



THE LINK

FAIRHOPE UMC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2025



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FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

2025 began in a leisurely fashion, but once it began gathering speed, the momentum kept building and building.

Our Church History conversation (where we had more than 100 people in attendance!) uncovered several few stories I had never heard. My biggest takeaway was that half of the people in attendance had been members of FUMC for five years or fewer; we are a congregation that is full of relative newcomers — not many churches can say that these days! Our Church Culture Conversation was full of insights about what we're doing well and where we want to grow. On March 16, our Board of Stewards reviewed everything we heard in those two events, and we suggested 42 new ways that we could "Build on strengths, shore up our weaknesses, bless the world, and try new things." We will add to that list of new ideas again after we hear from our community leaders on April 30, and then we will spend July and August in prayer over how we can whittle that great big list of possibilities down into a list of 4-8 priorities for the year to come. It is a thrilling thing, to seek God's call together.

A pastor's first year is always a transitional time in the life of a church, but I feel that especially acutely in my "second six months" at FUMC. The month of April will see significant changes in our church staff, and the first change is one that I am so excited to announce officially right now:

As of this last Wednesday, Miles Barnhardt has dropped the "Interim" label, and joined our staff as our Youth Director for the long run!

This simple and wonderful announcement comes from tremendous work from our Staff-Parish Relations Committee. In January, we renewed our efforts to conduct the most open and competitive job search we could. We listed our position on four national youth ministry job boards, plus the job boards of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and the United Methodist Church nationwide. After that push, Miles was one of four applicants reviewed by our search team of SPR members and youth parents. From those four applications, we conducted two candidate interviews with our youth leadership team, parents, and SPRC. And at the end of all that... the SPRC was honored to offer the position to Miles, and even more honored that he said yes!

On Tuesday, April 1 we will have another transition as we begin living "life after Julia." After Julia Gavin's 31 years as our Pastoral Assistant, it will take a lot of imagination to conceive of our church without her, and the SPRC has worked with me as we used all our imagination for what comes next. Beginning April 1, Bobbi Jo Hobbs will become our Pastoral Administrator, moving into Julia's old office and handling many of her duties, while also overseeing the communications for our church. Katie Robertson's title will become "Assistant to the Discipleship and Worship Pastor"; in that role, she will continue coordinating our Wednesday night suppers and worship volunteers, while also taking on our weekly bulletin (I hope you'll also take special note of the exquisite objects she has crafted for the "Dressing of the Cross" throughout Lent). Finally, Martha Monckton will take on a few of Julia's other responsibilities, serving as our church's notary and handling our memorials. This will be a big adjustment, and I'm sure we'll have some bumps along the road, but I also know we have an incredible team to make it happen.

Finally, we are still awaiting the appointment of our new associate pastor, who will begin on July 1 after Pastor Laura's retirement in June. Our Bishop will meet with all the superintendents to make appointments at the end of this month, and we expect to announce our new associate on April 6.

With all that's happened, and all that is ahead of us, I'd be lost if not for the company of amazing co-laborers in the gospel. I am especially grateful to Amy Dowden, Brooke Butler, Bunky Bishop, and John Richardson who joined our SPRC search team in reviewing student ministry candidates and designing our interview process. I am also deep indebted to unofficial executive team of Emily Garner, Stewart Nobles, Jennifer Jones, Allen Mitchell, Noah Funderburg, and Lee Turner for leading their committees with such attentiveness and care - and for making time to answer my unexpected text messages or meet me for tacos at Dragonfly, just to talk about our church family, our mission, and what God has next for us all.

It is a great time to love BOLDLY together.

