

Fairhope UMC Board of Stewards Meeting  
With Review of the 2020/2024 General Conference  
May 20, 2024

Welcome

Lee Turner

General Conference Review

Darren McClellan and Gene Lammers

Q & A Discussion

*What is our hope in moving forward?*

*What fears do we have?*

*What is the Spirit saying to Fairhope UMC?*

*What is our next faithful step in the interest of our love of God and neighbor?*

Administrative Updates

Trustees

Finance

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Programming Updates

Children

Youth

Missions

Caring Ministries

Upcoming Dates

June 16-18 Alabama West-Florida Annual Conference (Montgomery).

July 9-13 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (Lake Junaluska)

June 16—Farewell Reception for Rev. Darren McClellan and family.

July 7—Welcome reception for Rev. Michael Precht and family.



# FINANCE REPORT

Submitted by Tom Slone, Finance Chair

- Through March of 2024, the church is financially performing as we had budgeted.
- Income is tracking where we had anticipated, but is trending short of our fully supported annual expense budget, potentially requiring use of cash reserves:

10:48 AM  
04/22/24  
Accrual Basis

**Fairhope United Methodist Church**  
**FUMC Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
January through March 2024

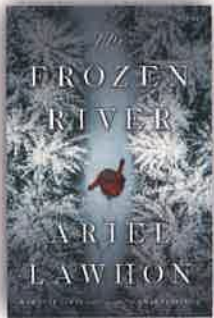
				TOTAL		
	Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Jan - Mar 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>						
04000 Pledge Contributions	119,463.79	115,020.00	4,443.79	402,116.36	380,680.00	41,436.36
04001 Non Pledge Contributions	38,592.83	52,924.00	-14,331.17	121,127.40	165,956.00	-44,828.60
04002 Cash Contributions	3,182.76	2,430.00	752.76	7,873.00	7,620.00	253.00
04003 Adult Sunday School	18.00	122.00	-104.00	120.13	382.00	-261.87
04004 Fees	-200.00	1,240.00	-1,440.00	730.00	3,887.00	-3,157.00
04005 Other income	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.70	0.00	6.70
04006 Interest Income	3,266.84	1,652.00	1,614.84	9,162.12	5,182.00	3,980.12
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>164,324.22</b>	<b>173,388.00</b>	<b>-9,063.78</b>	<b>541,135.71</b>	<b>543,707.00</b>	<b>-2,571.29</b>

- Expenses through March are under budget by ~\$29,000, although much of this favorable variance is attributed simply to timing issues.
- Finance’s Gift Acceptance and Management Task Force continues to work toward a policy recommendation to Finance which includes:
  - The prioritized utilization of Designated Gifts with restrictions per the donor’s intent, prior to consuming unrestricted funding from the church’s General Operating Fund.
  - Continuing education of our donors on the limiting implications of Designated Giving and to encourage instead, gifts to the General Operating Fund of our church which can be used wherever the need and opportunity is greatest.

## Summer Book Club 2024

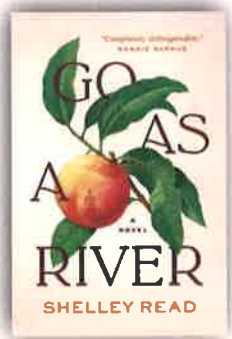
### A River Runs Through these Summer Selections

- Set in 1789 Maine, a midwife investigates the murder of a man found entombed in the frozen waters of the Kennebec River.
- Victoria Nash flees from her home when tragedy strikes, only to return to her home on the Gunnison River, seeking to reframe what home means when circumstances change the course of all that is familiar.
- Secrets from the past are uncovered as Sheriff Brody Dern investigates the death of wealthy landowner, Jimmy Quinn, found floating in the Alabaster River.



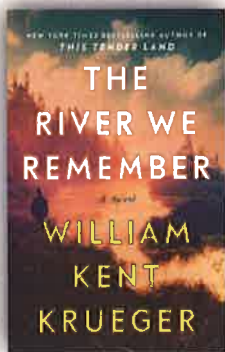
#### *The Frozen River*, Ariel Lawhon | **Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

This work of historical fiction is inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18<sup>th</sup>- century midwife and takes place over the course of one winter in Maine, 1789. When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie. This is a compelling mystery, addressing a time of unbalanced power dynamics of men and women, rich and poor through the eyes of one courageous woman who defied the conventions of her time.



