



September 6, 2024

The Weekender

Finding Grace

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

Last week someone, who shall henceforth be called, The One Who Shall Not Be Named, told me a story about a pastor-friend of theirs. Apparently, this pastor said that he prayed daily that he would be humiliated every single day. I can't for the life of me remember what prompted The One Who Shall Not Be Named to share this brave prayer with me. I know it was relevant to our conversation in that moment. But while I can't remember the context, I remember the prayer.

Thank you, The One Who Shall Not Be Named, thank you for a piece of wisdom that has irritated me since you said it. I am irritated because of the pureness of the thought.

Here is where I am coming from: Humility – shouldn't it be something that you work at, something that you learn, and at, some point, you can pat yourself on the back and say, "Well done, good and humble self!"?

Yes, I can imagine those of you reading this (especially those of you with a better grasp on humility than me) might be thinking: "Well, goodness, bless your heart, the very nature of being humble means that you would not pat yourself on the back. You would not call yourself good. You would not say, 'Well done, self.'"

And yes, of course, you are right. But then, how do we strive to be humble and not acknowledge the moments that we have succeeded – how do we know if we are doing it right? The pastor-friend of The One Who Shall Not Be Named, is definitely onto something. I know he is because I don't like the way it makes me feel. So I have wrestled with it and have come to the following conclusion.

When I do something or say something that makes me cringe a bit—something that I am ashamed of—I feel pretty rotten. Acknowledging that rotten feeling and knowing that I am to blame for it helps me not do that thing again. Humility in that situation is learned, and hopefully that situation is never repeated. Undoubtedly, in the next day or week I will do something or say something new that makes me cringe yet again. The idea of being humiliated daily doesn't mean that we are messing up worse and worse each day. It means that we have become more and more aware of the heart and will of God. And if we pray to be humiliated daily, we become more and more aware of when our actions, our thoughts, our words, don't line up with the Divine.

It is in the awareness that we find humility before God, and it is in the humiliation before God that we find Grace.

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. Psalm 25:9

Let us humbly find our way to the throne of Grace.

**HE GUIDES THE HUMBLE
IN WHAT IS RIGHT**

**and teaches them
his way.**

Psalm 25:9



16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Online link active at 11 AM and after

James 2:1-17

"Living Faith"

Rev. Drew West

CURRENT NEWS



\$157,652.88 given!! \$100,000 match is met!

Only \$2,347.12 left to avoid needing any construction loan

We have made **AMAZING** progress in the Capital Campaign as we seek to avoid ANY construction loan.

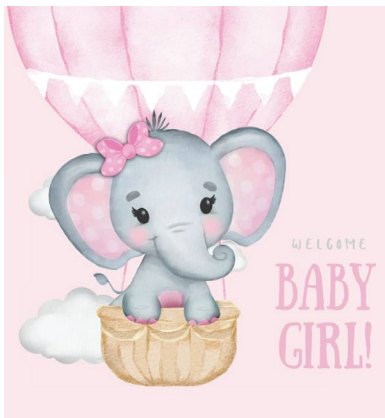
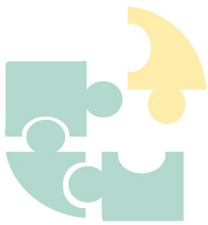
NEW: \$100,000 matching gift from anonymous donor - GOAL MET!

NEEDED: \$160,000 to match gift and complete final piece - \$2,347.12 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 **\$157,652.88** which meets the \$100,000 challenge. That leaves us **only \$2,347.12** away from a 100% funded campaign! We're almost there!



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 & 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 possible 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.

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

United Women of Faith Unit Meeting



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.



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.



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)

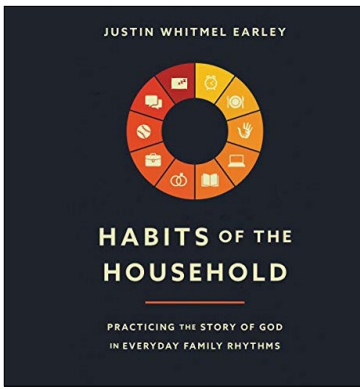
Sign up each week by noon on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

September 11 Menu: Tim's Country Kitchen: Pork Chops



G3: Good Grief Gals meets September 12 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, September 12, at 5:30 PM at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville**. If you can, please bring donations for the UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kit collection (suggestions include packs of flushable wipes in 42 count and travel packs of Wet Ones). Questions? Contact Janet Baileys or the church office.



