



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sara Evelyn Hesse

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 24:44-53

Bethany Graham

OPENING SONG

Promises Never Fail

SALT Student Praise Team

OPENING PRAYER

Kaleigh Phillips

**Risen and ascended Christ,
you surround us with witnesses
and send us the Counselor
who opens our minds to understand your teaching.
Bless us with such grace
that our lives may become a blessing for the world
now, and in the age to come. Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

SALT Student Praise Team

*King of My Heart
No Longer Slaves*

APOSTLES' CREED

Kathryn Jordan

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Dr. Darren McClellan

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rescue

Kaleigh Phillips & Katherine McKinney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Claire Hesse

Come Holy Spirit,
open our minds to see the power
of Scripture to give life;
enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ
in all whom we meet;
in the name of the one, holy, and living God,
to whom we give all glory. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

Claire Hesse

THE WITNESS

“So...What Do You Know?”

Kathryn Jordan, Abby McDade, Sara Beth Hill, Mitchell Koser, and Pete McGriff

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Margaret Nobles

O risen God, fill us with your power.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A WORD FOR NEXT WEEK

CLOSING SONG

Lean Back

BENEDICTION

Elizabeth Coleman

Vocalist: Sara Beth Hill, Kaleigh Phillips, Hannah Kingry, EG James

Keys: Katherine McKinney

Drums: Wilson Gaberino

Bass: Jake Newsome

Guitar: Mitch Johnston

Thanks to our technical crew: Jamie and Rachael Waldhour, and Robert Hammon.

Be sure to scroll all the way down. There are lots of Announcements!



Whatever it Takes...

for the Sake of His Glory!

A Sermon Series for the 50 Days of Easter

The days between Easter and Pentecost are for us as Christians a time when we contemplate our response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What do we do now? What is the nature of our consideration? Where will this walk with Jesus take us from here?

Romans 8:18-21 will anchor us as we move through these seven Sundays, culminating with Pentecost on May 31st.

Romans 8:18-21 (NRSV)

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

The desire for this season of preaching and teaching is to gain fresh understanding on not only the event itself, but the *power* of resurrection in our daily lives. Are we willing to submit all our experiences to the work that God wants to do in and through us? Do we believe that our present “sufferings” may be the very ground from which something new is being created and revealed in us? How shall we profess this living hope together?

Join us for worship (virtually, for now) as we offer our thanks and praise to God and allow the Word to speak into our lives. More than just digital transactions, we believe that these ‘gatherings’ still hold the power for divine transformation. So again, we say, *Easter people, raise your voices! Whatever it takes!*

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received on May 17 – \$23,359

(Online - \$10,144 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$13,215)

For those of you who would like to bring your offering to the church, we have a mail slot located in the door across from the glass doors in the breezeway entrance of the education building.

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

Jeff White, Business Administrator

Prayers for the People

Sympathies:

Mike Brantley in the death of his wife, **Rhonda**.

Pat Grubbs in the death of her sister, Catherine McIlwain.

Other:

Medical personnel and other first responders

Caring Ministries Update:

- Caring Ministries partnered with our Youth program in celebrating their graduation with gifts and balloons.
- Surprises of appreciation, designed by Linda James, were delivered the week of May 18 by volunteers to 50 Music Ministry participants.
- Sewing continues for our medical community.



“Monday Mornings in Fairhope”

(Note: We will not meet this Monday, Memorial Day, May 25th.)

A note from Rev. Laura: I am hosting online devotionals through Zoom every Monday morning at 9:30am until we return to more normal gathering routines in the life of our church. You may access these gatherings through a Zoom link that is provided. You may join through a computer that has camera and audio capability, through the Zoom app on your phone or tablet or you may call in through a number that is provided. We will hear prayer concerns after the devotional is shared and then depart for whatever our day of social distancing has in store. This time together will only last about 15-20 minutes and is merely one more opportunity to be together as God’s people – somehow – even though we find ourselves apart and distanced in these days of CV19! Please plan to join us on Mondays until further notice.

