



March 28, 2025

## The Weekender

### The Same Old Same Old

Rev. Kaylen Short

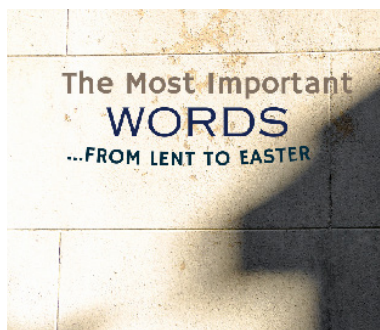
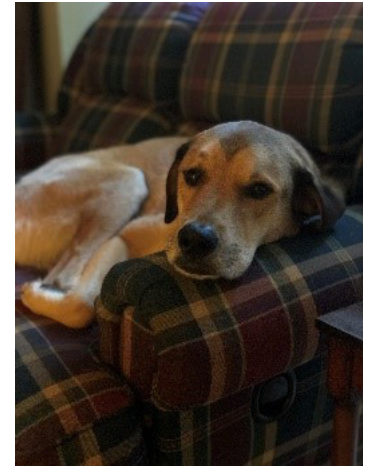
Have you ever been stuck in a rut? Every morning around the same time my same neighbor pulls out of the driveway in his same truck pulling the same trailer. At that moment my dog, Apollo, absolutely loses his mind barking at that neighbor in that truck. This event causes my other dog, Maddie, to start barking too even though she often has no idea what she's barking at. Usually, Abby then gets distressed by all the sudden noise in the house and starts crying herself. Every morning this goes on.

We've all probably heard somewhere that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. This morning occurrence is our little bit of insanity. Every day I find myself growing frustrated and agitated wondering why my Apollo can't just figure out that everything is okay and that it's just the same neighbor as the day before and the day before that. Maybe it's time to try something new.

I think sometimes our faith is a little like this. We get stuck in a rut, and we get frustrated and agitated knowing that we want to have a different experience. Yet, every day we go back to our same routine, at the same time, and then we wonder why we can't break free of our rut. Maybe it's time to try something new.

Maybe to grow in our faith and experience the goodness of God in a new way, we need to adopt a discipleship practice that looks different for a season. Maybe we need to download an audio version of the Bible and listen to it in another person's voice instead of reading it the exact same way we always have. Maybe we need to utilize a more intentionally contemplative prayer practice than our typical one. Maybe we need to fast for a meal a week and give what we would have spent on food to a local food mission.

Routines give us comfort and security, but if we aren't careful our routines can also lead to complacency which in turn becomes frustration and agitation. Instead of completely abandoning your routine to do something new, and instead of just doing the same thing hoping it will produce a different result, why not try something different for a season and see if it works? Maybe I'll try letting Apollo out in the backyard before our neighbor leaves each day.



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 30, 2025**

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

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

Psalm 32; Mark 11:20-25

"The Most Important Words: I Forgive You"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

[Lenten Guide from now to Easter](#)



## Great Day of Service is Saturday! May 29

It's here! Let's join together to do good in our community.

Saturday, May 29

Breakfast: 7:45 AM in gym

Communion: 8:30 AM in Chapel

Projects in the community: 9 AM to 12:30 PM

Didn't sign up? Just show up to be placed on a team. All are welcome!



## Order Easter Flowers: Due April 14

You have the opportunity to enhance our Easter worship space with lilies and hydrangeas (new this year!) while honoring others. Plants are \$15 each. [Click here to complete the entire process online \(form and payment\)](#). Paper order forms will be available in Sunday's bulletin.

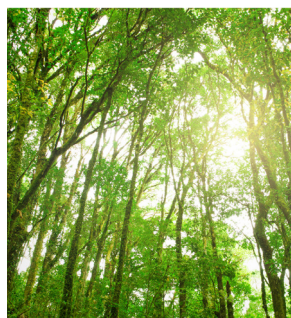
### Why order flowers?

Flowers **enhance our worship** space on Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Plants may be given **in memory or honor** of family or friends and their names will be listed in the Easter Order of Worship. After Easter worship, you are invited to take a lily or hydrangea to plant or to give away.

Proceeds from Easter flower orders **benefit the FFUMC Flower Ministry**. This group creates weekly flower arrangements to encourage others throughout the year.

**Note:** The order has already been placed for 35 lilies and 65 hydrangeas (both white and colored). You do not need to specify a preference. Plants will be available to take on a first-come, first-serve basis after the final worship service on Easter Sunday.



Contemplative Nature  
Retreat  
May 4

## Get away at a Spring 2025 Contemplative Retreat

Is the approaching spring season beckoning you toward 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, who will offer new experiences for this retreat which will include communion led by Rev. Allyson Lawrence. There is no charge thanks to a Legacy Grant. [Get details and register now at this link](#) or contact Joan Aycock, [jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:jaycock@fayettevillefirst.com), for more information.



**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 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.](#)



## Titus II meets Tuesday, April 1

April's Titus II offers a time for fellowship and learning next Tuesday, April 1, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Maggie Clarke will share about the ministry trip she recently led to El Salvador along with a slide presentation.