Michael



ON-GOING WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- 8:30AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (SANCTUARY)
- 9:30AM CONFIRMATION CLASS (CLC)
- 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
- 11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (SANCTUARY)
- 11:00AM THE GATHERING WORSHIP (CLC)

MONDAY

- 10:00 AM KNIT & CROCHET (LIBRARY)
- 3:00PM GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP (B114)

TUESDAY

- 6:00AM HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE (SANCTUARY)

WEDNESDAY

- 1:30AM ANN'S BIBLE STUDY (WESLEY HALL)
- 4:15-5:00PM KIDS CHOIR (K-6TH) (WESLEY HALL)
- 5-6:00PM WEDNESDAY SUPPER (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
- 6-7:30PM PIER & SWIFT KIDS (2ND FLOOR ED BUILDING)
- 6-7:45PM SALT STUDENT MINISTRY (2ND FLOOR CLC)
- 6:00PM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
- 6:00PM ADULT CHOIR (2ND FLOOR ED BUILDING)

FRIDAY

- 11:00M - 1PM COMMUNITY CAFE' (CLC)



APRIL CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

VBS Registration opens!
9:30am Caregiver's Support Group (Library)

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

8:00am Stephen Ministry Training
12:15pm Easter Delivery Packing (Wesley Hall)
12:10pm Pizza with the Pastor (Off Campus)

MONDAY, APRIL 7

9am-11:30am MOMCO (CLC)
1:00pm Easter Delivery Pickup (Wesley Hall)
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (Wesley Hall)

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

12:30pm Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group (Library)
1:00pm Easter Delivery Pickup (Wesley Hall)
1:30pm Chemo Care Bag Assembly (Wesley Hall)
6:00pm Finance Meeting (Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

10:00am - 11:30am Intercessory Prayer Study (Orientation)
11:00am TJ's Kids Ministry Meeting
1:00pm Easter Delivery Pickup (Wesley Hall)
5pm Easter Family Celebration (Scan the QR Code for info)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

1:00pm Easter Delivery Pickup (Wesley Hall)

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Palm Sunday - All worship services
9:45am Coffee with the Pastors
8:00am Stephen Ministry Training
6:00pm Be Still and Know Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, APRIL 14

6:30pm SOS (Wesley Hall)

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group (Library)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

10:00am - 11:30am Intercessory Prayer Study
NO WNS NIGHT ACTIVITIES OR SUPPER
(Baldwin County Spring Break)

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

6:30pm Good Friday Crosswalk (Fairhope Pier)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Youth Egg Drop Fundraiser (Use the QR code to sign up)

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:00am Traditional Easter Service (Sanctuary)
9:30am Traditional Easter Service (Sanctuary)
11:00am Traditional Easter Service (Sanctuary)
11:00am The Gathering Easter Service (CLC)
PLEASE NOTE: Nursery available at all services for children 6 months to 4 years of age. Children's SS and Children's Church will not meet!

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Church Office Closed
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (Wesley Hall)

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

12:30pm Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

10:00am - 11:30am Intercessory Prayer Study

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

8:30am Stephen Ministry Commissioning (Sanctuary)
11:00am COMBINED Worship (The Gathering)
Fairhope UMC Kid's Ministries TAKEOVER! (CLC)
4:30pm VBS Preview Party

MONDAY, APRIL 28

9:30am Mom's Bible Study (B207)
6:30pm SOS (Wesley Hall)

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

6:00pm Trustees (Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

6:00pm Community Needs Event (Fellowship Hall)

SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO ACCESS ALL OF
FAIRHOPE UMC'S
ACTIVITIES & FORMS!