"Growing As Parents Together" study has begun

Calling all parents who may or may not have it all together

You are invited to join Rev. Drew West on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM 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).



Choirs for our young singers have expanded.

Choirs have begun for all our young singers

Have you been looking for choirs for young singers in Fayette County? We now have three here at FFUMC!

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. Plan to join in ... and invite friends and neighbors!

Fayette Young Singers - Director: Nick Bowden

4th grade through voice change

Fayette Junior choir - Director: Joan Aycock

1st - 3rd grade

Fayette Cherub Choir - Director: Anna Mayhew

4 years - Kindergarten



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.



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 begins Tuesday, September 10, 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.



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 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. 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 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 in the Fellowship Hall for now. 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, contact Judy Hames or call 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 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

LOVE IN
ACTION



Love in Action: Twin beds and curtains needed

Can you help someone in our community who needs two 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 this need, please contact Cindy Hall.



Updates from CPR/AED/Choking Training

On Wednesday, August 28, 36 church members met in the Fellowship Hall for a snack dinner and an “awareness training session” in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in use of the new automated external defibrillators (AED) and the LifeVac anti-choking devices. These people included some of your ushers, Sunday school teachers, meal servers, parents, and grandparents. Training was led by Captain Brandon Gibby and Captain Vernon Piper of the Fayette County Fire/EMS and Captain Stephane Core of the Fayetteville Fire Department. Adult and youth manikins were provided for hands-on CPR training and the AEDs were detailed so people were comfortable with their use. It should be noted that the AEDs are placed at the sanctuary and the gym and the anti-choking devices will be located in each of the kitchens.

It should also be noted that emergency apps for Fayette County Fire/EMS for your phone can be [downloaded from this location](#) and [from the Fayette County Sheriff's office](#).



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.



United
Women
in Faith



Green Team meets September 10

The FFUMC Green Team works to keep us aware of how we can protect our environment, use our resources well, and recycle. Want to join in? Ready to learn more about the CHaRM Train, Dump-n-Stack, and our 5 "R"s? Come to the next Green Team meeting on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 PM in Room C-200. Contact Tami Kemberling for more information.



FFUMC Youth are back for the fall!

We are excited that our weekly programs have started for the fall. On Wednesday, September 4, we had 8th Period, dinner, choir for younger middle schoolers, games, snacks, and group discussion on a Faith and Life topic. We will do it again this coming week!

So here's how it works:

8th Period: Our church van comes to your middle school or high school to pick you up and then brings you back to the church. We meet in the Foundry (room C-280) and have 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, beginning September 11, [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.

That's a lot of info so contact me, Rev. Allyson Lawrence, if you have any questions. Looking forward to our year together!



Sunshine Youth Group is NEW this fall

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)

Ages 13 and up

We will enjoy 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.

See you on Wednesday nights!



FFUMC Church Family:

Thank you for all the retirement well wishes. The cards, notes, phone calls and monetary gifts were all such a surprise! I am grateful and humbled by your generosity and kindness. I look forward to serving in a different role and am praying God will lead me where that might be. It has been my privilege to be on staff at FFUMC. I appreciate each of you and the impact you have made on my life. — Janet Gazaway

FFUMC Shawl Ministry:

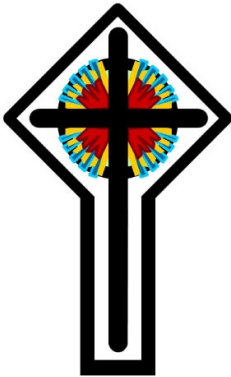
Thank you so much for your heartwarming gift. — Kayo Gilmore

Let's Do Lunch ... Again!

Did you miss Let's Do Lunch in August? Do you want to hear speaker Jinny Henson's presentation? [Just follow this YouTube link to experience the day for the first time or again!](#)

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 3, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$756,973.49
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$794,650.92
Difference	-\$36,677.43

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$938.00

117 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$30,370.38

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 ...

Baptism and service

This past Sunday brought a wonderful expression of life in our church. We welcomed Ginny Hester through baptism into Fayetteville First, and she immediately joined in the life of the church by serving communion alongside our ministers and acolytes.



For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

— Ephesians 2:10