



February 14, 2025

The Weekender

A Soup-rising Ending

Rev. Kaylen Short

Welp, I'm 0-2 in FFUMC Souper Bowls and our team lost by one can. Our youth swept in and took the competition when we didn't even know they were playing. By. One. Can. Yet even while I'm wondering where I went wrong, I can honestly say I don't think I've ever been happier to lose at anything. Truly, no matter what team we were on, we are all winners.

I can say that because of all the good that came out of the 2025 FFUMC Souper Bowl. The first and most obvious good being all the food we collected. 2,381 cans to be exact. That's 2,381 times that someone who might otherwise be hungry will be fed because of Fayetteville First. If you ever want to judge the effectiveness of any church, judge it based on the impact they have on the community around them, and in our case those soup cans represent 2,381 impacts.

The second good is the time of fellowship that will emerge from this year's competition. We again met our goal and surpassed last year's cans by 282! That means on March 19th our staff will prepare our Wednesday Night Supper and I will pay the bill. If last year is any indication, that supper should be a well-attended and festive evening.

Additionally, I need to say that a very important good here is definitely our youth group's surprise victory. Anything that engages teenagers in service and mission is a very good thing and the Souper Bowl upset certainly did that. I have heard since Sunday that not only did youth and youth families contribute, but alumni from the program, friends, and many others did too! What an example they are for all of us! What if each of us got so excited about one of our FFUMC service projects this year that friends, neighbors, and distant relatives wanted to get in on it too?

So yes, I'll dwell in the losers lament of "there's always next year" for a bit, but I'll do so knowing that collective thrill of victory far outweighs my individual agony of defeat.



Super Soup Shopping Helper



6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: FEBRUARY 16, 2025
8:45 AM (Chapel) & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Psalm 1; Luke 4:21-30

"My Little Box"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS



Meet Bishop Robin Dease on February 23

Bishop Robin Dease is coming to Fayetteville First on February 23, and you are invited to meet her in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM. Bishop Dease was elected bishop in 2022 and began her first assignment as bishop to the North Georgia Episcopal Area on January 1, 2023. On September 1, 2024, she began her next assignment as bishop of the new Georgia Episcopal Area. After our greeting time, Bishop Dease will be with us for the 11:00 AM worship service and will conduct the baptism of Rev. Kaylen and Alli Short's daughter, Abigail.



Priority Registration open for Preschool

Priority registration is open for the '25-'26 school year at Fayetteville First Preschool. Church members and current preschool families have a couple weeks of priority to save your spot before registration opens to the public. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out via email (fayettevillefirstpreschool@gmail.com). You can [register for next school year online at this link](#) or request paper copies, as needed.



GriefShare sessions begin Monday, February 17

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.



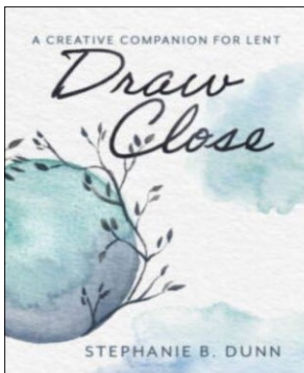
Great Day of Service: Save the Date - March 29

The Great Day of Service is returning this year as we reach out to serve our community on Saturday, March 29. We'll enjoy an early breakfast and communion together before heading out to sites to work from 9 AM to Noon. Sign ups and details will be shared soon ... but for now be sure to **save the date: March 29!**



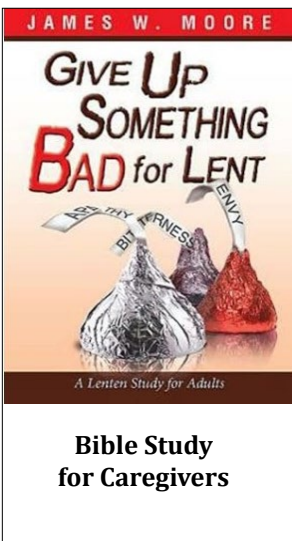
High School Seniors: Apply for Ed Travis Scholarship by March 31

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to a graduating senior at FFUMC entering an accredited college, university or technical school for the upcoming school year. Print off the [Ed Travis Scholarship Instructions](#) and [Ed Travis Scholarship Application](#) here or request a copy from the church office. **Completed applications are due March 31 in the church office.**



Draw Close during Lent

The season of Lent offers an invitation to go deeper with practices to draw us closer to the Divine ... literally! Join Joan Aycock in a journey through the season with Stephanie Dunn in a creative journaling practice. "Draw Close" offers a prompt each day from a scripture, word, or prayer and some ideas to explore what arises through reflective journaling, doodling, painting, drawing ... whatever outlet speaks your name each day. [Contact Joan for questions and/or a brief introductory session](#) on Sunday, March 2, at 9:30 AM in Room C-201 (Prayer Room). Intermittent check-in sessions will be determined by the group.



