



December 27, 2024

The Weekender

Grateful Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

As this is the last Friday in 2024, I just wanted to send a brief word of thanks to all of FFUMC. It seems wild that a full year together has very nearly passed. It has all gone so quickly, and we have accomplished so much. Yet, when I look at our church what I am most grateful for isn't something we have accomplished. It's the people who make FFUMC the church that it is. The kindness and the joy that are so easily found here. There is generosity that astounds. There is hope that seems to be thick around here that you can touch it.

Know that as you read this, that whoever you are, because you are a part of what makes FFUMC the incredible place it is, I am truly grateful for you.



MERRY *Christmas*
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY: DECEMBER 29, 2024

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

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

Luke 2:21-40

"Inside the Manger: Baby Jesus (and Two Old Folks)"

The Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



Epiphany Potluck Breakfast: January 5 at 10 AM

Bring your gifts of breakfast casseroles, sticky buns, fruits ... all your favorites as we celebrate Epiphany with a church-wide potluck breakfast on Sunday, January 5, at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.



All blood types are needed.
Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

 American Red Cross

Give Blood January 12

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, January 12, in the gym from 8 AM to 1 PM. Signing up is easy!

Go directly to the American Red Cross site at redcrossblood.org and choose our drive on January 12...and encourage others to donate here at FFUMC. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com for questions or assistance.



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 memoriam. 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. [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.

Holiday Office and Program Schedule

The church office will be closed: New Year's Day

Wednesday night programs will resume January 8

Wednesday Night Supper: 5 PM

Children, Youth, Adult Programs: 5:30 PM





School Sponsorships change lives in El Salvador

Education can change a child's life forever. Tuition for a child to attend the Methodist School in El Salvador is just \$40 per month or \$480 per year. Two South West District mission teams are heading to El Salvador February 8-15, 2025, and February 15-22, 2025. The teams comprise 19 individuals from five different churches and are collecting money to help deserving children whose families cannot afford even this small amount. The school offers grades 1-10, the only grades that schools there have. The school helps keep the kids out of gangs, drugs, and the risk of human trafficking. The kids learn the usual subjects that we have here, including music. Their marching band has won national competitions. Many of the students are also learning English, which will open many more opportunities for good jobs. The school offers hope to the community.



[You can make a tax-deductible donation by check or online to Fayetteville First United Methodist Church.](#) Write "El Salvador Tuition" on the memo. Your gifts will be hand-delivered to Bishop Juan de Dios Peña in February 2025. Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke.



NEW! January List: Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those in our community 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: Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate Mix, Jelly, Feminine Products (Pads)

Save the Date: January 25

SouthWest District Inaugural Meeting United Women in Faith

"Gather, Prepare, Grow"

Saturday, January 25

Fayetteville First UMC

Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Meeting and Worship in Sanctuary 11 AM



United
Women
in Faith

ADULT STUDIES

New Adult Study Opportunities for 2025

Thinking about your New Year's Resolution and how you can include your spiritual life in your plans for 2025? Consider a new small group study. Beginning the second week of January we have two new opportunities for you to dig deeper in your faith and your understanding of how God moves and acts in the world. For each study, purchase the suggested book from your favorite book seller and sign up to let us know you are coming. Signing up means we are able to let you know door codes, room locations, and what you need to know to get started.

This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice by William H. Willimon

Beginning January 8, 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Led by Jeff Hansen

This 8-week study takes participants through core tenants of faith and offers fresh ways to hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus. Free books are available for the first 15 participants who register in advance.

[Sign up for This We Believe](#)

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr

Four Sessions — Sundays: January 12 & 26, February 2 & 9 6 - 7 PM

Led by Tim and Joan Aycock

In this book, Rohr teaches us that we can't understand the meaning of "up" until we have fallen "down." More importantly, Rohr describes what "up" can look like in the second half of life. This new edition focuses on practical guidance you can use to live a life of love and meaning in a world of suffering and challenge. Falling Upward is an invitation to living the gospel and a call to ongoing transformation. Either the new 10th anniversary edition or the older version can be used for this class.

[Sign up for Falling Upward](#)

Ongoing Adult Study Opportunities

Parents Bible Study Group on Wednesday Evenings

While the kids enjoy Children's Choir on Wednesday evenings, parents are invited to join Rev. Drew West in Room C-260 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM for a discussion-based Bible study. Together, we'll explore how our roles as parents reflect Christ's patient and persistent love, and how we can embrace that calling with faith and joy while supporting one another. Whether you're navigating toddler tantrums, teenage milestones, or somewhere in between, this group is for parents of all stages.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

Many small groups meet weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:45 AM. Explore the options and visit different groups to find the one that fits you best. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence at alawrence@fayettevillefirst.com with questions.

Book Club Class — Participants read a book chosen by the class and then join together in discussion for six to twelve week sessions. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence for session schedule.

Format: Discussion

Location: C-260

Circle of Friends — Older and senior adults who learn, live and share the Biblical lessons provided in the International Bible Series.

Format: Lecture, some discussion

Location: Room C-230

Cornerstone Class — Diverse and multi-generational group who study Biblical themes and topics from various books and authors.

Format: Discussion with volunteers leading the sessions

Location: B-350

Family Class — A mix of singles and married ranging in age from the 50s to the 80s, this group concentrates on nourishing the mind and strengthening relationships through study of the Bible.

Format: Lecture with some discussion

Location: C-210

Fellowship/Discipleship Class — This group is a close and caring group of senior citizens who use the International Bible Series and contribute to the missions of Fayette Samaritans, The UM Children's Home, Meals on Wheels, and are in service to one another.

Format: Hymns and time of prayer followed by lecture

Location: Fellowship Hall

Genesis to Revelation — Not defined by age or life situation this group seeks a stronger spiritual relationship with God and connection with one another.

Format: Teacher led with discussion

Location: C-250

Murphy-Lighthouse Class — This class of seniors studies the International Bible Series and supports church members through regular visitations and prayer.

Format: Lecture with some discussion

Location: Brides Room

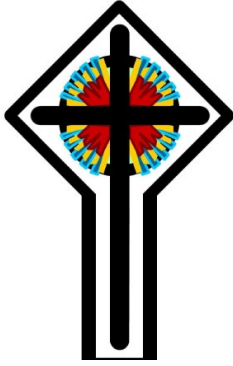
Wellspring Class — This is a fun-loving group of people made up of singles, married couples, and a mixture of parents with children preschool-aged to high school.

Format: Teacher facilitated discussion



Flower Ministry

May your holidays be filled with peace, love and happiness, and may your New Year bring you every joy. Thank you so very much for remembering me with the beautiful flowers. — Martha Trice



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

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inspired ...

O Holy Night ... Christmas Together



*Experience the joy again on our
YouTube Channel at Fayetteville
First UMC - Fayetteville, GA
or on the [Worship](#) page at
FayettevilleFirst.com.*