



October 18, 2024

The Weekender

Assisted living for all

Rev. Charles Robinson, Minister of Nurture

A term that has become frequently used over the past few decades is **Assisted Living**. Usually that term refers to a facility for folks who need help with many of their everyday activities. Some folks enter **Assisted Living** gladly and others have to be dragged in kicking and screaming. It has to do with one's current circumstances and one's outlook on life. I don't know that I've ever heard anyone say, "I can't wait until I qualify for **Assisted Living**!" But aren't there times and places along all of our journeys where we need some assistance, some help? The Beatles put it like this in a familiar song:

"When I was young, so much younger than today, I never needed anybody's help in any way. But now those days are gone I'm not so self-assured; now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors...help me if you can I'm feeling down."

Assisted Living. Newborns, infants, toddlers...none would have a fighting chance without constant assistance.

Assisted Living. Children and adolescents would never find their way in this world without a lot of assistance.

Assisted Living. Even adults who have "pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps" cannot make it unless they have designed and manufactured their own boots.

Assisted Living. In Genesis 2:18 the Lord God said, "It is not good that the mortal should be alone; I will make a helper..." From the beginning of time, we have needed one another. Later the Psalmist would declare that (and I paraphrase): *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I will not pass through the dark valley unassisted."* Still later, our Lord Jesus would promise to send the Advocate, the Counselor, the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Jesus' parting words were *"I am with you always."*

Who are some of the folks who have assisted us on our journeys through this wild and wonderful God Created World? Parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers, Sunday School teachers, youth directors. How about first responders, physicians, attorneys? The list could become quite lengthy. No doubt we all have, or have had, some assistants who would be blessed by our expression of gratitude.

Truth be told, couldn't Fayetteville First UMC be called an **Assisted Living** place? Isn't that a big part of who we are and what we do? We help, we assist one another. When pain and difficulties come our way, we hold each other up. When healing and joy come our way, we rejoice with each other. We are in the **Assisted Living** business. And we are pretty good at it, don't you think?

Assisted Living.

Is there any other kind?



22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: OCTOBER 20
8:45 AM (Chapel) 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Psalm 104:1-9; Mark 10:35-45

"Ambitious Service"

Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



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!



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. 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.



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. Valued at approximately \$75, the buckets can be filled by individuals or groups and delivered to the church office or Welcome Center by Sunday, November 3. Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence or Maggie Clarke.



**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.



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!



Titus II is November 12: NOTE DATE CHANGE

What is our next Titus II all about? It's a MYSTERY complete with a MYSTERY GUEST! Come be surprised -- but note the date has changed this month to November 12.

Tuesday, November 12 Noon

Gym

Lunch provided by local restaurant

\$8 per person

Make lunch reservations with Martha Turner or the church office by Thursday, November 7.



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.



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.](#)

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.



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.



Renovation continues in restrooms behind sanctuary

Another Capital Campaign project is in motion. The restroom renovation behind the sanctuary across from the Welcome Center is nearing completion. 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 project.



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 23 Menu: Wings & Things - Chicken

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



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



Elevator closed on Wednesday, October 23

The church elevator will be unavailable Wednesday Oct. 23. We will have elevator maintenance teams on site that day. Thank you for your flexibility.



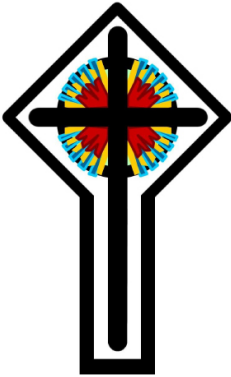
Serve at SafeHouse Outreach on October 31

After 14 years of service at SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta, FFUMC will be providing our last regular "Fifth Thursday" Impact Meal on October 31. After this meal, we will continue to participate in the Thanksgiving Chili Outreach and provide clothing, etc. as needed. Contact Randy Riddell or the church office to volunteer for this night of service.



Charge Conference set for Saturday, November 16

Meet new District Superintendent Rev. Byron Thomas as we celebrate the work of Fayetteville First and elect leadership for the coming year. Join in our churchwide Charge Conference on Saturday, November 16, at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.



October 15, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$882,868.09
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$898,347.15
Difference	-\$15,479.06

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$780.00

148 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$36,634.10

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

inspired ...

The work goes on

We are the church together! Check out just a few of the ways we are serving:

Fayette Samaritans donations

October is our month to make a special effort to stock the community pantry at Fayette Samaritans. Donations may be dropped in the church office or by the gym entrance.

UMCOR Cleaning Kit Assembly

We are invited to put together cleaning kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief to distribute in needed areas after disasters like the recent hurricanes. Get your bucket and fill it up (due November 3).

Messy Church Trunk-or-Treat and Sensory Sensitive Storybook Lane

We will get into the costume and festival spirit at two events this month. Messy Church invites us to decorate a trunk and hand out smiles and candy on Saturday, October 26, at the Spooky Church event (11 AM to 1 PM). The following week, our Special Needs Ministry is hosting our first ever Sensory Sensitive Storybook Lane. You can adopt a doorway to decorate in the Family Life Center and provide a Trick-or-Treat experience for those in our community who need may need a calmer, relaxed environment. Hand out treats from 5:30 to 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 30. The doorways will remain decorated for our preschool event the following day. Leave candy and treat donations in the Welcome Center and Family Life Center.

Christmas Marketplace is almost here!

Plans are in motion for the best Christmas Marketplace ever. Vendors will provide lots of shopping options and we can contribute to the event's bottom line with donations to the Gingerbread House, Timeless Treasures, and The Grill. Our Green Team and Missions Committee have reusable bags ready for market shoppers. The event is Saturday, November 2.

Ministry, worship, study, and service

Our commitment to benevolence, investigation of a new Dinner Church concept, study and worship continue as the work of the church goes on. Check out FayettevilleFirst.Com for details or call the church office to see how you can join in.

