



DAUPHIN WAY

JOURNAL



JANUARY 2026 ISSUE

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PASTORAL REPORTS

Reverend Gillian Walters Senior Pastor

Jacob's ladder comes from a story in Genesis, when Jacob is on the run from his brother Esau. Alone and uncertain, he lies down in the middle of nowhere, using a stone for a pillow. As he sleeps, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. It is a reminder that God's grace meets us not only in holy places, but also in the wilderness—when we are tired, unsure, and least expecting it.

Jacob's Ladder is also the name of a group here at our church. It's our volunteer team that helps fix, repair, and care for our campus. And the name fits beautifully. Jacob's ladder is the place where heaven meets real, dusty ground—and that is exactly the work this team does. They take the church's mission and make it tangible. Because of them, lights work, doors open, classrooms are safe, and worship can happen. Their labor allows the holy and the ordinary to meet.

A ladder exists to help someone reach what they couldn't reach alone. In that way, this team supports the entire congregation—children, choir, clergy, guests—so that each of us can live into our calling. Their service quite literally lifts others up.

In fact, they lifted me up when I first arrived. Though I had not yet met many of them in person, it quickly became clear that I am shorter than all of my predecessors. On my very first Sunday, I stood on a box to preach from the pulpit. After nearly falling out of the pulpit, the Jacob's Ladder team went to work. They raised the bottom of the pulpit so that I wouldn't need a box each week. I didn't ask them, they just heard about what happened and went to work. It meant the world to me. I received it as a sign that I didn't need to be someone I'm not. I'm not tall and never will be! But there was a place for me as I am. It was a beautiful act of hospitality and welcome.

More recently, you may have noticed the wood rot repairs around the chapel and Gathering Place windows, often covered by blue tarps between workdays. These talented gentlemen have used their skills and expertise to carefully design and fit each piece so it matches the original work. Their generosity of time and talent has saved the church over \$35,000 that we would have otherwise spent on contractors.

And just recently, Darrin mentioned to Tim a small thing that makes a big difference: the way the sanctuary doors open creates traffic flow problems during funerals and special services. That very day, they were measuring and exploring how to reverse the doors to better serve the congregation.



These are the kinds of acts that turn ordinary spaces into places where angels can descend and where we can encounter the holy in our everyday lives.

Today, I give thanks for our Jacob's Ladder lay and staff crew: Robert Hunter, Tim Collier, Larry Hitson, Irvin Rentz, Mike Nichols, Mike Stringer, and Mike Thompson. Glory be to God for the way they share their gifts and make space for heaven and earth to meet.

Grace and peace,

Gillian



Reverend Wilson Newell

Pastor of Discipleship & Missions

2025 Highlights

As I look back on 2025, I can see God's hand all over it. 2025 was truly the most fun and fruitful year of ministry I have ever experienced. My ordination in June was a special moment for me, but I can point to countless others, too. When our SPRC hired Darrin, Natalie, Kassidy, and Heather White early in the year, it felt like the Holy Spirit brought a renewed spirit of unity and mission to our staff and our whole church.

We saw this in action during the season of Lent. Our sermon series, music, and adult studies were all built around the Final Words from the Cross. We had over 40 people participate in those groups, and our conversation was rich and Gospel-centered. We heard inspiring messages from bishops and other leaders in our denomination during the Lenten dinners. We capped off Lent with an incredible Holy Week featuring a huge Palm Sunday service and Fish Fry and beautiful, meaningful Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. It made Easter that much more joyful. The whole Easter season was celebratory and bright, as we served together for LOVEMOB Sunday, confirmed 19 students into the life of our church, and celebrated our seniors, babies, and mothers.

I witnessed this collaboration this summer with VBS, too. Heather White and volunteers pulled together an incredibly Christ-centered VBS for 180 kids in just 6 weeks, and our whole team jumped in to support. I especially had a lot of fun being "Paul, y'all!" and witnessing the 5th graders serving others in the community.

When fall arrived, I knew that God was going to do some great things in our children and youth. The new schedule allowed for cohesion between the different ages, and it paved the way for them to reach new heights. For children's ministry, 60 was the max number of kids last year. This year, 60 was the minimum. Several evenings, there were over 90 of them!!! That's a lot of kids. And every one of them got to sing, play, and hear the word of God proclaimed. We witnessed the culmination of this work in December with 91 kids at Jesus' birthday party, 55 in White Christmas, and over 60 in the Christmas pageant.

