

THE LINK

FAIRHOPE UMC'S MONTHLY JOURNAL



Christ *the* KING



NOVEMBER 2025

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FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

'Tis the season of mail at the Casa de Precht. Every day, the improbably loud clatter of the mail slot in our front door announces the arrival of a new 5x7 postcard from a college that would absolutely love to be the first choice of our daughter Elsa when she applies to schools next year. The college selection process is much changed from when I was her age, just as my own experience was much different than my parents'.

My dad, in particular, has given me a half dozen, half-true explanations of how he ended up at Northwestern St. University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. When telling college stories in the company of other editors and writers, Dad would joke that someone at his high school told him Northwestern was the best journalism school in the nation... but he didn't realize they meant the school in Chicago. I expect the truest explanation I'll ever get was that he won a scholarship to go anywhere in the state of Louisiana, and so he chose the one school that was too far away for his parents to make him help with the 5 AM milking on the dairy farm.

All of this is to say, the reasons and the seasons of my day-to-day are now two generations removed from the rhythms of plowing, planting, and harvest (or tilling, planting and baling the hay for livestock). Some of us in Fairhope still live by a farmer's calendar; many more of us have calendars circumscribed by tax season, or travel sports, or retail sales.

Almost as soon as the early Church began to settle in to a regular pattern of worship, they also began to order their worshiping life around their own special seasons. The earliest Christian "holy day" was Easter, to which Christians soon added the preparation season known as Lent. Pentecost was also part of the Christian year from the very earliest stages (since it was already established as a Jewish festival before it was a Christian one). Christmas came a little later (it is first mentioned in the fourth century), and within 100 years it had been extended by its own preparation season of Advent.

Somewhere along the way, the Catholic and Orthodox churches began to realize that the sequence of celebration could allow Christians to re-encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, year after year. As the Protestant denominations rose in prominence, they continued practicing the Christian year as a way of sharing in all Christ's work. Each year, the cycle repeats, inviting us to remember Jesus' birth, his public ministry, his death, resurrection, then his ascension and reign through the Holy Spirit.

As we enter the month of November, it has been a long time since we celebrated the "big three" of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Ordinary Time is loooonnnnnngggg, three times longer than any other season in the Christian year. But here at its end, we have two more celebrations to remind us that there is still more life ahead of us in Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Sunday and Christ the King Sunday point us forward and remind us that all of creation can become a sign of the Kingdom. All Saints' is a celebration of "firstfruits." Just as an ancient farmer would throw a feast when the first stalks of wheat were ready for harvest, so we celebrate that anyone who dies in Jesus Christ has become the first fruit of the promise God offers to all (2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Timothy 4:10). And just as the early pilgrims threw an even grander feast to celebrate when the harvest was complete, so, too, we look for the day when all Christ's mission will be accomplished, as every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Christ is King (Philippians 2:10).

You could define your present season in any number of ways. Perhaps it has felt like a season of joy or sorrow; maybe it has been busy or lonely (or perhaps it's strange to admit that both are true). Maybe feel as though Nov. 2 will be the beginning of "standard time" in more ways than one. However you define this current season, remember that Jesus can re-define all that you dread and deepen the meaning all that brings you joy. As you flip through this month's edition of The Link, you find all manner of different opportunities to invite others into this season, as well.

The point of the seasons is never to limit how we think about or worship God, but to show us all the ways that we can "be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2) to share the good news.

Michael

COMING SOON...

Weekly

Sundays

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Sunday School
11am Traditional Worship
11am The Gathering Worship

Mondays

9:15am Walk & Talk with Jesus
10am Knit or Crochet
3pm Grief Support Group
5pm UPWARD BBall Practice

Tuesdays

9:30am Twelve Disciples Study
10am Epic of Eden: Ruth
5pm UPWARD BBall Practice
6pm Experiencing God
6pm Handbell Choir

Wednesdays

9am TJ's Food Ministry
1:30pm Dr. Ann's Bible Study
4:15pm Lighthouse Kids' Choir
5pm Wednesday Night Supper
6pm PIER Kids & SWIFT
6pm Salt Students
6pm Adult Choir
6pm Bible Studies
- Deep Dive Drop-In Study
- Companions in Christ

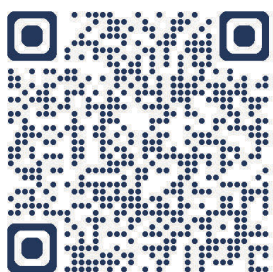
THURSDAYS

9am TJ's Food Ministry
5pm UPWARD BBall Practice

FRIDAYS

9:30am Reservation Nursery
11am - 1pm Community Cafe

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
LOCATIONS, DETAILS,
AND SIGNUPS**



November

NOV 2

All Saints Sunday
9:45 am Raising Godly Children

NOV 3

9:30am MOMCO
6pm Stephen Ministry

NOV 4

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group
6pm Nominations Committee

