



FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Welcoming. Nurturing. Serving.

Dear Members and Friends of Fairlington UMC,

Happy New Year! Your Leadership Team wanted to share some preliminary information on Fairlington United Methodist Church's 2025 year-end finances, and the outlook for this year.

Last year, through very generous second mile giving, we were able to fully fund the roof replacement, which was by far the biggest financial accomplishment. However, through the summer and fall months the church's regular operating budget saw expenses that consistently exceeded our primary sources for income including pledged giving, regular Sunday offering, and building use rental charges. By October 2025, pledges and regular giving were down by \$50,000 as compared to the previous year, and rental income from building use was down by \$10,000. This was certainly a surprise, but in many ways this was inevitable, especially given the overall financial ups and downs many of us experienced last year.

To close this shortfall gap, in November the Leadership Team approved the transfer of funds from the dividend earnings realized in our Enduring Gifts investment account. We have been blessed and grateful to have legacy giving donations invested in a separate Enduring Gifts account, and the principal from these gifts have yielded significant dividends over the years. Without touching the principal, we were able to withdraw from the dividend earnings to cover the shortfall as well as anticipated expenses for the rest of the year.

Looking ahead, we are happy to report that the Leadership Team recently approved the church's 2026 operating budget! The 2026 operating budget totals \$1.011 million that maintains current mission priorities for the church this year, and included a modest salary increase for our amazing church staff. However, the Leadership Team does acknowledge that there are still uncertainties with generating the necessary revenue from our primary income sources, but are committed to continue monitoring and providing regular updates to the congregation on the operating budget.

CALL FOR ACTION – there are many ways that you can help the church and Leadership Team as we navigate through the challenges of today and tomorrow and fulfill our mission of spreading God's love to all. Here are some of those opportunities:

1. Fulfill your pledged or regular giving estimates from 2025. Although 2025 is behind us, completely fulfilling your 2025 generosity giving commitment or regular giving target, and your continued giving throughout 2026 is much appreciated.
2. Make or complete a 2026 Generosity Giving Card. Submitting a Generosity Giving Card is not only an act of personal faith and witness, but it is collectively an important planning tool for the church and the Leadership Team. Your giving commitment helps us plan the ministry of the church and ensure we can continue to strive for justice and community. To date, we have received 74 pledgers and \$455,500 in commitments for 2026. Our commitment target is still \$600,000 and we hope you can help us reach this lofty goal by completing a Generosity Card here: [2026 Generosity Card](#)



FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Welcoming. Nurturing. Serving.

3. Pray. It may sound simple enough, but your prayers are so powerful. And we are not just asking for prayers for the financial well-being of the church. More importantly, pray for the overall well-being of this church and congregation, and pray for God to continue to guide this church and our important ministry work to nurture ourselves and our neighbors in the community and around the world.
4. Get Involved. The Leadership Team's first meeting of 2026 is next Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:30pm in the chapel – all are invited to attend and hear more about the church's plans for this year. Tired of meetings? We also encourage you to review and discern on Fairlington UMC's priorities for 2026 as identified by the Leadership Team, and where there might be an opportunity for you to connect and get involved. [The 2026 priorities can be found here.](#) Feel free to reach out to any of us to talk about connecting your spiritual gifts to meeting our mission needs.

In Christ, Your Leadership Team:

Mark Elder, Chair

David Bissette, Secretary

Lana Hurdle, Trustees

Ken Chadwick, Staff Parish Relations

Stephen Ng, Finance

Alyssa Glomb, Lay Leader

Nana Amoateng, Lay Leader to Annual Conference

Elizabeth Mitchell, United Women in Faith

Erik Lundquist, United Methodist Men

Janine Howard, Lead Pastor

Christian White, Minister of Congregational and Family Life

Anna Bethel, Office Manager

Jackie Weavill-Donoghue, Pastoral Assistant

Logan Wescott, Youth Minister

Louise Wilson, Director of Music

Holly Sapp, Treasurer