NURTURE, OUTREACH AND WITNESS



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Jenna Hood, *Director of Children's Ministries*
jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- **PIER KIDS & SWIFT** kicked off 2025 by having a movie night! It was enjoyed by all and we had a great turnout.
- **CREATED BY GOD: WONDERFULLY MADE** In January, we had 19, 5th & 6th graders and 4 small group leaders, for our body education workshop which was led by Dr. Robbie Rux & Dr. Megan Missanelli.
- **WINTER RETREAT 2025** On Feb 7-9, we had 77 kids and 10 chaperones go to Blue Lake Camp in Andalusia, AL and had a great weekend diving into our theme, Rock Solid: Standing Firm in the Faith.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our Sunday School Classes (PreK4-4th grades) are currently learning about the miracles of Jesus and our SWIFT classes are studying Jesus' teachings and how we can spend time with God.
- **PIER KIDS & SWIFT** On Wednesday, our Pier Kids & SWIFT have been diving into the 12 truths of our HyFi curriculum. This month's truth is "I am meant to know God!"
- **THANK YOU**
We want to say a HUGE "THANK YOU" to our Wednesday leaders. These adults serve every Wednesday faithfully and share the love of Jesus with the kids of our church and community. Our Wednesday night program's success is directly tied to the relationships these faithful servants forge with our children.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEADERS: (K-4th grades) *Carol Pierce, Emily Determann, Megan Harrison, Celeste Neil, Allison Floyd, Bo Tucker, & Josh Bills* (SWIFT) *Alicia Searcy, Katie Ellenburg, Willy Thompson, & Joe Pryor*



LOOKING AHEAD

EASTER FAMILY CELEBRATION - APRIL 9

TRUE NORTH VBS — JUNE 1-6 (ADDING A FAMILY CELEBRATION & KICK-OFF THIS YEAR)

PJ PARTIES — JUNE 11, 18, 25 AND JULY 16, 23, 30

CAMP X @ BLUE LAKE — JULY 7-11



MISSIONS / CHURCH LIFE MINISTRIES

Submitted by Jennifer Myrick, Director of Missions

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 hosted 5 different weeks 2024. We recently hosted for our first time in 2025 during the week of February 16th. Our next host week will be in May or July. We are in need of volunteers to help provide meals and server as dinner and overnight hosts.

COMMUNITY CAFE': We continue to serve 300+ 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 or Baldwin Family Village. We serve 160+ home bound each week. Volunteers are needed to help prep food and delver meals each week. We are very grateful for the amazing support from our volunteers who help prepare the food each week and also our volunteers who deliver to our homebound!

We provide meals 2-3x a month to Baldwin Family Village

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 our local schools by providing assistance to families in need through the connections we have made with the school social workers and counselors.
- We have provided several resources that have been requested through Neighborhood Bridges.

POINT IN TIME COUNT (HOUSING FIRST): We provided over 500 hygiene kits for the Point in Time Count organized by Housing First. Hygiene Kits will also be used for the Housing First Resource Fair in May at the Mobile County Fair Grounds. We are thankful for the students from the Interact Club at Fairhope High School for as assembling the hygiene bags.

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS OUTREACH: In December we partnered with Ecumenical Ministries to support their annual Christmas Angel Tree program. FUMC provided Christmas to over 100 Children and 30+elderly, including students from several local schools. Our youth and SWIFT programs also served by going shopping for several of our Angels. We are so grateful for the continued support of this ministry.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME TRIP: We will be sending a team to Costa Rica April 27th- May 2nd. Spanish Fort UMC, Ashland Place UMC and Loxley Church of Grace will be providing team members to serve. We will be working light construction and providing VBS.

AMOR EN LA CALLE MISSIONS:

DECEMBER 2024 TRIP: In December a small group of high school seniors and adults traveled to Costa Rica to serve with the Amor en la Calle Ministry as they provided Christmas to over 2500 children in Costa Rica during the month of December. Our team spent 3 days preparing items for all the Christmas parties and hosted a Christmas outreach for 50+ elderly in the rural community where we serve in May. I give a great deal of credit to the 7 high school seniors who were the driving force to make this trip happen! We are all grateful for the support of the congregation as well!

MAY 2025 TRIP: Friday, May 23rd- June 1st. This will be the 23rd 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.

DISASTER RESPONSE:

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING: In October, alongside Spanish Fort UMC, we hosted a Disaster Response Training at Spanish Fort lead by our Chris Ackerman, our Conference Disaster Coordinator. We had about 25+ attend the training, including 8-10 from Fairhope UMC.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA: This past Fall, we sent several orders of jackets and electric blankets to Boone UMC to be distributed to those in need.