Join us by Zoom at this link: <https://zoom.us/j/99089887119>

For information on how to get started on Zoom, [click here](#).



Summer Book Club Dates Announced...

Several weeks ago, I announced the “picks” for our summer book club. The theme this year is “home.” What constitutes home? Is it a country, is it a house, is it the land, is it people? What does it mean to leave your home or to find a new home? What happens when one becomes “untethered” from what he or she considers to be home?

I have chosen dates for us to gather and discuss these books and I would like to share those with you for your calendar:

June 16th [This Tender Land](#), William Kent Krueger

July 14th [The Dutch House](#), Ann Patchett

August 11th [American Dirt](#), Jeanine Cummins

At this time, we are scheduled to meet at 6:00 pm in the Parlor on each of the above dates. I also have a “hold” on the Fellowship Hall for these dates in case we need room to spread out and practice social distancing. We also may need to consider using Zoom for virtual gatherings if we determine by then that it is unwise for us to gather together in the church.

For now, enjoy your reading! Books have the power to stretch us and challenges us – and can also entertain and distract us! Sometimes that can be a good thing.

All of the books are readily available on Kindle, so no need to leave your house if you are an e-reader. All books are also available through Amazon or can be ordered through Page and Palette, with curbside pick-up if requested. (Page and Palette may have copies in stock. Call to check!)

Blessings to all of you during this very odd time in the life of our church and community.

Happy reading!!

Laura

Children's Ministries Update ...

BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP

If you missed last week's announcement that all summer camps at Blue Lake have been cancelled due to COVID-19, go to www.bluelakecamp.com or Blue Lake Camp's Facebook page to read the full letter. This decision will obviously have a great financial impact on Blue Lake. Want to support our beloved Conference camp? One of the summer camp counselors has created a special t-shirt to raise funds. Her goal was to sell 50 and 95 have already been sold. The link to purchase is on Blue Lake Camp's Facebook page and website. There are different styles and colors to choose from. **This is the last week to place an order.** Shirts will be shipped starting June 8.



During the month of June, Fairhope UMC will have a campaign to offer assistance to Blue Lake as well.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

Parents, be on the lookout next week in your inbox for the newsletter.

THANK YOU CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

With the official end of the school year, our dedicated Sunday School teachers will be ending their term. I want to recognize all those who made the commitment to teach during this school year. They will each receive a token of appreciation in the days to come. Thanks also to the many who stepped in when we needed subs!

Mallory & JD Gardner, Paula, Ellie and Emma Flowers, Mary Helen Marks, Marti Leftwich, Courtney & Clay Calhoun, Allison & Matt Grant, Marjorie & Rick O'Neil, Julie & Brian Barker, Sarah & Matthew Downs, McLean & Kyle Henderson, Paula & Guy Higgins, Rebekah McIntosh, Amanda Jacobs, Alicia & Stephen Searcy, Lindsay & John Goldsberry, Emily Rush, Katy Goleash, Kate Montgomery, Jill Johnston, Bettsie & Josh Norton, Emily & Jason Determann, Alex & Jay Robinson, Allison Ashurst, Jennifer Roberds, Amber, Emily & Sadie Sparks, Rebecca Bell, Helen Ingram, Holly Langston, Erin Jones, Meredith & John Roach, Shannon & Sara Evelyn Hesse, Shirley Ryals, Betty Stejskal, Nancy Myrick, Jennifer Cook, Morgan Ashleigh, Emily Garner, Jennifer Myrick, Kellie Agerton, Amy French, Kristi McClellan, Walker & Andy Luedecke, Jill Delamore, Leslie Hall, Megan & Larry Smith, Beth Kirtland, Anne Dorman

I would be remiss if I did not take this time to recognize Bethany Reid who taught our children Sunday School for years. Bethany passed away a month ago. She was a light to everyone who came in contact with her. The children – especially the 4th graders – adored her! She will be forever missed.