Our youth director, Andrew Peeler, also deserves a lot of credit for his leadership of the youth ministry. Our congregation got a glimpse of the passing on of the faith that has been happening through Dauphin Way Student Ministries for decades: volunteers pouring into leaders who then pour into others. Their retreats and trips offer particularly special milestone events for students to encounter God.



Another key player for the youth ministry has been Chris Nodine, who stepped up to lead the youth band this year in addition to his other roles as Tech Specialist and drummer for the Contemporary Service. He has been an invaluable asset to our church.

Our adult groups and classes also had a banner year, with over 80 different individuals participating in all the studies offered. I give thanks for our gifted leaders, Rev. Kathy Jorgensen, Rev. Bruce Fitzgerald, Kim Daniels, Suzanne Crawley, and Louise McCown. It was a joy for me to lead the Lent Study, Practicing the Way, and Messiah Advent Study. If you have not participated in a group or class with one of these people, you are missing out!

In December, we celebrated the retirement of Marsha McGehee and welcomed Emily Walker to our staff as our Director of Hospitality and Food Services. She has hit the ground running and has some incredible ideas to go with her energy and knowledge.

What an incredible year. God is so good.

Where is our church heading in 2026?

But we can't rest on our laurels... God is calling us to some big things as a church this year.

As we head into a new year, I have a few high hopes for adult discipleship and missions.

1. To reconstruct the Missions Team
This team would provide vision for our outreach ministries and their funding
2. To identify a new International Missions Partner
God is at work all over the world, and going abroad to witness God's kingdom in another context and among other people is a profound gift.
3. To strengthen and add new Supper Clubs, Sunday Schools, and Small Groups.
Lynn Davidson will be our supper club coordinator, and if you are looking for a group from the church to gather with for a monthly meal, reach out to us!
4. To grow Meals on Wheels
We need a volunteer PR coordinator for this ministry to get the word out to our community about this great ministry.

The truth is that I have no chance of accomplishing any of those on my own. It will take the Body of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to see these become reality. If you read any of those goals and felt the Holy Spirit prick your heart, maybe God is calling you to participate? I would love to tell you more about these things!



Reverend Kathy Jorgensen

Associate Pastor of Membership Care & Spiritual Direction

I am so grateful to the Dauphin Way family who learn together and serve together. This has been a great year at Dauphin Way UMC! As we close the year, we reflect on the many ways God has worked through our ministries, especially during the deeply emotional holiday season. November and December were filled with moments of connection, comfort, and spiritual growth as we supported those walking through grief and caregiving challenges, cared for our homebound members, and gathered to celebrate the presence of Christ among us.

Grief Groups and “The Long Goodbye”

Our grief groups: Guided by Grace, Tools for Hope and Compassionate Friends as well as our group we call The Long Goodbye (for those caring for loved ones with dementia) were vital spaces of healing and preparation for the holidays. These sessions helped participants ready their hearts to navigate both the joy and sadness that accompany this season when facing significant loss.

We shared meals together, laughed, and wept as a community of support. The groups have grown significantly, a testament to the need for these ministries and their impact. While it is bittersweet to see so many seeking solace, we are grateful for the opportunity to extend God’s love during these difficult times. As our groups outgrow their spaces, we are reminded of the importance of expanding these ministries to serve even more people in their times of need.

Remembering Faithful

In November and December, we mourned the loss of several beloved church members. We worked closely with their families to prepare memorial services that honored their lives and faith journeys. These services served as sacred spaces for both grieving and celebrating the eternal hope we have in Christ.

Spiritual Direction

The holidays are a poignant time for many, and spiritual direction has been a meaningful practice for those seeking God’s presence amidst the busyness and emotions of the season. These quiet, reflective sessions offered opportunities to discern God’s love and care during a challenging time of year. If you are interested in exploring spiritual direction in the New Year, please contact the church office to make an appointment.

Caring for Our Homebound Members

Christmas provided perfect opportunities to reconnect with our cherished homebound members. Each received a devotional booklet and an ornament of the nativity, delivered personally by their shepherds.



Visits from our four pastors ensured they felt remembered and valued for their years of faithful service to the church.

Worship and Community

Our Sunday worship services throughout November and December brought the congregation together in meaningful ways, culminating in our special White Christmas service. The beauty and sacredness of these gatherings reminded us of Christ's presence among us and inspired us to share the Good News with others.