SNOW WEEK/WARMING SHELTER: In connection with the Fairhope Police Department we opened a warming shelter for those in need during the historic snow storm that impacted our area in January. The CLC was available Monday-Friday for those seeking shelter. We hosted 2 gentleman as our overnight guests. We are very thankful for Fairhope PD and our volunteers who provided meals, fellowship and time during that week.

FAIRHOPE ROTARY CLUB DISTRICT DISASTER TRAINING EVENT: At the end of January we provided the CLC Fellowship Hall and Classrooms to the Rotary District Disaster training team for their annual event. I was invited to participate as one of the speakers for their panel discussion on how churches and community groups can partner together during response efforts. Thank you to Jamie Waldhour for making the space available for the event.

We are so grateful for the continued support of these on going missions trips and outreach programs. This church and community continue to impact those in need right here in our own back yard and throughout the world.

CHURCH LIFE MINISTRY

BLUE LAKE CHURCH FAMILY CAMP: September 2025

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS: These opportunities to serve our schools come at the request of our continued relationships with our school principles, coaches, social workers and counselors.

- Fairhope High School Boys/Girls Basketball Programs: providing pregame meals 4-5x during the season.
- Fairhope West Elementary: Provided breakfast items for the 108+ member staff during Kindness Week sponsored by the Peer Helpers.
- Upcoming...We will be providing lunch for the teachers during testing at J Larry Newton and Fairhope Middle School in March/April.

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

- Back to School Bash Community Event: July 2025
- Cleaning Buckets for Disaster Response
- Possible Disaster Response Trip to Boone, NC to serve Hurricane Long Term recovery efforts.





CARING MINISTRIES

Submitted by Dr. Ann Pearson
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Celebrations...

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Celebrating 85 volunteer servants who assembled and distributed 735 gifts to our members' homes in October.
- 729 Christmas cards were mailed to our members and active non-members.
- Volunteer Gathering for Caring Ministries volunteer servants on November 17.
- Birthday celebration gatherings are held the third Monday of every month to foster fellowship and meet our membership in a small group setting.

TJ'S FOOD MINISTRY TJ's Kids food outreach ministry provided 140 food bags to students in the 5 area Fairhope schools who would benefit from receiving food during the Fall break in October. Gift cards were also given out to students, identified by counselors for Thanksgiving.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

- Stephen Ministers participated with Pastors honoring our members who died over the last year on All Saint's Sunday, November 3, 2024. There were 25 number of persons remembered and honored.
- A new Stephen Ministry class for 2025 began training in January. Please pray for Brian Norris, Kathy Ellis, Kurt and Robyn Simons and Wanda Winfree.

KNIT/CROCHET FOR A PURPOSE Knit and Crochet sent over 100 items to Costa Rica with the mission team.

SUPPORT GROUPS Support groups meet regularly to bring care and understanding for persons in our community who are dealing with cancer, grief, caregiving and the loss of a loved one by suicide.

PRAYER SERVICES Monthly prayer services have been held each month throughout the year.

BIBLE STUDY Weekly Bible study has offered opportunities in a daytime setting for members and community to attend. This is the 3rd year this Bible study has been offered.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS Blood Drive was held January 19. There were 12 donors which equates to 36 lives being saved.

Blessings & Going Forward...

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS Caring Ministries is working with Trustees to explore ways we can light up our stain glass windows in the sanctuary to be seen from the outside. Clay Adams, architect, has put us in touch with a lighting company and we have met with them a couple of times and hope to have cost proposals for Trustees in March. Caring Ministries is providing the funds for this project through memorials.

PRAYER SERVICES Monthly prayers services are being led by our lay people starting in 2025. Our Pastors and worship team will provide other prayer services during specific times throughout 2025 to enhance and support our Prayer Ministry.

TJ'S FOOD MINISTRY TJ's Food Outreach Ministry has begun meeting for the new year and are exploring new ways to help and make an impact in the community. In March we are looking at the African Universal Church, Pastor Casandra Boykin, to see how we might partner with their existing weekly food drive. This is one of our options the team is exploring.

