



January 24, 2025

## The Weekender

### All the Times Before

Rev. Kaylen Short

Alli and I have marveled at Abby's development recently. In particular, as new parents we are experiencing so many things for the first time as Abby experiences them for the first time. For example, for weeks Abby has been turning from her back to her side. She was clearly intending to flip over to her front but every time she would try it she would get caught on her shoulder and didn't have the momentum to get onto her front. As she kept trying, we were right there cheering her on. She was so close. Then all of a sudden, she got it. Neither of us actually saw it the first time she did it, as my mom was here watching her at the time, but for the rest of the day Abby basically turned over on command. She finally did it! It was like a switch had flipped.



Except maybe it wasn't. A switch flipping implies that it was just an all of a sudden thing, but really it wasn't. It was each and every one of those attempts, each and everyone of those tries, that built to the eventual success. If she hadn't been building the body and core control required on all of those "failed" attempts, she never would have finally succeeded.

I think there's a lesson for all of us in this. Too often, we judge ourselves and others strictly by the perceived end result. If we haven't reached that desired end result yet we grow frustrated. We try to grow, we try to improve, we try to be more but sometimes we just get stuck. Often we get stuck over and over again. But what if that way you're stuck right now is just helping you build up the strength to finally do what you need to do soon?



**3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: JANUARY 26, 2025**  
**8:45 AM (\*Chapel) 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)**

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

Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21

"Calling His Shot"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

\* Sunday's 8:45 AM service should be back in our historic chapel this week.



**Legacy  
Giving**

## Legacy Grant applications due February 1

Did you know Fayetteville First has a Legacy Endowment Fund? Contributions to this fund are in trust accounts held by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. Twice each year, the FFUMC Legacy Committee considers grant requests for use of some of the growth of these funds. Requests can be made by church members and groups to address unbudgeted opportunities for service and programs. [Grant requests for this next six-month cycle can be made through February 1.](#) Want to know more about the process? Contact Legacy Committee Chair Lauren Davis.



## 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).



## Titus II welcomes State Judge Jason Thompson February 4

Hear from our very own Judge Jason Thompson at our next Titus II luncheon and program at noon on Tuesday, February 4, Reserve your place with Martha Turner by Thursday before the program.

Meal provided by a local restaurant: \$8 per person



## 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. **Contributions made by January 27** will be delivered by Maggie Clarke during her trip in February. Questions? Contact Maggie Clarke.

# 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: **PLAYOFF IS THIS SUNDAY!**

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 divisions.

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!**



## 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.



## New! February 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:** Canned Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Boxed Mac and Cheese, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce, Toilet Paper, Cookies

**Most Clothes Closet:** Women's Underwear and socks; Men's Briefs all sizes



## Wednesday Night Supper January 29

Let's eat together! Time: **5 PM** Fellowship Hall

Sign up this week by 4 PM on Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com), or fill out a pew card.

### Youth Mission Fundraiser Night:

There is no regular supper charge; however, donations are greatly appreciated. All proceeds will help fund the summer 2025 mission project with Appalachian Service Project.

**January 29 Menu: Potato Bake Youth Mission Fundraiser  
Baked Potato and all the fixings! Salad, Dessert**



## Wellspring Group 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 group 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.



## Save the Date: VBS 2025 is June 2-6

As your plans for summer fun develop, be sure to save the date for this year's VBS: **Road Trip! On the Go with God**. Save the dates June 2-6 to join the adventure with Navigator and Scout (the pup) on the open road, finding strength in God's presence. Volunteers and campers: hold that spot in your calendar!



United  
Women  
in Faith

## South West 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

**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.



### Potato Bake

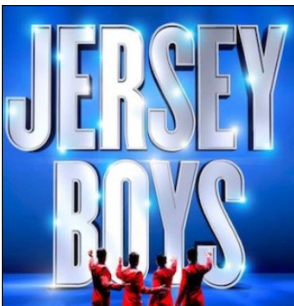
### Youth Mission

### Fundraiser

January 29

### How to help our youth? Come to the Potato Bake

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) or completing a pew card by Monday, January 27, at 4 PM.



### SAGE Trip for February: 10 Spots left

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.



### Shawl Ministry

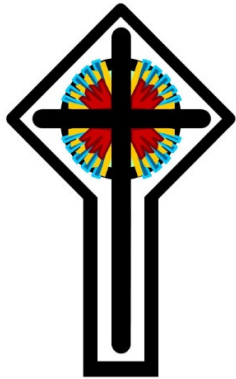
Thank you for the kindness, prayers, and care given to me this past holiday season. The shawl provided warmth for my legs during this cold spell. It was very much appreciated. — Martha Hale



### 2024 Year-End Giving Statements Sent

2024 year-end giving statements were sent via email on January 21, 2025. You may also access your statement on Realm. If you do not have an email address, your statement was mailed on January 23.

We are here to help you. If you have any questions regarding your 2024 statement, please call Jennifer Fendley in the church office at 770-461-4313.



## January 21, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2024

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$79,978.04
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$36,165.02
Difference	\$38,813.02

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$2,144.00.

12 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$3,896.19

### 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

# inspired ...

## Guidelines for a life well lived

We are inspired and challenged to faithfully live our rules for life, the guidelines that shape our choices and actions. One beautiful expression was shared at the [funeral service for James Watkins](#) (1920-2025) this week as we heard his guiding principles:

## *Love God ... Love everybody*

What are some of the ways we live that out faithfully here at Fayetteville First UMC? Perhaps it is in giving to the operating budget of the church which in turn provides space and support for our worship services and studies as well as ministries like Adults in Action, Alcoholics Anonymous, Fayetteville First Preschool, Scouting, Narcotics Anonymous, Vacation Bible School, and more. Maybe it's in participation with the various outreach opportunities brought to us by the United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men to help foster children, put on a soup drive, share medical equipment, distribute funds raised from the Christmas Marketplace, and so much more. The beautiful work of the Shawl Ministry? Encouragement from the Flower Ministry? The Jail Ministry? Benevolence? Blood drives? Fayette Samaritans? Cards, meals, prayers, and helping hands reach out in love to others through our connections and intentional service in our community and literally around the world. Perhaps we can carry on the work of departed saints as we spur each other on toward love and good works as the hands and feet of Christ today and every day.



*James Watkins at his 105th birthday celebration in December with friend Mildred Fitzgerald (107).*