As we step into a new year, let us continue to seek God's guidance in growing our ministries, reaching the lost, and supporting one another through life's joys and challenges. We are grateful for the many ways Dauphin Way UMC embodies God's love, and we look forward to what He will do in the coming year.

Blessings,

Rev. Kathy Lincks Jorgensen



SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

*This schedule is subject to change throughout the month.
All changes will be communicated through our weekly **Along Dauphin Way** updates.*

TIME	PROGRAM / EVENT	LOCATION
MORNINGS		
8:00 AM	Sunday Morning Donuts	McGowin Hall
8:10 AM	Children's Nursery	E110; E109; E111
8:20 AM	CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE [Does not meet 1/25]	Chapel
9:15 AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covenant Class Faith Development Class Open Hearts Open Minds 	McDavid Library Dill Parlor Family Life Room
	Friends In Faith I 9:30 AM	E125
9:30 AM	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE [Does not meet 1/25]	Moore Hall
9:50 AM	Children's Church K5 - 3 rd Grade	E215
10:30 AM	Fellowship for Everyone	McGowin Hall
11:00 AM	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE	Sanctuary
11:20 AM	Children's Church K5 - 3 rd	E215
EVENINGS		
4:15 PM	Children's Nursery: 0-3yr [Only meets 1/25]	Tree House; E110
4:30 PM	Open Gym: 6th -12 th Grades [Only meets 1/25]	Moore Hall
4:30 PM	CHILDREN NIGHT PROGRAMMING and Snack Supper [Only meets 1/25]	E105, E213; E214; E216; E218; McGowin Hall
5:00 PM	CONFIRMATION and Dinner [Only meets 1/25]	E123; McGowin Hall
5:00 PM	YOUTH: S.N.L. and Dinner [Only meets 1/25]	Moore Hall; The Refuge; McGowin Hall

Sunday, January 25: Combined Worship Service 10:30 AM

Dill Lecture Series: Dauphin Way will welcome Bishop L. Jonathan Holston as the next Dill Lecture speaker. He will deliver his message at the combined worship service at 10:30 AM and again at 5:00 PM.

Evening Programming Will Resume: Children, youth, and confirmands will return to regular evening schedules.



JANUARY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*This schedule is subject to change throughout the month.
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DAY	PROGRAM / EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAYS		
7:00 AM	CDC Classes	CDC Center
8:00 AM	Meals On Wheels	Kitchen, McGowin Hall
9:00 AM	Society of St. Stephen	SSS Offices
10:00 AM	Prayer Group	Dill Parlor
6:00 PM	Scout Meetings	ED Building Upstairs
TUESDAYS		
7:00 AM	CDC Classes	CDC Center
	Men's Prayer Breakfast	McDavid Library
8:00 AM	Meals On Wheels	Kitchen, McGowin Hall
9:00 AM	Society of St. Stephen [Meets 1/20; 1/27]	SSS Offices
	Staff Meetings	McDavid Library
1:30 PM	Worship Review and Design	McDavid Library
WEDNESDAYS		
7:00 AM	CDC Classes	CDC Center
8:00 AM	Meals On Wheels	Kitchen; McGowin Hall
10:00 AM	CDC Chapel	Chapel
10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Bishop & Family Life Rooms
1:30 PM	Centering Prayer	Dill Parlor
6:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal [Does not meet 1/7; 1/14]	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Contemporary Worship Practice [Does not meet 1/7]	Moore Hall
THURSDAYS		
7:00 AM	CDC Classes	CDC Center
8:00 AM	Meals On Wheels	Kitchen, McGowin Hall
FRIDAYS		
7:00 AM	CDC Classes	CDC Center
8:00 AM	Meals On Wheels	Kitchen, McGowin Hall



JANUARY AT A GLANCE

*This schedule is subject to change throughout the month.
All changes will be communicated through our weekly **Along Dauphin Way** updates.*

