



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2020

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ontonio Christie

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

**God calls us by name
into the presence of holiness
as God's holy people.
We answer this call
by the grace of God
through the power of the Holy Spirit
in the name of God's own Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Come, let us worship God.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

God of Wonders
I Will Sing of Your Love Forever

Shea White, Hannah Kingry

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Good Good Father

Alivia Dowden

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rachael Waldhour

Terrifying Word,
life-giving Word,
sanctifying Word,
come to us as ones who crave water in the desert.
Grant that we may hear and respond to you,
yes, in fear and trembling,

and also in rejoicing,
through Jesus Christ the Lamb
who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
is worshiped and glorified by all your saints,
now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 13

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:1-14

SERMON

“When God Asks Too Much”
Dr. Darren M. McClellan

OUR CONFESSION

Rev. Laura Parker

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A WORD FOR NEXT WEEK

CLOSING SONG

Trust and Obey

Shea White & Friends

BENEDICTION

Assisting in Worship:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker, Rev. Antonio Christie, Rachael Waldhour

Music: Shea White, Hannah Kingry, Alivia Dowden

Thanks to our technical crew:

Jamie Waldhour, Robert Hammon.

Prayers for the People

Celebration:

Sam and Brittany Miller on the birth of a son, Cameron Hobbes Miller, born on June 23.
His big brother is Carson and grandparents are **Rick and Laura Miller**.

Sympathy:

Cheyenne and Davis Strickland in the death of a son, John Avery Blackmon.
Grandparents are **Carolyn and Len Strickland**.

Donna and Richard Schantz in the death of his father, Richard Carl Schantz.

Medical personnel and other first responders



The Unbelievable God

Season after Pentecost 2020

From the beginning of the Christian community's early formation as a peculiar people of God, the call of Jesus to his followers has been "to be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). What does this mean for us today? At Pentecost, the promise of Christ's enduring presence is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon *all* flesh, thereby equipping the Church to *be* more than just another special interest group of like-minded individuals — and to *do* more than it could ever do on its own.

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower...*

This prophetic claim still echoes across the church of today; but is it still believe-able? In a world that toils with foreboding sickness and perpetual injustice, the news of redemption through death and resurrection may sound cruel, at worst, and at best, highly unusual. Even more so, the notion of actual reconciliation by way of genuine repentance and forgiveness sounds like a far-fetched dream. Is it wishful thinking? Or is it the gospel Truth?

The psalmist tells us that the Creator God is still at work, and that the Lord will give us what we need in "due season" (104:27). The big idea is that the God who said "let there be light" in the beginning is the same God with a plan for our present darkness as well. Do we still believe that? Is this Word really enough for us in the living of *these* days? Or is it just another delusional, unbelievable fantasy?

In our summer reading of God's Word to us and for us, we also face the absurdity of what God may ask of us along the way. As a church family, we are already living a bit 'out of sorts, but let us consider another family by comparison. If you listen to the voice of mother Sarah in Genesis, the inclination is to laugh out loud. If you ask father

Abraham to share his story, you will likely shudder with fear and frustration. If we consider the plight of Hagar, we might begin to identify with the heart of God for an oppressed people. These witnesses are not so sweet and simple. They too understood that not every tale of summer involves a beach or a pleasure cruise.

Somewhere between the Word and the world we are prone to exclaim:

What kind of a God would put people through all of this? Unbelievable.

In our episodes of pain and uncertainty, there are still moments of subtle glory. Amidst the travail, there are glimpses of transcendence when the will of God is revealed with fresh insight. In this particular season of deep disorientation, we struggle to find words suitable for our witness. Lord only knows what might happen next!

Our response to the unbelievable God will make a difference. When I envision God's preferred future for the community of Fairhope UMC, faith tells me that it will be unbelievable...absolutely...but in the best way possible!

In choosing to "love boldly," we find our voice amidst the clamor of the crowd.

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

Grace to You,

Darren

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received June 21 - \$48,996

(Online - \$11,881 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$37,115)

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

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

Caring Ministries Update:



Give us this day our daily bread.
Matthew 6:11



Then Jesus declared,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me
will never go hungry,
and whoever believes
in me will never be
thirsty."
Matthew 6:35

Fairhope UMC Caring Ministries

- John Helmstader delivered bread. Norman Walden, Nancy and Bob Grogan, Sonny James and Paula Wilson delivered puzzle pieces along with many other drivers for the morning and afternoon routes.



- Our zoom meetings are continuing for Stephen Ministry, Tough Dogs Cancer support and Care givers support group. Staying connected has been a true blessing for all the teams.
- Let Ann (ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org) know if you have needs, concerns or prayers as we navigate these new days.



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](#).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP STUDY:

We have several Sunday school classes currently meeting through various venues and would like to make their classes open to any who wish to join them. Following is information you may find of interest as you seek to remain connected with brothers and sisters in Christ:

Foundations Class

Meeting: Sunday Mornings at 9:45 AM

Current Study: *Six Ways We Encounter God: A Small Group Experience*, by Tom Berlin

Link to Zoom Meeting Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83786688837?pwd=Uk5MdGNDTHp3TUdBclcwUWRzL20zUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8668 8837

Password: 684133

Peace and Grace

Meets on Sundays at 9:30 (we try to hold it to an hour)

Topic: *Red Letter Revolution: What if Jesus really meant what he said?* by Shane Claiborne and Tony Campolo. It is a very discussion oriented class led by different people in the class. Everyone is welcome!

