

Dear Friends,

Do you remember Humpty Dumpty?

There are few nursery rhymes that have quite stuck with me over the years of my life as well as this one. Have you ever wondered why he was lingering at the top of that wall in the first place? As a relative expert in climbing over the chain-link boundaries of my elementary school playground, I learned early on that straddling the top of the fence for any longer than necessary could result in unusual pain. Common sense tells us to come down on one side of the divide or the other. As a child I wondered, *doesn't he know better?*

These days I am willing to concede that maybe Humpty Dumpty was up there looking for a change in perspective. *And who can blame him, really?* Or perhaps, having climbed the wall for reasons that were unknown even to him, he then struggled to figure out how to get over it. Life can be funny that way. Nevertheless, the real surprise of the story is not the inevitable fall of this pitiful character. That much we could have foreseen. No, the real surprise is that neither he, his friends, nor the local authorities had the ability to heal and restore him back to his original condition by themselves.

There are some things that just cannot be 'fixed' by our own power. *Lord, help us!*

Simple as it is, the story resonates with a particular grain of truth. We all fall. We all experience brokenness in one way or another. We've all tried to sit on the fence at some point—in our relationships and in our priorities—and found it to be all but impossible for very long.

Jesus said as much: *you cannot serve two masters* (Matthew 6:24).

As did Joshua: *choose this day whom you will serve* (Joshua 24:15).

And then there is the counsel of King David, who knew what it meant to be broken and then eventually put back together again: *do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help* (Psalm 146:3).

So much for all the king's horses and all the king's men!

In our Fall Stewardship campaign for 2023, we are reimagining what it means to be *whole* as the people of God. In doing so, we are also looking to lay aside the distraction of unfruitful 'problem-solving' and embrace instead the hope of spiritual renewal. I believe that God is with us in this work and without reservation.

And what of our response to the faithful generosity of God? At a time when the church is still recovering from the scars of the pandemic, and now looking to navigate and heal from the self-inflicted wounds of denominational unrest, the leaders of this congregation intend to roll up our liturgical sleeves and proclaim with boldness the vision of a unified, Christ-centered, mission-minded, Spirit-led family of faith here at Fairhope United Methodist Church. This future excites me!

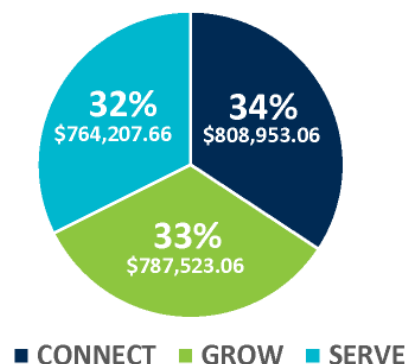
Hear O, (Fairhope)! The Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, and with ALL your soul, and with ALL your might (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

Now is the time! We are the Church! So let us LEAD a life worthy of the calling we have received!

Wholeheartedly,



2023 MINISTRY PLAN



CONNECT so that we learn to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. In so doing, we become a community in Christ. In this season especially, where many relationships have been hindered by our inability to engage and see one another face-to-face, our pursuit of life together has been a struggle. However, it is our prayer that we are encouraged in heart, united in love, and re-connected with our church family. 34% of the 2023 Ministry Plan provides for us the means with which to connect.

GROW deeper in our relationship and commitment to God. By studying God's Word, we strive to become disciples. Growing in greater maturity as disciples of Jesus, we transition away from our natural, fearful self-centeredness and toward the realization of a more faithful, God-given generosity. Our objective is to profess openly that we too are "much obliged" before God, and that we intend to do something about it. 33% of the 2023 Ministry Plan is dedicated to accomplishing this growth.

SERVE so that we may do God's work. Certainly, God gives so that we can exist and flourish, but also God gives so that we can help others exist and flourish as well. God's love flows forth and bestows good. The flow does not stop when it reaches us because if it did, we would only be receivers, not givers. Our commitment to service is evident by capturing 32% of the 2023 Ministry Plan.

A more detailed explanation of how we intend to Connect, Grow and Serve via our 2023 Ministry Plan may be found on the reverse side of this page.

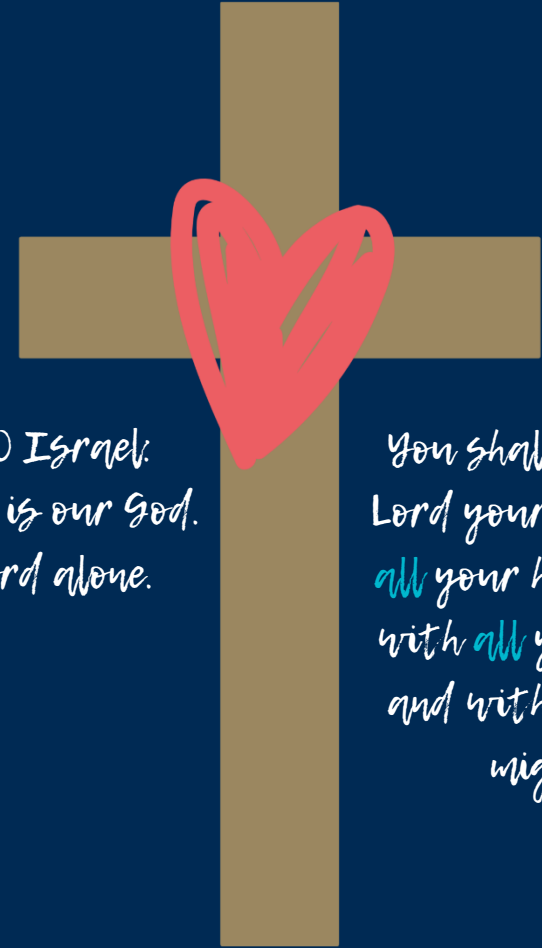
Please mail the enclosed Estimate of Giving card on or before Sunday, October 30. You can also submit your pledge online at www.fairhopeumc.org/wholehearted

MINISTRY	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
Worship	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00
Music	\$25,125.00	\$25,125.00
Evangelism	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Adult Spiritual Growth	\$11,575.00	\$11,575.00
Church Family Ministry	\$19,522.00	\$19,522.00
Children's Ministry	\$36,066.00	\$36,066.00
Youth Ministry	\$69,134.00	\$69,134.00
Caring Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Communications	\$12,000.00	\$15,300.00
Missions	\$63,606.00	\$63,606.00
Nursery	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Recreation Ministry	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Gathering	\$2,600.00	\$4,570.00
Stewardship Campaign	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
Hospitality	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Discretionary Fund	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Trustees	\$266,893.00	\$248,122.00
Utilities	\$93,423.00	\$94,487.00
Office Expense	\$46,206.00	\$50,786.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$12,555.00	\$16,755.00
Custodial Supplies	\$22,000.00	\$19,400.00
Financial Audit	\$9,000.00	\$12,500.00
Salaries/Staff	\$1,255,761.96	\$1,263,855.78
Conference Apportionments	\$111,919.00	\$115,181.00
District Apportionments	\$17,157.00	\$17,859.00
Mortgage Interest	\$51,600.00	\$45,240.00
Mortgage Principal	\$173,640.00	\$180,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	\$2,351,382.96	\$2,360,683.78



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

wholehearted



*Here, O Israel:
The Lord is our God.
The Lord alone.*

*You shall love the
Lord your God with
all your heart, and
with all your soul,
and with all your
might.*

one Faith one Hope one Lord
one Baptism one Church

