



March 7, 2025

The Weekender

The Most Important Words

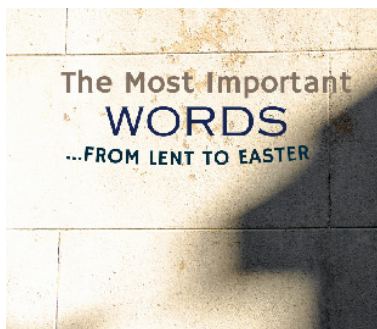
Rev. Kaylen Short

Our lives are full of words. Words are flung at us constantly in various forms of advertisements, alerts, and messages. We also put plenty of words out into the world through conversation, emails, and social media platforms. Yet, some words are more important than others. That is why at FFUMC throughout Lent we will be focusing on sets of important words.

At our Lenten Lunches we will be covering *Seven Words* by Rev. Susan Robb and examining the all-important words that Jesus says from the cross. In worship, we will be reciting a different creed from our United Methodist Hymnal each week as an examination of the words that our denomination has found important throughout our history. In addition, throughout Lent we will have a sermon series called *The Most Important Words*.

Despite all the words we say and write sometimes the most important words can be some of the most difficult. Sometimes saying phrases like "I Need Help," "I'll Try Again," "I Don't Know," "I Forgive You," or "I Love You" require a vulnerability that is difficult to muster in the precise moment they need to be said. Throughout the Lenten season, Rev. Lawrence, Rev. West, and I will be preaching on Scripture texts that directly relate to each one of these phrases. In doing so, we hope to connect these "most important words" to our faith and be prepared to speak to them authentically when the right moments arise.

I suspect each of us at FFUMC will experience some discomfort somewhere in Lent because of all of these important words. Some of us will lament as we hear Jesus' final words on the cross; others will be moved by the variety of historic confessions of our faith that we recite in worship; and still others will feel challenged by the vulnerability required by the words in our sermon series. Instead of fleeing from this discomfort when it arises, I encourage you to lean in and search for Jesus in the midst of that discomfort. The beginning of the gospel of John connects Christ to Word. I believe that Christ often uses challenging words to nudge us toward new life.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 9, 2025

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

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

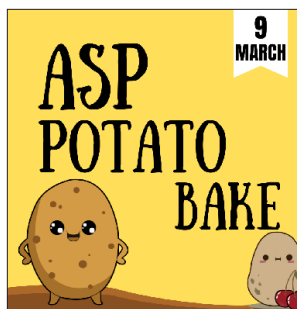
Psalm 107:1-3; 23-32; Mark 4:35-41

"The Most Important Words: I Need Help"

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence

TIME CHANGE IS THIS WEEKEND! SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR!

CURRENT NEWS



Supports summer youth mission

Potato Bake this Sunday supports youth missions

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.](#)



Give Blood 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 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!



Lenten Lunches continue each week on Thursdays at Noon

During the Season of Lent, the United Women in Faith hosts Lenten Lunches from Noon to 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays. Cost: \$5. Each week a different speaker will share a chapter from the Lenten Book Study "Seven Words" by Susan Robb. You're invited to join in this wonderful time of fellowship as well as inspiration. No reservation needed.



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, or fill out a pew card.

**Tim's Country Kitchen
March 12**

March 12: Tim's Country Kitchen

Grilled or Fried Pork Chops, Dressing with Gravy, Broccoli Casserole, Rolls, Apple Cobbler

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

Coming March 19: Souper Bowl Celebration Meal

This special Taco Bar 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. 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.



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.

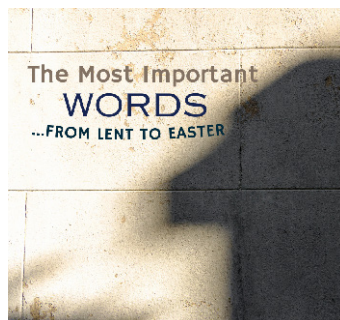
Call the office to make a reservation for March 26 and **come with your appetite and a side dish**. Meat and dessert will be provided.



Final Jail Ministry Training for year: March 12

The final clergy training of 2025 will be held March 12 at 7:20 PM at the Fayette County Jail. If you attended the previous training in December 2024, you do not need to attend this one. This training is only for those who could not make it to the previous class.

Attendees can arrive at the jail and gather in the Jail Lobby, not later than 7:10 PM. Chaplain John Govaerts will escort everyone to the training location. Questions about the ministry? Contact Danny Beck or Jo Springer.



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 now through Easter Sunday.](#)



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



**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.



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.



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.**



Campus tours offered March 23 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 23, for a personal tour.



Save the Date: New Directory in the works

Ready for a new directory? We all are! Save the dates of May 8-11 to get the family together for a professional portrait to be taken by The Portrait Cafe here at the church. Sign ups for specific times will be open soon. For now, save the date!



**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.



Messy Church March 15: Earth Day

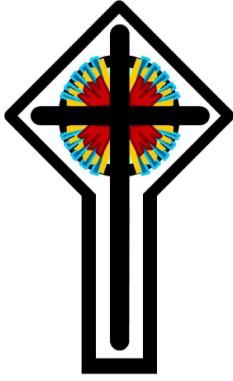
*"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you. —Isaiah 55:12*

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](#).



Flower Ministry

Thanks for the beautiful flowers which were delivered to me. They certainly do brighten the day when one is recovering at home and not able to get out and about. This is a wonderful ministry in a wonderful church. Thanks again!
— Barb Combs



March 2, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$200,909.97
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$206,553.61
Difference	-\$5,643.64

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$2,404

36 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$8,996.30

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



REMINDER:

Spring those clocks ahead this

Saturday night!

inspired ...

Journeying through Lent

We began the Lenten Season this week with our first Lenten Lunch on Ash Wednesday at noon and our Ash Wednesday worship service in the evening.

The season continues with Lenten Sunday sermons on the theme "The Most Important Words" with messages from all of our staff clergy.

The remaining Lenten Lunches will be held on Thursdays, hosted by United Women in Faith and other groups (\$5) with a meditation following the book "Seven Words" by Susan Robb. All are invited and no reservation is needed.

- March 13 - Bethany: Nick Bowden
- March 20 - Marie Lamb: Florence Prine
- March 27 - Mary Martha Hope: Rev. Allyson Lawrence
- April 3 - Ethyl Taylor: Danny Beck
- April 10 - FFUMC Youth, UMM: Rev. Charles Robinson
- April 17 - Friendship: Dr. Dave Lee

[See the full Lenten Season schedule here.](#)