NOV 5

4:30pm Coastal CC Meal Outreach

NOV 9

9:45 am Raising Godly Children

NOV 10

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

NOV 11

2pm TJ 's Food Ministry
Turkey Giveaway

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support Group

1:30pm Chemo Care Bag

NOV 14

Preschool BBQ Fundraiser

NOV 16

11am Baby Recognition

5:30pm SPR

NOV 17

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

6pm Stephen Ministry

NOV 18

6pm Anchored in Hope

NOV 19

6:30am fm3 Men's Breakfast

5pm Advent Wreath & Chili Dinner

6pm SWIFT Friendsgiving

NOV 20

TJ's Food Ministry - AUC Preschool

NOV 24

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

NOV 25

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support Group

Nov 26-28

Church Office Closed -
Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 27

11am - 1pm Thanksgiving Day
Community Lunch

Looking Ahead

DEC 1

6pm Stephen Ministry

DEC 2

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

DEC 6

8:30am Breakfast at the Manger

DEC 7

11am Children's Choir Musical

DEC 8

9:30am MOMCO

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

DEC 9

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support

1:30pm Chemo Care Bag

DEC 14

8:30am Choir Christmas Cantata

11am Choir Christmas Cantata

DEC 15

6pm Stephen Ministry

DEC 16

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

6pm Anchored in Hope

DEC 17

6:30am fm3 Men's Breakfast

DEC 21

11am A Gathering Christmas

DEC 22

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

DEC 24

3pm Christmas Eve Service (S)

3:30pm Christmas Eve Service (TG)

5pm Christmas Eve Service (S)

5:30pm Christmas Eve Service (TG)

DEC 25 & 26

Church Office & CLC Closed

DEC 28

8:30 & 11am Worship Services (S)

JAN 1 & 2

Church Office & CLC Closed

S= Sanctuary
TG= The Gathering

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY LUNCH

NOVEMBER 27

11AM - 1PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

MENU:

HAM & TURKEY
DRESSING
GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE
SWEET POTATO
CASSEROLE
DESSERT



WANT TO HELP SERVE?
EMAIL MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

DISCIPLESHIP

ADULT MINISTRIES

Dr. Kristen Curtis Wright, Associate Pastor

☎ 251-928-1148 , ext. 261

✉ kristen.wright@fairhopeumc.org

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

– Matthew 25:35

Hunger and thirst are among the most basic human necessities. No matter our age, background, or circumstances, we all know what it feels like to need nourishment. Food sustains us, but it also connects us. Around kitchen tables, in fellowship halls, and at community gatherings, food becomes more than a meal. It becomes a bridge. It opens the door for conversation, friendship, and belonging.

Jesus knew this well. Throughout the Gospels, he shared meals with all kinds of people: disciples, tax collectors, believers, and skeptics. He fed the crowds when they were weary and made sure his disciples were fed before sending them out to serve others. In every case, the table became a place of grace. When we share food, we are reminded that God meets us in the ordinary. A simple meal can become holy ground.

This month, I am celebrating the simple yet sacred act of sharing food with others. Alongside the many ways we already help feed our community, we have begun providing a monthly meal for the Fairhope Coastal Alabama Community College students next door. Each time we've served, it has been a beautiful reminder that ministry isn't confined to what happens inside the church walls. Sometimes ministry looks like casseroles, to-go plates, and quick check-ins over the food line—and what a joy it has been!

I am also excited to share that the **Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry has accepted our request for a grant to help cover the cost of these meals.** What a blessing!

These students may never step into a worship service at Fairhope UMC, yet through your generosity and the help of the conference, we have already made a difference in their lives. As Matthew 25 reminds us, when we feed one another, we are fulfilling the love of Christ

A huge thank you to Katie Robertson and her volunteer crew for preparing 100 extra meals for the students, and to Cindy Sams, Melanie Boykin and her grandson, Oliver Stuckey, and Steve and Suzan Christensen for showing up to serve with such joy.

Our last meal for the semester will be **November 5**, and we look forward to continuing this ministry in the spring. Be on the lookout for ways to get involved – feeding people always makes an impact :)

Grace and peace,

Kristen



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jenna Hood, Director of Children's Ministries

☎ 251-928-1148 , ext. 227

✉ jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org

One Body, Many Ages

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts... so it is with Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:12

"Let the young and the old together praise the name of the Lord." - Psalm 148:12-13)

Church isn't parallel programs under one roof; it's **one family** learning to follow Jesus together. The Bible's image is a body: many parts, many gifts, one Lord. That includes **many ages**. When children, teens, adults, and seniors worship and serve side-by-side, each of us reflects a piece of Christ's love the others need.

- Little ones bring **wonder** - they remind us the gospel is good news worth smiling about.
- Elementary kids bring **joyful energy** - they help us practice patience and celebration.
- Preteens bring **emerging leadership** - they're ready to help and be trusted.
- Youth bring **courage and voice** - they ask honest questions, serve boldly, include outsiders, and model faith-in-action on campus and online.
- Adults bring **steadiness and wisdom** - your presence anchors the room.
- Seniors bring **prayer and perspective** - you help us remember God's faithfulness across decades.

