



February 7, 2025

The Weekender

17%

Rev. Kaylen Short

A recent Time Magazine article unveiled the startling statistic that 17% of Americans say they have zero friends. That's not talking about zero friends they live near, or see in-person regularly: it's just simply that 17% of Americans have no friends regardless of geographic distance or frequency of visits. That would mean that for every twelve people reading this article at least two have no friends.



Frankly, that statistic makes my heart hurt. There have been so many times in my life where a friend or multiple friends made the difference between making a terrible or a wise decision. There have been so many instances where a friend inspired me to have the courage to try again or helped me see the world in a new way. Friends challenge, inspire, edify, and support us, and yet so many people are living without them.

The article goes on to attribute this high percentage to the lack of "third-places" post-pandemic. "Third-places" are a place that people spend their time the third most often, with the assumption that home and work/school would be places one and two. These third places can be restaurants, community centers, gyms, coffee shops, etc. Fortunately, Fayetteville First probably is that place for many of you, and can be that place for so many more.

So while trying to not sound too corny I want to issue a very simple challenge: try to start a new friendship. Sure, maybe you're a part of the 83% that has a friend or another % that has several friends. Yet, statistically not everyone in your orbit can be. So, yeah, invite someone new in the pew near you to lunch after church or coffee another time or plan something with that person that you exchange pleasantries with on Sundays but you don't really know. Practice it here at FFUMC and then perfect it by living it out in the world because there's a whole lot of people who desperately need someone who genuinely and authentically cares. 17% of people to be exact.

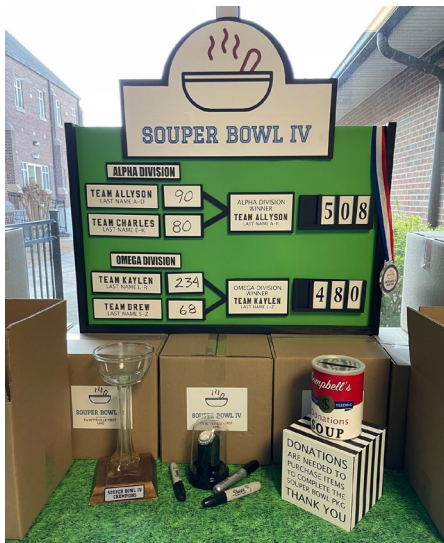


5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: FEBRUARY 9, 2025
8:45 AM (Chapel) & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

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

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11
"Called While Inadequate"
The Rev. Charles Robinson

CURRENT NEWS



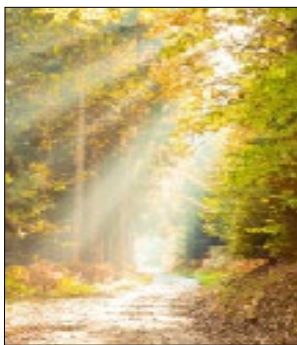
Souper Bowl IV: Final Showdown is Sunday, February 9

Our 2025 Souper Bowl IV champion will be named this Sunday, February 9, at the 11 AM service. Will Alpha Division with Rev. Lawrence and Rev. Robinson (letters A-K) win bragging rights and bling or will the Omega Division with Rev. Short and Rev. West (letters L-Z) prevail? A surprise **UPSET** is even rumored to be afoot. Get your soup to the Welcome Center display before the final count is taken at 10 AM on February 9 and the winner is announced at the 11 AM service. A free Wednesday Night Supper is promised if we surpass last year's total, so we need to top 2,080 cans! [Get details and instructions here.](#)



Priority Registration begins Monday for Preschool

Priority registration opens on Monday, February 10, 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.



G3: Good Grief Gals meets February 13 at 5:30 PM

Encouragement along the path is available for you. Women moving through life after the death of their spouses meet each month to support and uplift each other. If you are also walking through this season of life and would like to be a part of this support network, please plan to join us each month on the **SECOND THURSDAY**. Our next gathering will be held on **Thursday, February 13, at 5:30 PM at Partners Pizza in Fayetteville**. If you can, **please bring cans of soup to donate**. Questions? Contact Janet Baileys or the church office.



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!**



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.



