



October 11, 2024

The Weekender

Following our desire

Lauren Davis, Legacy Giving Chair

I recently finished the book *Fifteen Minutes* by Karen Kingbury, which came highly recommended by a friend. The premise is based on a young man, Zack, who is both a talented singer and a Christian youth leader. Zack is desperate to help his family save their financially-struggling Kentucky horse

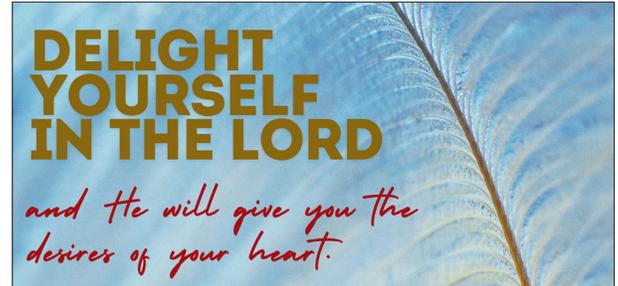
farm. He successfully auditions for an American Idol-type reality TV show, called "Fifteen Minutes," paying homage to the famous quote by Andy Warhol. The conflict arises when Zack is required to compromise his faith in order to remain on the show and stop publicly praising God each time he makes it to the next level. He begins to question if his dream to achieve the fame and fortune necessary to save the family farm is truly God's will or simply his own.

I can't count the number of times I've prayed "Jesus, please help me make the right decision." Does that sound familiar? Or maybe, "God, is this the path you want me to take?" I'm always amazed, and a little envious if I'm being honest, when I hear someone actually received a reply from God, or the signs He sent pointing them in a specific direction were clear and unmistakable. I sometimes wish that was more often my story. My experience seems to lean more toward patient listening and looking but not being quite sure whether the signs I imagine are from God or are, in fact, only what I want to see.

How can any of us know if we're living into God's plan for us? The Bible, always a good place to start when searching to understand the will of God, tells us if we love God and keep His commandments (John 14:15), we are in the place He wants us to be. God is not trying to hide His will from us; He wants to reveal it. "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

When I am joyful, prayerful and thankful, and truly desiring God's will, God will place His desires in my heart. My challenge is seeking God's will, not my own. I'm reminded of this verse from Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart."

It sure sounds easy, right? But sometimes I'm still not sure. Self-doubt creeps in and the fear of making a bad decision has me stuck and procrastinating. But as the old saying goes, you can't steer a parked car. So I keep moving! God allows us to make choices. He loves us, and if we fail and make mistakes (and we will), He won't abandon us. We may not always be certain we're doing the right thing, but we can always be certain of God's love.



21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: OCTOBER 13
8:45 AM (Chapel) 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

"In boldness, receive"

Rev. Allyson Lawrence

CURRENT NEWS



Pecan Time!
Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze and Enjoy All Year

Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal!

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 2.

Want to place a larger order for personal use and gifts? [Complete this order form or get one on Sunday next to the bulletin stations.](#) Then drop the form along with your **exact payment** in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales" in the church office or in the collection plate (remember the envelope!) by **Sunday, November 3**. Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 6 and 7 from 1 to 2 PM and after the 11 AM worship service on November 10. Make out checks to **United Women in Faith or UWF**.

We are committed to raising funds for others as proceeds from the sale go to a worthy cause. With pecans, everybody wins!



**Churchwide
Trunk or Treat**

Messy Church Saturday, October 26 Wanna share Treats? Donation

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.

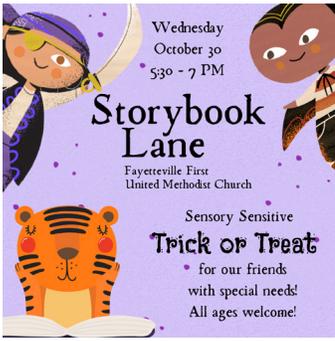
Join in the fun of Trunk or Treat! Small groups (like Sunday school classes, Circles, Bible study groups, choral groups, everyone!) are invited to get together, decorate your trunk, bring candy or other appropriate treat, and join us for Messy Church Trunk or Treat. Individuals are welcome to host trunks, 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.

Can't host a trunk but want to share treats? Donations are welcome for this event and for our sensory sensitive event. Please place donations in collection box in the Welcome Center.



Bring your creatures to 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.



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:

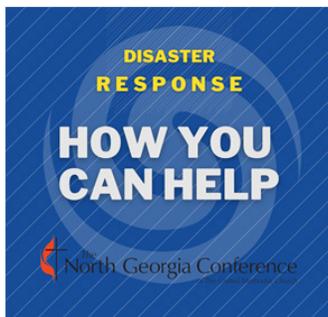
Would you like to help provide this unique experience for our community? Follow this link to adopt a door to decorate and/or hand out treats (only 5 more doors are needed). Donations of non-chocolate and non-nut candy, individually packaged pretzels, crackers or other non-sweet treats, and party favors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

Contact Jami Maguire at jmaguire@fayettevillefirst.com with any questions.



Renovation continues in restrooms behind sanctuary

Another Capital Campaign project is in motion. The restrooms behind the sanctuary across from the Welcome Center are closed for a few weeks while we spruce them up. 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.