You don't need to be a teacher to strengthen the body. Try one or two of these simple practices this month:

- **Learn three kids' names.** Say hello by name on Sundays. Belonging starts with being known.
- **Sit near a family.** Offer a smile, share a hymnal, whisper "You're doing great." Your grace makes room for theirs.
- **Cheer on next-gen leaders.** When a child reads Scripture or helps serve, celebrate it: "I loved hearing you read today!"
- **Pray specifically.** Pick one age group and pray for them by name if you know it. A quick note or high-five says, "I'm in your corner."
- **Serve occasionally.** Greet at check-in, prep supplies mid-week, or join intergenerational service projects. (For roles with kids, we'll guide you through our safety steps—easy and important.)
- **Tell your Jesus story in one minute.** Kids borrow courage from honest, simple testimonies: "When I was worried, God gave me peace..."

A healthy church doesn't measure success only by quiet rooms or full calendars but by **holy interdependence**: Are all ages needed, not just noticed? When a fifth-grader helps a kindergartner find a seat, or a grandparent kneels to tie a shoe, the gospel becomes visible; it's love taking the first step.

Let's be the church where every generation can say, "I belong here, I am needed here, and together we follow Jesus." Thank you for lending your smile, your story, your steady presence. In Christ, we truly are one body, many ages and that's very good news.

Prayer: Jesus, make us one body of many ages. Teach us to notice, honor, and receive the gifts You've placed in every generation. Knit us together in love so that our life together would preach a sermon stronger than words: Christ is among us. Amen.

Thank You

Church family, join me in thanking the intergenerational team who said “yes” to shaping young hearts this fall in Children’s Sunday School: **Josie Kemper, Bonnie Bailey, Kathy & Jim Ellis, Amanda Canida, Betty Stejskal, Jason & Meri Catherine Brasfield, Suzan Christensen, Sherry Herron, Barbara Ramsey, Emily Garner, Karen Walden, Will Autrey, Robbie Rux, Michelle Graham, Sarah Savery, Helen Ingram, Bo Tucker, Nilsa Fleury, Rebecca Bell, Carol Willis, Amelia & Jon Paul Bobo, Shirley Ryals, Myra Hand, Robyn Koser, Kermit Simons, Adrienne Cooper, and Robbin Runels-Griffis.**

Your “yes” is more than a schedule slot - it’s a living sermon. You are modeling what the body of Christ looks like across ages: steady presence, open hands, listening ears, joyful faith. Because of you, kids will hear their name, feel they belong, and discover that Jesus welcomes them close.

Thank you for preparing lessons, learning faces, praying over chairs, and intentionally connecting with our students so each child leaves feeling known and loved. May the Lord strengthen you week by week, multiply every small seed you plant, and let His joy be your energy. We are grateful to you.

Mark Your Calendars

SWIFT Friendsgiving

Wednesday, November 19 | 6:00-7:30pm | The Dolans’

5th & 6th graders, join us for our 2nd annual Friendsgiving! See Mrs. Jenna to sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Breakfast at the Manger

Saturday, December 6 | 8:30–10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

\$5 per person | \$25 max per family

Kick off the season with a cozy family pancake breakfast! Enjoy pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, games, and more festive fun for all ages. Proceeds support our Men’s Ministry and Children’s Ministry—thank you for blessing our church family! Want to make the morning extra special? Volunteer! We need greeters, griddle-flippers, craft helpers, and clean-up heroes. (Teens welcome to serve, too!) Bring the kids, invite a neighbor, and come hungry—let’s celebrate Jesus’ birth with syrup, smiles, and community. See you at the manger! Contact jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org for more details or to volunteer.



CARING MINISTRIES

Dr. Ann Pearson, *Director of Caring Ministries*

☎ 251-928-1148 , ext. 230

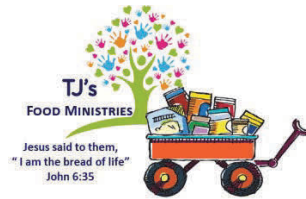
✉ ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org

All Saints'

On All Saints' Sunday, November 2, we will honor the members who have died this past year. Stephen Ministers will place a rose in a vase as we remember our loved ones in each of the morning worship services.

TJ's Food Ministry

TJ's Food Ministry Team will be giving out **500 turkeys** to our community from the Piggly Wiggly Store In Fairhope between **2:00-4:00pm on November 11, Veterans Day**. This has been promoted on social media and is open to all. Our local schools have been informed of this giveaway.



On **November 20**, TJ's Kids Ministry is partnering with our youth at FUMC by providing snack bags for 110 children in the Preschool Program at African Universal Church. What a Thanksgiving blessing for the children and their families!

Walk and Talk with Jesus

We invite all to join the team each Monday at 9:15am on the walking track in the CLC. Can't walk at that time? The track is open Monday through Friday 8am-5pm for walking. The focus in November is on Gratitude. Our prayers are essential in our connection and daily walk with Jesus.

Celebrating Quarterly Birthdays

Each quarter we get to celebrate our members birthday in a casual Come and Go fellowship. Our next celebration will be in 2026 for those with birthdays in December, January & February.



AUC Choir Praise and Prayer Service

The African Universal Church choir provided an uplifting worshipful experience for our congregation. Voices were raised in song, prayers of thanksgiving and petitions were lifted and a prayer time at the altar closed out this beautiful, meaningful service.