Lenten Bible Study for Caregivers

You are invited to participate in a Bible Study for Caregivers exploring *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore.

Whether or not you have ever observed the spiritual practice of Lent, this study is less about giving up certain physical things for 40 days than it is about freeing our hearts and minds and focusing more on the Lord every day of our lives. Join Jami Maguire, Director of Special Needs Ministry at FFUMC, for this enlightening and spiritually enriching study. Please RSVP to [Jami Maguire](#) to ensure a book is available for you and [register here to receive complete information about the class](#).

Fridays, February 28 — April 4, 9:15 - 11:00 AM, Room C270

Childcare provided on March 14

Come when you can. Come as you are. All are welcome!



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

Clothes Closet Needs: Women's socks; Men's Briefs all sizes

Urgent Need: Women's underwear



Winter Break: No Wednesday Night Programs

These Wednesday Night Programs will not meet during Winter Break on February 19:

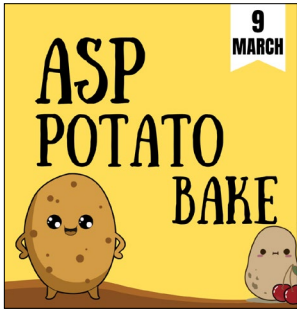
Wednesday Night Supper

Children's Choir Programs

Youth Ministry

Adult Parenting Group

We'll see you again on February 26!



Supports summer youth mission

Potato Bake - A Youth Mission Fundraiser

Sunday, March 9, 12:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a special Sunday lunch hosted by our youth. March 9 at 12:00 PM (immediately after the 11 am worship service) is our Appalachia Service Project Potato Bake Fundraiser. The youth will provide the potatoes, chili, and all the fixings to go along with salad and dessert. We'll also share stories and pictures from last year's Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trip and answer any questions you may have about the ASP program and mission work. Donations are greatly appreciated. All proceeds will directly fund the mission trip costs. RSVP's are not required, but appreciated. [You can let us know you plan to be there by signing up here.](#)



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!



Love in Action: Washing machine needed

We reach out throughout the year to those in the Summer Lunch Program who need assistance. Right now, someone needs a washing machine. If you can help, please contact Cindy Hall.



Titus II features music March 4

Hear your favorites at the next Titus II when Danny Beck, Bill Webb and friends bring their musical talents on Tuesday, March 4. Sign up with Martha Turner or contact the church office to reserve your meal by Thursday, February 27.

Note new location: Meet in the Fellowship Hall

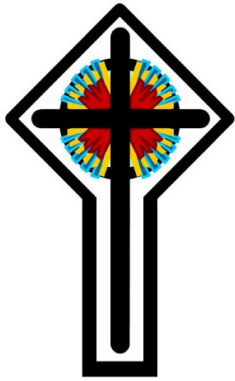
\$8 per person



Flower Ministry

What a surprise! I so appreciated the gorgeous flowers I received this week and your kind words. My heart is so full. Thank you.

— Karin Shah



February 11, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$134,330.89
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$101,957.73
Difference	\$34,438.74

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$570.00

28 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$6,949.18

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



**The church office is closed Monday, February 17,
for the President's Day holiday.**

inspired ...

Souper Bowl IV: Surprise Champion

Souper Bowl IV ended with a surprise upset this past Sunday -- the winner was not even a named contestant. FFUMC Youth pulled out a sneaky play in literally the final few seconds of competition to win -- by a single can. Here's the tally:

Team Allyson & Charles (Last names A-K): 712 cans

Team Kaylen & Drew (Last names L-Z): 824 cans

Surprise Team Youth: 825 cans

Total: 2,361 cans — surpassing last year's total by 282 cans!

What does that mean? Though Rev. Kaylen lost the overall competition his second year in a row, he declares us ALL winners. The soup cans along with crackers and peanut butter will be distributed throughout the community to address food insecurity with our benevolence clients and at ministries such as Fayette Samaritans, Rushton's Hope in Griffin, Promise Place, and I-58 in Senoia. And because we surpassed last year's total, the church staff will prepare and serve a special FREE Wednesday Night Supper on March 19 to celebrate. Watch for details and sign up before the event.



2,361 Cans - Souper Super!

The FFUMC youth staged a surprise entry to take over the competition in the final minutes, with the express goal to win -- and it was by one can! Youth Jack Travis collected the prized Souper Bowl IV Championship Trophy and Bling Ring on behalf of the youth, and Rev. Kaylen Short held a consecration prayer for the event organizers and delivery team. All are winners here!