

THE LINK

FAIRHOPE UMC'S MONTHLY JOURNAL FEBRUARY 2026

THE TEMPLE

JOURNEYING TOGETHER
TO THE CROSS THIS LENT

FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

By now, I hope you've heard the news: "The Bishop is coming to visit!"

Bishop Holston's highest possible endorsement comes from my eldest daughter, Elsa. Elsa usually has a Sunday afternoon commitment for school or theater, and so she most often worships with the other Rev. Precht in our family, over in Mobile. But when Elsa saw that Bishop Holston is coming to preach at Fairhope, she said "Do NOT let me miss that. He is so great. I'll be up in time to drive over the bay and hear him at the 8:30 service; I promise. Just don't let me forget."

I'm delighted to welcome the kind of bishop who inspires a 16 year old to wake up even earlier for church, and whether you worship early or late, you will know we are blessed to have him here. You may also have questions as we get ready for Sunday, most importantly: "What's a Bishop?"

The English word "bishop" comes from the Greek word *episkopos*, (sometimes translated as "overseer," especially when translated churches without bishops!). *Episkopos* shares a root with other Greek words that all signify visitation, inspection, and care. So, an *episkopos* is someone who visits, and while visiting, the *episkopos* checks in.

As the Gospel spread in the second and third generations of the church, many regions included more congregations than any *episkopos* could visit, so the *episkopos* also became responsible for laying hands on *presbyteroi* ("elders" or "presiders over the assembly") and sending them to preach the Good News in the places a bishop could visit less and less often. 2000 years later, through various twists and turns of language, we United Methodists commonly use the word "bishop" in place of *episkopos*, and "pastors" in place of *presbyteroi*.^

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from Pastor Michael, continued...

Throughout history, Christians (like most people) have sometimes resented listening to or depending upon someone they don't see every day. And throughout history, the episcopacy (that is, the office of the bishop) has sometimes misused its power (like in any human system). So, at various points in Christian history, some churches have decided the biblical words *episkopos* and *presbyteros* are really just two different words for the same thing, and those churches have decided "We don't need no stinkin' bishops!" Those churches say every pastor is fulfilling the Biblical role of an *episkopos* and *presbyteros*.

However, the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and (obviously) the Episcopal traditions still hold the more historic reading of scripture, distinguishing between bishops and elders (many, but not all, Pentecostal traditions have bishops as well). Throughout the Church's history, most Christians have had a bishop, and even today most Christians around the world do, too.

What those bishops actually do varies a bit. In nearly every tradition, bishops do the work of "making" new pastors; the bishop is the one who lays hands on new pastors and gives them their commission.

In the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions, bishops also have a significant role in setting the doctrine—the officially supported interpretations of scripture—of their Churches. The United Methodist Church is more democratically organized, so our doctrines can only be established by the General Conference, in which the bishops do not even have a vote.

United Methodist bishops have less authority over teaching and doctrine than other traditions, but more authority than almost any other bishops over who teaches in a United Methodist pulpit. This comes from our missional and frontier history. In the early days of the Methodist movement, our bishops noticed that preachers sometimes chose comfort over the mission (can you imagine!). Especially in America, where people kept moving around and pushing the frontiers, someone needed to make sure the Gospel went out to meet them. So, the

Methodist bishops became responsible for sending pastors to wherever they were most needed. To this day, every United Methodist pastor vows to go where the bishop sends us, whenever they send us. Over the years, this has meant there are Methodist churches in all kinds of places that other denominations overlook. For instance, at my most recent count, Bishop Holston oversees about 500 churches (with the help of his superintendents). By comparison, the local Roman Catholic Bishop oversees about 50 churches, and the local Episcopal bishop oversees about 60.

And even though a United Methodist bishop rarely has time to do the kind of teaching that's expected of other bishops, there are moments when our bishops have a unique role in applying our understanding of scripture to the news of the day. A bishop hears from every corner of their conference, and collectively, the Council of Bishops means that any United Methodist is only 5 degrees of separation (closer than Kevin Bacon!) from every United Methodist in the world. As Paul reminds us, "when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them" (1 Corinthians 12:26). For that reason, a bishop will often write a brief letter in response to events within their region, or collaborate with the Council of Bishops in explaining how our Book of Discipline and Social Principles can apply the scriptures to the events of the day.