Celebrating 15 Years of Service: **Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet** **by Charlie & Michelle Searce & Hazel Odom**

The Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Loan Closet is a ministry of Fairhope United Methodist Church which began in 2010. It is designed to support members of the congregation and the wider community by providing access to gently used medical equipment on a temporary or long-term basis. The purpose of this ministry is to assist individuals recovering from illness, injury, or surgery, and to promote independence and mobility for those with ongoing medical needs.

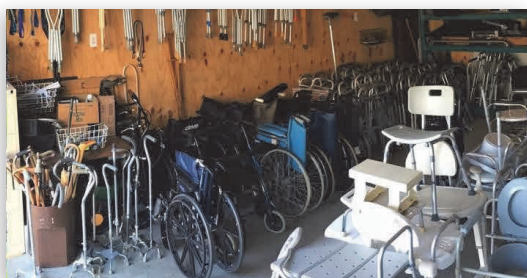
The ministry's mission is to demonstrate Christ's love through practical service—meeting physical needs, promoting independence and easing financial burdens for individuals recovering from illness, injury, surgery, or those living with disabilities—all sharing God's love to those in need through acts of care and compassion.

The DME closet maintains an inventory of commonly used items such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bedside commodes and other assistive devices. Availability is subject to donations and current inventory. Equipment is provided free of charge as a loan or gift, depending on need and item condition.

The impact of this ministry reduces the financial burden for families facing temporary or long term disability, keeps medical equipment out of landfills through reuse, builds community relationships and provides an opportunity for volunteers to live out their faith in tangible ways.

If you or someone you know is in need of equipment—or if you have items to donate—please contact the church office at 251-928-1148. Volunteers are happy to assist and help match you with the appropriate equipment.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2



Thanksgiving Devotional: **"A Heart of Gratitude"**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." - Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

Thanksgiving isn't just a day on the calendar—it's a posture of the heart. Psalm 107 calls us to give thanks not because everything is perfect, but because God is good. His love endures, even when seasons change, when blessings feel distant, or when we're walking through hardship.

Too often, we tie our gratitude to our circumstances: a good harvest, a full table, or a smooth year. But biblical thankfulness digs deeper. It acknowledges that even in the wilderness, God provides. Even in silence, His love is constant.

Gratitude shifts our perspective. It doesn't deny struggle—it reorients our hearts toward God's faithfulness. Whether we're in a season of abundance or one of waiting, we can pause and say, "Thank You, Lord."

Teach us to be thankful not just in abundance, but in all things.

WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUPS:

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

1st & 3rd Tuesday, 9:30am, Library

SEEKING PEACE GRIEF GROUP

Every Monday, 3:00pm, B114

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE (SOS)

2nd & 4th Monday, 6:30pm, B114

TOUGH DOGS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday, 12:30pm, Library

CHEMO CARE BAG ASSEMBLY

2nd Tuesday, 1:30pm, Wesley Hall

ANCHORED IN HOPE: INFERTILITY & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Tuesday, 6:00pm, Parlor

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Miles Barnhardt, *Director of Student Ministries*

☎ 251-928-1148 , ext. 243

✉ students@fairhopeumc.org

Admittedly, the Barnhardts are people that celebrate and look ahead to things well in advance. For example, our Christmas tree will likely be fully decorated by the time you're reading this. I enjoy celebrating and looking ahead to things that I love, and Student Ministries is already looking ahead to something that's a whole month after Christmas: Discovery!

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation retreat that is intended to be holy and fun at the same time. The weekend experience creates an environment in which middle schoolers can better listen to God and be aware of God's presence. The weekend celebration of God's love is designed to involve much of our church family in planning, leading, and providing resources:

- High schoolers work with small groups of middle schoolers (Disciple Groups), lead worship, share their faith stories, and provide leadership throughout the weekend.
- Parents share gifts of love and presence, attend the Prayer Service, and serve in other ways.
- Our Youth and clergy staff provide overall leadership, direction, and supervision.
- Sunday school classes and small groups offer prayer support, snacks and many other things.
- Clergy work with youth who are considering baptism, assist with worship planning, help with teaching and mentoring, and are available for spiritual guidance.

As someone who has been a part of Discovery as a student and leader, I can personally speak to how powerful of a weekend it is. Discovery Weekend is a grand opportunity to fulfill the vow all congregations make in some form with every service of baptism and confirmation that "We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life" (UMH, 35).

If you're interested in being involved in Discovery please reach out to me! No matter your prior experience with Discovery (or Youth in general) there's a job for everyone!

Registration for Students is open now! Sign up today!

-Miles

ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

9:45am-10:45am | Sunday School

TUESDAY

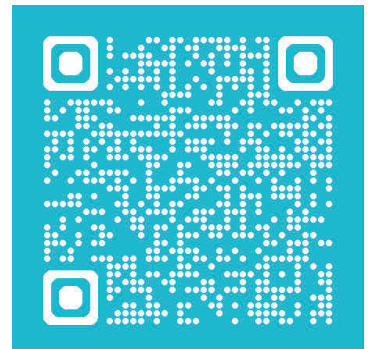
6:45am-7:35am | Breakfast Club

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm-7:45pm | WN Youth

4TH SUNDAY

6:00pm-8:00pm | 4th Sunday Night



WEEKLY

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Tom Hood, Director of Worship & Music Ministries

☎ 251-928-1148, ext. 228

✉ tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org

Let the Children Come to Me

Choral music holds a special place in the faith development of children and youth, shaping not only their musical skills but also their spiritual lives. When young voices blend in harmony, they experience what it means to be part of something greater than themselves—a community of faith united in praise. Through singing, they learn to listen, to work together, and to express the truths of God's love in a living, joyful way. Music helps them internalize the rhythms of worship and the language of faith, giving them a foundation that lasts far beyond childhood. In choir, they don't just learn notes and words; they learn how to offer their hearts to God.