#### *Go as a River*, Shelley Read | **Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

Seventeen-year-old Victoria Nash runs the household on her family's peach farm in the small ranch town of Iola, Colorado—the sole surviving female in a family of troubled men. When tragedy strikes, Victoria leaves the only life she has ever known and flees into the surrounding mountains where she struggles to survive. As the seasons change, she also charts the changes in herself, finding in the beautiful but harsh landscape the meaning and strength to move forward and rebuild all that she has lost, even as the Gunnison River threatens to submerge her homeland—its ranches, farms, and the beloved peach orchard that has been in her family for generations. Inspired by true events surrounding the destruction of the town of Iola in the 1960s, *Go as a River* explores what it means to lead your life as if it were a river—gathering and flowing, finding a way forward even when a river is dammed.



#### *The River We Remember*, William Kent Krueger | **Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**

On Memorial Day in Jewel, Minnesota, the body of wealthy landowner Jimmy Quinn is found floating in the Alabaster River, dead from a shotgun blast. The investigation falls to Sheriff Brody Dern, a highly decorated war hero who still carries the physical and emotional scars from his military service. Even before Dern has the results of the autopsy, vicious rumors begin to circulate that the killer must be Noah Bluestone, a Native American WWII veteran who has recently returned to Jewel with a Japanese wife. Caught up in the torrent of anger that sweeps through Jewel are a war widow and her adolescent son, the intrepid publisher of the local newspaper, an aging deputy, and a crusading female lawyer, all of whom struggle with their own tragic histories and harbor secrets that Quinn's death threatens to expose. *The River We Remember* offers an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home.

All sessions are facilitated by Rev. Laura Parker in the CLC Parlor.

Attend one or all. Reservations are not necessary. Two copies of each of these books are available to be checked out from the church office on a first-come, first-served basis.

Music Ministry Report  
May 20, 2024  
Tom Hood

The Lighthouse Kids Choir presented the musical A Not So Terrible Parable in April.

The Handbell Choir is taking a break and will start back up in August.

Our Be Still and Know services continue and will now be held on the second Sunday of the month.

Chancel Choir is winding down and will take off in July and we will have our end of the year dinner in June.

Plans are in place for our annual choir retreat to start up again in August.



## **Board of Stewards Report**

**May 2024**

**Jenna Hood, Director of Children's Ministries**

**Martha Monckton, Children's Assistant**

Submitted by Jenna Hood

- **KIDMIN TAKEOVER SUNDAY** – Our first Kidmin takeover Sunday in the Gathering Service on 4/28 was a huge success! Our children led everything from announcements and worship to a special musical presentation, “A Not So Terrible Parable,” by the Lighthouse Kids’ Choir.
- **SCUBA VBS**– We are looking forward to 2024’s VBS, SCUBA – June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. We currently have over 220 kids registered and 135 volunteers registered! Thanks to all who have supported VBS by purchasing off our Amazon wishlist!
- **PJ PARTIES** – Our summer PJ party movie nights kick off June 12 and will run for 3 Wednesdays in June and 3 Wednesdays in July.
- **PIER KIDS & SWIFT** – Pier Kids and SWIFT enjoyed closing out our school year programming with Bridge Up, a 3 week themed night program that introduces upcoming kindergarteners and 5th graders to their new age-level programs. Our themed nights were Nacho Average Game Night, Dive into VBS, and Party on the Lawn (bubbles and foam).
- **SUMMER INTERNS** – We are so excited to announce Emma and Ellie Flowers as Children’s Ministries Summer Interns. They will be working in children’s ministries from May 8<sup>th</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- SCUBA VBS – June 3-7
- PJ Parties – June 12, 19, 26 and July 17, 24, 31
- Camp X @ Blue Lake – July 8-12

# STUDENT MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted by: Rachael Waldhour

May 2024

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday's @ 10:00-10:45 am (Combined 7-12 grade/Summer Only)**

**WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY GROUPS & WORSHIP//6:00-7:30pm**

**7th-12th grade (August- May Regular Programming)**

Wednesday night youth begins with games, worship and message followed by Community Groups for students in grades 7-12. We provide an opportunity for every person committed to attending C-Groups to grow deeper in their faith with a community of believers their own age to support & pray with them. Every C-Group will have 2 adult leaders committed to walking their faith journey with them. Our C-Groups are on Wednesday's from 6:00-7:30pm. All grades meet on campus to with their adult leaders.