Just this very week, the Council of Bishops released a statement on the recent violence in Minnesota, to which Bishop Holston added his own thoughts

I had a few thoughts of my own—more prayerful and less doctrinal—that I shared at michaelprecht.com, if you wonder (as I did) how to reconcile the goodness of our Discovery Weekend with the brokenness that kept breaking in through news alerts on Saturday. In a world of division continues to become violence, the world needs us to *love boldly, casting the light of Jesus into the world*.

--- *Michael*

[^]In the United Methodist Church, both elders (*presbyteros*) and deacons, (*diakanoi*) are called "pastors," but we'll leave *diakanoi* for another

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

Tuesdays

9:30am Fruit of the Spirit Study

5:30pm Ronnie Arrow BBall

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 Deep Dive Drop-In Study

THURSDAYS

9am TJ's Food Ministry

FRIDAYS

9:30am Reservation Nursery

11am - 1pm Community Cafe

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LOCATIONS, DETAILS, AND SIGNUPS



S= Sanctuary
TG= The Gathering
FH= Fellowship Hall
WH= Wesley Hall

February

FEB 1

Guest Preacher:

Bishop Jonathan Holston

8:30am Traditional (S)

11am COMBINED (TG)

FEB 2

9:30am Quarterly Birthday Celebration

6pm Stephen Ministry

FEB 3

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

FEB 8

9:45 am Coffee with the Pastors

FEB 9

9:30am MOMCO

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

FEB 10

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support

1:30pm Chemo Care Bag

5:30pm Ronnie Arrow BBall

Skills Camp begins

FEB 15

8:30am & 11am Jazz Sunday (S)

9:45am Jazz & Pancake Brunch (WH)

FEB 16

6pm Stephen Ministry

FEB 17

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

FEB 18

Ash Wednesday

Noon & 6pm (S)

4pm Come & Go (FH Pier)

FEB 23

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

FEB 24

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support

FEB 25

6pm Remember: God's Covenants and the Cross Lenten Study begins

FEB 27-28

Created By God: Wonderfully Made

Looking Ahead

MAR 1

1pm Serving Together: Church-wide Campus Clean-Up

MAR 2

6pm Stephen Ministry

MAR 3

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

MAR 8

9:45 am Coffee with the Pastors

MAR 9

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

MAR 10

9am-3pm Staff Offsite

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support

1:30pm Chemo Care Bag

6pm SPRC Meeting

MAR 16

6pm Stephen Ministry

MAR 17

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group

6pm Anchored In Hope: Infertility & Loss Support Group

MAR 23

9:30am MOMCO

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

MAR 24

12:30pm Tough Dogs Support

MAR 29

Palm Sunday

APR 1

Kid's Easter Celebration

APR 2

6pm Maundy Thursday (S)

APR 3

6pm Good Friday Crosswalk (FH Pier)

APR 5

Easter Services:

8am Traditional Service

9:30am Traditional Service

11am Traditional Service

11am The Gathering Service



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

NOON & 6PM | SANCTUARY
COME & GO 4 PM | FAIRHOPE PIER

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Begin the sacred season of Lent with prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes. We invite you to join us as we mark this holy day together and open our hearts to humility and renewal.

DISCIPLESHIP

A painting of a city skyline, likely Jerusalem, featuring a prominent minaret and a cloudy sky. The city is built on a hillside with various buildings and structures. The sky is filled with clouds and a few birds.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Dr. Kristen Curtis Wright, Associate Pastor

251-928-1148, ext. 261

kristen.wright@fairhopeumc.org

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment." Joel 2:12-13

February 18, 2026 begins one of the holiest seasons of the Christian year. Lent is a gift of forty days to slow down, listen closely, and walk intentionally with Jesus on the road that leads to the cross. Lent is not an invitation to get it all right, or to prove our faithfulness, but an invitation to return.

