



March 14, 2025

## The Weekender

### You Are Never Late Rev. Drew West

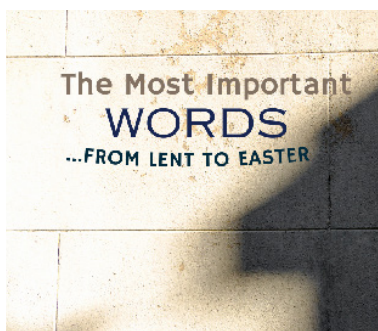
I tend to be a little late to the party of life—not in the literal sense (though sometimes that too), but in the way I step into life's big moments. I take my time, whether it's discovering a passion, embracing a calling, or even catching onto the latest trend. While others may dive in headfirst, I wade in making sure the timing feels right. I do this hoping that when I do, I'm all in—fully present, fully engaged, and ready to make the most of wherever I've landed. But more often, I miss the opportunity. Many of the seasons in the Christian year, such as Lent, come and about halfway through, I'm ready, but at other times, I've missed the boat completely.



If you're like me, you may be considering what to do for Lent. How might this time in preparation for Easter make you come alive in a way that has not been true over the last few years? How can you grow and where should you plant yourself? What questions should guide your quest? In asking these questions, we need to recognize that discipleship, this life-long journey, is about an attitude of the heart and less about being on time.

We can find assurance in two things: Jesus is on the move, and you and I are invited to follow. We know this is true because of the Gospel. I think the United Methodist Book of Discipline says it best, "The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world." (§ 202). As members of the church, when we truly follow Jesus, we find ourselves in that same posture. We are called to exist in the world, no matter how uncomfortable its current state is, and for it, because through Christ and the Church, the world is being restored, and the Kingdom of God grows with each step of trust we take.

So, whether we arrive at Lent's invitation on time or a little late, the good news is that Jesus is always ahead of us, calling us forward. The journey of faith isn't about perfect timing—it's about showing up, however and whenever we can, and trusting that God meets us there. As we step into this season, may we embrace the grace that allows us to begin again, knowing that every moment—whether early, late, or right on time—is an opportunity to follow Jesus more fully. Jesus says to you and me every day, "Come, follow me."



**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 16, 2025**  
**8:45 AM (Chapel) & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)**

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

Psalm 27; Luke 18:1-5

"The Most Important Words: I'll Try Again"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

[Lenten Guide from now to Easter](#)

# CURRENT NEWS



## Give Blood This Sunday, March 16

8 AM to 1 PM, Fayetteville First UMC gym

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at FFUMC is Sunday, March 16, in the gym from 8 AM to 1 PM. [Signing up is easy - just click here!](#) This takes you directly to the American Red Cross site. **Please sign up to donate in advance if at all possible.** Email [ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:ffumcblooddrive@gmail.com) for questions or assistance or to volunteer to assist at this drive.

**Bonus for March Donors:** All successful donations will include free A1C testing for diabetes and prediabetes!

*Pictured: American Red Cross Representative with faithful volunteers Randy Ridell and Larry Brannon*



## 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 the display at worship entrances or the Welcome Center to sign up manually or follow the QR code on the card or sign up for your favorite project!

Saturday

March 29

Great Day

of Service!

These are **some** of the places we'll be serving. [Click here to choose where you'll get out and do good!](#)

Joseph Sams School

Pregnancy Resource Center

Clothes Less Traveled

Midwest Food Bank

Southwest Christian Care

Card Ministry

Several residence projects

More!

## Schedule your photo for NEW church directory

A new directory will be printed this summer for our church family. Photos will be taken May 8 - 11 (Thursday through Sunday). Sign up for your family portrait today!

Every family who participates in photography/viewing will receive a complimentary 8x10 professional portrait, one printed directory, smart phone app access, and online directory access. All appointments are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so make your appointment today! We need everyone to participate to help make this directory complete. Additional quality family portraits will be offered at competitive prices. They'll make a great gifts, too! Thank you for your participation!

[Please click this link to make an appointment today!](#)

If you would like to set an appointment by phone, please call: 1-877-896-9667 ext. 360. All appointments and changes to a scheduled appointment will be handled through this number. [Click here for detailed instructions.](#)



NEW

2025

Directory



**Lenten Concert  
April 13**

## **Make plans for Lenten Concert April 13**

Sunday | April 13 | 7 PM FFUMC Chancel Choir

Charles Higgs, organ | Guang Wang, cello | Nicholas Bowden, conductor  
*Psalm 121* — Diane Bish      *Song Without Words* — Craig Philips  
*Requiem* — Maurice Duruflé

The 2025 Lenten Concert features the FFUMC Chancel Choir and the wide range of sound offered by our new organ. Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) was a gifted French organist and composer. His *Requiem* (Latin Mass for the Dead) was commissioned by the Vichy government of France in 1940 and completed in 1946 and is built on plainchant melodies with lush, impressionistic harmonies. You'll hear *Song Without Words* by Craig Philips, a contemporary composer and organist in Los Angeles, Dedicated to the memory of his late brother, this piece features solo cello and organ. Diane Bish, still perhaps the most well-known organist in the world through her Joy of Music television series, wrote her setting of *Psalm 121* (*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help...*) in 1982. Her beautiful lines written for chorus are carried with a rhythmic, virtuoso organ part characteristic of her compositions. You're invited to begin Holy Week in the beauty of these musical selections.