This Advent season, our children and youth will both be participating in worship, helping to lead our congregation in song and spirit as we prepare for the coming of Christ. As they sing the familiar hymns and carols of the season—songs of waiting, hope, and joy—they remind us of the innocence and wonder that Jesus calls us to embrace. Just as the Christ child entered the world in simplicity and light, our young singers lead us to rediscover that same wonder through their voices. Their participation is more than a performance—it is a ministry, a living witness that the message of Christmas belongs to every generation.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). In these words, we are reminded that the faith of our young ones is a gift to be cherished and nurtured. When they sing, they draw us all closer to the heart of God—reminding us that in every note, every breath, and every joyful noise, Christ is near.

Blessings,

Tom



DEC
07

**Children's Choir
Christmas Performance**
11am, The Gathering

DEC
14

Choir Christmas Cantata
8:30am & 11am, Sanctuary

DEC
21

A Gathering Christmas
11am, The Gathering

MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Jennifer Myrick, *Director of Missions Ministries*

☎ 251-928-1148

✉ missions@fairhopeumc.org

Giving Thanks

This Thanksgiving will mark the 10th year our Community Cafe' team has offered a Thanksgiving Day Lunch to our community. The first year we provided the meal, we really weren't sure what to expect. However, we quickly learned that the need for fellowship and community was the reason the Lord set things in motion for us to provide a Thanksgiving Day Meal. That first year, a group of 5 women and 1 gentleman gathered together to share a meal after each had lost their spouses during 2016. You see, they each ventured into the CLC on Fridays to have lunch, meeting one another and building community. Leading up to that day they decided instead of spending their first Thanksgiving alone, they would gather at the church and share a Thanksgiving Meal together. It was a very emotional day for all of them, but they were so happy to have each other. We certainly have our regulars that attend each Thanksgiving, but we also have years of drifters who have found their way to us on that day. We have shared Thanksgiving with bikers traveling cross country, a guy who was recently released from jail, widowers, a dad who had not seen his kids in several months, our homeless friends, the stories go on and on. Every year the Lord brings someone through our doors that reminds us why HE called us to serve on Thanksgiving.

We are so grateful for this church family, who continues to support this outreach. This year we plan once again to provide Thanksgiving Lunch to our community on November 27 from 11:00am-1:00pm. In addition to providing lunch in the fellowship hall, we will be delivering meals to Ecumenical Ministries Meals on Wheels clients, our Community Cafe' homebound, law enforcement serving Fairhope, Daphne, and Spanish Fort, as well as those working in gas stations on Thanksgiving.

How can you help? Volunteers are needed to help prep food on Wednesday, November 26 @ 9:30 am and also serve or deliver on Thanksgiving Day @ 10:00am. We will be collecting the food items listed or donations can be made to help cover the cost of the meal!

MENU: Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potato Casserole, roll and desserts!

We are looking forward to the opportunity to serve our community once again. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Much love,

Jennifer

THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH

WE WILL BE SERVING OUR HOMEBOUND COMMUNITY,
DAPHNE, FAIRHOPE & SPANISH FORT LAW ENFORCEMENT
ECUMENICAL MEALS ON WHEELS HOMEBOUND

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL 11:00-1:00PM
ALL ARE INVITED!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO
SERVE LUNCH AND DELIVER TO
HOMEBOUND!**

ITEMS NEEDED:
GREEN BEANS #10 CANS
CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP
SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE
DRESSING
DESSERTS
TURKEY (12-15 LBS FROZEN OR FRESH)



**WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING
HAMS & TURKEYS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES**

CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK
MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG



Food donations can be dropped off at the CLC.



ADVENT WREATH MAKING & CHILI DINNER @FAIRHOPE UMC

NOV
5PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL 19

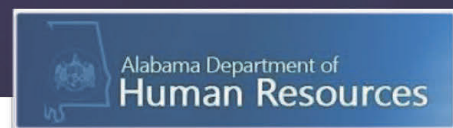
Angel Tree Christmas Giving

Our Angels are Coming!

THANK YOU for supporting our local children and elderly Angels each year! This year we will be partnering with DHR Foster Care, Ecumenical Ministries and Local Schools. Our Angels will be available at the end of November in the CLC and main building.

We are so grateful for your support each year!

More info questions?
Contact Jennifer Myrick
missions@fairhopeumc.org



RECREATION MINISTRIES

Jamie Waldhour, *Director of Recreation Ministries*

☎ 251-928-1148, ext. 249

✉ jamie.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org

UPWARD BASKETBALL PRACTICES ARE IN FULL SWING!