Joel's words remind us that God meets us right where we are, even now, with everything we carry. Whether our hearts feel tired, distracted, hopeful, or unsure, God is already present. As Lent approaches, we are invited to pause, set our intentions, and reflect on what it might look like to return to God. *What do I need to release? How do I hope to grow? Where is God inviting me into deeper trust, repentance, and hope?*

This season is not about doing more just to stay busy, but about making space. Space for prayer. Space for reflection. Space for God to meet us as we are. As we begin this journey together, I invite you to consider how you will mark these forty days as holy and how you will walk alongside Christ and one another.

In addition to our Sunday morning worship services, there are many ways to engage in our shared Lenten journey this year at Fairhope UMC:

- On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we will offer ashes at the pier at 4:00 p.m. and gather for worship in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm.
- Throughout the season, we will also share a Lenten devotional book made up of 40 devotions written by 40 volunteers from all ages and stages of life. This collection has been a gift to me, and I believe it will be a gift to you as well. The devotionals will be available in print and emailed daily throughout Lent.
- Lastly, I will be leading a five week Lenten Bible study on, *Remember: God's Covenants and the Cross*, on Wednesday at 6:00 pm beginning February 25. If you would like to register, please use the QR code below!

Wherever you find yourself as Lent begins, know that this is a journey we take together. My prayer is that these forty days draw us closer to Jesus and prepare our hearts to receive the joy of resurrection. Grace and peace,

Kristen

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
REGISTRATION**

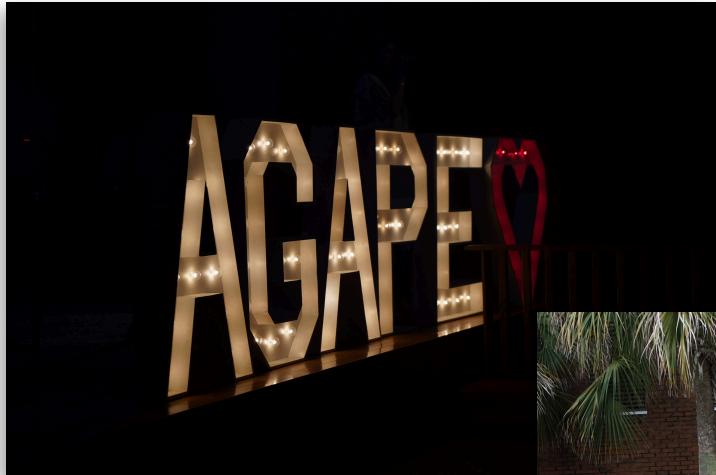


STUDENT MINISTRIES

Miles Barnhardt, Director of Student Ministries

251-928-1148, ext. 243

students@fairhopeumc.org



NO CAPTION NEEDED - JUST A HUGE
THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING THE
WEEKEND SO AMAZING!



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Tom Hood, Director of Worship & Music Ministries

📞 251-928-1148, ext. 228

✉️ tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org

Christian Faith and the Art of Jazz

From its earliest beginnings, jazz has carried the echoes of Christian faith. Born in African American communities shaped by Scripture, spirituals, and the rhythms of worship, jazz emerged as a musical language of both lament and hope. The blues notes, call-and-response patterns, and improvisational freedom found in jazz reflect the lived faith of people who trusted God amid hardship. Much like the Psalms, jazz has always made room for honest emotion—joy, sorrow, repentance, and praise—held together by a deep confidence in God's sustaining grace.

Across the decades, many jazz musicians have openly drawn on their Christian convictions. Duke Ellington famously described jazz as “my religion,” composing sacred works that brought worship into concert halls. Artists such as Mary Lou Williams, John Coltrane, and later figures like Wynton Marsalis explored themes of redemption, prayer, and divine order through their music. Improvisation itself mirrors a life of faith—listening closely, responding faithfully, and trusting the Spirit’s movement in the moment rather than rigidly following a script.

As we gather for Jazz Sunday, we celebrate more than a musical style; we honor a testimony of faith woven into sound. Jazz reminds us that God can be glorified through creativity, cultural expression, and communal joy. I wish to give special thanks to our wizard of the keys, John Richardson, whose gifts help lead us in joyful praise, as well as to the many local musicians who share their talents with generosity and heart. In their music, we glimpse the beauty of discipleship—rooted in tradition, alive with the Spirit, and offered freely to the glory of God.



