



HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER, CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, November 23

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS ~ CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday ~ November 23-25

THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

We will be serving our Homebound Community, Daphne, Fairhope and Spanish Fort
Law Enforcement, and Ecumenical Meals on Wheels Homebound

Go to our website for information on how you can help: www.fairhopeumc.org

Prayers for the People...

Medical personnel and first responders

Military Service Men and Women

Hospitalized this week: Mary Moles

Stewardship: YTD through October 2022 - \$1,666,725

We planned for 74% of the budget through October

We have received 71% of the budget through October

Thank you so much for your continued support to Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Jeff White, Business Administrator

Invitation to Join the Church ~ Present this to the pastor during the last song.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Joining by Transfer of Church Membership

Transferring from: _____

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

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

If you are not yet ready to join but would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend *Coffee with the Pastors on December 4th @ 9:45 am, Conference Room, adjacent to the sanctuary*. Enter through the door under the bell tower or by the steps behind the sanctuary facing the parking lot. Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.

Fairhope United Methodist Church

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Parker, Associate Pastor **Rev. Tom East**, Minister of Evangelism
155 South Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532 ~ 251.928.1148 ~ www.fairhopeumc.org

Dr. Debora Bishop, District Superintendent

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Conference



A Stephen Ministry Church ~ Christ Caring for People Through People



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday
November 20, 2022 ~ 8:30 and 11:00 am

PRELUDE

We Gather Together Dutch Folk Song

(arr. by Mark Hayes)

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

— Psalm 95:1-7, NRSV

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not confess our sins in the *hope* of forgiveness;

we confess our sins with the *certainty* of forgiveness.

For we have been rescued from the power of darkness,
and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

And so, with that promise, that assurance, that redemption
we confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus
the king and model for our lives.**

**We have been quick to call on others
to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same.**

**We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness
yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion.**

**Forgive us, O God. Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to
be more Christlike in word, in deed, and in spirit. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

All things, in heaven and on earth are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness is ours through faith in the Lord, in whom God was pleased to dwell.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

*PASSING THE PEACE

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**With thankful hearts, we pause this day to be reminded of our grandest hope:
that the calamities, the demands, even the blessings of this world
do not have the last word.**

You are the one who was and is, and who is yet to come — a ruler of a different kind.

Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge and the mystery of this good news.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #73**

O Worship the King

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

***GLORIA PATRI**

OFFERING

We Gather Together

(arr. by Krug)

DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00)

Children 4 years-2nd grade can meet at the side doors for Children's Church.

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, quiet in us any voice but your own that, by the power of your Spirit,
we might hear the words you speak to us today. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:11-20

HYMN OF PREPARATION # 310

He Lives

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 23:33-43

SERMON

"The King Among The Criminals"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN #327**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Sonatina

(J. L. Düssek. Op. 20, No. 1)

✠ Stand as able

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and
in memory of our "Meme" Ann Calhoun, for her birthday by her loving family.*

Assisting in Worship Today: Darren M. McClellan, Emily Garner

Acolytes: (8:30) Anne Frances Bobo, Lennon Walding

(11:00) Nicholas Goleash, Adelaide Robertson Crucifer: (11:00) Savannah Grace Jones

Music: Tom Hood, Sherry Herron (Substitute Pianist), Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir

Media and Sound: John McClellan, Wright Tapscott

VISITING WITH US TODAY?

We want to know! Scan this QR CODE:



ADVENT SEASON:

November 27 – First Sunday in Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 am *The Gathering* Worship (CLC)

December 3 – Breakfast at the Manger

8:30 am – 10:00 am | CLC Fellowship Hall

\$5 Pancake Breakfast | Pictures w/ Santa | Games & more!

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

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4:00 pm Children's Musical: "Starry, Noisy Night" (Sanctuary)

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Christmas Musical Services (Sanctuary)

11:00 am *The Gathering* Worship (CLC)

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Live Nativity @ Fairhope Pier

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 am A Christmas Unplugged, *The Gathering* Worship (CLC)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

Traditional Candlelight Services (Sanctuary)

*3:00 pm | *5:00 pm | 7:00 pm

Contemporary Candlelight Services (CLC)

*3:30 pm | *5:30 pm

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The Gathering: November 20, 2022 ~ 11:00 am

OPENING SONG

This Is Amazing Grace

Brandon White, Praise Team

WELCOME~CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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that the calamities, the demands, even the blessings of this world
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You are the one who was and is, and who is yet to come—a ruler of a different kind.

Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge and the mystery of this good news.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, we pray. Amen.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

King of My Heart

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Jirah

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, quiet in us any voice but your own that, by the power of your Spirit,
we might hear the words you speak to us today. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 23:33-43

SERMON

"A Tale of Two Crowns"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not confess our sins in the *hope* of forgiveness;
we confess our sins with the *certainty* of forgiveness.
For we have been rescued from the power of darkness,
and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
And so, with that promise, that assurance, that redemption
we confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus
the king and model for our lives.
We have been quick to call on others
to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same.
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Forgive us, O God. Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to
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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

All things, in heaven and on earth are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ.
Forgiveness is ours through faith in the Lord, in whom God was pleased to dwell.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

As you come before God to receive this Holy Meal,
You are invited to bring all of who you are as an offering
to the one who has given all of who he is for us.

****Baskets are available to present your offering as you come forward to receive the bread and cup.*

INVITATION TO PRAYER AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

BENEDICTION~SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker
Acolyte: Brooks Goldman, Gaines Goldman
Communion Servers: Lee and Katie Turner, Barry and Nadine Baskin,
Jennifer and Meg Galloway, Katherine Goldman, Karen Helms
Music: Brandon White and Praise Band
Media and Sound: Jamie Waldhour, Alex Beaman, Nellie Myers

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As usual, my favorite part of our Gathering Christmas Eve services is having the children help lead the worship. Thank you in advance for your child's participation. Please email me if your child (children) would like to participate as soon as possible and indicate which service you prefer so I can begin to get these two services scheduled. I need 10 readers for each service and will put volunteers on the list as you contact me. Once I have 10, I will begin a "reserve" list, but will let you know if I still have room at the other service.

Blessings, Rev. Laura Parker / laura.parker@fairhopeumc.org

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THE

stay connected!



LINK

November 20, 2022

Weekly Newsletter

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Laura Parker, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Tom East, *Minister of Evangelism*

Dr. Debora Bishop, *District Superintendent*

Bishop David Graves, *Alabama-West Florida Conference*



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

155 SOUTH SECTION STREET | FAIRHOPE, AL 36532 | www.fairhopeumc.org



Update from the FUMC Discernment Team

With approval and direction from the Committee on Lay Leadership and the Board of Stewards, the Discernment Team ([CLICK HERE FOR TEAM NAMES](#)) held their first meeting on October 16 and second meeting on November 6 to begin a process of praying, inquiring, listening, and evaluating information surrounding issues of human sexuality and The United Methodist Church. Updates on our progress and links to resources can be accessed on our website, in the Link newsletter, and Sunday bulletin. Additionally, questions and suggestions for the Discernment Team are welcomed and can be submitted via this link: [DISCERNMENT TEAM QUESTIONS](#). It is our earnest desire to communicate to the Fairhope UMC family with clarity, transparency, and timeliness, all undergirded with diligent, daily prayer. We invite all to commit with us in praying daily for God's guidance and wisdom.

FAQ regarding human sexuality issues and The United Methodist Church

1. What is the charge of the Discernment Team of Fairhope United Methodist Church?

ANSWER:

The purpose of this development is to assemble a diverse group of dedicated church members to serve as representatives in an intentional conversation about the current question of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. We are asking that the selected nominees be willing:

- To gather, pray, inquire, listen, and evaluate the relevant aspects of this discussion for Fairhope UMC.
- To support the concerns of the congregation as we work to identify the critical questions that will need to be addressed in order to faithfully pursue God's will here at Fairhope UMC.
- To help serve as witnesses and educators to the congregation at large, seeking to provide prudent and accurate information in a timely fashion.
- To seek a deeper understanding of how the issues at hand are relevant to the theology, worship, outreach, and fellowship of our local congregation.
- To present to the Board of Stewards, after a period of due diligence and discovery, information and alternatives for the church's consideration of our next steps in the identity of mission and ministry for this congregation.