All of our Upward Basketball teams have kicked off their practices, gearing up for an exciting season ahead! The age divisions are categorized into:

- 4-5 YEAR OLDS
- 6-7 YEAR OLDS
- 8-9 YEAR OLDS



We are thrilled to announce that over 200 players have registered for the 2025-26 season! Practices take place at the CLC on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5 to 8 PM. If you're on campus, we invite you to stop by and check it out! The season is set to begin the week of December 1.



DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR WALKING TRACK

Stay Active This Winter!

When the temperatures drop, our Indoor Walking Track is the perfect place to keep moving and stay fit all season long. Enjoy a comfortable, climate-controlled space to walk, stretch, and maintain your fitness goals—rain, cold, or even snow won't slow you down! Whether you're walking for wellness, fellowship, or just to keep your body in motion, our track is open and ready for you this winter. Open every Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the CLC, Enrichment Classes are offered by the Eastern Shore Homeschoolers. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, children and adults gather in the upstairs classrooms and Loft 1 area. Since 2023, we have been proud to partner with this group. These “drop-off” classes provide children with the opportunity to engage in a “micro-school” experience, forge connections with their peers, embark on out-of-class excursions, and learn from a dedicated and enthusiastic instructor. If you're interested or would like more information, please visit

www.steamcampforkids.com/homeschool



ADMINISTRATIVE Reports

FAIRHOPE UMC LEADERSHIP 2026:

All chairs are elected for one year, dates in parentheses mark the end of a committee members term.

Executive Committee:

Lay Leader—Steve Christensen
Board of Stewards Chair—Trey Canida
SPRC Chair: Noah Funderburg
Finance Chair: Allen Mitchell
Trustees Chair:Elected by Trustees, 2026

Board of Stewards:

Tiffany Beasley, Secretary
Will Autrey, At-Large (2026)
Sherry Herron, At-Large (2026)
Olivia Estes, At-Large (2026)
Wells Hammock, At-Large (2026)
Rebecca Bell, At-Large (2027)
Stephanie Bills, At-Large (2027)
Bo Tucker, At-Large (2027)
Kirby Butler, At-Large (2027)
Gene Lammers, At-Large (2028)
Jake Ratliff, At-Large (2028)
Kathy Ellis, At-Large (2028)
Mark Mathias, At-Large (2028)

Nominations Committee:

Don Dolan (2026)
Anne Dorman (2026)
Rebekah Chambless (2026)
Amanda Canida (2027)
John Richardson (2027)
Lucy Sowell (2027)
Mark Woodrow (2028)
Emily Garner (2028)
Pam Turner (2028)

Staff-Parish Relations:

Michelle Graham (2026)
Jon Macklem (2026)
Ashley Meador (2026)
Emily Determann (2027)
Rick Fitzhugh (2027)
Noah Funderburg (2027)
Robyn Simons (2028)
Alan Wright (2028)
Matthew Downs (2028)

Trustees:

Jennifer Jones (2026)
Walter Corbitt (2026)
Reed Givens (2026)
Kimberly McKeough (2027)
Larry Smith (2027)
Dee Lores (2027)
Pam Vincent (2028)
Terry Corley (2028)
Kevin Arthur (2028)

Finance Committee

Josh Bills (2026)
Allen Mitchell (2026)
Cairo Plache' (2026)
Elizabeth Hammock (2027)
Kristin Capstraw (2027)
Greg Tapscott(2027)
Alicia Searcy (2028)
Phil Webb (2028)
Lany Simmons (2028)

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who attended our Charge Conference on Oct. 14 in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Gillian Walters of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church presided on behalf of District Superintendent Sheila Bates. Following an opening devotional from John 7:37-38, Rev. Walters oversaw the voting as we elected our new church officers for 2026 (see opposite page), approved the pastors' salaries, and approved the reports of our three Certified Lay Servants: Emily Garner, Gene Lammers, and Ann Pearson. We also reported on our goals for the coming year, as first announced during September's Grow the Promise campaign.

We also learned about the ongoing work of our local college ministry, the Wesley Foundation at the University of South Alabama.

In the Pastors' Report, Pastor Kristen offered appreciation for the extravagant hospitality of the church in her first four months, and celebrated the launch of The Village Sunday school class. Pastor Michael thanked Emily Garner and Lee Turner, whose terms as our Lay Leader and Board of Stewards chair will conclude on December 31, 2025. Emily and Lee have been faithful and tireless in their leadership, and we are grateful that they will continue to be bright witnesses within our church, but with fewer meetings to attend next year!

LEADERSHIP

SPRC **Submitted by Noah Funderburg**

The Staff Parrish Relations Committee reviewed staffing needs and salaries and made recommendations to the Finance Committee, as part of our annual budgeting process.

TRUSTEES **Submitted by Jennifer Jones**

"THANK YOU!" from Pastor Barry and the congregation of Fairhope Church of God in Christ. Our response: "It's what neighbors do!" The Fairhope Church of God in Christ has been meeting for prayer and worship in Wesley Hall since September while they make plans for replacing their church building which developed unsafe structural issues. Leaning on one another during tough times is one of the many blessings we have as members of the family of God. Well done, church!