Join us for a Jazz Brunch from 9:45 -10:30am in Wesley Hall!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

What Children Have Taught Me

When people ask what I've learned from working in children's ministry, I'm tempted to talk about curriculum, programming, or leadership lessons. But the truth is, the most important things I've learned didn't come from books, conferences, or meetings. They came from the children themselves.

Children have taught me how to wonder again. They ask the kinds of questions adults often stop asking. Questions without an agenda or a need to sound smart. "Why does God love us so much?" "How does Jesus hear everyone at once?" "Will my dog be in heaven?" Their curiosity reminded me that faith doesn't begin with certainty. It begins with awe and wonder.

Children have taught me that belonging comes before understanding. Long before a child can explain theology or recite a creed, they know whether they are safe, seen, and loved. They need to know if they matter. I watched children flourish simply because someone remembered their name, saved them a seat, or noticed when they were missing. Again and again, they have shown me that love is the soil where faith grows.

Children have taught me how to be brave in honesty. They are remarkably unafraid to name big feelings - joy, fear, grief, excitement - all in the same breath. They don't pretend everything is fine when it isn't. In their openness, I have seen simple prayers as they are meant to be: real, unfiltered, and deeply trusting that God can handle whatever we bring.

As I write this, my time serving as Children's Director is coming to an end - not along a path I would have chosen, but one I am trusting God to hold with care. While this goodbye carries an emotional weight, it also carries deep gratitude: for the children who have trusted me, the families who have partnered alongside me, and the volunteers who have shown up week after week with love and faithfulness.

One last thing that your children have also taught me that joy is holy work. Laughter during a game, singing at the top of their lungs, movement, mess, and creativity - these are not distractions from faith formation. They are part of it. Children remind me that worship doesn't have to be stiff to be sacred.

Scripture reminds us, "Let the children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mark 10:14). My prayer is that we never stop learning from the faith, courage, and wonder of our children and that we continue to create spaces where they know, without question, that they belong to God. May we find those godly moments where joy, wonder, and faith come together in such a way as to plant seeds that will forever impact our children.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "J" being particularly prominent.



CARING MINISTRIES

Dr. Ann Pearson, Director of Caring Ministries

251-928-1148, ext. 230

ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org

Quarterly Birthday Celebration

Join us on Monday, February 2 between 10:00-11:30am in the CLC Parlor. If your birthday is in December, January and February, you are invited to drop by the Parlor and enjoy fellowship with others. You may meet new friends who are in our Church family.

RSVP to Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or call 251-928-1148.



Knit/Crochet for a Purpose Ministry



The Knit/Crochet group meets in the library of the church every Monday. We welcome everyone who loves to knit, crochet, needlework etc. Some of the ministries we support with our crafts are Tough Dogs with chemo caps, Nursery Ministry with baby blankets, TJ's Kids with needlepoint crosses, Senior Angel Tree with scarves and shawls, and we sent items with Jennifer Myrick's team last December to Costa Rica. Our focus for the first quarter of 2026 will be needlepoint pocket crosses as well as chemo caps for Tough Dogs. We have some yarn, hooks/needles, patterns, and cross frames available. If you have any questions, please email Suzan Christensen at suzanchristensen@gmail.com. Also, while we would miss seeing you, if Mondays don't work, you can still knit/crochet and Suzan can arrange to pick them up.



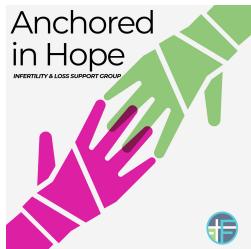
On Jazz Sunday, January 15, Knit and Crochet will be giving away handmade scarfs as a gift to you or to share with others. This is a Random Act of Kindness showing God's love to others. Join us at the Pancake breakfast in Wesley Hall during the Sunday School hour where your Knit and Crochet team will be offering gifts of love.

Weekly Drop In Bible Study facilitated by Dr. Ann

This study is held each Wednesday at 1:30pm for an hour in Wesley Hall. We are studying 2 Samuel and would love to share this study time with you.



COMMUNITY OFFERINGS & SUPPORT GROUPS



Anchored in Hope

Infertility and Loss Support Group for those struggling with infertility, miscarriage or loss. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in CLC Parlor.



Caregivers Support Group

Offers compassion and empathy for persons caring for loved ones 24/7. Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30am in FUMC library.



Seeking Peace Grief Group

For individuals who are recovering from loss and finding ways to heal in this new season of life. Meets every Monday at 3:00pm in B114.



Survivors of Suicide

For persons whose loved ones have died by suicide. This group offers listening, reassurance, understanding and information. Meets the 2nd & 4th Monday at 6:30pm in B114.



Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group

Support for individuals and families whose lives have been affected by cancer and sickle cell anemia. Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 12:30pm in FUMC library. Chemo Care bag Assembly occurs on the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30pm Wesley Hall. All are welcome to help fill care bags with love for those going through treatment for cancer and sickle cell anemia.

Contact Dr. Ann Pearson for more information, 251-928-1148

RECREATION MINISTRIES

Jamie Waldhour, Director of Recreation Ministries

251-928-1148, ext. 249 jamie.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org

Post-Upward Basketball Reflection: A Word to Parents



If you're a parent today, you probably feel it—life is full. School schedules, sports practices, work demands, family commitments, and the constant pull of technology can leave very little margin. Add church activities into the mix, and it can feel overwhelming, even when those activities are good and meaningful.

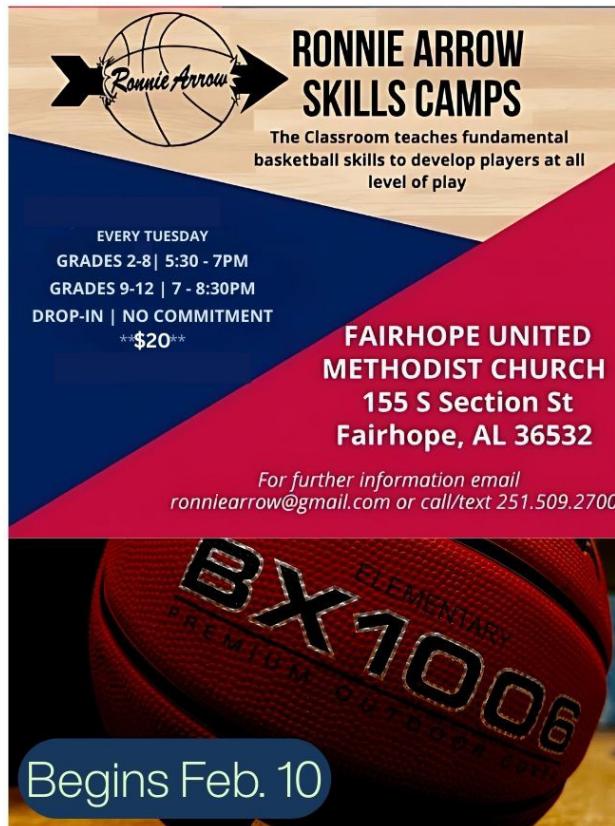
If you've ever felt torn between wanting your family to stay connected to church and simply trying to survive the week, you're not alone.

Recreation ministry exists because we believe play, sports, and shared experiences matter. They build relationships, teach teamwork, and create space for kids to grow—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually. Still, we recognize that families today don't need more pressure or more guilt. They need encouragement, flexibility, and grace.

Faith formation doesn't happen only in church buildings or organized programs. It happens in car pools, on ball fields, around dinner tables, and during bedtime conversations. Recreation ministry is meant to support those moments, not compete with them.

Our hope is to walk alongside your family—meeting you where you are, offering connection rather than obligation, and using recreation as a bridge to community and faith. You are not failing if you can't do everything. You are doing sacred work simply by loving your children and showing up as best you can.

Thank you for the effort you make, seen and unseen. We're grateful for you, and we're committed to being a place where your family can belong, breathe, and grow—together.



