



February 28, 2025

## The Weekender

### With Deep Gratitude

Rev. Kaylen Short

Whenever I tell people timelines for the completion of tasks, I always try to build in “expectation time.” I call it “expectation time” because I very often tell people that something will take longer than I believe it should actually take. If I think it will take an hour to get something back to someone I usually say two. If I think it will take two weeks to get traction on something I’ll usually say four. The reason for this ministry secret is simple: it’s easier to surpass lower expectations. Too often, it’s impossible to surpass sky high expectations.

Yet, you all managed to do precisely that this past Sunday. Alli and I had pretty high expectations and you surpassed even our wildest expectations for what Abby’s baptism Sunday would be. We wanted it to be a celebration that everyone could feel, but also wanted it to be clear that it wasn’t a celebration of the Shorts or the bishop. It was to be a celebration of God.

And boy was it! So many of you showed up to make it a true celebration of God’s goodness. You showed up early, met our bishop, and showed the best of what makes Fayetteville First special. During the service, you delighted, you applauded, and you laughed along with us. Some of y’all even cried along with us! Together we delighted in the sheer joy of the goodness of God and the strength of community.

My words cannot express the depths of my appreciation, and so I simply offer a thank you to every one of you. As I consider the many celebratory Sundays we have ahead of us, I find it hard to expect many to beat this past one. Fortunately, you all have already proven you can far surpass what I expect.



**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY: MARCH 2, 2025**

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

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

2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2

"Unveiled"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: MARCH 5  
6 PM SANCTUARY**



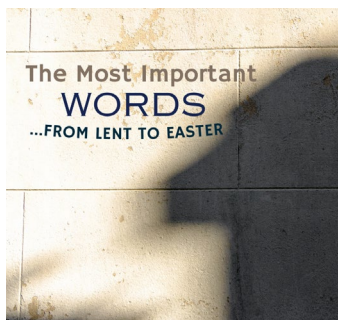
**Saturday  
March 29  
Great Day  
of Service!**

## Great Day of Service: Pick your project!

It's time to pick your service project for the Great Day of Service on Saturday, March 29. We'll enjoy an early breakfast and communion together before heading out to sites to work from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Volunteers are provided childcare for children six months to 4 years of age during the event. Look for an insert in Sunday's bulletin to sign up manually or follow the QR code printed on the card or sign up now for your favorite project!

These are **some** of the places we'll be serving. [See a complete list with project descriptions](#) ... then [click here to choose where you'll get out and do good!](#)

Joseph Sams School	Southwest Christian Care
Pregnancy Resource Center	Card Ministry
Clothes Less Traveled	Several residence projects
Midwest Food Bank	More!



## The Most Important Words: From Lent to Easter Guide

We explore The Most Important Words this season - simple yet powerful phrases that shape our faith, deepen our relationships, and breathe life into our souls. Our special events, study offerings, and sermon series will reflect on words that open hearts and transform lives. Come be a part of this meaningful journey - because the right words just might change everything.

[See the guide for opportunities from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.](#)



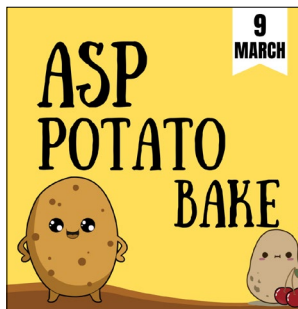
## Lenten Lunches begin next week on Ash Wednesday

During the Season of Lent, the United Women in Faith hosts Lenten Lunches from Noon to 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The first Lenten Lunch is on Ash Wednesday with Rev. Kaylen Short as the speaker. Lunches on subsequent weeks are on Thursdays. Cost: \$5. Each week a different speaker will share a chapter from the Lenten Book Study "Seven Words" by Susan Robb. If you work, this schedule of noon to 1 PM will fit your lunch break. You're invited to join in this wonderful time of fellowship as well as inspiration. No reservation needed.



## Meet our new office manager, Jennifer Hickman

It's time to meet Jennifer Hickman, our new Office Manager. Jennifer comes to us with nearly 25 years of experience in church office administration, most of it within the United Methodist Church so she is seasoned in its processes and inner workings. Why is she excited about being here at Fayetteville First? "I love being part of something that has a great mission. I look forward to supporting all the programs, ministries, and people and serving however I can," she replies. Jennifer lives in Sharpsburg with her husband, Walter, attends Coke's Chapel UMC, and enjoys travel, concerts, craft projects, and her granddaughter. You can meet Jennifer in worship at both services on March 16 or drop by the church office to say hello any time.



**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 11:00 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.](#)



**Watch for a special meal on March 19!**

## Wednesday Night Supper March 5

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.

### March 5: Italian Oven

Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread Sticks, Cake

### Coming March 19: Souper Bowl Celebration Meal

This special meal will be FREE, but reservations are needed for planning. Sign up like normal, but do it early if you can.



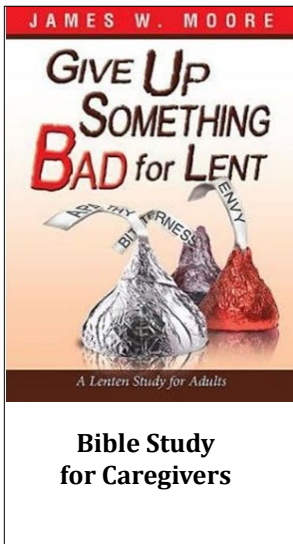
**March 25 SAGE TRIP**

## SAGE to visit "Discovering the World of Jesus"

- on March 25 we will visit the "Discovering the World of Jesus" exhibition at Pullman Yards in Atlanta. More than 350 contemporary artifacts from the time of Jesus are featured as part of an inspiring New Testament presentation that combines history, science and faith. Currently 9 spaces are available on the bus.