At our November meeting, the Trustees will evaluate a proposal from a local waterproofing company to repair and seal the masonry of the bell tower as well as additional walls on the Sanctuary building and Education Building. Additionally, the proposal includes re-caulking around windows and at joints. The trustees have a prioritized list of the walls most in need of repair and will endeavor to include as many of those walls in the scope as funds will allow.

We will also review our policies guiding the use of our facilities by outside groups. One of the hallmarks of our church is that we open our doors to the community, and we want to continue to do so in a way that is safe and sustainable.

BUDGET REPORT | SEPTEMBER

Fairhope United Methodist Church

FUMC Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through September 2025

	Sep 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Jan - Sep 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income						
04000 Pledge Contributions	112,206.00	88,040.00	24,166.00	1,055,512.50	967,020.00	88,492.50
04001 Non Pledge Contributions	43,575.95	49,991.00	-6,415.05	434,074.37	530,276.00	-96,201.63
04002 Cash Contributions	2,460.01	1,860.00	600.01	22,177.03	20,430.00	1,747.03
04003 Adult Sunday School	253.00	93.00	160.00	1,073.00	1,024.00	49.00
04004 Fees	2,430.00	584.00	1,846.00	15,420.00	6,212.00	9,208.00
04005 Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,019.40	33,500.00	22,519.40
04006 Interest Income	2,777.17	2,500.00	277.17	31,460.68	22,500.00	8,960.68
Total Income	163,702.13	143,068.00	20,634.13	1,615,736.98	1,580,962.00	34,774.98
Gross Profit	163,702.13	143,068.00	20,634.13	1,615,736.98	1,580,962.00	34,774.98
Expense						
10000 Worship	2,481.45	1,115.00	1,366.45	10,059.19	8,505.00	1,554.19
10100 Music	406.53	1,710.00	-1,303.47	10,657.25	13,285.00	-2,627.75
10200 Evangelism/Navigator	0.00	100.00	-100.00	638.36	600.00	38.36
10300 Adult Spiritual Growth	1,633.67	1,022.00	611.67	7,316.66	8,163.00	-846.34
10400 Church Family Ministry	2,371.53	1,365.00	1,006.53	4,800.34	6,687.00	-1,886.66
10500 Children's Ministry	453.67	475.00	-21.33	28,601.20	24,935.00	3,666.20
10600 Youth Ministry	448.68	5,089.00	-4,640.32	59,280.14	59,017.00	263.14
10700 Caring Ministry	750.00	375.00	375.00	3,375.00	3,375.00	0.00
10800 Communications	986.53	1,009.00	-22.47	10,468.13	9,542.00	926.13
10900 Missions	3,389.53	4,450.00	-1,060.47	80,717.38	61,406.00	19,311.38
11000 Nursery	189.22	50.00	139.22	841.52	1,200.00	-358.48
11100 Recreation Ministry	814.05	665.00	149.05	6,926.90	7,465.00	-538.10
11200 Gathering	633.63	510.00	123.63	6,001.89	4,500.00	1,501.89
11400 Stewardship Campaign	3,620.40	1,650.00	1,970.40	3,620.40	3,050.00	570.40
11500 Hospitality	0.00	100.00	-100.00	114.43	1,700.00	-1,585.57
11700 Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,121.16	1,700.00	2,421.16
11800 Wednesday Night Supper	1,094.71	625.00	469.71	7,416.94	3,875.00	3,541.94
20000 Trustees	38,256.47	18,988.00	19,268.47	197,846.75	170,766.00	27,080.75
20100 Utilities	9,782.86	10,930.00	-1,147.14	74,201.98	68,840.00	5,361.98
20200 Office Expense	7,456.98	4,345.00	3,111.98	40,706.73	38,856.00	1,850.73
20300 Kitchen Supplies	2,167.00	1,275.00	892.00	10,699.42	11,475.00	-775.58
20400 Custodial Supplies	1,088.85	1,250.00	-161.15	11,245.06	11,550.00	-304.94
20500 Financial Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00
30000 SPR (Salary/Contract)	94,312.05	102,677.00	-8,364.95	859,043.37	923,927.00	-64,883.63
40000 Conference Apportionments	11,670.90	11,670.90	0.00	105,038.10	105,038.10	0.00
40100 District Apportionments	1,808.80	1,808.80	0.00	16,279.20	16,279.20	0.00
50000 Mortgage Interest	2,323.61	2,300.00	23.61	21,983.96	20,700.00	1,283.96
60000 Mortgage Principle	16,446.17	16,470.00	-23.83	146,944.06	148,230.00	-1,285.94
Total Expense	204,587.29	192,024.70	12,562.59	1,728,945.52	1,746,666.30	-17,720.78
Net Income	-40,885.16	-48,956.70	8,071.54	-113,208.54	-165,704.30	52,495.76

CELEBRATIONS

NEW FACES, NEW FRIENDS...

We're excited to welcome our newest members to the Fairhope UMC family! Each new face is a beautiful reminder of God's grace and the gift of community. Together, we look forward to growing in faith, serving others, and sharing life in fellowship.

Let's celebrate and pray for these wonderful new members—may their time at Fairhope UMC be filled with love, purpose, and joy!



