



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
July 5, 2020

PRELUDE Toccata on "O Worship the King" (Penfield)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Laura Parker

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.
Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.
Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.
Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN God of the Ages (UMH #698)

PSALTER (UMH #795) Tom and Jenna Hood

HYMN Lift Every Voice and Sing (UMH #519)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Hayes)
Accompanist ~ John Richardson, Vocalist ~ Tom Hood

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON *Romans 7:15-25*

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30*

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

SENDING FORTH

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker, Tom & Jenna Hood, John Richardson,
Jamie & Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

A Prayer for the Fourth of July: Edited by Chad Kirtland, read by members of our church staff and adapted from a prayer by The Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt, Jr. Rueben P. Job Chair in Spiritual Formation at United Methodist-related Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

JoAnn Wellborn in the death of her husband, **Bill Wellborn**.

Medical personnel and other first responders

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

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!



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



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. Following is information you may find of interest as you seek to remain connected with brothers and sisters in Christ:

Foundations Class (will not meet Sunday, July 5th)

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 (will not meet Sunday, July 5th)

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: Haggai, Zechariah

Facilitated by Brenda Robinson

July 5 - No Class

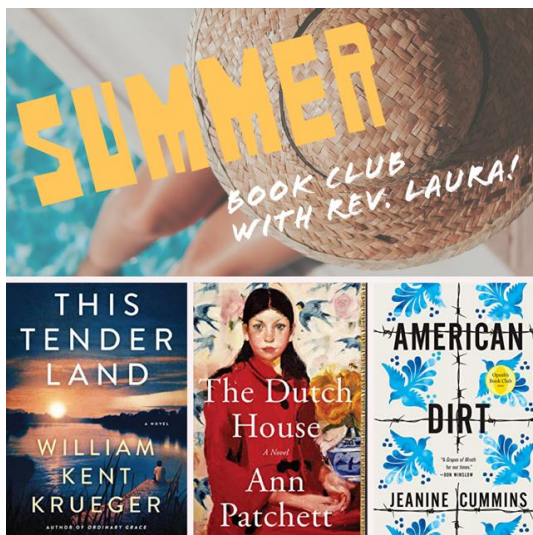
July 12— Class will begin meeting Sundays at 9:30 in the grassy parking are on the church campus. Contact Brenda (205-294-1705) or bgodbold@hiwaay.net for more information.

Koinonia

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

July 5— Class will begin meeting Sundays at 9:30am under the big oak & palm tree east of the nursery entrance off the parking lot by the CLC.

BYO B/C/C/M = **Bring Your Own Bible/Chairs/Coffee/Masks**



Mark your calendar for these books and dates:

July 14th *The Dutch House*, Ann Patchett

We will meet at 6pm in the parking lot under the big oak tree between the buildings, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair. Masks recommended.

August 11th *American Dirt*, Jeanine Cummins

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

Caring Ministries Update:



Celebrating our Church family by leaving surprises on member's door steps.



Support Groups meeting by Zoom this week:

Stephen Ministry Supervision meets Monday July 6 at 6:00pm with a virtual meeting.

Caregivers Support Group will have a virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 7 at 9:30am.

Please contact Ann at ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org if you would like to join the meeting and an invite will be sent to you.

Children's Ministries

Rising 5th Graders ...



Our 2020 Summer Family Challenge has been mailed. During the 4-week period (July 12-August 8), families can participate in lots of challenges in the areas of family fun, acts of kindness, Bible time plus a special memory making activity. Points are given for the activities completed and prizes will be awarded. If you're not currently part of our children's ministries but would like to see what the challenge is all about or want us to send a copy to someone who might like to participate, email michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org.



Special Deliveries ... Over the next 2 weeks, our faithful and dedicated age-level coordinators, Sunday School teachers and Pier, Pier34 and SWIFT leaders will receive a gift of appreciation for their service during the school year. They are what makes Fairhope UMC Children's Ministries so very special!

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 caps into the air, and the caps are seen floating in the sky above them. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple.

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?



SHELTER IN LOVE COVID-19 GRANT
MISSIONS IS VERY EXCITED TO SHARE THAT WE ARE THE RECIPIENT OF A \$10,000 GRANT PROVIDED THROUGH UMCOR COVID RESPONSE. WE RECEIVED THE GRANT DUE TO THE OUTREACH BEING PROVIDED THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY MEAL ON FRIDAYS. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THIS GRANT, SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A HOT MEAL TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH AUGUST.

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 & MEALS TO THE FAMILIES. CURRENTLY, 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 & GAS GIFT 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.

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

MUCH LOVE TO ALL.

JENNIFER MYRICK, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS