



PASTOR DAVE MARNELL

Phone: 251-928-9133

Email: pastorjsumc@gmail.com

 @JubileeShores

 @JSUMCtheonion

 Facebook.com/JSUMC

 @jubileeshoresumc



Jubileeshoresumc.org
Jubileeshoresumc.org/wee-school



Dear JSUMC Family:

Greetings beloved church family as we say goodbye to 2024 and hello to 2025! The year has had its fill of ups and downs...highs and lows, but we continue to step forward in faith regardless of the situation.

It is a cornerstone of our faith that we look forward to tomorrow, give thanks and learn from our yesterdays, and *live fully* today, in the present, in the now. This reminds me of the time Jesus read the scroll from Isaiah 61, speaking of such lofty (some might say impossible) things as bringing good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and setting the captives free. But the words that ring loudest in my heart 'today' are those he says after he sits down: *Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing*. "Today", not yesterday or tomorrow, but *today*. Hmmm... (cont on following page)

As a result of your giving & the continued success of our Weeschool, we accomplished the following in 2024:

- The Comfort Sowers had another amazing year giving thousands of gifts locally to hospice patients, sick or injured children, and many more in need of comfort and prayers. They also made shorts for boys in Guatemala, gave gifts to low income folks, cancer patients, children in Colorado as well as Indiana, and sent hundreds of bears to Shriners Hospital in LA and urging home in Foley.
- Between EMI, AHEPA, & J Larry Newton Elementary School **70 families** received gifts.
- We gave out **400+ meal kits** through our blessing box.
- Soup for the Soul delivered **500+ containers** of soup to BFV & AHEPA.
- We supported local ministries through the Little Tree Project fundraiser dinner & Prodissee Pantry Turkey Trot.



- We provided 2 full car loads of supplies & snacks for Magnolia School, and a truck load of hygiene supplies for J Larry Newton Elementary School.
- We had many members donate their time and skills to the bettering of our facilities: building wheelchair ramps, tearing down walls, repairing, painting, making crosses for our sprung etc.
- We provided approx. 90 meals for Thanksgiving to the Daphne and Fairhope AHEPA communities.

And many other acts of kindness, generosity, and grace.

.... This last statement is worthy of a question, me thinks: Does the ‘today’ Jesus spoke of refer just to that particular day, or to every ‘today’ across time? I believe the latter to be the case: that every single day could/should be a day wherein *this scripture has been fulfilled*...where the lowly are lifted, the stranger/alien is welcomed, the captives are set free, the blind see, the oppressed find advantage, and, as a community, we fight the forces of darkness and evil, daily heralding the divine justice of universal equality and love for everyone and everything, to include all of Creation. Was this not Jesus’ calling and life? Is it not ours as well?

As a church family, I am proud to say, we do well in many aspects of living out this lofty, near impossible kind of ‘*Today*’ (see pics of throughout this letter), especially when we remember our dwindling attendance...and here’s the thing...if we are so strong, driven, and purposeful now, imagine with me how much more of our calling we can fulfill when our numbers begin to rise!! When will they rise? Only God knows, but our Vision Team is hard at work to make this a ‘today’ reality. **NOT** so much for the glory of our church, but much more out of a sense of obedience to God’s call on each of our lives AND for our community, giving God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ALL the glory, honor, and praise! Go God!!

So, dear family, let us join together today, and every “*Today*”, in prayer and in the hard, daily work of bringing sight to blind, freedom for the oppressed, and good news to the poor as a “community of the imperfect, loving God by loving our neighbor”...*TODAY*. Amen.

- Pastor Dave