## New See & Seek Bible Study Offering

Are you seeking a time to explore scripture with others in a small group setting? Join Rev. Allyson Lawrence at 10 AM on Fridays beginning April 11 for See & Seek at Gremlin Growlers. The focus each week will most often be on the scripture lesson for the upcoming Sunday (the same format as our other See & Seek offerings on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday evenings). No advance preparation is needed. [Contact Rev. Lawrence with any questions.](#)



## 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, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Maple Syrup, Dried Beans, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Feminine Products (pads)

**Clothes Closet Needs:** Men's socks, white t-shirts in L, XL, and XXL



**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.



## **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.



## **Ed Travis Scholarship applications due Monday, 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 this Monday, March 31, in the church office.**



## **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.



## Palm Sunday April 13

Processional: 10:45  
Messy Church  
& Egg Hunt: 11 AM and  
following

### Messy Church shows up on Sunday in April

Our April Messy Church switches from its normal Saturday meeting to Sunday in April — April 13. That's the day Messy Church will host our Wonders of Worship kids and join together in Palm Sunday celebration with worship, games, a meal and our traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

**Messy Church Families:** You're invited to arrive a bit early (10:45 AM) and gather in the courtyard for the Children's Palm Processional at the FFUMC 11:00 AM worship service. After waving palms, children will participate in the Children's Moment and then be dismissed to Wonders of Worship.

**"Tidy Church" Families:** You're invited to wave palms and go to Messy Church as that group hosts Wonders of Worship. Parents will join back up with kids in the gym after regular worship for a meal and then our Easter Egg Hunt.

**It's a great way for us ALL to be the church TOGETHER!**



## FFUMC KIDS NEWS



### Remember to register for VBS

[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.



### Palm Sunday: April 13 — Palm Processional and Easter Egg Hunt

Let's celebrate on Palm Sunday, April 13! All children are invited to gather at 10:45 AM in the courtyard to receive fronds and prepare to wave palms in the sanctuary at the beginning of the 11 AM worship service. The Children's Moment will occur immediately following the processional so that children can be dismissed to Wonders of Worship which will be hosted by Messy Church on Palm Sunday. Parents are invited to join the children for lunch in the gym after the worship service and for the 2025 Easter Egg hunt which will follow the meal.

Questions? [Contact Rev. Drew West.](#)



## Schedule heading to Easter

### Lenten Lunch: 12:00 Noon

April 3: Danny Beck

April 10: Rev. Charles Robinson

April 17: Dr. Dave Lee

### Holy Week

#### Palm Sunday Worship: April 13

Worship 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Children's Palm Processional 11:00 AM

Messy Church 11:00 AM

Wonders of Worship hosted by Messy Church

Lunch and Egg Hunt 12:00 PM

#### Chancel Choir Concert 7:00 PM

Durufle' Requiem, Song Without Words, Psalm 121

#### Maundy Thursday: April 17

Service of Word & Table in Sanctuary, 7:00 PM, Rev. Allyson Lawrence

#### Good Friday: April 18

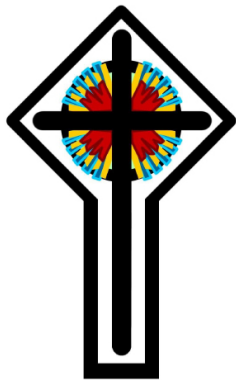
Service of Remembrance in Chapel, 7:00 PM, Rev. Drew West

#### Easter Sunday Celebration and Worship: April 20

Sunrise Service 6:45 AM

Worship in Chapel 8:45 AM

Worship in Sanctuary 11:00 AM



## March 24, 2025 Financials

### Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$256,028.73
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$235,838.27
Difference	\$20,190.46

### Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$733.00

45 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$11,605.91

### 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



## Shawl Ministry

Thank you for this beautiful, colorful, and bright shawl you sent me. I can't tell you how much it means to me as well as the warmest thoughts and prayers that came with it. I appreciate it so much. I am finally beginning to feel better and I thank everyone for their prayers. — Karen Edwards

Thank you so much for the beautiful blankets that you made for our family during Robbie's illness and death. They continue to wrap us in love and prayers. — Dottie Gray



## Flower Ministry

Thank You for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to me, they really brightened my day. I am grateful for the love shown to me by FFUMC. — Diana Hatchett

## Church Family

"This is the best church!" Those were the joyful words Lillian exclaimed after only a few moments in the Fellowship Hall at the baby shower on Wednesday. We are beyond thankful and overwhelmed with gratitude for each of you. Amanda joked earlier this week that I might need to buy more thank-you cards—and she was right! Your love and care have truly showered us with blessings. We are so grateful to be on this adventure of raising children alongside such a loving and supportive congregation.

A special thank you to Susan Burch, Lauren Davis, Carolyn McKinley, Marilyn Harris, Lea Agnew, Virginia Pope, and everyone else who helped make Wednesday such a memorable and meaningful celebration for our family. We feel deeply loved and truly blessed. Thank you!

— The Wests



# inspired ...

## Love for Preschool Teachers

Our preschool represents an important ministry within Fayetteville First and a significant tradition in the life of the United Methodist Church. FFUMC has a vital program of which few members are aware—a ministry which encourages, honors, and acknowledges our preschool teachers: the Preschool Teacher Appreciation Team. Members of the team bring food or a small gift to our preschool teachers the first day of every month the preschool is in session. They encourage our teachers and strengthen ties between our preschool family and our church family.

We celebrate and thank members of the 2024–2025 Preschool Teacher Appreciation Team!

Janet Baileys

Deb Cole

Nancy Dennis

Karen Dunn

Cindy Hall

Jeffrey Ray

Karin Shah

Kaylen Short

Jan Tucker

Becky Voyles

Drew West

Their joy, creativity, and imagination have brightened the lives of our dedicated and hardworking preschool teachers.

We are looking for five people to join the 2025–2026 Preschool Teacher Appreciation Team. If you have a heart for our preschool and feel led to encourage and inspire our teachers, please call the church office at 770-461-4313 and let us know. You will be encouraged and inspired in return!