STEPHEN MINISTRY Penn White, active Stephen Minister is working on Continuing Education opportunities for our Stephen Ministers this Spring. Stephen Ministry commissioning April 27.

CONNECTIONAL CARE Preparing for April Gift Distribution to members' homes.

Thank you...

- Thank you to the Stephen Minister Leaders, Kim Gibson and Janie Mullins for their weekly participation in the training of the new class.
- Thank you to the active Stephen Ministers who pray for our membership each week following the morning worship services.
- Mary and John Hodgkins for their faithful leadership with our Cancer Care Ministry.
- Quilt Guild that supports Lord's Pantry; Hello Gallery and Quilts of Valor that support Tough Dogs/Tough Pups.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who help with home deliveries throughout the year. You are amazing!
- Thank you to Lori White and Cindy Vines for joining our visitation team of Assisted Living facilities.





MUSIC MINISTRIES

Submitted by Tom Hood, Director of Music Ministries

The year is moving fast! We recently brought in the Mardi Gras season with our Jazz Sunday service! It was a wonderful morning of worship not only for our choir and church members but also some of our local musicians.

Our children's choir is gearing up for our spring musical. This year we are telling the story of Daniel in a new and refreshing way! Danny and the Shacks will serve as our Gathering service at the end of April.

This month I would like to say a special thank you to Natalie Woodrow and Carolyn Kidd who have served in both our choir and children's choir ministries! They are both so beneficial and have assisted in so many ways! Thank you for your service and dedication!





RECREATION MINISTRIES

Submitted by Jamie Waldhour, Director of Recreation Ministries

This past November - January, Recreation Ministries held its 17th annual Upward Basketball for youth season. 200 kids, ages 4-9 had an opportunity to participate in a league that promotes teamwork, fair play, fundamentals and of course, FUN! Upward is a unique youth sports program that not only offers a league for a particular sport, but also includes the teaching of God's amazing love for each of them. During practices, coaches take a break and lead a devotional for the team. We also provide a small devotional for the parents at the halftime of each game. Counting parents, players and extended family - we estimate that our Upward program reaches 600+ people over the course of a season.

FUMC Recreation Ministries would like to thank our church family for all of the prayers and support. We are blessed to have a church that provides the resources vital to running this impactful sports ministry for our community.

Recreation is in the early stages of planning our yearly Payne Stewart Golf Camp for kids. This is another opportunity for kids to learn the fundamentals of golf, as well as the importance of Jesus in their lives. Tentative dates for Golf Camp are August 4-6, 2025. Registration details will be announced soon.





STUDENT MINISTRIES

Submitted by Miles Barnhardt, Director of Student Ministries

Greetings from the Youth Department!

2025 is off to an incredible start!

Our Youth continue to meet every Wednesday evening for a time of fellowship, worship, small groups and fun. Since I've arrived we've talked about the "basics" of our faith, gratitude, and even VeggieTales. Our time in worship has been fantastic and I'm incredibly grateful for our Worship team that is made up of adult leaders in our church (Mitch Johnson, Joy Davis and Matt Henson).

Our Small Groups continue to be what I believe is one of the best parts of our ministry. Our leaders (2 per grade) meet with our Students each Wednesday to talk about our lesson (and all the other things that they may want to talk about). They make a commitment to be with our students not only every wednesday but for every Wednesday until they graduate. I'm incredibly thankful for them and their ministry! (Amy Dowden, Amy Thompson, Bunky Bishop, Cairo Plauche, Chad Clark, Chris Drayton, Donald Furlong, Hamp Oldshue, Jennifer Jones, Jennifer Myrick, Joy Davis, Larry Smith, Lynn Oldshue, and Mitch Johnston)

We've had the opportunity to travel to Boone, NC for our High School Ski Trip where we enjoyed skiing and time at Ed Glaize's current church, Boone UMC. Just a few weeks ago our Youth participated in Winter Retreat, which was a collaborative effort with 3 other UM Churches (FUMC Montgomery, St. Luke UMC (Enterprise) and Panama City UMC). Over 100 students from all 4 churches gathered for a weekend of fun, fellowship and worship at Camp Baldwin.