Zoom meeting ID: 9092162907

New Beginnings

Facilitated by: Rick Miller

Meets: Sundays @ 9:30 am. (In-person at Hatch office: contact Rick Miller for more information: rick@pro356consulting.com or by Zoom link – see below.)

Current Study: *Epic of Eden-Jonah*, by Dr. Sandra Richter

When most people think about the book of Jonah, they think about a children's story. Others think about a story they've heard so many times there could not possibly be anything new to learn from it. Well strap in, because this study is designed to prove all those assumptions wrong! In the book of Jonah we find a professional holy man, a lifer in the faith who is about to have the God he thinks he understands challenge him with an assignment that he can hardly get his brain around. In The Epic of Eden: Jonah, Dr. Sandra Richter takes us on a journey through Jonah's life that leads us all to the place where we realize that our God is way bigger than we thought. Not only will we learn everything we ever wanted to know about the brutal Assyrians of Nineveh, ancient seafaring ships, and large aquatic creatures, but we will also be challenged with the same message that confronted Jonah. Are we willing to let God be God, to move us out of our comfort zones, and embrace a calling that might just take us to the edges of the world we know?

<https://zoom.us/j/99676788711>

Homecoming Class

Topic: Ezra

Facilitated by Brenda Robinson

July 5 - No Class

July 2 - Meet at Bluff Park at 6:30pm. Bring your own lawn chair and Bible. In case of rain, we will meet in the breezeway at the church.

Contact Brenda (205-294-1705) or bgodbold@hiwaay.net for more information or to be added to an email list for updates. Request handouts be emailed either through Brenda or Rev. Laura (laura.parker@fairhopeumc.org.)

Koinonia

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

Meets: Mondays @ 10 am, church campus on the lawn east of the Nursery entrance.
Bring your own chairs. Social distancing will apply, masks recommended.



Summer Book Club

Our theme for the summer 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?

Mark your calendar for these books and dates:

July 14 th	<u>The Dutch House</u> , Ann Patchett
August 11 th	<u>American Dirt</u> , Jeanine Cummins

I will update you closer to these dates on how and where we will meet. 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. Apparently, reading is a popular pursuit right now and there may be some delays and backorders on print versions of current bestsellers, so please shop early from our local bookstores or online sellers.

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

Happy reading!! Laura

Children's Ministries

SWIFT Zoom Get Together ... Rising 6th graders will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30pm. On Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30pm, our rising 5th graders will be invited to join as we welcome a new class into our SWIFT ministry! Parents will receive an email with the links prior to these get togethers!

Arriving soon in your mailboxes ... **Summer Family Challenge** for families in our Children's Ministries! Get your family together, complete as many challenges as you want/can, earn points and win prizes!

Blue Lake Camp ... Check out the many ways to support Blue Lake at www.bluelakecamp.com.

Youth Ministries



Student Ministry Mini-Mission Sessions:

JULY 26-28: 11th-GRADUATES

JULY 29-31: 9th-11th

AUGUST 2-4: 7th-9th

AUGUST 5-7: 7th-9th

***All grades listed above are for the
Fall 2020 school year! Click link
below to register on our church
website.*

IMPORTANT DETAILS TO KNOW BEFORE SIGNING UP:

Register for 1 session only!

- *Interested in being a chaperone? Please text Rachael for more information.*
- *Transportation to & from Panama City will not be provided by the church. This must be provided by parent or adult. (You may carpool with another team member.)*
- *Cost: \$85 includes housing and meals only*
- *Housing provided by UMCOR, conference protocol for social distancing included in housing plan.*
- *Packing list will be sent by July 5.*
- *Student Ministry Medical Release forms required.*

TO REGISTER: fairhopeumc.org/ministries/youth/youth-events/

SENIOR SEND OFF

The background of the poster is a photograph of a group of graduates silhouetted against a sunset sky. They are all throwing their graduation caps into the air, and the caps are seen as small dark shapes floating in the sky above them. The overall color palette is a mix of purple, blue, and orange from the sunset.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

9:00 am | Fairhope UMC
Graduates of the Class of 2020 &
their immediate family are invited!

RSVP TO:
MICHAEL SPICER, MICHAEL.SPICER@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

Your 2020 Graduate & the immediate family are invited to join us for our Senior Send-off hosted by the Fairhope United Methodist Church. We are so excited to be able to honor your grad and be able to send them off on their next steps with prayer and get to say goodbye!

Missions Ministries

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 HOME BOUND MEALS EACH WEEK BETWEEN FAIRHOPE, DAPHNE & SILVERHILL. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING MEALS TO SHEPHERD'S PLACE AND FAIRHOPE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB. WE ARE SERVING AROUND 350-400 TOTAL EACH FRIDAY.

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 AUGUST. WE ARE DISTRIBUTING THE MILK THROUGH THE FAIRHOPE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB, ECUMENICAL MEALS ON WHEELS & AHEPA.

FAMILY PROMISE - FAIRHOPE UMC HAS BEEN HOSTING FAMILY PROMISE FOR OVER 10 YEARS. OUR NEXT "HOST" WEEK IS JULY 12TH-19TH. DUE TO COVID, WE WILL NOT BE HOSTING FAMILIES IN THE CHURCH AS NORMAL. IN ORDER TO STILL SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THE PROGRAM, WE WILL BE PROVIDING GIFT CARDS AND MEALS TO THE FAMILIES. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE TWO FAMILIES IN THE PROGRAM LIVING AT THE DAY CENTER IN SUMMERDALE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING FAMILY PROMISE PLEASE LET US KNOW. WE WILL BE COLLECTING WALMART GIFT CARDS AND GAS CARDS.



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