Tickets are \$25 each, due at sign-up. Transportation is \$2, and each participant will cover his or her lunch. We will gather at the church office at 11:45 and leave at noon. First stop is the Varsity, then on to the exhibition for an hour-long tour that starts at 2 p.m. We should be back at the church by 4 p.m.

Visit, call, or email the church office to make reservations: 770-461-4313, [admin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:admin@fayettevillefirst.com).



## Lenten Bible Study for Caregivers

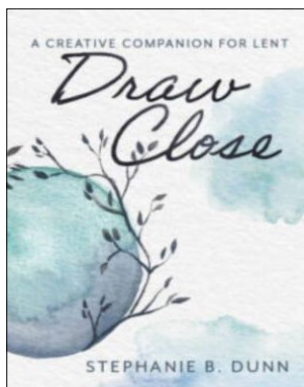
You are invited to participate in a Bible Study for Caregivers exploring *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore.

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!



## "Draw Close" during Lent: More Info Sessions offered

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 creative spiritual practices. "Draw Close" offers a prompt each day from a scripture, word, or prayer and some ideas to explore what arises through reflective journaling, lectio divina, art, poetry ... 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) or Wednesday, March 5, after Lenten Lunch or after the Ash Wednesday service. Intermittent check-in sessions will be determined by the participants.

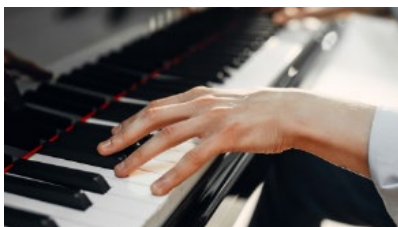


## Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans - New March List

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 Chicken, Canned Pasta (Beefaroni, Ravioli), Boxed Mac and Cheese, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Mix, Instant Grits (Individual Packets), Toilet Paper, Jelly, Feminine Products

**Clothes Closet Needs:** Men's boxer shorts and boys underwear all sizes



## Water the pianos? Well, yes!

Our pianos (three of them) need one or two volunteers to water them about every two to three weeks. If you are interested in helping to take care of these pianos, please contact [Nick Bowden](#).



## Priority Registration open for Preschool: Opens to all March 3

Priority registration is open for the '25-'26 school year at Fayetteville First Preschool. Church members and current preschool families have only a few more days 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](mailto:fayettevillefirstpreschool@gmail.com)). You can [register for next school year online at this link](#) or request paper copies, as needed.



## 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.**



## 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.

**Note new location: Meet in the Fellowship Hall**

\$8 per person



## Showing we care through meals

FFUMC already shows care in so many ways in our ministries through flowers, shawls, prayers, cards, communion visits, and more. Now we are seeking to develop some consistency in providing occasional meals (homemade or otherwise) for those in our church family who might need them. Are you willing to participate in a coordinated team effort? [Contact Joan Aycock](#), to let us know you are willing to share a meal.



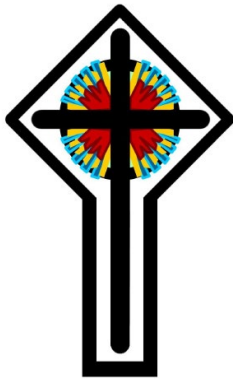
## First Volunteer Meeting: Sunday, March 2

We're getting ready for this year's VBS: **Road Trip! On the Go with God**. On June 2-6 we will adventure with Navigator and Scout (the pup) on the open road, finding strength in God's presence. Registration for campers will begin Tuesday, March 4. Our first meeting for volunteer leaders is Sunday, March 2, at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. [We'll have some lunch for you if you let us know you're coming. Sign up here.](#) Contact [Rev. Drew West](#) for more



## Flower Ministry

What a joy to open my door and find Kathy Hansen with a beautiful floral arrangement. We are so very blessed to have a talented, dedicated group. You made me feel special. — Nadine Anderson



## February 25, 2024 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$161,866.86
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$160,035.11
Difference	\$1,831.75

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,031.00

35 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$8,893.30

### 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)

# inspired ...

## Blessings from the bishop

Last Sunday brought a special opportunity for us to meet the Bishop of the Georgia Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Robin Dease. As she shared her story of ministry and her work with the church, she was filled with contagious joy and hope for all God is doing in our world.

So what were some of the questions and her responses?

**How can we make a difference?** "We want to know that other people care. Just getting to know the other may be the difference. Know how important it is to say, 'Hello.' That's where to start."

**What are the most important things our small groups and classes can do?** "Do not be afraid to delve into hard passages of scripture. Don't avoid difficult passages. Classes will grow when people are challenged. We have to be open and willing to be stretched."

**Can you give us guidance on how to pray?** "Prayer is a personal thing. Corporate prayers are important too. So is being persistent.... Prayer is the beginning of our work."

**How do we find the truth?** "Often we can only find the truth by going to the source. We must hear others' stories. What does it mean to have to leave their country? What truly is the right thing to do? It starts to go to the very communities where lies are being told."

**Where are your challenges and what helps you?** Bishop Dease says the work can be lonely, so her new puppy, Caleb, a miniature schnauzer, is great company. Also whiskey and a cigar from time to time!

**How do we seek God in the chaos:** "Surround yourself with others who want to see a better world and community. You'll need them for support. Be around those who edify, and those who will tell you if you are wrong."

**How can Fayetteville First support you:** "Pray for my strength in the days ahead. This is a brutal schedule. Pray for my strength and endurance as we work to unify north and south Georgia."

We will pray!

