

**Stewardship: YTD through November 2023 - \$1,840,263**  
**We planned for 84% of the budget through November.**  
**We have received 81% of the budget through November.**

Thank you to all who have already submitted a commitment card pledging your regular giving toward our **2024 Ministry Budget**. As of today, the church has received **219** pledge cards totaling **\$1,420,000.00**. If you have not yet submitted your 2024 pledge card, we hope you will do so today as together we live into our covenant to serve Christ faithfully at Fairhope UMC through our prayers, presence, gifts service and witness. You can pledge online at [www.fairhopeumc.org](http://www.fairhopeumc.org)



**Fairhope United Methodist Permanent Endowment Fund**  
**A Lasting Act of love and a Stewardship Commitment**

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Warmest wishes from your Endowment Trustees. Please be sure to review your final plans as the New Year starts and please consider including the FUMC Endowment in those plans.

A gift that supports ministry in perpetuity!

**Fairhope United Methodist Church**

**Dr. Darren M. McClellan**, *Senior Pastor* **Rev. Laura Parker**, *Associate Pastor*

**Cathi Parish**, *Minister of Evangelism*

155 South Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532 ~ 251-928-1148 ~ [www.fairhopeumc.org](http://www.fairhopeumc.org)

**Dr. Debora Bishop**, *District Superintendent*

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*A Stephen Ministry Church ~ Christ Caring for People Through People*

**Invitation to Join the Church**

Present this to the pastor during the last song.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Joining by Transfer of Church Membership

Transferring from: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you are not yet ready to join but would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend *Coffee with the Pastors next Sunday, January 14th @ 9:45 AM in the Conference Room, adjacent to the sanctuary*. Enter through the door under the bell tower or by the steps behind the sanctuary facing the parking lot. Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday ~ Baptism of the Lord  
January 7, 2024 ~ 8:30 & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

(Michael Praetorius)

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

*Please sign the registration pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God says: Look! See my chosen servant, the One in whom I utterly delight;  
**I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and the Spirit came down like a dove;  
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**"This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am delighted."**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us. Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.

**God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

LET US PRAY

**Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!**

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠HYMN OF PRAISE #254

*We Three Kings*

✠THE APOSTLES' CREED

✠GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

*Spirit Song*

(Fettke)

✠DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God – tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALTER #761

Psalm 29

HYMN OF PREPARATION #252

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

“The Wait Is Over”

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT #50

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #331

*Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

(Dietrich Buxtehude)

✠ Stand as able

**Assisting in Worship Today:** Dr. Darren M. McClellan

**Liturgist:** Katie Turner

**Acolyte:** Darby Butler, Evan Jones (11:00)

**Music Team:** Tom Hood, John Richardson, Chancel Choir

**Media and Sound:** Colin Richardson, Wright Tapscott

*Children’s Church will not be held today. On the first Sunday of each month, children stay for the entire service so they can worship with their families. Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.*

**Music notes:**

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” is a hymn text and tune written by Philipp Nicolai in 1597. A translation from German to English is in our United Methodist hymnal at number 247. Many organ arrangements of this traditional Epiphany song have been made over the years, including these from Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) and Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707).

**2024 Flower Calendar for Altar Flowers in the Sanctuary** ~ If you would like to place flowers on the altar in the sanctuary, you can call the church office 251-928-1148 (ask for Julia) or sign up on the calendar on the wall outside of the main offices to reserve your special date.

**Prayers for the People...**

**Medical personnel and first responders**

**Military Service Men and Women**

**Hospitalized this week:** Melanie Moore

**Sympathies:**

Sheila and Don Ward in the death of their daughter, Katie Wesley

Sheron and Al Johnson in the death of their son, Mark Johnson

## Wednesday Nights @ FUMC

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

5:00 to 6:00PM ~ CLC Fellowship Hall

RSVP: [www.fairhopeumc.org](http://www.fairhopeumc.org) or scan the QR Code



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT STUDY

**UMC 101: Book Study of Being United Methodist Christians:**

**by Andy Langford, Ann Langford Duncan, Sandy Langford.**

Starts January 10<sup>th</sup> and *continues every Wednesday through January*. 6:10 in the Fellowship Hall immediately after Wednesday Suppers. Co-led by Dr. McClellan and retired UMC Elders, Rev. Tom East and Rev. Tom Yow. Copies of the book will be available at Page and Palette (local Book Store).

### *Activities for Children, Youth and Adults:*

**Children's Choir ~ 4:15-5PM**

**Pier Kids & SWIFT ~ 6-7:30PM**

**Student Ministry ~ Community Groups ~ 6-7:30PM**

**Chancel Choir ~ 6-7:30PM ~ Contact Minister of Music: Tom Hood if you need more information!**

**251-928-1148 or [tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org)**

*Nursery is available for parents who are volunteers or attending classes on campus.*

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES!

**Board of Stewards Meeting is today at 12:30PM** in the CLC Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Opportunity to Give Back to the Community** ~ Blood Drive today from 8-1PM in the back parking lot.

**One Year Bible Study Meets on Wednesdays at 1:30PM in Wesley Hall.** This is an ongoing study that meets every week. Come and join us any time. Facilitated by Dr. Ann Pearson.

**Women's Bible Study starts January 9<sup>th</sup>** and meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30AM through the spring. Topic: Women of the Bible. Book is \$20 and can be ordered from Amazon. Facilitated by a teaching team. To register you can scan the QR Code or call the church office at 251-928-1148.



**Coffee with the Pastors** will be meeting next Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:45AM in the Conference Room. This is for anyone who is interested in joining the church or would like more information about church membership.

### **Prayer Ministry Meeting for all who would like to be involved...**

Mark your calendars for our next Prayer meeting to evaluate our prayer ministry.

The meeting on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> is at 3:00PM in B-114 in Wesley Hall.

Bring your ideas and suggestions to help us as we move forward in making our prayer ministry more effective.



### **Worship Volunteers Needed:**

Ways You Can Serve: Prepare Communion, Serve Communion, Usher or Altar Guild

Call: 251-928-1148, Email: [katie.robertson@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:katie.robertson@fairhopeumc.org) or scan the QR code.

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Epiphany Sunday ~ Baptism of the Lord  
The Gathering: January 7, 2024  
11:00AM

OPENING SONG

*Your Grace is Enough*

Shea White, Praise Team

WELCOME~CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate a special baptism; the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.

God says: Look! See my chosen servant, the One in whom I utterly delight;  
**I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and the Spirit came down like a dove; and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**"This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am delighted."**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

LET US PRAY

**Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!**

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*Forgiven  
Washed by the Water  
I Have Decided*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God – tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

"Answering the Big Questions"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As you come before God to reaffirm your baptism,  
you are invited to bring all of who you are as an offering  
to the one who has given all of who he is for us.

*\*\*\*Baskets are available to present your offering.*

## INVITATION TO PRAYER AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### SENDING FORTH

**Assisting in Worship Today:** Rev. Laura Parker, Cathi Parish

**Acolyte:** Cas Tucker

**Music:** Shea White and Praise Band

**Media and Sound:** Jamie Waldhour, Nellie Meyers, Karl Langley

*Children's Church will not be held today. On the first Sunday of each month,  
children stay for the entire service so they can worship with their families.  
Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.*

**First time worshipping with us today?**

**We want to know! Scan this QR Code:**



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**Military Service Men and Women**

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