This work of discernment will be intended for the edification of the church (1 Thess. 5:11). The process will be established by the group themselves, with support from the pastors. It is expected to require a commitment of the next 6-12 months.

2. Has the Book of Discipline been changed from the 2016 edition regarding the issue of ordination of openly gay pastors or the celebration of a marriage ceremony between two gay persons?

ANSWER: No, the Book of Discipline was not changed in the last General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in 2016. The General Conference scheduled for 2020 was postponed due to the Covid pandemic. The next General Conference at which the Book of Discipline could possibly be changed will be held April 23 - May 4, 2024 in Charlotte, NC.

3. What is the deadline for United Methodist Churches to make a decision about possibly disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church?

ANSWER: In 2019, a special General Conference was held to discuss issues surrounding human sexuality. During that conference, paragraph 2553 of The Book of Discipline was updated to permit disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church over human sexuality. ([LINK TO PARAGRAPH 2553](#)) The deadline may vary from conference to conference. The Board of Trustees of the Alabama West Florida Conference has decided/ruled that the deadline for churches within the Conference to decide to disaffiliate has been extended to after General Conference (April 23-May 3, 2024). [AWFUMC: AWF Trustees Provide Update on Work Post Sunset Clause and Church Property](#)

4. Are any United Methodist Churches mandated to have a vote regarding disaffiliation?

ANSWER: NO

5. Who will decide whether or when Fairhope United Methodist Church will vote on the issue of disaffiliation?

ANSWER: The Board of Stewards of FUMC will make those decisions.

6. Is it true that the United Methodist Church is doing away with the core expressions of the orthodox faith, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed?

ANSWER: No. That is not true

7. What are the relevant portions of The Book of Discipline regarding marriage between a man and woman?

ANSWER: §161 "C) Marriage – We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman."

8. If the General Conference changes its current stance on human sexuality as presented in the current Book of Discipline in 2024, does that mean that our pastors are expected to conduct same-sex wedding ceremonies at Fairhope UMC?

ANSWER: No. The option to preside over a wedding ceremony has always been at the discretion of the clergy person under appointment. Furthermore, the determination of wedding policies for the local church property shall remain with the local church Board of Trustees (just as it is now).

9. If the General Conference changes its current stance on human sexuality as presented in the current Book of Discipline in 2024, does that mean that Fairhope UMC is suddenly compelled to receive the appointment of an openly gay or lesbian clergy person?

ANSWER: No. Appointments are made by the bishop with consultation through the District Superintendents and the Staff Parish Relations Committee of the local church. The primary purpose of this process is to serve the mission and vision of disciple-making for that specific congregation. As Bishop Graves has stated repeatedly, "we are not looking to bring harm through an appointment, either for the church or the pastor." A consideration of our given context is important to remember. The fact of the matter is, even if a church in the Alabama West Florida Conference were to request an openly gay or lesbian clergy person for appointment as their next pastor, there are none available!

10. The Discernment Team has read and recommends the reading of [Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church](#), published by Abingdon Press. Purchase Book [here](#).

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Opportunities for Children and Youth!!!

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Caring Ministries



Thank you to the many Delivery Drivers who made it possible for the Caring Ministry gifts to be delivered to our Church family. You have brought love and kindness to others.

Becky and Bill Bennett, Shelley Corley, Carol and Don Danforth, Kim Estes, Mary Finger, Gloria Fisher, Nancy and Bob Grogan, Wanda and Tommy Harris, Keith Hoffman, Donna and Butch Hughes, Helen and Bennie Ingram, Synthia Kaiser, Joyce Kelley, Carolyn Kidd, Tommi Lacy, Rosie and Mike Lockwood, Hazel and JD Odom, Izzy Pike, Ginger Ready, Jo Ann Riggs, Jim Robertson, Ruth Rogers, Sarah and Charlie Savery, Kurt and Robyn Simons, Betty Stejskal and Lynn White.

If you are a member and did not receive a gift please contact Dr. Ann Pearson 251-751-2763

or email ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.



