

## The Weekender

### Extended Table Communion

Sara Reams

Recently, as you have come to the altar table to receive communion, you might have noticed several small containers sitting on the back of the table. These contain the communion elements, bread and juice, that are consecrated to be part of our new ministry, Extended Table. This ministry is a way for those who might not be able to come to church to be included in communion in their home. As the elements are prepared for worship, the containers are also prepared.



In the past several months, as we have reflected on Extended Table and its meaning to our church community, several things are evident. First, it is so well-received by our homebound friends. Two ladies in Azalea Estates call it a “wonderful ministry.” Another has invited her brother to visit her when communion is scheduled so he can receive with her. We have been given prayer requests to carry back to the church. Second, it is a joy to those who carry the elements to each friend. It gives visitors the opportunity to share with others something that is special to them.

Visits are informal, but designed to be meaningful. In conversation before we begin communion, we learn many interesting things about each other. I learned that one of our members working for the U.S. military became an Iranian national through the government of Iran in order to do her work when she and her husband were posted there. During another visit, the resident's dog went to sleep with her head resting on my foot – a sure sign that I was welcome! We may follow folks from one residence to another, as their health dictates what they may need in terms of care. It's also been enlightening to learn family histories of many of the friends we visit. Mutual acquaintances are discovered, and old friendships are rekindled. Having time to visit someone in their home affords both parties the blessing of communion of another sort – the sharing of thoughts and feelings.

We carry not only the communion elements, but also a copy of the day's church bulletin. As we move into the communion time, we can read the scripture from the day and tell them a bit about the sermon, as well as anything interesting that happened in church that day — maybe something funny from the children's sermon or about our special music. When we begin communion, we offer it to anyone who is there. Caregivers are included, as well as roommates in a nursing home. All are welcome. We visitors also receive communion as we share it with others. After receiving communion, we close with a prayer, and the Lord's Prayer.

Right now we carry communion to ten friends each month. We have eleven who make these visits. Most visits are done on Sunday afternoon by two people who go together. If you would like to be included, either as a visitor or a recipient, please let Pastor Allyson know. We are flexible, and understand that this ministry is done as an offering, not a responsibility. That gives it the joy that is part of communion. Extended Table blesses to all who participate. Thanks be to God for this gift!



## 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

Psalm 19:7-14; Mark 9:38-50

"Hidden Faults"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

## CURRENT NEWS

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### All current and future Acolytes and Crucifers: Training 9/28 (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 serve as acolytes starting in 3rd grade, and students in 7th grade can serve as crucifers.



### Flower Ministry encourages others

Each week our Flower Ministry volunteers share arrangements with our church family, extending both cheer and encouragement and often passing on the flowers used in worship. YOU can be a part of this!

**Supplies Needed** Leave donated supplies in the newly established Flower Ministry room located in the hall behind the chapel, Room B240

Wired ribbon (all colors and designs)

Medium size vases (no bud vases needed)

**Worship flower donations** are another way to enhance the sanctuary experience any Sunday while honoring a loved one or celebrating a special occasion. One or both arrangements may be donated to the Flower Ministry to extend their beauty to someone in our church family. Two arrangements are \$150 and may be scheduled with the church office. **To volunteer** with this ministry, please contact Marilyn Harris.



### Give Blood October 6

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, October 6, in the gym from 8 AM to 1 PM. Signing up is easy!

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and choose our drive on October 6 ... and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.

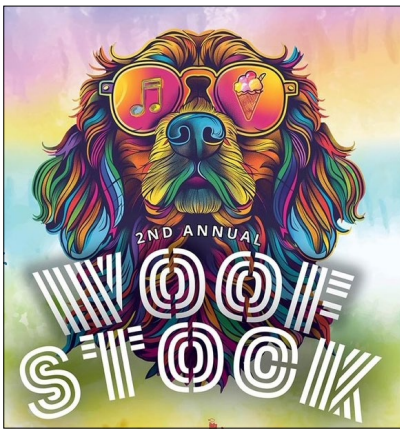


**Churchwide  
Trunk or Treat**

## **Messy Church Saturday, October 26 Wanna share Treats?**

Are you ready for "Spooky Church"? It's coming to Messy Church on Saturday, October 26, from 11 AM to 1 PM. We will dive into II Timothy 1:7: "For God gave us a spirit, not of fear, but of power and love and self-control." This event includes Trunk or Treat! All ages are invited to participate.

Join in the fun of Trunk or Treat! Small groups (like Sunday school classes, Circles, Bible study groups, choral groups, everyone!) are invited to get together, decorate your trunk, bring candy or other appropriate treat, and join us for Messy Church Trunk or Treat. Individuals are welcome to host trunks, too, of course! [Let us know you are coming by clicking this link](#). If you are working with a group, only one person needs to fill out the reservation form.



## **Save the Date for Blessing of the Animals October 12 at City Center Park**

Save the date to join us on October 12 as we have a community-wide Blessing of the Animals at the City Center Park. The City of Fayetteville and other community sponsors are hosting Woofstock, a "Dog Friendly Music Festival." There will be lots of ways to show how we all love our pets. So bring your furry (or finned or hooved) friend and plan to be there to be part of the blessing and the fun. Music starts at noon and the Blessing will likely be between 1 and 2 PM.