Disaster Response: Work Teams, Volunteers, and ERT Needed

UMCOR Early Response Teams, work teams, and individual volunteers are needed now in the greater Augusta area. Groups are deploying out of United Methodist White Oak Camp Ground in Columbia County. The North Georgia Conference is working with Inspiritus, a trusted disaster response partner, to schedule teams and individuals in this area. Go to [North Georgia Conference disaster relief](#) for more information. [Sign up here with Inspiritus.](#)



Dinner Church Exploration Meeting

October 17, 6:30 p.m., C-200

Want to learn how we can be better connected and supportive of those in our community who are having economic hardships? Come to a gathering of like-minded people who will be exploring Dinner Church. Dinner Church is a funny name, but at its heart it is sitting at the table, sharing a meal, and talking about Jesus with others. Hope you will join us as we all learn more together. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions.



Christmas Marketplace 2024 is November 2

Christmas Marketplace is coming up fast! Our church's largest fundraiser is poised for another record-breaking year. We can use your help! Donate, Bake, Volunteer, Shop and Share!

DONATE your gently-used, sellable donations beginning Monday, Oct 28, through noon on Thursday, Oct 31. [2024 Guidelines](#)

BAKE your favorite homemade cookies, breads, cupcakes, brownies, muffins, or cakes for the Gingerbread House. Bring to C-140 (the nursery) by noon on Friday, Nov. 1. [2024 Guidelines](#)

VOLUNTEERS are always needed to help sort donations in Timeless Treasures, make lunch in the Grill, greet guests, and cleanup.

SHOP for early Christmas gifts, unique handmade and household items from over 90 vendors.

SHARE the event with family, friends & neighbors. [Here's a flyer to print and share on social media.](#)

Hope to see everyone there! Questions? Contact Diane McCarten or Lauren Davis.

Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month in the United Methodist Church. Please take time to express your gratitude and appreciation in writing to the remarkable people who lead us in worship, preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer sacraments, and order the life of our church for service in mission and ministry: Kaylen Short, Allyson Lawrence, Drew West, Charles Robinson, and Nick Bowden. Please drop your cards and letters into the offering plate or box in the narthex or bring them to the church office before Friday October 25. They will be presented on Sunday, October 27.



Clergy Appreciation



Wednesday Night Suppers at 5 PM

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together!

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

Advantages: **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.

October 16 Menu: Olive Garden - Lasagna

Upcoming: Plan your outfit for costume night on October 30!



Love in Action needed items: Washer, Dryer, Beds

Our summer lunch families have need of items you may be able to donate:

Washer and dryer

Full size bed frame or box springs

Twin beds

If you as an individual or group can help with these needs, please contact Cindy Hall.



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



October is our month! 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. Volunteers are also needed in the food pantry, clothes closet, receptionist area, and as interviewers with a 3 hour commitment each week.

Most Needed List: *Canned Beef Stew, Canned Beans (pintos, white, black, etc.), Canned Mixed Vegetables, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Corn, Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter, Dry Cereal, Soup*

Clothes Closet: *Girls' and Women's underwear, all sizes*



Cleaning Kits (aka Flood Buckets) for UMCOR

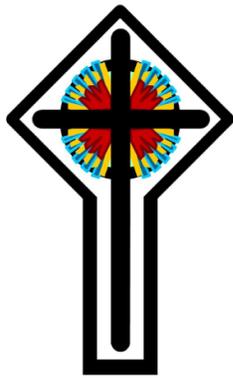
The United Methodist Committee on Relief provides cleaning kits to help individuals and communities recover from disasters. [See how you can help out by preparing a cleaning kit!](#) Check out the supplies list on the link to make sure your kit has the most needed items or pick up a bucket with a list inside from the Welcome Center (available Wednesday, October 16). Valued at approximately \$75, the buckets can be filled by individuals or groups and delivered to the church office or Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence.



With Gratitude

I'd like to send my heartfelt appreciation for all the prayers and cards and well-wishes I've received over the past few weeks after the loss of my brother, Steve. I especially appreciate the outpouring of love and support that was extended to my mother, as well. I also want to send a special thank you to the lovely ladies in the Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawls they made for my mom and me. We have been truly blessed by your ministry.
— Lauren Davis

I would like to thank the ladies of the Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl blanket I received. I will certainly enjoy using it and will always remember the special hands that created every stitch. I sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness. I miss and love everyone at FFUMC.
— Karen Davis



October 7, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$866,229.54
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$881,802.12
Difference	-\$15,572.58

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,547.00

142 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$35,278.00

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

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com



The church office will be closed Monday, October 14,
for Indigenous People's/Columbus Day.

inspired ...

Donating ... it matters

What can we give? Of course money comes to mind, but we give so much in addition. Celebrate these recent donations and upcoming opportunities to discover that what you have may just be what someone else needs!



Trunk-or-Treat & Trick-or-Treat: Style a trunk for the Messy Church event on October 26 or decorate a door for our first-ever sensory sensitive Storybook Lane Trick-or-Treat on October 30. Donate treats for both in the Welcome Center, too!



**October 6
Blood Drive:**
24 units given
70% of donors
from FFUMC

Next Drive:
March 16,
2025



**Serving with
a smile:** You find your own special way to serve through committees, small groups, UWF circles and more as you prepare cleaning kits, serve through benevolence, and give from your heart in countless ways.



Timeless Treasures Donations: Start a collection of things you no longer need for Christmas Marketplace's Timeless Treasures sale ([see schedule for drop-off](#)). You can help this part of the event raise the most funds by generously giving donations to the cause (and clear out your closet, cabinet, or garage to boot. Win-Win!).