Lord, You are good and everything You do is good. There is no one like You. Thank you for Your love, mercy and promises that never change. Lord, You are the best thing that ever happened to me and I am so grateful. Amen

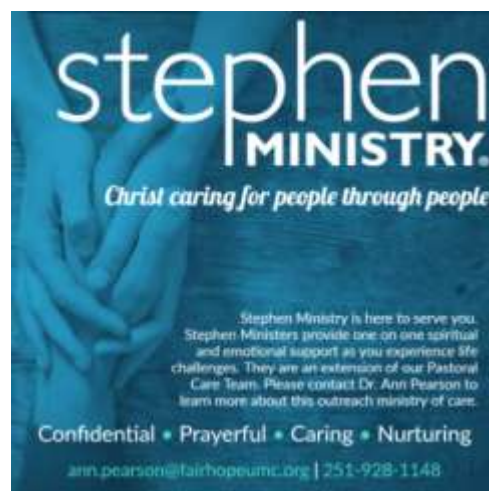
Stephen Ministry is here to serve you.

Stephen Ministers provide one on one spiritual and emotional support as you experience life challenges.

They are an extension of our Pastoral Care Team.

Please contact Dr. Ann Pearson to learn more about this outreach ministry of care available for you or your loved ones,

ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or 251-928-1148.





WEEKLY PROGRAMS

No Kids Choir, Pier Kids, or SWIFT due to Thanksgiving Break.

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS' CHOIR (K-6th grades), Ed. Bldg – Wesley Hall

Wednesdays, 4:15-5:00pm

Register at <https://linktr.ee/pierkids>

Join us as we worship and praise God through music and the arts. Our Kids' Choir performs multiple times throughout the year during Sunday services, special programs, and musical presentations. Mark your calendars! Christmas musical, "Starry Night, Noisy Night" performed on December 4th at 4pm.

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS, (ages 3-6th grades), Ed. Bldg, Pier Hallway

Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Join us during the Sunday School hour for an age appropriate, hands-on Bible lesson.

THIS WEEK: Psalm 119 – Guide

3s & 4s – 1st Floor, Room B 107

Kindergarten– Yellow Room

1st/2nd Grade – Green Room

3rd/4th Grades – Aqua Room

SWIFT – Purple Room

****color rooms are located on the 2nd floor on the Pier Hallway****

KIDS CHURCH, (ages 4 and above), Ed. Bldg – Pier Room

2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays of the month during 11am services

Children ages 4 and above are invited to join us after being dismissed during services for a video lesson and activities in the Pier Room.

THIS WEEK: Give Thanks!

STAY INFORMED

Facebook Page – @pierkidsfairhopeumc

Facebook Group – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fairhopeumckids>

Instagram - @fairhopeumc_childrens_min



Scan the code or **[CLICK HERE](#)** to visit our **LINKTREE** that contains links to the most current information! Forms, Pier Kids, SWIFT, Kid's Choir registrations, and more.

CONTACT US

Jenna Hood
Director of Children's Ministries
jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org
334.733.0003.

Martha Monckton
Children's Ministries Admin
martha.monckton@fairhopeumc.org
251.928.1148.

Crystal Noojin
Children's Ministries Assistant
crystal.noojin@fairhopeumc.org
251.928.1148.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

\$5 Pancake Breakfast

Games
Inflatables
Cookie
Decorating
&
SANTA!

Saturday, Dec 3rd
8:30am-10:30am
Christian Life Center

155 S. Section Street • www.FairhopeUMC.org



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN ~
\$135/per camper + bus fee.
Scholarships available.
Link is posted to our linktree.



Student Ministry

Middle School
(7th & 8th grade)
High School
(9th-12th grade)



**Register for all S.A.L.T. Student Ministry programs through our Linktre. For more information on Student Ministry, subscribe to our weekly text messages by clicking the link above.*

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday's @ 9:45-10:40 am
CLC// 2nd Floor (Attic)

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Weekly//CLC @ 6:00-8:00pm (No Youth on 11/20 nor 11/23. We will meet 11/27.)

Sunday Night Youth takes place almost every week and includes: worship, games, free time in the gym, snack and so much more. We provide an opportunity for every student in grades 7-12 to worship together with one another and we give them space to build relationships. We can't wait to see you there! Download the PARENT CUE in our series email for all details on how to continue the conversation at home.

