



November 22, 2024

The Weekender

Messy Church on a Mission

Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Associate Minister

Last April our Legacy Committee awarded a grant for a small team to attend the International Messy Church Conference in Chicago. While there, Donna Blackburn attended a workshop on Vintage Messy Church. The idea of Vintage Messy was to take the Messy Church model to assisted living facilities. Donna recognized something special about this idea and began talking to our Messy Church leadership team about what that would look like here in Fayetteville. Just a few months later, we now have had our first Vintage Messy Church: Messy Church on a Mission.



Several of our Messy Church families joined together at Azalea Estates last Saturday. The residents had just finished an hour of Bingo and stayed for an hour and a half more of Messy Church. Residents and care givers alike enjoyed time playing games, creating cards to send to others and singing songs of thanksgiving. We received a short meditation on Psalm 105:5, "Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered," and were invited to remember the wondrous works God has done in our own lives. And in remembrance of the mighty acts of Jesus Christ, we all shared in the holy meal of communion together.

As we were ending, one resident asked if we could come back next week. Another asked if she could be added to our FFUMC monthly communion recipient list. You could see the joy they all had, and we had, as we all gathered and worshipped together, created together, shared communion together, and gave thanks together. On our bus ride back to the church the children said that their favorite thing about the day was, "Everything!"

What a joy-filled day it was. Donna shared with me afterward that she is always amazed at the way that seniors living in care facilities show such immense gratitude for even the tiniest little bit of connection. They are gracious and hospitable and kindly receive our most feeble of attempts. We took Messy Church on a mission and as usually happens with mission trips, we were blessed ten-fold by those we intended to serve.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024
8:45 AM (Chapel) 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Joel 2:21-27; Matthew 6:25-33

"Thanksgiving Days" Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Angel Tree available on Sundays

Our annual Angel Tree will be in the Welcome Center on Sundays, offering a chance to provide Christmas for Bloom foster children. The gifts will be given by Santa at the Bloom holiday party. If you miss the signup sheet or the attendant on Sundays, contact Suzie Lusk directly.

How does it work? Choose an "angel" for whom to shop (be sure to indicate which angel you took and communicate with the attendant at the tree; one angel per family), purchase the gifts on the wish list, and return unwrapped gifts to the church office by December 8. [You'll need to follow these specific, easy instructions. It's that simple to show some cheer and love to children this Christmas season.](#)



Returning to FFUMC - Nativities from Around the World

December 5-6 from noon to 7 PM; December 7 from 10 AM to 3 PM

During this Advent season, FFUMC will again host a collection of hundreds of unique nativities, curated by Wendy Haymans and her late mother Sharon Bowen as a ministry of focus about the meaning of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection. Wendy is the daughter-in-law of our own Gerry and Jim Haymans and is generously making the exhibit available to our community at no charge.

The exhibit will be open to the public on Thursday and Friday, December 5-6, from noon to 7 PM and on Saturday, December 7, from 10 AM – 3 PM. Wednesday, December 4, will be reserved for senior groups and others needing extra time to go through the exhibit.

Please volunteer to help. Two years ago, hundreds came to see the collection and we expect more this year. Hosting the exhibit is a lot of fun, and it also is labor-intensive. The jobs include serving as greeters and monitors and helping with set-up and tear-down.

[You can sign up to volunteer at this Sign-Up Genius link](#) or call the church office.

Donate towels for the Exhibit

Also – we need lots of towels for leveling the exhibit surfaces. Please donate old, raggedy (but clean) towels you have on hand. Any size will do. If you want your towels back, please put your name on them. You can bring them to the church office or put them in a bin in Welcome Center.

Afterward, we will donate unclaimed towels to a local animal shelter.



Thanksgiving Week Schedule

Tuesday, November 26 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 - 9 PM

Wednesday, November 27

Church office is open

No programs offered on Wednesday night for children, adults or choir

Thursday, November 28 - Church office closed

Happy Thanksgiving!





Titus II is December 3

Begin December with kids and music! Hear the Inman Elementary Chorus present Christmas music at the Titus II Lunch and Learn program for our seniors. Call Martha Turner or the church office to make reservations by Wednesday, November 27.

Tuesday, December 3 at Noon, Gym

Lunch: \$8 per person, meal from a local restaurant

SAGE Trip in December



Take a SAGE trip to Chick-Fil-A headquarters on Thursday, **December 19**. We will gather at the church office at 8:30 AM and depart at 8:45 AM; Backstage Tour (which includes the Test Kitchen) will be from 9:30 – 11 AM. We will stop for lunch at a Chick-Fil-A on the way home. Tickets are \$11 and transportation cost is \$2.