The Carlsrud Family
Tim, Tara , Tatum & Toby
Joined October 12, 2025



Julie & Tony Brunson
Joined October 19, 2025



Abby & Jones Manning
Joined October 19, 2025

Hattie Lucille Manning
Baptized October 19, 2025



We joyfully celebrate the arrival of:

Mary Margaret Williams, daughter of Mary Elizabeth & Sam Williams, born October 21.

John Turner Thompson, son of Christi & Andrew Thompson, born on October 27.

Big sister is Lillianna Ruth Thompson and grandparents are Terri & Mike Thompson.

MEMORIALS

We are deeply grateful for the gifts given in memory of loved ones. Your generosity blesses our church family and helps build a lasting legacy of faith and love.

Bob Gibson by Patti & David Hanafourde (Robert & Mary Gibson Memorial Scholarship Fund)

Laurel Holland by Betty & Jerry Bruce (Caring Ministries)

Elsie Butgereit by Barbara Hill (Roy & Elsie Butgereit Missions Scholarship Fund)

Steve Vogle by Wanda & Tommy Harris (Caring Ministries)

Terry Turner by Kay & Terry Hicks (Caring Ministries)

Lou Avery by Kay & Terry Hicks (Caring Ministries)

DISCIPLESHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

OUR VISION FOR 2026:

To nurture our strengths as an intergenerational church for others.

OUR PRIORITIES:

- New signs and Master Plan to make our campus more hospitable.
- Involving every generation in leading our children's Sunday school.
- A capital campaign to retire our debt.
- At least six, intergenerational Zechariah Teams that will serve together twice a year.
- Praying for local churches, by name, in worship once a month.
- Leading the way in ministry to the homeless of Baldwin County.

RESPONSE SO FAR:

175 Pledges, for a total of \$1,339,130 pledged
(compared with 175 pledges of \$1,253,772 at this time in 2024)

GOAL: 210 pledges for \$1,505,019





Use this QR Code if you prefer to complete this pledge online, or visit fairhopeumc.org



COMMITMENT CARD

With this pledge, I/we make the following commitments to Fairhope UMC for 2026:

Name(s)

Address

Email(s)

GIFTS

In 2026, I/We Commit To Give

\$_____ per () week () month () other _____

If two people are making commitments below, initial the boxes to identify who is making each commitment.

PRAYERS

Please add me to the Five-Day Devotion mailing list.

I will send a card to each church or pastor we pray for in 2026.

PRESENCE

I am a member of a small group/supper club/etc.

I would like help finding a small group, etc.

I will teach or serve behind the scenes in Children's Sunday School 4x a year.

SERVICE

I am currently serving my fellow church members by _____.

I am looking for a place to serve, please contact me.

I'll be a test pilot by serving on a Zechariah Team for one Sunday in Lent.

WITNESS

Please pray for _____. I am praying they will know and love Jesus.

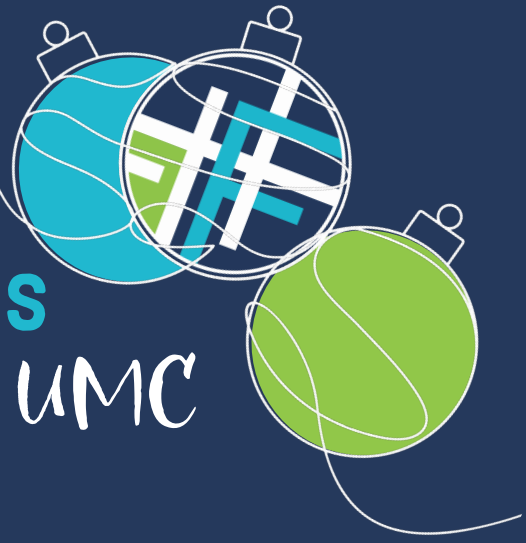
I already serve beyond our walls by _____.

I'd like to learn about, pray for, or lead the way in homelessness ministry for Baldwin County.

Celebrate

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

@ Fairhope UMC



NOV
30

First Sunday in Advent

Traditional Worship | 8:30am & 11am | Sanctuary
The Gathering Worship | 11am | CLC

DEC
06

Breakfast at the Manger

Pancake Breakfast, Pictures w/ Santa & MORE | 8:30am | CLC

DEC
07

Second Sunday in Advent

Traditional Worship w/ Rev. Sheila Bates | 8:30am & 11am | Sanctuary
Children's Choir Christmas Musical @ The Gathering | 11am | CLC

DEC
14

Third Sunday in Advent

Choir Christmas Cantata | 8:30am & 11am | Sanctuary
Coffee with the Pastors | 9:45am | Parlor
The Gathering Worship | 11am | CLC

DEC
21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Traditional Worship | 8:30am & 11am | Sanctuary
A Gathering Christmas | 11am | CLC

DEC
24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Traditional | 3:00pm & 5:00pm | Sanctuary
The Gathering | 3:30pm & 5:30pm | CLC
Nursery available at all services.

DEC
28

Christmas Sunday

Traditional Worship | 8:30am & 11am | Sanctuary
The Gathering Service will not meet. No SS or Children's Church.



155 S SECTION | 251-928-1148 | FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

We **EXIST** to **LOVE BOLDLY**, casting the **LIGHT** of **JESUS** into the world.