C-GROUP EL MEX NIGHT

Wednesday, Nov. 30 @ 6:00-7:30pm

BRING \$10 (Buffet)

Our C-Groups will meet for the annual EL MEX night in Fairhope on Wednesday, November 30 @ 6:00 pm. Students will need to bring \$10 cash for their meal and tip. There will be a buffet provided for the meal that has a little bit of all the student favorites for the meal! We look forward to our end of the year celebration!



ENCOUNTER WINTER RETREATS 2023

High School Retreat (9-12)

1/6 @ 5pm-1/7 @ 5pm

Middle School Retreat (7-8)

1/7 @ 5pm-1/8 @ 5pm

Don't miss out middle & high School winter retreat, **ENCOUNTER 2023!** **Two different retreats-same weekend-same place!** We will host both retreats back-to-back at Camp Beckwith this January 6-8. Our worship for the retreat will be led by John Matheou & Port City Worship Team. Registration is LIVE!



ANGEL TREE SHOPPING

Wednesday, Dec 7th @ 6:00-7:30pm

(Grade Level C-Groups)

Community groups will go Angel Tree Shopping at Target in Daphne on Wednesday, December 7th @ 6:00 pm. We ask that every student bring \$10 cash to help pay for the Angels. Parents will drop-off and pick up students at the front door of Target. Shopping should take 45 minutes to an hour in length. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and help in getting your students to Target!

CONFIRMATION 2023

**Begins for Students on
January 22nd//9:30 am**

Registration for our upcoming Confirmation Class has been emailed to parents of current 7th graders and is now open. The class begins on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 9:30 am. The Parent (only) Orientation will be January 8 @ 12:30 pm an in the Fellowship Hall. Please click the registration link in your email and or on our social media account to register. Class will meet at 9:30 am each week. *Students are encouraged to participate in the ENCOUNTER WEEKEND retreat on January, 7-8 at Camp Beckwith.*





FUMC College Scholarship Application Due Sunday, January 15, 2023

Fairhope UMC is privileged to administer scholarships to help prepare leaders for the church, community, and world. These scholarships are awarded to church members whose character and accomplishments make them worthy representatives of FUMC and the individuals whom these grants honor. Scholarships are awarded to students who are actively involved with Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Some scholarships are awarded to an applicant who is preparing for ordained ministry, attending a Methodist college, or pursuing a church related vocation; need based; or other criteria. Numbers and amounts of scholarships will depend on annual availability of funds. This is the time to apply for these scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2023. The scholarships are awarded in February. This will position the scholarship winner to apply for matching funds offered through the Methodist conference and by many colleges.

To apply, go to the student ministry page of our church website or scan the student ministry code above for a direct link. Other inquiries regarding scholarships may be made to committee via scholarships@fairhopeumc.org.

SAVE THE DATES FOR: SUMMER MISSIONS (7th-12th grade)

High School Mission Trip
July 2-8, 2023
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Middle School Mission Trip
Hurricane Ian Relief
June 18-22, 2023



Silent Auction

to benefit the Fairhope UMC Library

Vintage Solid Oak Card Catalog
up for auction. Would be a **GREAT**
piece of furniture for any book
lover. Great for storage, decor or
your next DIY project!

**MINIMUM
BID
STARTS
AT \$250**

Minimum bid starts at \$250.
Bidding open now through
December 1, 2022. Bid form
available in church library,
located on the 2nd floor of
the Education Building.

**OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!**



OPEN BIDDING NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2022

All proceeds will go towards purchasing new books for the Fairhope UMC Library.

Quilts of Valor

By Kimberly McKeough, Quilter and Fairhope UMC Member

"Your calling is where your greatest passion intersects the world's greatest need."--G. Dan Lumpkin

Earlier this year in two separate ceremonies at Fairhope United Methodist Church the Baldwin County Chapter of Quilts of Valor honored 12 veterans from four branches of America's military. Each honoree was presented a Quilt of Valor, some of which were made by members of the Fairhope Quilt Guild. In a private ceremony at his Daphne residence another veteran was also awarded a quilt.

Quilts of Valor are tokens of appreciation that say unequivocally, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor." They have been created and are awarded because one thoughtful woman had a vision that every United States military veteran who has been "touched by war" would receive a handmade quilt for comfort as they healed from the trauma of conflict.