DATE	PROGRAM / EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday, January 1		
All Day	NEW YEARS Holiday: Church Offices and CDC Closed	
Friday, January 2		
ALL Day	NEW YEARS Holiday: Church Offices and CDC Closed	
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM	SCOUTS: Oder of the Arrow Banquet	McGowin Hall
Saturday, January 3		
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	SCOUTS: Training of New Leadership Members	McGowin Hall
Sunday, January 4		
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Name Tag Sunday	Chapel, Moore Hall; Sanctuary
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Honorary Stewards Sunday	Chapel, Moore Hall; Sanctuary
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Honorary Stewards Lunch Reception	McGowin Hall
Tuesday, January 6		
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	SPRC	McDavid Library
Thursday, January 8		
5:00 PM - 7:00PM	RJR Liaison Meeting with Legacy UMC	E210
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Guided By Grace	McDavid Library; Bishop Meeting Room; Family Life Room; Dill Parlor
Sunday, January 11		
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	YOUTH: Winter Retreat Parent Meeting	The Refuge
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Raising Kids in a Digital Age	McGowin Hall; Moore Hall; Nursery Rooms; Gym Rooms A & B; McDavid Library; Family Life Room; Bishops Meeting Room; Dill Parlor; Refuge; Upstairs Education Rooms;
Monday, January 12		
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	RJR Meeting	ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, January 13		
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	The Long Goodbye	McGowin Hall; McDavid Library
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Trustees Monthly Meeting	Bishops Meeting Room
5:15 PM - 6:30 PM	YOUTH: Parent Council Meeting	McDavid Library



Tuesday, January 13

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Compassionate Friends	McDavid Library; Family Life Room; Dill Parlor
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Wednesday, January 14

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Tools for Hope	
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Thursday, January 15

All Day	CHILDREN: Last Day to Register for Winter Retreat 2026	
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Young Adult Gathering:	Off Site: Top Golf
Friday, January 16 - Monday, January 19	YOUTH: Winter Retreat	Off Site: 4H Center Columbiana, Alabama

Sunday, January 18

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Nominations Committee Meeting	McDavid Library
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Monday, January 19

All Day	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Holiday: Church Offices and CDC Closed	
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Tuesday, January 20

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	2026 Leadership Orientation and Training	McGowin Hall; Moore Hall; McDavid Library; Family Life Room; Dill Parlor; Bishops Meeting Room
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Thursday, January 22

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	New Member Dinner	Off Site: The Hale's Home
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Sunday, January 25

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	CHILDRENS: Evening Programming Resumes	E213; E216; E105; Gathering Place; Playground; E218; E215; E211; E106
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Dill Lecture	Sanctuary; McGowin Hall;
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	YOUTH: SNL	Moore Hall; Kitchen; The Refuge

Monday, January 26

12:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Certificate in Preaching Excellence (CPX)	Moore Hall; McDavid Library; Family Life Room; Bishops Meeting Room
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Tuesday, January 27

8:30 PM - 12:30 PM	Certificate in Preaching Excellence (CPX)	Moore Hall; McDavid Library; Family Life Room; Bishops Meeting Room
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Thursday, January 29

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Grits and Grace	McGowin Hall
Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 1	CHILDREN: Winter Retreat	Off Site: Blue Lake Camp Andalusia, Alabama



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It's been a non-stop month of learning and fun in the Children's Ministry in November and December. We have had strong participation in our two morning Children's Church services and in our evening programming, and our volunteers are, as always, the bedrock of this success. Nathaniel Bell runs the Gaga ball pit during recreation, and the kids love mastering all of the tiered rules for the game during their time outside. We look forward to a new four-square installation in the playground, and when it's daylight enough in the early spring to play, plan on getting in some fun on that.



Family Camp over the weekend of November 14-16 was a wonderful retreat from the busyness of everyday life, and nearly seventy people of all ages came together at Blue Lake for some much-needed rest, connection with God, and time with each other in a beautiful setting. We sang, ate great camp food, hiked, walked, rested, spent time in devotion, competed for Family Campolympics glory with minute-to-win-it games and group skits, built a campfire and roasted marshmallows, and concluded our time in Andalusia with a lovely service of music, praise, and Holy Communion in historic Lambuth Chapel. It was a blessed time for us all. Huge thanks go to the church staff and the nursery workers who gave so much time to plan and implement programming that weekend.

**Children's
WINTER
RETREAT '26**

January 30 - February 1

REGISTER NOW!