**RONNIE ARROW
SKILLS CAMPS**
The Classroom teaches fundamental basketball skills to develop players at all level of play

EVERY TUESDAY
GRADES 2-8 | 5:30 - 7PM
GRADES 9-12 | 7 - 8:30PM
DROP-IN | NO COMMITMENT
\$20

FAIRHOPE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
155 S Section St
Fairhope, AL 36532

For further information email
ronniearrow@gmail.com or call/text 251.509.2700

BX 1006 ELEMENTARY PREMIUM OUTDOOR COVER

Begins Feb. 10



MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Jennifer Myrick, Director of Missions Ministries

251-928-1148

missions@fairhopeumc.org



Family Promise

How can you SERVE? Fairhope UMC has been serving Family Promise of Baldwin County for over 15 years. Family Promise is a local organization serving families experiencing homelessness in Baldwin County. We serve 4-5 times a year, providing shelter (Sunday School Class rooms), meals and support during our host week. Volunteers are needed to provide meals, breakfast items, serve as dinner host and overnight host.

For more information about serving Family Promise, please contact Lany Simmons or Jennifer Myrick at missions@fairhopeumc.org

Costa Rica Missions

Are you being called to SERVE on our teams serving in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica District Methodist Children's Home Trip week off April 26th!

We will be serving at the Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica. This children's home provides a "home" to abandoned children throughout Costa Rica. Fairhope UMC has been serving the Children's Home for many years. Our team will work minor construction and provide VBS. We are partnering with Spanish Fort UMC and other churches.

If you are interested serving please contact Jennifer Myrick, missions@fairhopeumc.org

Costa Rica Amor en la Calle Mission Trip May 22nd-May 31st 2026

May 2026 will we celebrate serving alongside the Amor en la Calle (Love in the Streets) Ministry for 22 years! Our team will continue to help with the final construction phase of the house at the boys ranch, provide VBS for local schools, and prison ministry at the juvenile prison. For more information about serving on the Costa Rica May Team, please email Jennifer Myrick at missions@fairhopeumc.org. Our team is filling up fast!



CHURCH LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

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

In Memory of:

Bill Beard (*Shepherd's Place*)
by Reta & Jeff Barnes

Clarence Bishop (*Rise Against Hunger*)
by Mary Beth Gibson

Bob Gibson (*Gibson Memorial Scholarship*)
by Mary Beth Gibson
by JoAnn Riggs

Lou Jennings (*Gibson Memorial Scholarship*)
by Mary Beth Gibson

Dr. Ralph Neal, Jr. (*Caring Ministries*)
by Camilla Handwerger

In Honor of:

Dr. Ann Pearson (*Caring Ministries*)
by Dee & Tim Fuhrman

Mary & John Hodgkins (*Cancer Care Angels*)
by Mary Kathryn Metzger

Patti Hanafourde (*Cancer Care Angels*)
by Patricia Smith

LEADERSHIP 2026

Executive Committee

An unofficial committee that meets with the pastors to coordinate ministry and vision across our committees.

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:

Oversees the mission and vision of the church, while also discerning and equipping the church for future vision.

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:

Recommends individuals to serve in the administrative committees and offices of the church.

Don Dolan (2026)

Anne Dorman (2026)

Rebekah Chambliss (2026)

Amanda Canida (2027)

John Richardson (2027)

Lucy Sowell (2027)

Mark Woodrow (2028)

Emily Garner (2028)

Pam Turner (2028)

Finance Committee

Promotes the spiritual practices of generosity throughout the church, ensures that all funds of the church are properly handled and accounted for, and recommends a budget to the Board of Stewards.

Josh Bills (2026)

Allen Mitchell (2026)

Cairo Plauche' (2026)

Elizabeth Hammock (2027)

Kristin Capstraw (2027)

Greg Tapscott (2027)

Alicia Searcy (2028)

Phil Webb (2028)

Lany Simmons (2028)

Staff-Parish Relations:

Consults with the Annual Conference regarding the appointment of pastors, and oversees the support, evaluation, and structure of the staff for the accomplishment of the church's mission and vision.

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:

Oversees all church property and assets, providing for their care, insurance, and regular maintenance.