**SUMMER PROGRAMMING:**

**STUDENT MINISTRY SERVE DAYS**

June 12, 26 & July 10

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP**

June 16-20 Mission Change, Albany, GA

**HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP**

June 30-July 6 Week of Hope, Charleston, SC

**LUNCH BUNCH**

June 3, 4, & 6 (12:30-1:30 pm)

**SUMMER KICK-OFF**

June 5 (6:00-7:30 pm)

**SOFA WARS**

June 9 (6:00-7:30 pm)

**FOMO Night**

June 21 (Time TBA)

**SUMMER C-GROUP NIGHT**

July 14

**FALL KICK OFF PARTY**

August 14

\*\*Submitted by Rachael Waldhour, Director of Student Ministry

## Missions/Church Life Report

May 2024

Submitted by: Jennifer Myrick

[missions@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:missions@fairhopeumc.org)

### Local Mission Outreach

- **Family Promise-** We continue to serve alongside this great community organization by meeting the needs of local families who are experiencing homelessness. We have hosted several times during 2024. Our next host week will be sometime in July. We are in need of volunteers to help provide meals and server as dinner and overnight hosts.
- **Community Cafe'** We continue to serve 260-270+ meals each week. We provide meals 50 weeks out of the year. Our cafe' is open 11am-1pm. Meals are also delivered to our church and community homebound. Additional food that is leftover is taken each week to the Fairhope Jail. Please let us know if you would like to serve by preparing desserts. We serve 140+ homebound each week. Volunteers are needed to help prep food and deliver meals each week. We are very grateful for the amazing support from the special November Give for Community Cafe'.
  - Wawa Food Connection- We have partnered with Wawa to help distribute extra food items to local organizations and families in need. During their 2 week training period, volunteers picked up food 3-4 times a day. Currently we are picking up food Tuesday-Friday.
- **Local Mission Assistance-** Over the last several months we have seen an increase in families and individuals needing emergency shelter or transportation. Local Missions provided hotels room (extended stay) for families/individuals. Missions also provided gas cards, funds for power bills, rental assistance etc. We are also helping to meet a huge need by providing shelter for families entering the Baldwin Family Village Shelter while they wait for background checks to clear.
  - Missions continues to help support local food need through our connections with local schools. We have been asked by several schools to help with weekend backpack meals. Fairhope UMC continues to be a resource for our local schools throughout Baldwin County.
  - Neighborhood Bridges- We have provided several resources that have been requested through Neighborhood Bridges.
- **School Uniform Distribution-** Our Back to School Bash will be held Saturday, July 27th. Due to this ecumenical event over 300 children will start the school year with new uniforms, back packs and lunch boxes. Families will also receive hair cut vouchers and haircuts will be provided onsite. School physicals will also be provided for students who need them to start the school year. We will continue to provide uniforms throughout the school year. We work very closely with the local school to provide additional uniforms for their school uniform closets. \*Uniforms were also provided to our partners at CareHouse and DHR.

- **Foster Care Outreach:**We continue to partner with our friends at DHR providing various items needed for children in Foster Care.

### **International Mission Outreach**

- **Methodist Children's Home Trip:** We served at the Costa Rica Methodist Children's Home in April alongside our friends from Loxley Church of God. The team worked hard completing the final steps to the bodega, which is used to house tools etc. We spent the week learning to stucco and providing VBS to the 26 children living at the home.
- **Amor en la Calle May Trip:** Our team of 42 will head to Costa Rica thos Friday, May 24th- June 2nd. This will be the 22nd year for Fairhope UMC to send a team to Costa Rica to serve alongside the Amor en la Calle Ministry. We will provided VBS, visit the juvenile prison, provide an activity day for the elderly in the community and will be working construction on the boys dorm at the boys ranch.

