



January 10, 2025

## The Weekender

### Snow Day

Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

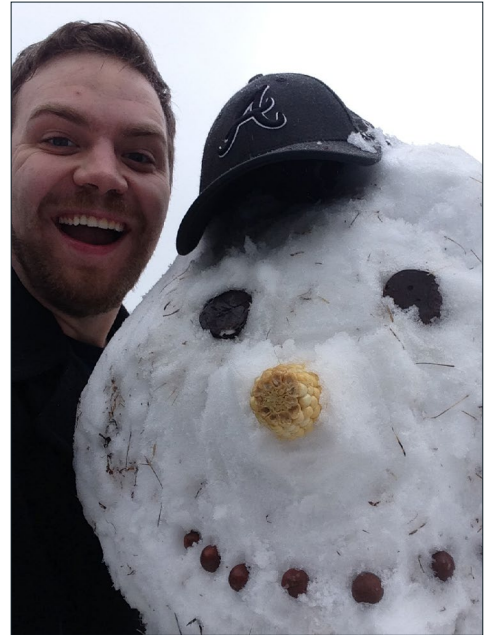
By the time you're reading this you will know if we had the much anticipated Friday snow day. Personally, I hope you're reading this by a fire with a winter wonderland displayed in front of you. I understand that snow often brings worry in the form of it's sibling ice. Power lines can be affected, and travel put at a standstill. Yet, I can't help but feel childhood wonder bubbling up when snow begins sticking to the ground.

I think snow does that to nearly all of us, or at least all of us in the South. Because we see snow so infrequently, I think we can't help but be transported back to years long past. For me, I return to a snow day when I woke up earlier than all my neighborhood friends, and filled a cooler full of pre-made snowballs in preparation for the snowball fight I knew I would start later that day.

See, I've always thought ahead. Or sometimes a snow day transports me back to my first few months of pastoral ministry. I hiked from our house to the church and built a snowman by the church sign. It was still there to greet everyone for Sunday worship a few days later!

Let's face it, life as an adult gets kind of complicated sometimes. We need moments of the unexpected to remind us that life is full of wonder. Too often as adults we treat the unexpected as an inconvenience instead of as a delight. However, in Matthew 18:2-3, Jesus tells us to have faith like a child and I think a big part of that type of faith is developing an ability to delight in something unexpected.

So right now whether you are looking out on a winter wonderland, or on just another day of Georgia cold rain, I hope that you'll go make a cup of hot chocolate, start a fire in the fireplace (or put a fake one on the tv), and sit back and wonder at all the incredible things in this world that God has made that still catch us by surprise.



### **BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY**

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

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

Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

"Like John"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

**NOTE: Should wintry weather affect our events or worship schedule, we'll post the information on our website at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com) and send an email.**

# CURRENT NEWS



## Messy Church on January 11

We're getting ready for our next Messy Church, January 11, from 11 AM-1 PM. [Sign up here to be part of the volunteer team.](#) Questions? Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence, Rev. Drew West or Chase Leonard.

January theme: Create, Build, & Grow

Guess what! Our Messy Church was featured on Day 1 of the 12 Days of Messy Church over Christmas by Messy Church USA. Way to go, team!



## 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](http://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](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance.



## School Sponsorships



## 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.



## United Methodist Men meet Tuesday, January 14

January 14 Potluck Supper:

6:15 PM in Fellowship Hall

Questions? Contact Raymond Mitchely

# SOUPER BOWL IV



## SOUPER BOWL IV has started! 2,080+ cans is goal!

KICKOFF! SOUPER Bowl IV is officially underway to collect soup for healthy meals for those in need. Bring any variety of 16.3 - 18.8 ounce ready-to-eat soup, **not condensed**, to the Welcome Center and join the friendly competition.

### The Challenge:

This year two divisions have been established. Teams within those divisions will be competing to see which minister will win the playoff and Lead Coaching rights on January 26.

### How It Works:

Tallies will be taken at 10 AM on Sunday, January 26, to determine which team within each division will be the **Division Champion**. The Division Champion minister will be announced at the 11 AM service. Each division winner will be the **Lead Coach** to take their entire division to the Souper Bowl IV Championship on Sunday, February 9.

### Alpha Division: Last Names A-K:

### Omega Division: Last Names L-Z

Rev. Allyson Lawrence (Last Names A-D)

Rev. Kaylen Short (Last Names L-R)

Rev. Charles Robinson (Last Names E-K)

Rev. Drew West (Last Names S-Z)

Final tallies will be taken at 10 AM on Sunday, February 9. The Souper Bowl IV Champion will be announced at the 11 AM service.

