

**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**

*Your church fully supports an Endowment Ministry. Donors who contribute to the endowment show their love for Fairhope UMC and understand that their gifts positively impact Church ministry and mission programs in perpetuity. For more information, scan the QR Code or contact one of our Endowment Committee members.*



Warmest holiday 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*

**Bishop David Graves**, *Alabama-West Florida Conference*



*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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Joining by Profession of Faith (have not previously been baptized or a member of a church).

\_\_\_\_\_ Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith (have been baptized but not sure last church where membership was held).

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 on 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

First Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023 ~ 8:30AM and 11:00AM

PRELUDE

*What Child Is This*

(arr. Trio West)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God from the heavens.**

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

The Lord's name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.

**Alleluia!**

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

OPENING HYMN#246

*Joy to the World*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.**

**We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us,**

**Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Beloved of God, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels, God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ and live as God's beloved.

LET US PRAY

**Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who seek redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of salvation, and live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

✦ HYMN OF PRAISE #230

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

✦ THE APOSTLES' CREED

✦ GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

*The Little Drummer Boy*

✠ DOXOLOGY

11:00 CHILDREN'S TIME

Children 4 years old and up can meet at the side doors for Children's Church.

They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the Pier Room upstairs in the Education Building.

Nursery is also available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

MEDITATION

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

HYMN OF PREPARATION #245

*The First Noel*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

MEDITATION

Rev. Laura Parker

SPECIAL MUSIC

*The Work of Christmas*  
Tom Hood, Soloist

(Forrest)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1, 5 and 6)*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*O Tannenbaum Funk*

(arr. Trio West)

✠ Stand as able

**Assisting in Worship Today:**

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker, Cathi Parish, Jenna Hood

**Acolytes:** 8:30 ~ Olivia Molyneux 11:00 ~ Evan Jones, Cas Tucker

**Music:** Tom Hood, John Richardson, Josh Titford, Darren McClellan

**Media and Sound:** Colin Richardson, Toby Monckton, John McClellan

**Prayers for the People...**

**Medical personnel and first responders**

**Military Service Men and Women**

**Hospitalized this week:** Daisy Gilbert

**Sympathies:**

Sarah and Doug Kennedy in the death of their brother-in-law, Clay Havard

Laurie and Joey Bass in the death of her mother, Jean Weninegar

**First time worshipping with us today?  
We want to know! Scan this QR Code:**



## UPCOMING DATES!

The office and CLC will be closed January 1 & 2.

The Stephen Ministry Class of 2024 will begin their 5-month training in January.

Please keep this group in your prayers as they train in preparation to help others.

**Board of Stewards Meeting on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM**  
in the CLC Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come to the meeting.

### **An Opportunity to Give Back to the Community**

Blood Drive on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 1PM in the back parking lot.

### **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> 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.

**Coffee with the Pastors** will be meeting on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>,  
at 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.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024

**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).

### **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.