We are so grateful for the continued support of these on going mission trips.

### **Disaster Response:**

- **Disaster Response:** We have been in conversation about providing Disaster Response Training in the coming months. More info to come. We will also be preparing supplies for our upcoming (hopefully quite) hurricane season.

### **Upcoming Local Mission Opportunities:**

- **Wawa food distribution.**

### **Church Life Ministry/Community Relationships**

- Blue Lake Church Family Camp-September 2024
- Community Relationships- We have provided lunch to FMS and J Larry Newton Teachers during testing. We also supported the Fairhope High School Baseball team with snacks when they traveled to the State Tournament early this month.





## Board of Stewards Report Caring Ministries February - April 2024



This beautifully handcrafted cross has been placed in the CLC, Christian Life Center behind the Welcome desk. This cross was commissioned through Caring Ministry Memorials. Robby Robertson built the cross and Reed Givens created the installation of the cross. We give thanks and deep appreciation for the work and dedication these men have done for this project.

### Connectional Care

Home Deliveries to Church Family in February. 770 gifts were delivered to member's homes. The cost of the blanket (\$2.63) was funded by donations for persons who had benefited from previous home deliveries. We had approximately 58 volunteers who participated in packaging the gifts and making deliveries. The drivers have opportunities to visit with members during their delivery drop off. I had many positive comments, notes and phone calls to say how much they appreciated Caring Ministries reaching out. I do want to be sensitive to those who have a different view of the deliveries so I will be evaluating how we can continue to reach our membership going forward.



### Bible Studies

Year round weekly Bible study is offered every Wednesday at 1:30pm in Wesley Hall. New participants are coming each week. Averaging 28 a week.

Six week Lenten Book Study was offered in February & March. We studied the book *Remember* by Susan Robb. Averaged 24 attendees.



### Stephen Ministry

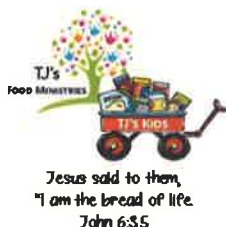
Stephen Ministry training was taught every Sunday, January through April, to prepare our new candidates for service. Stephen Ministers had 2 retreats in April to prepare them to complete their 50 hours of training sessions. Six new candidates were commissioned on April 28 in the 8:30am worship service. They are Ann Claunch, Evie Davies, Ginger Ready, Jolene Schmitt, Deb Slone and Penn White. The women in the 2024 Stephen Ministry class have all been assigned care receivers.

## Cooking Ministry

Mission Friend ladies made chicken casseroles in February to freeze when we need to provide meals for a family. The casseroles are available for anyone to use. Casseroles are kept in the white stand up freezer in Wesley Hall kitchen.

## Lord's Pantry

Lord's Pantry research team started meeting in January and continues to meet to address food insecure needs in our area. The goal of this team is to explore how we can best serve our community through the donation from Terry Howe's will and to honor his intent. As a result of these meetings, TJ's Food Ministry was formed.



## TJ's Food Ministry

TJ's Kids is an extension of the Lord's Pantry Ministry. The team has established a pilot program to partner with Fairhope schools to provide non-perishable food items to students 5 times this summer. Packing dates are June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 5. Distribution dates are June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 6. Distribution will be from the CLC.



## Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry supported the monthly *Be Still and Know* Prayer Service on February 25, March 17, April 21 & May 19. The prayer team met on March 20 & April 22 to continue evaluating and enhancing our prayer ministry at FUMC.

Weekly prayers, written by Darren, are being sent out each Tuesday morning to our membership. If a member is not receiving the prayer it is because the church office does not have their cell number. The prayer goes out as a text not an email.

Rev. Cathi Parish will be offering a Prayer Practice Workshop July 19 and 20. An organizational meeting was held on May 13<sup>th</sup> to begin preparations for the summer workshop. June 9<sup>th</sup> a facilitator training session will be offered for those who would like to lead one of the workshop sessions.