Catherine Roberts' vision led to the development of a national program sponsored by the Quilt of Valor Foundation (QOVF), and the Fairhope Quilt Guild began to participate in it a decade ago. In 2019 the Guild began meeting at Fairhope UMC , and the church became more involved in the program in October, 2021 when Air Force Colonel Charles (Chuck) Dumas was presented a Quilt of Valor as his wife Gaynell, his son, and members of their Fairhope UMC Sunday School class looked on (Col. Dumas pictured below with presenters Cathy Wilson L and Kimberly McKeough R). Another member of the Fairhope UMC congregation, former USAF Master Sergeant Don Danforth (pictured next page with family members), was similarly honored this past July 4th week as his wife Carol, their two sons, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren observed.

Roberts' vision 19 years ago caused her to organize a group of volunteer quilters to sew the quilts and to seek out veterans to receive them. The Delaware native was initially inspired by her son Nathaniel's year-long deployment in Iraq, and her purpose was reinforced by a strong desire to see that returning troops were welcomed home with love and gratitude. Those efforts by Roberts and her volunteers led to the first quilts being awarded under their program and to the creation of the Foundation.

A soldier from Minnesota who suffered a loss of a leg in Iraq received the first quilt in November, 2003 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. As of September 1, 2022 over 318,000 Quilts of Valor had been awarded nationwide. Eligibility is relatively simple; prospective recipients complete an application by listing their branch of service, rank, basic training location, dates of military service, and military awards and decorations received. It is not a requirement that the individual have served in battle; being touched by war is sufficient to qualify.

I became involved with the Foundation when I joined the Fairhope Quilt Guild and volunteered to be the liaison between the Guild and the Quilts of Valor program. The connection between the Guild and QOV was created 10 years ago when two Fairhope quilters who had participated in the project as members of Azalea Quilters in Mobile joined the Fairhope Guild. Subsequently, the Guild voted to include QOV in their community service projects.

My responsibilities involve collecting quilts made by our members and being present at the ceremonies when they are awarded. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity and meet so many deserving veterans who have selflessly served our nation.

The Fairhope Quilt Guild has provided dozens of Quilts of Valor, each made by an individual or a small group of quilters. They are awarded in ceremonies conducted by the County QOV chapter board members. Our board chairman, Cathy Wilson, is a Navy veteran who usually serves as master of ceremonies. She greets the veterans and their families and provides a brief overview of each veteran's service. Individually, they are called forward to receive their quilts. Two board members wrap the quilt around the veteran's shoulders and thank her/him for their service. (Pictured below are seven individuals who received their QOV Awards in ceremonies at FUMC earlier this year.)

The quilts awarded are usually red, white, and blue and have a patriotic theme. There is no specific pattern; each quilter makes her own design, sometimes borrowing from a traditional pattern. The quilt is made with a top that has been pieced or appliquéd by machine or by hand. It is then layered with a soft batting (typically polyester or fluffy cotton), and a solid layer of backing is added before the quilt is basted and quilted. This is popularly called a quilt "sandwich." Materials for the quilt may cost as much as \$150.

Presentation ceremonies always occur in the presence of an American flag. At the two FUMC ceremonies this year the Baldwin County Honor Guard presented the Colors and performed the Thirteen-Fold Flag ceremony. Two of the Guard members were among the veterans awarded quilts. (Next page: The Baldwin County Honor Guard enters the ceremony hall.)

A former Navy corpsman from Foley had tears in his eyes when he told me how meaningful it was to receive a Quilt of Valor. He came home from Vietnam in 1968 and was greeted by an angry group of protesters at the airport in San Francisco. His award ceremony publicly validated his wartime service 54 years later. The quilter who pieced his quilt was present, and the two of them were able to hug with her quilt around his shoulders. There was not a dry eye in the house.

If you or someone you know is eligible for a Quilt of Valor, you may contact me at 251-214-5449 for an application. If you are interested in making or contributing to a Quilt of Valor, contact me or any member of the Fairhope Quilt Guild, including Cecilia Lammers and Nadine Baskin.



The July ceremony at Fairhope UMC. The men in hats are the Honor Guard recipients, and the lady is Cathy Wilson.

Cathy Wilson with Chuck Dumas
(the recipient) and Kimberly McKeough.





Don Danforth (the recipient), his wife Carol and their family.

The June ceremony at Fairhope UMC.

