact Director Deb Cole.



Wednesday Night Suppers now at 5 PM

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together!

New time: **5 PM** Temporary location: **Gym**

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, or fill out a pew card.

September 18 Menu: Italian Oven - Alfredo



Love in Action: Twin beds and curtains needed

Can you help several families in our community who need twin beds? Curtains are also needed to fit one-inch rods that have already been donated. If you as an individual or group can help with these needs, please contact Cindy Hall.

YOUTH NEWS



FFUMC Youth going strong

Weekly programs have resumed for the fall. Join in these areas:

8th Period: Come to the church right after school for snacks, time for homework, and games. You must fill out this one time registration/liability form: [8th Period Registration and Liability Form for School Year 2024-2025](#). For the following Wednesdays, [you will need to be sure to let us know you are coming by filling out a different weekly RSVP form](#).

Dinner at 5 PM: Dinner is in the Fellowship Hall. We reserve spots for our youth so let us know you are coming. Dinner is \$10. After dinner you can go back to the Foundry until youth starts.

Chorus for upper elementary and young middle schoolers: 5:30 - 6:30 PM in the choir room. If you want to participate in this chorus group you will just come on up to the Foundry when you finish.

And finally, from 6 - 8 PM is our Wednesday Night Youth in the Foundry: We do ice breakers, large group games, more snacks, and dig deep into topics on faith and life and how it all fits together. Students are released at 8 PM. The best pick up location is the parking lot near the gym, Parking Lot B.

And of course, we always have Sunday school. Lately we have been talking about the Apostle's Creed: what it means, where it came from and why we care. That's from 9:45 - 10:45 AM in the Foundry.

Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.



Sunshine Youth Group continues

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

Wednesday Nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM Ages 13 and up

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.



FFUMC Shawl Ministry:

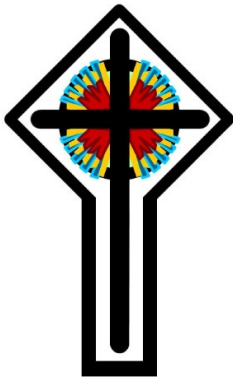
I received the lap robe. It is beautiful. Such a thoughtful gift. Thank you so much! I will treasure it forever. My heart is so full of happiness now because of you. — Carolyn Moore

FFUMC Flower Ministry:

What a total surprise for the phone call I received this week and flowers to follow! Thank you for thinking of me in my retirement. I especially enjoyed the visit. You brighten so many lives each week with the joy you share.
— Janet Gazaway

Celebration of Life Service

You are invited to a Celebration of Life service for Clara Mae Martin on Saturday, September 14, at 2 PM in the Fayetteville First UMC chapel. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



September 9, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$781,380.10
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$800,007.24
Difference	-\$18,627.14

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$80

124 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$30,894.62

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

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inspired ...

Rise Against Hunger 2024

You did it once again! In two hours, volunteers (96 of you) packed 30,000+ meals at the Rise Against Hunger packing event on Sunday, August 18. You placed labels on bags; prepared boxes; kept the supplies of rice, soy, and veggies going; filled, weighed and sealed the meal bags; and packed box after box. Working together, it got done. Our meals this year are on their way to the Philippines. Good job, everybody!