NURSERY STAFF MISSES OUR LITTLE ONES



NEXT SWIFT Zoom Get Together (5th & 6th graders)

Wednesday, May 27th

6:30pm

Link will be sent in an email from Michelle.

Student Ministry ...

Community Group

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

WEDNESDAY's @ 6:30pm

Our first opportunity we've had in weeks to gather in small groups began this past Wednesday night. It was a much needed reconnection for our students and their leaders! This coming week our C-Groups will come together with their friends and leaders to meet outside in the backyard of a host home or in another outdoor location.

The details for every group meeting & location is different because we are still not meeting inside the buildings on our church campus. **All C-groups will meet this Wednesday evening again @ 6:30 pm. Please check your Groupme accounts for the details for your group and don't miss out! *Meetings are based on leader availability and weather***

Stepping Up Program

WELCOME ALL RISING 7th GRADERS TO SALT STUDENT MINISTRY!!!

June 14, 15, 16 & 17 @ 5:30 pm

We are so excited to announce that our Stepping Up bridge program will meet June 14th-17th, 2020. This program is open to all rising 7th grade students that will be in student ministry at Fairhope UMC this fall. **Stepping Up** is a great way to transition your 7th grader into our middle school ministry. Please note, our groups will only meet in outdoor spaces, social distancing and in a small group. Therefore, we have some creative ideas on how to connect using all of those elements while getting this group connected to our ministry. To get registered and receive all the details, please follow the instructions below!

HOW TO REGISTER FOR STEPPING UP:

1. To register your student, please click this link: <https://fairhopeumc.shelbynexthms.com/external/form/7806956e-67cd-4027-8205-a6943ceac81a>
2. Next, we will send you a form to have your student fill it out and turn in to Rachael Waldhour. This step helps us to pair them with student mentors that have something in common with them.
3. Finally, return the form you can scan and email to Rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org.

HOW DO YOU GET CONNECTED TO STUDENT MINISTRY?

*Text "SALTSTUDENTS" to "43506"

*Follow **fairhopeumc.youth** on Instagram

*Like our page **FHSaltstudents** on Facebook

*For email updates, get on our list by sending your information to

Michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org!

Middle & High School Mission Trip 2020

The email announcement was made this past Sunday that our Middle School & High School mission trips will not go on as planned for this summer. In this season of uncertainty and with the current on-going health crisis, we cannot ensure the safety of your students on trips of this type. We are incredibly sorry. We know the disappointment that you must feel because we are right there with you! We've been in contact with the group we were to partner with and they are hopeful that we can serve alongside them next summer.

For those of you who have already paid deposits, you have 2 choices below:

- 1) [Email Michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:Michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org) with your name, trip, and address to let him know you would like a reimbursement.
- 2) Or let him know via email that you would like to transfer this to the next mission trip and we will make a note in our records.

Moving forward, we are working closely with several organizations that would provide a safer approach in serving in what we will call our "**Student Ministry Mini-Missions**" which will take place during the month of July! Our hope is to give smaller teams a chance to serve 2-3 days on projects. Please remember that everything is fluid and stipulations on gathering groups change almost daily, so we expect to announce more details in early June in hopes that they stay the same. Stay-tuned for a new way to serve and how to sign up.

SENIOR SEND-OFF Sunday, July 19 @ 9:00am Location: TBA

This spring did not have look the way our 2020 Graduates planned! However, it has given us the joy of celebrating them in new and unique ways. We hope you've been watching our facebook post "Senior Saturday's" that began in April and continues through May 23! Every week we have shared photos, quotes and future plans for all 29 of our grads! This Sunday, May 24 we have a special tribute to our senior class where we have invited several in the graduating class to lead worship and to share their dreams and hopes for their future. We gave them all a gift bag this past week with the help of our friends in caring ministry and Alan, Kim, Haley & Natalie Melton who delivered the presents to all of our grads!