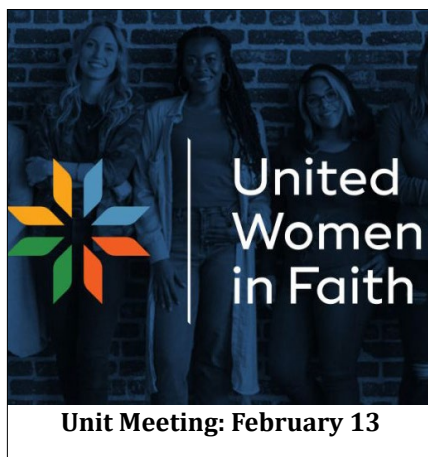
February List: Pantry needs from Fayette Samaritans

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



Next UWF Unit Meeting on February 13

You are invited to the next UWF Unit Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, February 13, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish for the luncheon with the theme *What Is A Deaconess?*. Our speaker will be Becky Garr, a UWF Deaconess, who serves as the Minister of Missions and Senior Adults at First United Methodist Church in Pine Mountain. She will be sharing her journey of her calling to become a Deaconess as well as describing the various opportunities of ministry of a Deaconess. Table decor is provided by Ethel Taylor Circle and door prizes are by Mary Martha Hope Circle. If you need a nursery or have any questions, please contact Deb Cole.



Wednesday Night Supper February 12

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, or fill out a pew card.

February 12: Tim's Country Kitchen

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Banana Pudding



SAGE Trip to CDC on hold

Unfortunately the SAGE trip planned for March 27 to the CDC needs to be rescheduled for some future time. A March trip for the SAGE group on a date other than March 27 will be announced soon ... so watch for it!



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



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.

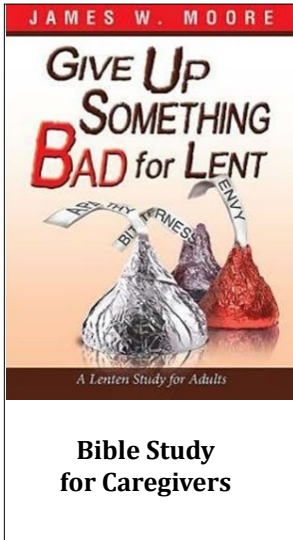


Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you for the beautiful blanket throw. I am glad to say that I'm doing better, but I still have a long way to go. God bless each of you wonderful ladies. — Shirley Irvin & Clyde

Flower Ministry

Thank you for the joy you bring to the rest of us. When Kaydee and Garrard dropped by bringing a beautiful bouquet it was like a giant hug from our church family! So grateful to each of you who serve in such a meaningful way. — Jeffrey Ray



Lenten Bible Study for Caregivers

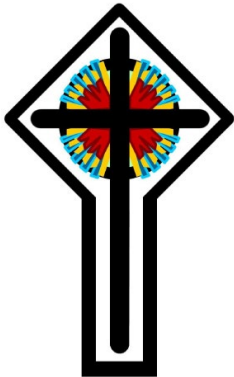
You are invited to participate in a Bible Study for Caregivers exploring *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore.

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 4, 2024 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$120,477.17
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$100,815.04
Difference	\$19,662.13

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$736.00.

17 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$5,134.51

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

inspired ...

Potato Bake: A successful ASP Fundraiser

As the youth prepare to serve with the Appalachian Service Project in June, they are working on their budget needs, their building skills, their spiritual growth, and their theological understanding of what it means to be in Christian service to others. Thank you for your support as they grow. The youth are so thankful to be a part of this church! In our first 2025 fundraising event, this congregation donated more than \$1,300!



The students would like to offer a special note of gratitude to those who helped them make the Potato Bake such a success:

Lauren Davis advised, guided and directed the entire process.

Randy Riddell procured additional supplies.

David Blankenship gave hands-on support in each step of the process.

Carolyn McKinley and Lea Agnew helped us navigate the kitchen more efficiently.

The students are thankful for their energetic and dedicated youth leaders: Jordan Hart, Caroline Creel, Tami Kemberling, Jason Lindsey, Chase Leonard, and Austin Baur.

And of course, they couldn't do any of this without the support of their families who helped buy the ingredients, organize their calendars, serve as taxi drivers and often function as personal assistants to each of these amazing students.

We look forward to offering another chance for you to participate. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 9, and enjoy Potato Bake II!