The Children's Ministry wrapped up evening programming on Sunday, December 7 with a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus during our dinner together. We had over 90 children participate, along with many volunteers who came to serve dinner and dessert, and to teach or lead kids in various rotations during the evening. Our icing and cupcakes were homemade by two church members, Carol Jordan and Negin Ahmadi-Miller, and the kids got to decorate their own dessert and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. It was also exciting to hear the 67 kids in two of the three children's choirs sing "Messiah" in the Sanctuary in preparation for White Christmas, and to then listen to kids on the playground humming or singing lyrics to Handel's masterpiece while they climbed on the jungle gym and ran around in the dark with their friends.



We will have two practices for the Children's Christmas Pageant, and the choir is generously treating the kids to a short reception in the Music Suite following the pageant. Children of all ages have been encouraged to participate, and it's going to be a sweet, family-friendly service at 10:30 AM on **December 24**. I am especially grateful to Karen Ann Beville and Martha Cook, who have helped get all of our costumes sorted and laundered in preparation for the Pageant. We are looking at a cast of, if not thousands, at least sixty kids participating in roles from the Holy Family to choirs of angels, bands of shepherds, visiting Wise Men, and every kind of animal that can be found in a barnyard.

I am encouraging parents whose children stay in the nursery, sturdy walkers to twos, and three/four-year-old classes to send notes of thanks and Christmas cards to our incredible, dedicated nursery staff during the holidays.



Our morning programming meets weekly during both the Contemporary and Traditional services, but we will not have Children's Church on **December 28** at the Combined service.

We look forward to the 3rd-5th graders' Winter Retreat at Blue Lake next month, **January 30-February 1, 2026**. There is funding to assist any families who may need it to help their kids get to camp. I am asking for a commitment of ten children and three chaperones, male and female, for us to be able to go as a group to Blue Lake. Early bird registration ends **December 15**, and final registration is **January 15, 2026**. Parents should access the interest form on the church's website, and from there will be directed to Blue Lake so that they can register and pay for their student/s' attendance. Chaperones attend for free, and the Ministry will treat kids and chaperones to dinner Friday night and to lunch on Sunday as we travel to and from Andalusia.

I am planning on taking some time off here and there between now and January 5 and have also reserved some days off during February. As always, your prayers and volunteer time with the children are vital to the success and growth of this program and are a blessing to my family and me. Merry Christmas!

Heather White, Director of Children's Ministry



YOUTH MINISTRY

On Sunday, December 7, we finished out this semester of programming with our Anything But Christmas party. Our youth and leaders dressed as a holiday other than Christmas (Alex Barton won our costume contest in his inflatable Easter Bunny suit) and we enjoyed food from other holidays (tacos, chips, queso, hotdogs, Halloween candy, and ice cream). As everyone ate, our hosts, Jack Schwant and Cam Davidson, quizzed the crowd on the different holidays we celebrate. Following the trivia, the youth split up into 5 different teams to compete in our holiday games.

We started off with the birthday favorite, Pin the Tail on the Dinosaur which was won by Alex Barton. The teams then



competed in the Egg Toss. Clark Beville and Fletcher Beale took the prize in that event, completing their toss across the width of the basketball court. We followed that up with a rousing game of Hot Potato which was won again by Alex Barton. Up next was the three-legged relay which was won unsurprisingly by four cross country runners: Chase Anderson, Warren Rainosek, Owen Burce, and John Gill. Everyone is hungry after exercise, so we followed the relay up with a Donut Eating Contest. Contestants had to eat a hanging donut without using their hands. Noble Fitts proved best at this skill. And then to finish off our team games, we had a Mummy Wrapping Contest. Ann Walker Mattei and Ella Grace Pearson were able to



most quickly and completely create their mummy.

To finish up the evening, the youth formed an assembly line and put together 120 homeless bags out of the supplies that they brought to the party. We had an awesome time throughout this whole semester, and this celebration was the perfect end! We are so excited for our next big event: WINTER RETREAT!

Andrew Peeler, Youth Ministry Director





TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Happy New Year to the people of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church!

Each January 1 will mark the anniversary of my appointment to our wonderful church, and it is hard to believe that a full year of ministry together has already unfolded. I give thanks for the grace that has carried us through these months, for the trust we have built, and for the ways God has been at work among us. In a short time, much has been shared, learned, and offered, and as we step into a new year, I do so with deep gratitude and hopeful anticipation. Now that I know a little more of your stories, your rhythms, and your hopes, I look forward to seeing even greater life take root in the worship of our community.