We're already looking ahead to a busy Spring where we'll continue our Wednesday night gatherings and celebrate our Confirmands and Seniors in May. This Summer we're slated for 3 trips including a High School Mission Trip to North Carolina, a Middle School Mission Trip to Montgomery, and a week at Blue Lake Camp.

I truly believe that there are incredible things in store for this ministry and I look forward to seeing how God will continue to work through these leaders, these students and this church. I'm grateful to be a part of such an incredible church that values the power and importance of Youth Ministry.

**Sincerely,
Miles Barnhardt
Director of Student Ministries**





ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Submitted by Rev. Laura Parker

Since Board of Stewards last met, members of our staff have moved into a new year with great joy in serving this special church in the heart of Fairhope!

Much of my work happens behind the scenes:

- Collaborating with our Worship Design Team to plan the liturgy and music for our worship services and sermon preparation.
- Walking alongside Sunday School classes in an advisory capacity to research and preview curriculum.
- Assisting in pastoral care as necessary. In this capacity I have officiated at two funerals since the first of the year.

In addition to the above, I serve the Southwest District as the chair of the District Committee on Ministry and serve the AWFUMC Conference as the secretary for the Board of Ordained Ministry. At the district level, we provide a connection to and make recommendations on the licensing of our Local Pastors. We also walk alongside persons who are inquiring about and pursuing candidacy for ordained ministry. The Conference BOM is the entity that interviews and makes recommendations regarding commissioning and ordaining persons for ministry.

My more visible work is in preaching and teaching. It is an honor to share preaching duties with Rev. Precht and we are now alternating our time in the various worship services we offer.

I concluded teaching a Wednesday night class in early February: Epic of Eden, by Sandra Richter. I am about to teach the following class on grief:

GRIEF: A JOURNEY IN STAGES

Join Rev. Laura Parker for a 3-week study on grief. This class is appropriate for anyone who has experienced recent loss, is walking alongside a loved one who is grieving...or for anyone who just wants to prepare spiritually for those inevitable times when unexpected loss will occur. This class will be taught on Wednesday nights March 19th, 26th, and April 2nd, from 6-7 pm. Registration is required, but there is no advance reading or cost. Class size will be limited.



LEADERSHIP



SPR

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has been busy in the new year, with meetings on January 27, February 13, and March 11. The February meeting included a visit from our District Superintendent, Rev. Sheila Bates, as she consulted with us regarding our ideal profile for an associate pastor in anticipation of Laura Parker’s retirement. That appointment should be named and made public on April 6. On March 25, after receiving recommendations from our youth parents, youth Leadership team, and Youth Director Search Team, we hired Miles Barnhardt as our Youth Director. We are so grateful to Miles for his faithful service in the interim, and we are excited to see how God blesses us through Miles for years to come. We also hope that everyone in the congregation will make a visit or send a note to express their appreciation for Julia Gavin as she retires from 31 years of service as our pastoral assistant. SPRC met for a looonnggg time on March 11 to discuss our transitional and long-range plans for Julia’s position while we settle our other open positions.



TRUSTEES

The trustees’ meeting on February 25, 2025 was primarily focused on routine reviews of our existing Safe Sanctuary, Financial, Rental/Building Use, Endowment, and Wedding policies. We identified a few provisions of the endowment policy that may be in conflict with the Book of Discipline. We also identified a few provisions in our Safe Sanctuary policy for which we would like an annual report from staff, since the Trustees do not regularly conduct the Safe Sanctuary trainings. We also discussed complaints from neighbors about the volume of our HVAC; our April meeting will include a noise survey to make sure we are with limits of the city ordinance. Jeff White reported on our termite repairs and roof issues. We referred several brick and concrete sealant companies for him to consult. Four trustees volunteered to complete our accessibility audit, and bring a report to our April meeting.



