



March 21, 2025

The Weekender

Church Zone

Rev. Charles Robinson

There are still a few of them around...road signs that read Church Zone. Just what, exactly, is a Church Zone? Is it an area where Church buildings are located? Is it an area where supernatural happenings take place? Is it anything like the Twilight Zone? Have you ever been in a Church meeting that resembled that remark? Church Zone...I'm thinking that it's more than physical places and spaces.



In our current hymnal there is a hymn that contains these lyrics: "I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the Church together! The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, the Church is a people."

We are the Church, we are in the Zone, when we are gathered to worship, to learn, to fellowship with others. We are the Church, we are in the Zone, when we are scattered across the community and around the world. Gathered and Scattered...A way of thinking about the Church, not a reference to hash-browns at the Waffle House.

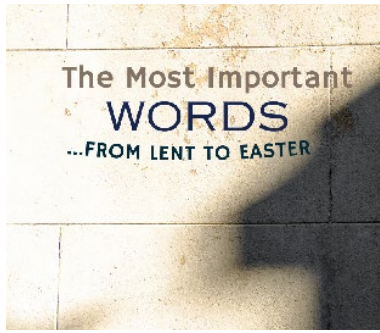
Matthew 25:31-40 gives us a better idea of the vastness of the Church Zone.

- *Church Zone = Wherever the hungry are being fed.
- *Church Zone = Wherever the thirsty are offered water and Living Water.
- *Church Zone = Wherever the stranger is being welcomed.
- *Church Zone = Wherever the naked are being clothed.
- *Church Zone = Wherever the sick are being strengthened and healed.
- *Church Zone = Wherever the imprisoned are being visited.

Wherever there are human hurts and hopes, sorrows and joys, there's a Church Zone. How, when, and where are we using our resources, our gifts and graces, to be in the Zone? John 3:16 is a familiar and powerful reminder that The Zone has no parameters, no boundaries. Surely each of us can find a reason, a place, a way to serve in the Zone.

I wonder if any of the astronauts have ever seen the big sign that our God has hung on the Earth? The sign that reads "Church Zone."

See you at 175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia, on Sunday, if I don't see you elsewhere before then. Either place, we'll be IN THE ZONE!



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 23, 2025

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

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

Isaiah 55:8-13; Romans 12:3-8

"The Most Important Words: I Don't Know"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

[Lenten Guide from now to Easter](#)

CURRENT NEWS



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.

If you're not able to attend the baby shower, please feel free to drop off your gift card and/or baby wipes at the church office.

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.



Great Day of Service: Pick your project through Sunday 3-23

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 through Sunday, March 23!**

These are **some** of the places we'll be serving. [Click here to choose where you'll get out and do good!](#) NOTE: Projects 5 and 10 are full,

Saturday

March 29

Great Day

of Service!

Joseph Sams School
Pregnancy Resource Center
Several residence projects
More!

Southwest Christian Care
Clothes Less Traveled
Midwest Food Bank



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.



NEW

2025

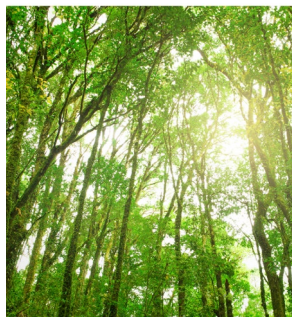
Schedule your photo for NEW church directory

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.](#)



Contemplative Nature
Retreat
May 4

Get away at a Spring 2025 Contemplative Retreat at Calvin Center

Is the approaching spring season beckoning you for renewal? Are you keen on discovering how to incorporate nature into your spiritual practices? Do you consider nature as a gateway to the Divine? If so, join us for a Contemplative Retreat sponsored by FFUMC's Study Class at the Calvin Center on Sunday afternoon, May 4, from 2:30 to 7 PM. Experience the blessings of nature and learn new practices to enrich your life. A light supper will be provided. The session will be guided by Ron Reams, certified in both Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation. There is no charge for this retreat thanks to a Legacy Grant. Registration opens soon. Contact Joan Aycock, jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com, for more information.