December was a season rich with beauty and meaning, a time when light and song carried the story of Christ into our midst. The White Christmas Celebration stands as one of the most meaningful moments of my ministry thus far. It was a holy offering shaped by countless hours of preparation and the faithful dedication of our choir, children's choirs, instrumentalists, soloists, and volunteers. Together, we offered a gift of worship that was reverent, joyful, and deeply moving. In those moments, music became prayer, proclamation, and praise, reminding us that God is still speaking through the faithful artistry of the church.

As the new year begins, our worship life continues to open outward in welcome and partnership. On **January 25**, we will host Bishop Jonathan Holston as he joins us in worship and speaks as part of the Dill Lecture Series. We look forward to inviting other local United Methodist congregations to participate in a shared act of worship, celebrating the gift of our connection and the leadership entrusted to our bishop. This will be a moment to remember that we do not walk this journey alone, but as part of a wider body, bound together by grace and mission.



Looking ahead to February, we are grateful for the opportunity to join hands with the music ministry of Legacy Church at Toulminville-Warren United Methodist Church for a celebration of African American composers on **February 22**. This partnership, nurtured by our Racial Justice and Reconciliation group and the liaison team from both congregations, reflects a shared commitment to truth, beauty, and reconciliation. Through music, worship, and fellowship, we will honor voices that have shaped the church's song and witness to the hope of a more just and faithful future.



As we begin this new year, I am filled with gratitude for this congregation and for the many ways God's blessings continue to flow through Dauphin Way and into the life of our community. May we enter this year with open hearts, attentive spirits, and a renewed desire to offer our very best to God, trusting that the work begun among us will continue to bear good and lasting fruit.

Peace,

Rev. Darrin Scott Isaac, *Pastor of Music & Worship*



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

As we enter a new year together, I am deeply grateful for the way the Advent season unfolded in our worship spaces. Advent went beautifully, and it was especially meaningful to weave the theme of our White Christmas celebration, drawing from Handel's Messiah, into the season. The music and scripture together created space for reflection, longing, and wonder, grounding us in the promise of Christ's coming while inviting the congregation to engage both heart and mind.

It was such a gift to be able to coordinate and plan our special worship services this year with Rev. Darrin Scott Isaac, particularly the Christmas Eve services. By mirroring the contemporary and traditional services, we were able to offer a shared worship experience across styles. No matter which service people attended, they encountered the Christmas story through scripture and song in a similar way—singing familiar hymns woven between readings that told the story of Christ's birth. This continuity felt especially important on such a holy night, emphasizing our unity as one church gathered to celebrate one Savior.

Christmas Eve was marked by a powerful sense of reverence and joy, particularly in the candlelight following communion. Singing Silent Night together, surrounded by the glow of candlelight, was a sacred moment that beautifully captured the peace and mystery of the incarnation. It was a reminder that Christ meets us in both stillness and song, at the table and in the light we carry into the world.

As we turn our hearts toward a new year, there is a palpable sense of excitement about what lies ahead. I'm grateful for the ways God has been at work among us and eager to see how we will continue to grow, serve, and worship together in the months to come. It is a gift to begin this new year as a community rooted in renewed hope, an increased sense of unity, and the continued promise of God's faithful presence.



Kassidy Terry, *Director of Contemporary Worship*



LEADERSHIP @ DAUPHIN WAY UMC

CHURCH COUNCIL

The council generally meets on the 4th Monday of the month and anyone may attend a meeting. The voting members include the pastors, 12 officers, and 9-12 at-large members.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The SPRC generally meets in the 2nd week of the month. Because they deal with sensitive, employment-related issues, their meetings are usually open only to members. However, the SPRC chair may invite non-members to attend a particular meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees generally meets in the 2nd week of the month and is the only committee that elects its own chair. Anyone may attend a Trustees' meeting.