## **Wednesday Night Suppers 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

**October 2 Menu: Dickies - BBQ Pork**



**Phil Mallon  
Public Works  
October 1**

## **Titus II welcomes Phil Mallon on October 1**

Come for the meal, fellowship and a special program by Phil Mallon, FFUMC member and Fayette County Public Works Division Director. Phil will speak about what goes on in the world of Public Works and how it impacts us.





## **Shred & Recycle at City Center Park Saturday, October 19 9 AM to Noon**

**Bring paper for shredding:** Up to 10 small boxes (5 bags) of paper for shredding. The paper must be free of binder clips, binders, CDs, and such.

### **Bring glass for recycling**

The city will not recycle cardboard, electronics, ceramics, windows, or auto glass at this event. Participants will be responsible for reusing or recycling cardboard boxes.

FFUMC's Green Team is sharing this message. It's free!



## **SAGE heads to apple territory on October 17**

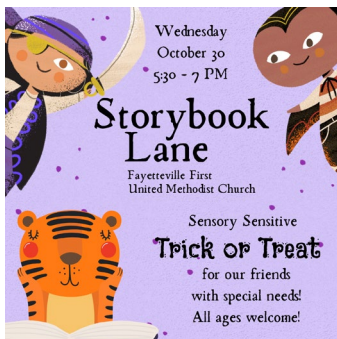
Let's take a trip to Ellijay! Take in some breathtaking beauty in the North Georgia mountains with friends as you make your way to Panorama Orchards & Penland's Apple House. Pick up some special apples or apple-related treats and enjoy lunch at the Double "L." It's the perfect way to celebrate fall!

*Meet at church 8:45 AM; Depart 9 AM*

*Reserve in church office.*

*\$2 transportation*

*Treats and lunch on your own*



## **Storybook Lane: Wednesday Night, October 30 A Sensory Sensitive Trick-or-Treat Experience**

**October 30, 2024 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

### **Sunshine Trick or Treaters:**

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church is presenting an opportunity for individuals with special needs to experience door to door trick or treating without all the stress! Have you been looking for a special experience like this? Join us in the upstairs hallway of building C where each door will be decorated in a storybook theme. All ages are welcome!

### **Volunteers:**

Would you like to help provide this unique experience for our community? Follow this link to adopt a door to decorate and/or hand out treats (only 5 more doors are needed). Donations of non-chocolate and non-nut candy, individually packaged pretzels, crackers or other non-sweet treats, and party favors are also welcome. [Follow this link to donate or decorate.](#)

Contact Jami Maguire at [jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com) with any questions.



## **Love in Action new request: Clothes dryer needed**

A new request from a summer lunch family is for a clothes dryer. Also needed are twin beds and curtains (no more rods are needed). If you as an individual or group can help with these needs, please contact Cindy Hall.



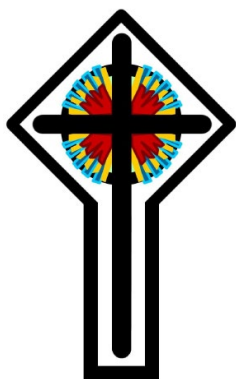
## Renovation scheduled: Restrooms behind sanctuary

Another Capital Campaign project is set to begin! The restrooms behind the sanctuary across from the Welcome Center will be closed for up to 3 weeks for renovation beginning Monday, September 30. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please use the restroom in the bride's room off the Narthex, the restroom in the music suite (Nick Bowden's office), restrooms in Building B behind the Chapel, restrooms adjacent to the gym kitchen, and restrooms upstairs in the C building near room C-270 during this period.



## Say "Yes" to Amazing Grace Wellroot Offering this Sunday

For more than 150 years, Wellroot Family Services, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, has supported the most vulnerable in our communities as they seek to keep families together, support foster families, and guide young adults on their journey to independence. Contributions throughout the year and on this special offering Sunday help expand Wellroot's reach and provide vital services to those in need. Online donations and checks may be sent directly to Wellroot at [Wellroot.org/AmazingGrace](http://Wellroot.org/AmazingGrace) or text "AGO2024" to 41444. 100% of your gift goes directly to supporting families and children. [Watch this video to discover ways to say, "Yes."](#)



## September 24, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$814,469.20
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$840,096.46
Difference	-\$25,627.26

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,056

136 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$33,556.61

### 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 ...

## **Create. Build. Grow.**

Surprise visitors at the church office this week brought smiles, oohs and ahs. Thanks for showing off Abigail during staff meeting, Kaylen and Alli!

Music created on our beautifully renewed sanctuary pipe organ on Sunday brought emotional notes and phone calls along with tears of gratitude to our organist, Nick Bowden.

A spirit of refreshed energy is moving through children's ministry as Rev. Drew West teaches a class for parents and engages new volunteers for small groups.

Students in our new youth and children's choirs are excitedly preparing to sing with the adults early in October. The Chancel Choir continues to grow and may soon surpass available seating. Organ music again supports worship in our historic Chapel.

The new Special Needs Ministry now hosts Bible study, youth group, Sunday school, and special events for appreciative parents and students.

Our last Messy Church was "the best ever" according to a particularly engaged learner as this ministry continues to grow.

No construction loan is needed to complete the projects for our Hope and a Future Capital Campaign. The Fellowship Hall kitchen is being measured for countertops, and the Welcome Center restrooms will be remodeled and completed quickly.