Now, we would like to invite our 2020 High School Graduates and immediate family to our "Senior Send-Off" that will take place on Sunday, July 19 @ 9:00 am. Save the date and make plans to join us for a time to celebrate your graduate and pray for them all as they prepare to leave for fall!

Missions Ministry...

Costa Rica Missions

If these were normal times, our Costa Rica Mission team would be arriving this weekend to serve alongside our friends Sonia & Edwin.

This would be the 18th year Fairhope UMC would have commissioned a team of 35+ people to share in ministry with the Amor en la Calle (Love in the Streets) Ministry.

Our team would have been given the task to continue the construction of a security wall around the property of the girls ranch and to also begin a project of converting large shipping containers into living spaces. On Wednesday, we would have taken a break from manual labor to spend a full day in the juvenile prison. The 200+ hygiene bags provided to the inmates would be our vehicle to begin conversation and share in devotion with one another.

Prison day is always a very emotional day for our team. Our team would have provided VBS for over 400 children in the local schools, community and churches. To conclude our week, we would have walked through the rural community visiting and praying with the elderly homebound.

It would have been a beautiful week of building relationships, SERVING and drinking amazing coffee!

Although, we are sad that we will not be spending this week serving in Costa Rica, we know that God is still at work. He continues to work through both our church and the Amor en la Calle Ministry meeting the needs of so many. Our team is so grateful for this church family and the continued support for our friends in Costa Rica. Without you, this church body, this mission trip and the support given to the Amor en la calle ministry, would not be possible.

Please join us this week in praying for our friends in Costa Rica!

Much love,
Costa Rica Missions



For more info about our work in Costa Rica, please contact Jennifer Myrick missions@fairhopeumc.org

How are we SERVING?

COMMUNITY CAFE- ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT HOSTING OUR NORMAL FRIDAY LUNCH, WE CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR HOMEBOUND & COMMUNITY FRIENDS. WE ARE NOW PROVIDING OVER 140 MEALS EACH WEEK BETWEEN FAIRHOPE, DAPHNE & SILVERHILL. WE ARE NOW PROVIDING MEALS TO SHEPHERD'S PLACE AND FAIRHOPE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB. WE ARE EXPANDING OUR FRIDAY LUNCH TO PROVIDE A HOT MEAL TO MORE ELDERLY IN THE COMMUNITY.

BALDWIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT- WE CONTINUE TO HELP ORGANIZE & FEED OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE WORKING SO HARD TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR COUNTY. THANK YOU TO OUR DRIVERS WHO DELIVERED MEALS THIS PAST WEEK.

DHR/BALDWIN COUNTY CAREHOUSE CARE PACKAGES- WE ARE MAKING PLANS TO PROVIDE CARE PACKAGES FOR BALDWIN COUNTY CHILDREN WHO ARE IN THE CARE OF DHR AND THE BALDWIN COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER CAREHOUSE (CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED). PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP BY PROVIDING ITEMS OR WILLING TO DELIVER TO DHR & CAREHOUSE. WE WILL BE PROVIDING CARE PACKS TO OVER 200 CHILDREN IN CARE OF DHR & CAREHOUSE. THESE WILL BE DELIVERED THIS COMING WEEK!

RAID YOUR PANTRY- THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH SMALL GROUPS WHO HAVE BEEN SORTING OUR FOOD ITEMS! THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE! LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP SORT OR ORGANIZE OUR FOOD ITEMS.

BORDEN MILK- WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE 360 GALLONS OF MILK EACH WEEK TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAYS. BORDEN MILK WILL BE DELIVERING MILK TO US THROUGH THE END OF JUNE. WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING THE MILK THROUGH THE FAIRHOPE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP UNLOAD MILK ON FRIDAYS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS ASSISTANCE DURING THIS TIME, PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP.

PLEASE EMAIL MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

MUCH LOVE TO ALL, JENNIFER MYRICK, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