FINANCE

Submitted by Alan Mitchell, Finance Committee Chair

The church ended 2024 in good standing financially. At the beginning of 2024 we anticipated using all \$162k in reserves to meet expenses but only ended up using \$31k. Thus, we started 2025 with approximately \$130k in reserves. These reserves are in addition to the 90-day expense reserves that we try to keep at all times.

The January financial statements are included below. Our income was below expectations due to a four Sunday month and a snow event that closed the office for most of one week. That shortfall was made up in February, and we now have matched our 2024 income through February.

At our April Finance Committee meeting we will be discussing our Policies and Procedures Guidelines and our upcoming audit.

BALANCE SHEET:

Fairhope United Methodist Church Balance Sheet As of February 28, 2025

	Feb 28, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
00013 Hancock Main Acct 1252	55,097.30
00014 Hancock PreSchool 1260	30,457.14
00016 Hancock Merchant 1244	47,970.40
00017 Hancock Min Merchant 1295	467.10
00018 Hancock Money Mkt 1287	1,247,521.26
00020 Scholarships/Conference	910,337.67
00030 - Endowment Fund	218,259.80
Total Checking/Savings	2,510,110.67
Total Current Assets	2,510,110.67
Fixed Assets	
00040 Buildings & Eqpt, at cost	7,415,353.02
00041 Land/ Buildings/Eq-old	6,343,255.00
Total Fixed Assets	13,758,608.02
TOTAL ASSETS	16,268,718.69
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
00200 Accounts Payable FUMC	60,388.71
00202 Accounts Payable PRE SCHO	105.72
Total Accounts Payable	60,494.43
Other Current Liabilities	
02000 Scholarships	21,917.88
02001 Flowers	5,466.44
02002 Men's Ministry FM3	3,546.24
02003 Miscellaneous	126,792.01
02005 Library	275.00
02006 Austin Baker Camp Scholar	-207.06
02009 Friends In Faith SS	1,301.72
02011 Living Word Class Sunshin	1,123.79
02012 Columbarium Fund	39,103.20
02016 UMCOR	-767.40
02017 Children's Sunday School	120.37
02018 Missions Disaster Relief	6,015.34
02099 Preschool	-105.72
02101 Music	2,043.85
02103 Education Literature	580.96
02105 Children's Ministry	6,079.89
02106 Youth Activities	5,184.31
02107 Caring Ministry	343,276.76
02109 Missions	47,046.21
02110 Recreation	5,374.57

Fairhope United Methodist Church
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2025

	Feb 28, 25
02200 Family Village Project	1,930.00
02300 Payroll Liabilities	117.66
02601 Scholarships/Conference	910,337.67
02602 Endowments	218,259.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,744,813.49
Total Current Liabilities	1,805,307.92
Long Term Liabilities	
02901 Hancock Mtge. 2021-2031	1,086,592.79
Total Long Term Liabilities	1,086,592.79
Total Liabilities	2,891,900.71
Equity	
03000 Consolidation of Acct2012	7,461,531.39
03001 Opening Year's Balance	70,674.71
03004 Previous Years' Balance	5,724,238.75
03007 Shep. Pl. Consol. 2015	104,285.26
Net Income	16,087.87
Total Equity	13,376,817.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	16,268,718.69

PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET VS ACTUAL:

Fairhope United Methodist Church FUMC Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through February 2025