**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. 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).



**SOUPER BOWL  
Celebration Meal  
on March 19!**

## **Wednesday Night Supper March 19**

Let's celebrate the Souper Bowl success! As promised if we passed last year's soup donation number, Rev. Kaylan Short is paying for a church-wide supper to celebrate! The church staff will be helping with preparation and serving. Let us know you're coming so we can set a place for you. Sign up 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. There is no charge ... just signup and come!

**March 19:** This special Taco Bar meal will be FREE, but reservations are needed for planning. Sign up like normal, but do it right away!



## Celebrate the Wests! Baby Shower and Potluck Dinner March 26

Join us on Wednesday, March 26, at 5 PM for a church-wide potluck dinner and baby shower to celebrate the baby boy who soon will join Amanda and Drew West's family.

Gift cards are the best way to share good wishes, to avoid duplicating baby items the Wests already have. Think Amazon, Target, Kroger, Publix, Chipotle, Chick-Fil-A, Starbucks - or another favorite place to shop or eat.

Also - please bring a package of baby wipes or diapers for donating to the Pregnancy Resource Center here in Fayetteville.

Call the office to make a reservation for March 26 and **come with your appetite and a side dish.** Meat and dessert will be provided.



## 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 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*



## 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.**



## Messy Church March 15: Earth Day

*"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you. —Isaiah 55:12*

Experience something new: Messy Church! This intergenerational worship experience offers games, crafts, celebration time and a meal all focused on a fun theme to engage everybody. Gather from 11 AM to 1 PM in the FFUMC gym on Saturday, March 15 ... and bring someone along! Want to volunteer? [Contact Rev. Drew West.](#)



### Meals of Love Ministry

## Showing we care through meals

FFUMC already shares care in so many ways: through flowers, shawls, prayers, cards, communion visits, and more. Now, we are seeking develop some consistency in extending that care by providing occasional meals for those in our church family who may need a little extra support.

Whether homemade or store-bought, a prepared meal can be a simple yet powerful way to show love and encouragement. We are putting together a team to help coordinate and provide meals as needs arise, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

If you're willing to participate in this meaningful ministry, [please contact Joan Aycock](#) to let us know. Thank you for helping us continue to care for one another in Christ's love.



## VBS Registration for Campers Now Open

[I want to go to Road Trip! VBS 2025](#)

\$10 per family due upon registration, may pay online

During June 2-6 we will adventure with Navigator and Scout (the pup) on the open road, finding strength in God's presence. Contact [Rev. Drew West](#) for more information or with any questions about registration or volunteering.



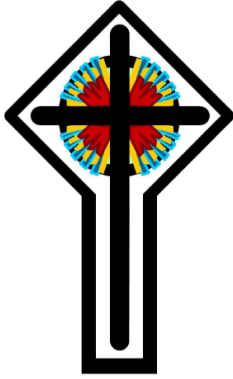
## Campus tours offered March 30 after worship

Want to know your way around the church campus better? Meet Rev. Kaylen Short in the Welcome Center behind the sanctuary following the 11 AM worship service on Sunday, March 30, for a personal tour.



## Flower Ministry

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the beautiful flowers you arranged for me. Your thoughtful gesture truly brightened my day and added such a lovely touch to my office. It means so much to me that you took the time to bring such beauty into my life with such a thoughtful gift. Thank you again for thinking of me! — Jennifer Hickman



## March 10, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$230,082.20
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$212,652.59
Difference	\$17,429.61

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$1,398.00

39 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$9,785.91

### 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 ...

## Supporting our youth and missions

Our youth showed up for their Potato Bake Fundraiser this past Sunday and you did too with overwhelming support. They prepared 80+ potatoes and ALL of them were taken. Thank you!

The youth worked as a team to prepare food, organize serving, and share a bit of their stories.

You got to see them in action and enjoy a hearty meal. Your generous donations will help fund their summer mission trip through the Appalachian Service Project. Partnering with Inman United Methodist Youth, our teens will go to a place of deep need and provide a week of service.

**Your donations at this event alone: \$2,500+**

Thank you!