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)

Leadership Meeting Schedule

2026 REGULAR MEETINGS

Topics listed are not the only topics under consideration, but are listed to ensure yearly attention

SPRC 6PM

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Orientation and Org Chart overview
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Employee Resource Manual
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Employee Evaluations
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Setting Pastoral Salaries
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Recommending Personnel Budget
Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Pastoral Evaluation

Finance 6PM

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Stewardship Planning
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Internal Controls Audit
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Endowment, scholarship, and non-giving income review
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
Income Projection for next year
Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Budgeting for our goals
Monday, November 17, 2025
Optional meeting to continue budgeting

Trustees 6PM

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Accessibility Audit
April TBD
Policy Review (emergency preparedness, Safe Sanctuary)
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Facility Audit
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Budget Recommendations
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Policy Review

* Policies for review:
Facility use, endowment, gifts, and safe sanctuary

Board of Stewards 5PM

Sunday, January 25, 2026
Vision Setting
Sunday, March 29, 2026
Vision Setting
Sunday, May 17, 2026
Vision Setting
Sunday, July 26, 2026
Approving goals for 2027
October/November TBD
Charge Conference
Sunday, December 13, 2026
Approving a budget for 2027

Nominations 5:30PM

Sunday, August 16, 2026
Nominating people
Sunday, August 23, 2026
Nominating people

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will typically meet before Finance meetings, except in June
The Executive Committee will meet in July to pray and recommend which goals should
have highest priority from those proposed by the Board of Stewards



End of Year Financials

1:45 PM
01/23/26
Accrual Basis

Fairhope United Methodist Church
FUMC Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2025

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Dec 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
04000 Pledge Contributions	1,382,949.79	1,410,992.00	-28,042.21
04001 Non Pledge Contributions	721,650.46	767,154.00	-45,503.54
04002 Cash Contributions	32,892.73	30,000.00	2,892.73
04003 Adult Sunday School	1,510.48	1,500.00	10.48
04004 Fees	18,290.00	9,000.00	9,290.00
04005 Other Income	425,085.13	33,500.00	391,585.13
04006 Interest Income	38,530.83	30,000.00	8,530.83
Total Income	2,620,909.42	2,282,146.00	338,763.42
Gross Profit	2,620,909.42	2,282,146.00	338,763.42
Expense			
10000 Worship	14,471.49	12,570.00	1,901.49
10100 Music	15,241.08	21,125.00	-5,883.92
10200 Evangelism/Navigator	638.36	900.00	-261.64
10300 Adult Spiritual Growth	9,284.46	10,395.00	-1,110.54
10400 Church Family Ministry	11,835.00	11,835.00	0.00
10500 Children's Ministry	35,358.06	29,145.00	6,213.06
10600 Youth Ministry	62,000.00	62,000.00	0.00
10700 Caring Ministry	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
10800 Communications	13,953.24	12,819.00	1,134.24
10900 Missions	72,656.00	72,656.00	0.00
11000 Nursery	1,581.20	1,300.00	281.20
11100 Recreation Ministry	10,613.12	10,700.00	-86.88
11200 Gathering	6,251.89	6,030.00	221.89
11400 Stewardship Campaign	3,952.36	4,400.00	-447.64
11500 Hospitality	114.43	2,000.00	-1,885.57
11700 Discretionary Fund	4,466.45	2,700.00	1,766.45
11800 Wednesday Night Supper	11,015.95	5,875.00	5,140.95
20000 Trustees	244,734.49	227,827.00	16,907.49
20100 Utilities	98,876.38	96,320.00	2,556.38
20200 Office Expense	49,982.94	50,586.00	-603.06
20300 Kitchen Supplies	15,913.84	15,300.00	613.84
20400 Custodial Supplies	16,056.30	15,400.00	656.30
20500 Financial Audit	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00
30000 SPR (Salary/Contract)	1,140,690.26	1,232,428.00	-91,737.74
40000 Conference Apportionments	116,709.00	116,709.00	0.00
40100 District Apportionments	18,088.00	18,088.00	0.00
50000 Mortgage Interest	28,570.37	27,600.00	970.37
60000 Mortgage Principle	196,666.99	197,640.00	-973.01
Total Expense	2,204,221.66	2,280,848.00	-76,626.34
Net Income	416,687.76	1,298.00	415,389.76

FAIRHOPE UMC CHOIR PRESENTS

JAZZ Sunday



LOCAL
MUSICIANS

PANCAKE
BRUNCH

2/15
2026
SAVE
THE
DATE!

JAZZ SERVICE:
8:30 & *11 AM SANCTUARY
*Combined Worship Service
BRUNCH:
9:45 AM WESLEY HALL