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.

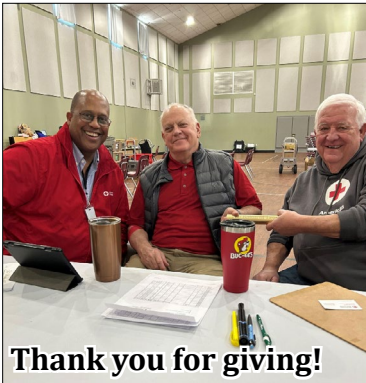
Most Needed List: Canned Chicken, Canned Pasta (Beefaroni, Ravioli), Boxed Mac and Cheese, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Pancake Mix, Instant Grits (Individual Packets), Toilet Paper, Jelly, Feminine Products

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.**



Blood Drive Results

We had a successful day last Sunday with 29 units collected by the American Red Cross. Donors included 62% from FFUMC. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a great day!

- 9 Walk-ins
- 3 Deferrals
- 6 No shows
- 3 Double red donors

Save the date for our next blood drive: July 13



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.



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.



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.



Flower Arranging 101 offered!

Each week our Flower Ministry volunteers share arrangements with our church family, extending both cheer and encouragement and often passing on the flowers used in worship. YOU can be a part of this!

Flower Arranging 101 You can help arrange flowers for delivery. Don't know how? NO WORRIES! Marilyn Harris gives personal flower arranging lessons! Just let her know you want to know more. You'll be confident in no time!

Worship flower donations are another way to enhance the sanctuary experience any Sunday while honoring a loved one or celebrating a special occasion. One or both arrangements may be donated to the Flower Ministry to extend their beauty to someone in our church family. Two arrangements are \$150 and may be scheduled with the church office. **To volunteer** with this ministry, please contact Marilyn Harris.



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. 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.



Prayers as you go

We will be saying goodbye to our Administrative Assistant, Flora Lusk, soon as she leaves us to continue her career in the legal field. She has plans to move to New York City in the next few months, but Thursday, March 27, will be her last day at the front desk. Be sure to keep Flora in your prayers, and stop by next week to personally wish her well in her new adventure. We know her future will be as bright as her smile!

Flora showed off her cooking skills as staff prepared the Taco Bar this week.



Church Family

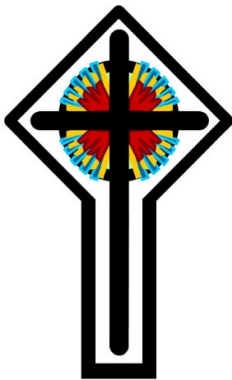
I have been overwhelmed by the response of so many of you following the recent health issues I experienced. Thank you for the cards, the texts, the emails, the visits, and the delicious meals and flowers. I am happy and grateful to be home and working hard to recover although it will take some time. Your prayers have uplifted both Larry and me and given us hope and encouragement. We love you and we are so thankful to be part of such a caring congregation of true believers. I thank God in every remembrance of you.

— Linda Brannon

Shawl Ministry

A sincere thank you for the beautiful shawl blanket you made for me after all the "journey" I experienced in January and February. It is the perfect shade of blue, and honestly, there is rarely a day that has gone by when I haven't reached for it. The fact that it is actually "wearable" is so unique and truly keeps me warm! I appreciate the prayers that each of you put into every stitch, and it is a garment I will enjoy for years to come. Thank you each and every one.

— Linda Brannon



March 17, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$243,153.50
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$227,567.41
Difference	\$15,586.09

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$234.00

41 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$10,405.91

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

inspired ...

Souper Celebration with Tacos!

Together is always better! Celebrating the record-breaking Souper Bowl Championship this year gave an opportunity for Pastor Kaylen to share his culinary skills and gave the staff a chance to work together to pull off a delicious Taco Bar. Preparing, working, ministering, eating, sharing — It's always better when we do it together!