A new prayer study, Living Prayer, will be offered in the fall, September 4 – October 16, led by Mary and John Hodgkins.

Jan Pringle will be collaborating with Laura about covenant groups for 2025.

## Exercise Class

Caring has provided a chair exercise class every Tuesday at 3:30pm in Wesley Hall. 10 – 12 persons attend weekly.

### Note Ministry

Note Ministry connects our congregation to one another when one is unable to come to church.

Note Ministry includes:

**Assisted Living Card Ministry** Cards of care are sent to those who are living in assisted living facilities.

**Cancer Note Ministry** Cards sent to persons diagnosed with cancer

**Homebound Note Ministry** Encouraging cards are sent to those who are homebound.

**Hospital Discharge Note Ministry** Notes of praise for release from the hospital.

**New Member Card Ministry** Welcome cards are sent to new members.

**Soldiers Ministry** Sending notes to military service personnel and their families.

### Phone Calls

Telephone calls are made to extend birthday wishes and Anniversary blessings daily.

	<u>Birthday Calls</u>	<u>Anniversary Calls</u>
February	160	16
March	158	23
April	145	20

### Support Groups

Support groups continue to meet either weekly or bimonthly. Approximately 65 individuals attend these offerings.

#### **Caregivers Support Group**

Offers compassion and empathy for persons caring for loved ones 24/7.

#### **Seeking Peace Grief Group**

For individuals who are recovering from loss and finding ways to heal in this new season of life.

#### **Survivors of Suicide**

For persons whose loved ones have died by suicide. This group offers listening, reassurance, understanding and information.

#### **Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group**

Support for individuals and families whose lives have been affected by cancer and sickle cell anemia.

### Outreach Ministries

Our outreach ministries are Durable Medical Loan Closet, Lord's Pantry, Knit & Crochet, TJ's Food Ministry and Tough Dogs Cancer and they provides resources & encouragement.

#### Community Outreach

##### **Durable Medical Loan Closet**

Donated medical equipment is loaned to individuals in the community free of charge. Items are returned when no longer needed.

##### **Lord's Pantry**

Food assistance boxes are a one-time distribution to families on an emergency basis. This pantry is supplied by the congregation as well as other food drives.

##### **Knit/Crochet for a Purpose**

Supports ministries within the church and community.

**TJ's Food Ministry**  
**TJ's Kids Summer Outreach**

This new program provides nonperishable food items 5 times through the summer to children that are food insecure.

**Tough Dogs Cancer Care Bags**

Tough Dogs provides Chemo Care Bags for adults and children who are facing treatment for cancer and sickle cell anemia. Local cancer center distribute bags to all newly diagnosed patients. This ministry is supported by donations.

**Funerals**

5 member funerals – Pattie Adcock, Rob Blackburn, Lenell Jordan, Christine Dudley, Bob Harrison

**Visitation**

Hospital and Nursing Home Visits:	February 36	March 32	April 42	Totals: 110
Office Visits:	February 18	March 12	April 14	Totals: 44
Home Visits:	February 9	March 6	April 8	Totals: 23

**Church Team**

Participating on Gift Acceptance Policy Team led by Tom Slone.

**Counseling**

Counseling sessions available to members & community daily.

**Seminar – Continuing Education**

Stephen Ministry Assertiveness Training – May 2

Alabama West Florida Conference Trauma Seminar – Dealing with Grief – May 9

**Community Connections and Service**

Serve as chaplain for Thomas Hospital.

Serve on Thomas Hospital Daisey Award Team.

Weekly devotional at Country Place Senior Living.

# YOUTH GOLF CAMP



Fairhope United Methodist Recreation

Boys & Girls  
Ages 4-10

Registration info

Register  
Now



Or go to: [bit.ly/3xjbfX0](https://bit.ly/3xjbfX0)

COST: 95\$

9AM-12PM EACH DAY

Camp will take place in Gym at Fairhope UMC. All equipment will be provided and campers can bring a water bottle and snack for breaks. Check in each day will begin at 8:45 AM.

CAMP  
DATE  
**AUGUST 5-7, 2024**  
**9AM-12PM**