FINANCE

Finance generally meets in the 3rd week of the month. 13 voting members include Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, SPRC Chair, and Trustees Chair. Anyone may attend a Finance meeting.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee meets three times in August and September to prayerfully consider who to nominate as officers and committee members for Dauphin Way's leadership. The committee seeks input from all volunteer teams and also considers which members have been actively living their commitments to prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Because these meetings deal with individual members of the congregation, they are strictly confidential.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

SPRC

"No Report"

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"No Report"

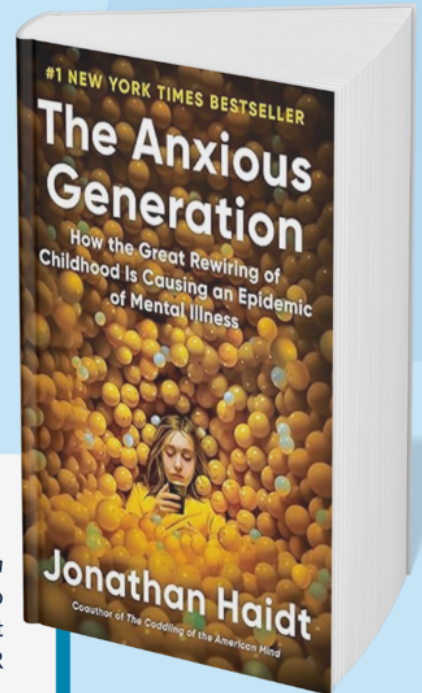
DAUPHIN WAY'S Book Club



Sun,
Feb 1 - OR - Wed,
Feb 4



McDavid Library



You Are Invited to Join Us!

This book accompanies the *Raising Kids in a Digital Age* workshop. We will have two meeting options for you to choose from: meet with us on Sunday, February 1, at 4:30 PM OR Wednesday, February 4, at 12 PM.

Be sure to order your book now and read it before our book club meeting if you'd like to participate!



"THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK CLUB



FINANCE

001 Dauphin Way United Methodist Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2025
Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 11 - November 91.67%
2025 Receipts & Disbursements

ACCT #		2025 Budget	Actual for Period	2025 Actual YTD	Actual to Budg %	Prior YTD
Receipts						
1131	Current Pledges	1,344,268.00	98,410.21	1,110,054.50	82.58%	1,140,482.55
1133	Prior Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2,472.50
1134	Trust Fund Pledge	66,795.00	0.00	67,287.84	100.74%	63,249.09
1135	Loose Plate	14,839.00	1,013.50	15,676.95	105.65%	11,678.13
1136	Escrow Funds	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00		0.00
1137	Non Pledged Contribution	328,538.00	19,642.28	286,822.83	87.30%	352,855.01
1138	Unexpected Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	21,000.00
1140	Interest Income	0.00	0.00	10,864.28	0.00%	562.78
1142	Facilities Use Income	9,000.00	9,225.00	9,475.00	105.28%	10,143.66
1143	Pre-paid Pledge Income	78,100.00	6,508.33	71,591.67	91.67%	22,059.58
1144	Gain on Sale of Stock	0.00	0.00	703.79	0.00%	0.00
1147	PPP/ERC	33,754.00	0.00	32,686.50		0.00
1148	CDC Fee Income	72,336.00	6,028.00	66,308.00	91.67%	66,308.00
1149	Wedding Income	0.00	1,800.00	4,940.00	0.00%	9,460.00
	Total Receipts	2,007,630.00	142,627.32	1,736,411.36	86.49%	1,700,271.30
Disbursements						
4413	Total Pastoral	2,200.00	91.71	492.80	22.40%	2,224.54
4510	Total Communications	7,700.00	400.00	5,749.01	74.66%	6,246.13
5011	Total Children's Ministry	19,575.00	5,890.46	20,673.35	105.61%	14,380.90
5111	Total Youth Ministry	18,455.00	-1,969.21	13,887.89	75.25%	15,953.98
5211	Total Adult Ministry	0.00	346.00	630.94	0.00%	4,017.25
5612	Total Missions	0.00	0.00	486.14	0.00%	1,936.11
5710	Total Connectional	22,046.00	1,268.52	20,777.48	94.25%	7,458.72
5739	Conference Apportionments	141,424.00	8,137.73	133,285.28	94.25%	47,031.28
5910	Total Membership Care	1,200.00	92.56	540.09	45.01%	255.22
6001	Community Care	0.00	0.00	-150.00	0.00%	665.07
6310	Total Worship	35,000.00	5,419.65	33,591.21	95.97%	42,912.59
6610	Total Office	86,860.00	5,036.75	79,621.26	91.67%	69,803.30
6710	Total Facilities & Equipment	568,197.00	29,613.61	515,844.80	90.79%	517,304.90
6810	Total Operations	16,015.00	365.29	119,494.87	746.14%	20,666.00
7111	Total Kitchen	15,115.00	1,302.82	17,759.07	117.49%	14,635.63
	Total Personnel	1,088,369.00	74,953.93	984,018.51	90.41%	983,821.16
	Total Disbursements	2,022,156.00	130,949.82	1,946,702.70	96.27%	1,749,312.78
	Income Over/Under Expenses	<u>-14,526.00</u>	<u>11,677.50</u>	<u>(210,291.34)</u>	1447.69%	<u>(49,041.48)</u>