Contact the church office to reserve your place. For more information, see [Rev. Charles Robinson](#).



Tell the story! Christmas Pageant Comes December 11

We live the story of Christmas with our children each year. Just show up for the annual Christmas Pageant. We'll have costumes and a script. No rehearsal needed. After Wednesday night dinner on December 11, we'll get the play together and begin at 6 PM. Following the pageant, gather in The Field for s'mores and carols around a bonfire. Questions? Contact Rev. Drew West.



Save the date for Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 18

It's almost that time again. Save the date for Christmas caroling and spreading cheer. You're invited to enjoy supper at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall for regular Wednesday Night Dinner; then we'll load vehicles and start caroling at 5:30 PM.



Holiday Commemorative Brick Project

Place a commemorative brick in the church courtyard this holiday season! You may personalize a brick for yourself or your family, honor a loved one, or make a memorial. Commemorate a new baby, baptism, graduation, friendship, ministry, church membership, or new home. The cost is \$100 per brick. Each 8"x4" brick can be engraved with three lines of text with up to 15 characters per line. If desired, you may pick up a card in the church office confirming the purchase which you can place in a Christmas card or letter to loved ones. [Simply complete this form and return it with payment by December 31, 2024.](#) Copies will be available in the Narthex or church office as well.



No Wednesday Night Supper on November 27

Wednesday Night Suppers Resume December 4

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together!

Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

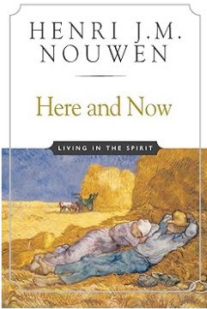
Advantages: **Friendship!** Be with people you really like.

Hassle Free! Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up each week by 4 PM on Mondays. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a pew card.

December 4 Menu: Piccadilly, Chicken



Here and Now: Living in the Spirit - study begins December 1

Are you longing for ways to experience life to its fullest? Right here, right now? Join the Book Club Class for a walk through *Here and Now*, one of Henri Nouwen's much loved books exploring encountering Spirit in our everyday lives. Get the book from your favorite bookseller and come to Room C-260 on Sundays at 9:45 AM beginning December 1. Questions? Contact Margaret Whitaker.



UWF Christmas Banquet

Please join us at our Christmas Banquet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 10, at 6 PM. We will enjoy a catered dinner of pork chops, mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole and dessert, followed by the musical talents of our very own Nick Bowden and friends!

Cost: \$10 payable on December 10.

Make your reservations by Friday, December 6, through your circle chair or contact Susan Burch.

Please indicate number of children for nursery.

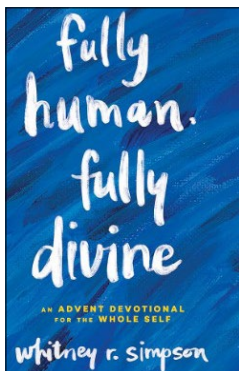
**UWF Banquet
December 10**



December List: 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 Corn, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Green Beans, Pasta Sauce, Dry Spaghetti, Jiffy Mix, Pancake Mix, Jelly, Coffee, Hot Chocolate Mix, Feminine Products (Pads)



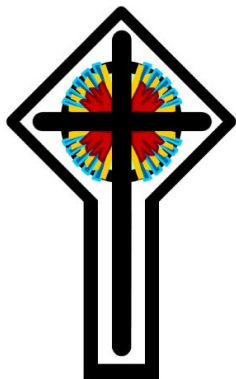
Advent Study Continues December 3, 10, and 17

Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence for a study using the book *Fully Human, Fully Divine: an Advent Devotional for the Whole Self* by Whitney R. Simpson. The study, which highlights daily contemplation practices during Advent, began this week and will continue at 1:30 PM on Tuesdays December 3, 10, and 17 in Room B-350. You can purchase the book at any of your favorite bookstores. It's not too late to join in!



Sunday Morning Coffee & Conversation

Have you ever had a Sunday where you showed up too late for your Sunday school class? Have you ever arrived extra early for the 11 AM service and you don't know what to do while you wait? Beginning this Sunday, we will offer coffee and conversation in our Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 AM. Each week you can drop in and grab a coffee or something light to eat before you head off to your next thing.



Financials will be reported next week

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; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7 PM

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

Reminder:

Please return your 2025 Commitment Cards to the church office as soon as you can.

This will help us with financial plans for the coming year. Thank you!

inspired ...

Messy Church Vintage - at Azalea Estates

This past week our Messy Church community took its monthly gathering to grateful seniors at Azalea Estates Assisted Living. Smiles, engagement, connection ... we LOVE being together!