### 2025 Extra Challenge: 2,080+ Cans

Exceed the 2,079 total can donations from last year's competition, and the entire church staff will prepare and serve a FREE Wednesday Night Supper for a church-wide celebration.

### Mark Your Donations:

Mark the bottom of each can with the **first letter of YOUR last name**. A Sharpie will be available at the donation site. Cans will be credited to the Team Captain for those letters. Any cans that are received without letters will be divided between the two teams.

Who will be the Lead Coach for each division? We'll find out on Playoff Sunday, January 26.

Who will be the Souper Bowl IV Champion with all the bling and bragging rights? You decide on Souper Bowl IV Sunday, February 9.

**Hut, Hut, Hike! Let's get going!**



**Carolyn  
McKinley**

### **Want a name badge? Order one by January 27**

Would you like a customized name badge? Did you lose one you may have had previously? Let us know if you want one by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com). The deadline to place your order is **Monday, January 27**. Cost is \$10.



### **Wellspring Class begins new series January 26**

The Wellspring Sunday Morning small group is excited to start a new series based on the Connected Faith app beginning January 26 from 9:45 – 10:20 AM in Room C-200 (the conference room). The discussion-oriented class is led by facilitator Jay Travis. The class is open to everyone and much of the conversation will revolve around faith in our current time from the perspective of those who have young children through college-aged. Group discussion will start promptly at 9:45 and end at 10:20 to create time for choir members to participate. Contact Rev. Allyson Lawrence with questions.



### **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)*



### **Wednesday Night Supper January 15**

Let's eat 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](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

### **January 15 Menu: Piccadilly**

**Fried chicken, potato casserole, mixed roasted vegetables, rolls, cake**



## Community handbell group forming

A community handbell group will begin January 23 at Peachtree City United Methodist Church at 7 PM. If you are interested in playing handbells, please plan to attend the organizational meeting that evening. This group will be a partnership between Fayetteville First United Methodist and Peachtree City United Methodist with players from many churches throughout Fayette County. We do ask that you have the ability to read music (treble clef, bass clef, or both) and/or that you have experience playing handbells. We hope to have at least 12 bell players with 3 to 5 alternates. Right now, it looks like Thursdays at 7 PM is our best evening for rehearsals at Peachtree City UMC. A final decision on rehearsal time will be made at the organizational meeting on January 23. If you know of others outside of FFUMC that might be interested, please share this information with them. For more information, contact Judy Hames or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



**Potato Bake  
Youth Mission  
Fundraiser  
January 29**

## Potato Bake - A Youth Mission Fundraiser January 29

You are invited to a special Wednesday night supper hosted by our youth. January 29 at 5:00 PM is our Appalachia Service Project Potato Bake Fundraiser. The youth will provide the potatoes and all the fixings along with salad and dessert. We'll also be sharing stories from last year's Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip and answering any questions you may have about the ASP program and mission work. On this special night, there will be no regular Wednesday Night Supper charge; however, donations to the ASP youth trip are greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go towards directly funding the mission trip costs. Make your Wednesday Night Supper reservation like normal by contacting the church office at 770-461-4313 or [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com) by Monday, January 27, at 10 AM.



## Walking with others through grief

GriefShare is a program where caring individuals walk with others through the journey of grief. Facilitated by Carol and Bill Webb, a new session of classes will meet Mondays February 17 through May 12 from 10 AM to 12 PM in Room B-350. All are welcome. For more information on the program or to sign up, contact Carol or Bill Webb or visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).

## South West District Inaugural Meeting



United  
Women  
in Faith

### 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

**You are invited to attend** a time of inspiration and fellowship with women from around our South West District on Saturday morning, January 25, here at our church. This gathering is sponsored by the United Women of Faith; however, you don't have to be a member of UWF to attend. [There is no fee; but registration is requested if you attend or help at the event.](#)

Our United Women in Faith is hosting this inaugural meeting on Saturday January 25 from 9 AM to 1 PM. We expect more than 150 ladies from around the District to attend. **We need volunteers** to serve as Greeters and Door Guides, help with Registration, Hostesses during the Continental Breakfast, set up & clean up of Continental Breakfast, etc. More information about this event as well as sign up information will be sent to the Circle Chairs. If you are not a part of a Mission Circle Group and would like to help, we'd love your help, too! Questions? Contact Donna Blackburn.