Asset Account Balances as of November 30, 2025

Operating Checking	\$69,822.54
Payroll Checking	\$486.04
Online Checking	\$253.95
Petty Cash	\$400.00
Operating Money Market	\$25,776.99
Operating Reserve - AWFUMF	\$317,048.85
Accounts Receivable - DW	\$6,372.00
Stock Holdings	\$6,154.68
Total Assets	<u>\$426,315.05</u>

Accounts Payable - CDC \$40,000.00

* In April, the Finance committee paid its commitment to the HVAC project. The pledge was \$100,000. This came from the Operating Reserve Funds. When these funds are used, we must recognize an expense. This is why we are showing that we had more than a \$100k deficit. This is an accounting/on paper issue. We had the cash available to make this payment.



DILL LECTURE SERIES TO FEATURE BISHOP JONATHAN HOLSTON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Dauphin Way and the Dill Lecture Committee are proud to announce Bishop L. Jonathan Holston as the Dill Lecture speaker on Sunday, January 25. Since September 2024 he has been the Resident Bishop of the Alabama Panhandle Episcopal Area, which includes the Alabama-West Florida and North Alabama Conferences of the United Methodist Church. Your lay delegates first met Bishop Holston at Annual Conference in Pensacola in June. His presiding manner, insightful wisdom, and profound messages created a most memorable experience. Many delegates said, “This was the best Annual Conference I have ever attended.” His winning personality filled the conference with joy and hope, as he reminded all that “we are called to remember who we are and whose we are, and be witnesses to the love of Jesus Christ for the world.”

Bishop Holston possesses extraordinary knowledge gained by his experience and presence through the years on numerous boards and committees of the United Methodist Church at the conference and general church levels. He has served on the UMC Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and General Council on Finance and Administration, among others. He has also served as a senior pastor and as a District Superintendent.

The bishop has brought outstanding leadership wherever he has served in the United Methodist Church. Throughout his tenure he has called for unity of purpose and for all Methodists to remain focused on ministry and our mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Don’t miss worship on Sunday morning and your opportunity to hear Bishop Holston’s message. Then on Sunday evening we eagerly anticipate another special opportunity. Other churches are being invited to participate in an extraordinary collaborative worship experience. Choirs from other UMC churches will be joining us to lead worship and sing anthems. What a beautiful way to begin the new year!

The schedule for his visit is as follows:

10:30 AM Combined Worship in Sanctuary

Bishop’s sermon based on Matthew 4:12-23

“Can I Get a Witness?”

5:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

Bishop’s Sermon: “*Seeking a More Excellent Way:*

***Mission and Values Before Vision*”**

A reception will follow the evening service.



TRIBUTES & REMEMBRANCES

SYMPATHIES

- Our love and sympathy are extended to the family of Ann Smith Bedsole upon her death on December 1, 2025.
- Our love and sympathy are extended to Jackie Wear and her family on the death of her sister.
- Our love and sympathy are also extended to Darrin and Natalie Isaac on the death of his grandmother in Indiana.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of **Nan Haddad**

Thressa Gartman-Baker

In Memory of **Sam Russ**Dr. Richard Cross (*for Meals on Wheels*)

Mary Lee Edgar

In Memory of **Ann Bedsole**

Lynn Morrissette

Bill and Jessica Barrick

Dr. E. Russell March, Jr.

In Honor of **Sarah and Tom Damson**

Brigitte and Joerg Kemnade

In Honor of **Marsha and Billy McGehee**

Gary Mitchell

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proudly presents the

STEPHEN AND RUTH DILL LECTURE SERIES FEATURING

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*Resident Bishop of the Alabama-West Florida and North
Alabama Conferences of the United Methodist Church*



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

10:30 AM | Combined Worship in Sanctuary
“Can I Get a Witness?” Based on Matthew 4:12-23

5:00 PM | Worship in Sanctuary
“Seeking a More Excellent Way: Mission and Values Before Vision”

A reception will follow the evening service.



Scan the QR code to sign up for childcare during the service.