	January through February 2025			TOTAL		
	Feb 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Jan - Feb 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income						
04000 Pledge Contributions	158,865.03	112,180.00	46,685.03	268,223.55	245,660.00	22,563.55
04001 Non Pledge Contributions	34,075.17	61,099.00	-27,023.83	93,128.97	131,986.00	-38,857.03
04002 Cash Contributions	1,717.00	2,370.00	-653.00	4,184.00	5,190.00	-1,006.00
04003 Adult Sunday School	144.00	119.00	25.00	254.00	260.00	-6.00
04004 Fees	1,110.00	716.00	394.00	1,560.00	1,549.00	11.00
04005 Other Income	125.40	0.00	125.40	125.40	0.00	125.40
04006 Interest Income	3,032.59	2,500.00	532.59	6,157.10	5,000.00	1,157.10
Total Income	199,069.19	178,984.00	20,085.19	373,633.02	389,645.00	-16,011.98
Gross Profit	199,069.19	178,984.00	20,085.19	373,633.02	389,645.00	-16,011.98
Expense						
10000 Worship	322.58	635.00	-312.42	1,638.15	2,100.00	-461.85
10100 Music	1,416.96	1,475.00	-58.04	1,855.47	2,575.00	-719.53
10200 Evangelism/Navigator	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.00	200.00	-200.00
10300 Adult Spiritual Growth	500.97	255.00	245.97	2,223.37	2,685.00	-461.63
10400 Church Family Ministry	254.06	415.00	-160.94	511.44	415.00	96.44
10500 Children's Ministry	2,593.15	1,575.00	1,018.15	7,056.42	7,175.00	-118.58
10600 Youth Ministry	21,278.20	11,829.00	9,449.20	33,507.11	21,689.00	11,818.11
10700 Caring Ministry	0.00	375.00	-375.00	0.00	750.00	-750.00
10800 Communications	1,350.27	1,009.00	341.27	2,614.38	2,018.00	596.38
10900 Missions	7,494.41	3,650.00	3,844.41	15,378.05	10,700.00	4,678.05
11000 Nursery	200.49	20.00	180.49	204.08	570.00	-365.92
11100 Recreation Ministry	699.82	1,190.00	-490.18	1,570.59	1,800.00	-229.41
11200 Gathering	625.49	510.00	115.49	1,270.48	1,020.00	250.48
11400 Stewardship Campaign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11500 Hospitality	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.00	400.00	-400.00
11700 Discretionary Fund	32.99	200.00	-167.01	530.99	200.00	330.99
11800 Wednesday Night Supper	823.37	625.00	198.37	1,445.71	1,250.00	195.71
20000 Trustees	38,120.93	15,201.00	22,919.93	46,926.19	29,955.00	16,971.19
20100 Utilities	7,257.22	7,630.00	-372.78	13,960.96	13,660.00	300.96
20200 Office Expense	2,647.15	5,375.00	-2,727.85	5,986.80	9,100.00	-3,113.20
20300 Kitchen Supplies	1,375.46	1,275.00	100.46	2,456.88	2,550.00	-93.12
20400 Custodial Supplies	1,430.96	1,350.00	80.96	3,230.32	2,600.00	630.32
20500 Financial Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30000 SPR (Salary/Contract)	97,523.60	102,152.00	-4,628.40	193,744.68	204,044.00	-10,299.32
40000 Conference Apportionments	11,670.90	11,670.90	0.00	23,341.80	23,341.80	0.00
40100 District Apportionments	1,808.80	1,808.80	0.00	3,617.60	3,617.60	0.00
50000 Mortgage Interest	2,609.48	2,300.00	309.48	5,260.21	4,600.00	660.21
60000 Mortgage Principle	16,160.30	16,470.00	-309.70	32,279.35	32,940.00	19,316.28
Total Expense	218,197.56	189,295.70	28,901.86	400,611.03	381,955.40	18,655.63
Net Income	-19,128.37	-10,311.70	-8,816.67	-26,978.01	7,689.60	-34,667.61

CELEBRATIONS



NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISM



MIKE KIRK

Joined 1/19/2025



LIZ FLOYD

Joined 2/16/2025



ELOSIE HUNTER DUNAWAY

**Daughter of
Katharine & Caleb Dunaway and
little sister to Sloan Elizabeth.
*Baptized on 3/23/25***



MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Anita Marlene Robinson (Caring Ministries)

by

Teresa & Don Wadsworth

Wanda & Tommy Harris

Ginny Hermetz and family: Andy, Danny, Kevin & Rebecca



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WE EXIST TO **LOVE BOLDLY**, CASTING THE **LIGHT** OF **JESUS** INTO THE WORLD