### SAGE Trips for January and February

**Thursday, January 16 The Carter Presidential Library & Museum**

**Meet** at church office at 8:45 AM for 9 AM departure

**Cost** is \$10.00 a person plus \$2.00 transportation fee. Lunch will be at the Museum (if the Café is open that day), or at the incomparable VARSITY!

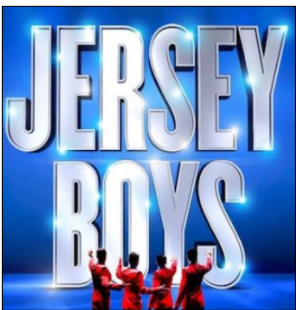
**Saturday, February 8 Legacy Theatre, Jersey Boys**

Jersey Boys takes us behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons: a 40-year friendship that begins in the streets of New Jersey and ends in the heights of stardom. Join our Senior Adults Going Everywhere on February 8 and enjoy phenomenal music, memorable characters, and great storytelling.

**Meet** at church office at 12:45 PM for 1 PM departure

**Cost** \$40.00 a person. Plan to eat at Franks in Palmetto following the show.

**More spots added for this popular show! Reservations and payment are expected by January 25.** Contact the church office.



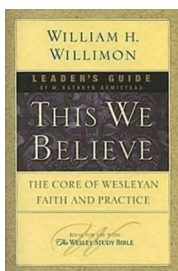
# ADULT STUDIES

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## **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**



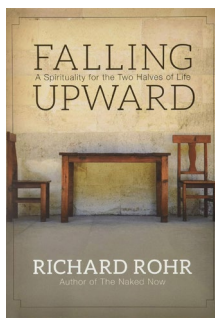
Beginning January 8, 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Led by Jeff Hansen, Room C-210

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, Room C-260

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](mailto: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.

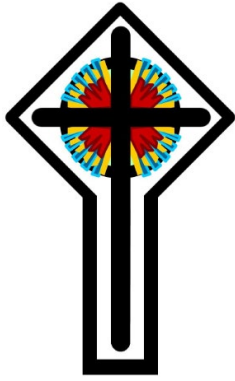
Format: Lecture with some discussion



### **Winter Weather News**

Should wintry weather affect our events or worship schedule, we'll post the information on our website at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com), on Facebook, and send an email.





## December 31, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$1,244,378.72
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$1,233,222.91
Difference	\$11,155.81

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$330.

172 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$42,688.02

### 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](http://FayettevilleFirst.com)

### 2024 Christmas Marketplace distributes proceeds from \$13,200+ raised

Representatives from charities received checks in December from the 2024 Christmas Marketplace Fundraiser with gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for making it a great event!

**Back row, left to right:** Ashley Williams, Promise Place, Executive Director; Mike Vernon, Ret. US Army SGT, Calvin Center Horses & Warriors; Heather Laba, Pregnancy Resource Center, Executive Director; Lea Agnew, FFUMC Benevolence Team; Rev. Kaylen Short, FFUMC Senior Pastor

### Front Row, Left to Right:

Lindy Scarff, FFUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry; Jo Springer, FFUMC Jail Ministry; Sarah Walton, The I-58 Mission, Home Goods Coordinator; Becky Davenport, Bloom Our Youth, Executive Director; Lauren Davis, Christmas Marketplace Chair



# inspired ...

## United Women in Faith ... All year long

You hear so much about United Women in Faith in our church throughout the year. This faith-based missional group has a focus on women, children and youth, as they work to act for justice and transform communities. You can read about their Christmas Marketplace donations to charities as well as the new South West District Inaugural Meeting earlier in this newsletter.

**A New Year of UWF Mission Circle Groups:** Our church has five amazing Mission Circle Groups who are beginning a new year this month. These groups meet once a month for fellowship, inspiring and informative presentations about missions in our community to around the world, as well as devotionals and how we can be involved in missions from praying for those serving to actual serving ourselves in our community to going on mission trips. These Mission Circle Groups are a great way for you to get to know other women in our church. Here are the Circle Groups and when they meet:

Bethany — Meets: Third Tuesday each month at 5:30 PM

Ethel Taylor — Meets: First Tuesday each month at 2 PM

Friendship — Meets: Second Monday each month at 9:30 AM

Marie Lamb — Meets: First Thursday each month at 4 PM

Mary Martha Hope — Meets: Fourth Thursday each month at 10 AM

For more information contact Donna Blackburn.



The 2025 leaders of FFUMC's United Women in Faith were installed recently with blessings from Kathie Hansen, UWF's South West District President.