



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Who You Say I Am

Shea White and Friends

DECLARING GOOD NEWS

Romans 8:1-11

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Laura Parker

**Life-giving God,
we gather in Your presence
to offer You thanksgiving and praise
for all that You have done for us.**

**Through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son,
Jesus Christ,
we have been set free —
free from the power of sin that leads to death,
free to follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit,
free to love You with all our heart and soul and strength,
free to worship!**

**May Your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers.
Open our hearts and minds
to Your presence among us and within us,
and to the Word You have for us today.**

**To You alone, life-giving God,
belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing,
now and to the end of time.
Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

*King of My Heart
What a Beautiful Name*

Shea White and Friends

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

Tom Hood

SPECIAL MUSIC

L-O-V-E U God

Video: Children's Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, your word goes out and
does not return empty
but prospers that for which it was sent.
By your Spirit, open our minds to
your word this day,
that we might walk according to your ways;
for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 25:19-34

SERMON

"Do Not Despise"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

OUR CONFESSION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Parker

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

Be Thou My Vision

Shea White and Friends

BENEDICTION

Assisting in Worship this Week: Dr. Darren McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker,
Music: Shea White, Tom Hood, Ike Kessee, Phillip Bagins, Grace Jones
Sound and Media: Jamie Waldhour, Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

Prayers for the People

Sympathy:

Donna Dodson in the death of her mother, Ruth McGhee

Marti and Chris Burgess in the death of her father, and **Abigail** in the death of her grandfather, Samuel "Sammy" Nelson Pope.

Celebration:

New Baby born in Michigan on July 6: Waylon Edward Matfey: Parents: Tara(Parish) and Chris Matfey and big sisters Ansley and Madison. Grandparents are **Shelley and Keith Turnbull** and Great Grandparents are **Dot Parish** and **Chuck and Marlene Robinson**.

Medical personnel and other first responders

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

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received July 5 - \$41,623

(Online - \$13,620 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$28,003)

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



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

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

Grace and Peace

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: Haggai, Zechariah

Facilitated by Rick Chastain

July 12 – Class will begin meeting Sundays at **9:00** in the grassy parking area on the church campus. Bring your lawn chair and Bible. Church staff strongly recommends that masks be worn at this time whenever on the campus. Contact Brenda (205-294-1705) or bgodbold@hiwaay.net for more information.

Koinonia

Topic: "Sharing Your Faith". Please read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 prior to class.

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

Jul 12, 2020--9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85048151978?pwd=bnRhK1FHMmlqRk1Uczd3MFU1REJPdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 4815 1978

Password: 208892



Please see important change in meeting information for this week:

Please note: We have changed our plans for our upcoming session on July 14th

The Dutch House, Ann Patchett:

Due to the increase in positive tests for COVID 19 both within our church and community, we will NOT meet outside on the church campus this week. We will meet by ZOOM at 6 pm.

Laura Parker is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FUMC Summer Book Club

Time: Jul 14, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95921142086>

August 11th American Dirt, Jeanine Cummins

Location TBA.

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



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

How can we support you?

Congregational Care Teams offer help in many ways, from someone to talk to during this challenging time of isolation and uncertainty, through prayers and pastoral support, job connections, help with groceries and or provide meals, support groups, and more.

COVID-19 has affected us all in addition to our normal daily struggles. Your FUMC church family is here for you to provide love and spiritual support. Let us know how we can help you today. Contact the Pastoral Staff or Ann Pearson through the church office 251-928-1148 or ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Support Groups Meeting this week virtually:

Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Support Group is meeting on Monday, July 13 at 6:30pm.

Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group is Tuesday, July 14 at 12:30pm.

Both groups will be meeting virtually on Zoom. An invite will be sent out to the teams but if you would like to join one of the meetings contact Ann Pearson,

ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org and she will include you with the zoom information.



Prayer Walk on the Church Campus Coming Soon

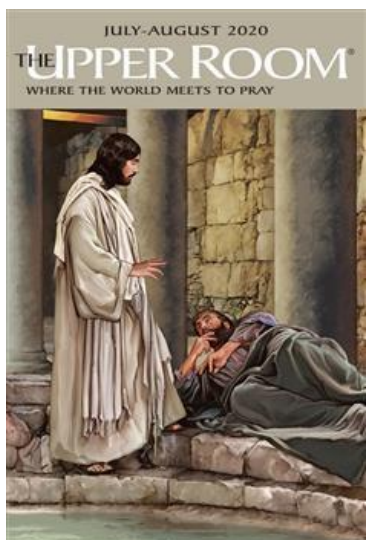
Prayer Ministry is working on a Meditated Prayer Walk around the Church Campus.

There will be 9 stations reflecting the Summer Sermon Series: *The Unbelievable*

God. Members and friends will be encouraged to come anytime between dawn

and dusk and walk through and reflect on scriptures and prayers that will be provided.

There will be a guided map to navigate through the walk. Be listening out and preparing your hearts for intentional prayer as you experience God's presence.



The Upper Room is available for pick up or delivery.
Pick-up on the steps outside the church office.
For delivery, email martha.monckton@fairhopeumc.org

The Word for you Today devotional is also available.

Children's Ministries

SWIFT Zoom Get Together

Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30pm

For rising 5th & 6th graders

Parents will receive an email with the Zoom link on Monday! If you do not receive the email, contact Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325.



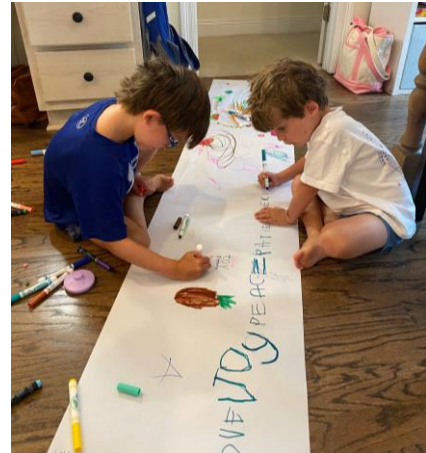
Our **2020 Summer Family Challenge** is underway! Families can participate in lots of challenges in the areas of family fun, acts of kindness, Bible time plus a special memory making activity. Points are given for the activities completed and prizes will be awarded. If you're not currently part of our 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. You can also go to www.fairhopeumc.org and find the challenge under ministries/children!

Here are some pictures we've already received!



Marass Family – Act of Kindness

O'Connell Family – Fruit of the Spirit Bible Time



Dowden Family – Family Fun

Blue Lake Family Camps Cancelled ...

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases and not reaching minimum registration to afford to run camp, Blue Lake staff has made the difficult decision to cancel all July Family Camps. Please continue to keep Blue Lake in your prayers and consider making a donation to help the camp stay open! www.bluelakecamp.com.

Youth Ministries



We are back and ready to get together with our Student Ministry small groups for a **GAME NIGHT!** All details have been sent to the parents of every student via email. Each individual small group has an assigned day and time listed below. You can drop-off your student at the CLC. The grades listed below are for the grade you will be entering in the fall of 2020. We cannot wait to see you then! Please take a moment to register on our church website (youth page) and make sure you have an updated Medical Release Form.

7th Grade-Wednesday, July 15 @ 5:30-7 pm

8th Grade-Sunday, July 12 @ 5:30-7pm

9th Grade-Sunday, July 12 @ 7:30 pm

10th Grade-Wednesday, July 15 @ 7:30 pm

11th & 12th Grade- Sunday, July 19 @ 7:30 pm



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 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/

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