



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost  
July 19, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Antonio Christie

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of strife, God is with us!

**Come, O Lord, and pour your word into our hearts.**

In the anguish and grief of everyday living, God is with us!

**Hear our cries, O Lord, and quiet our spirits!**

Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to the Lord.

**We come, with confidence and hope in the presence of God. AMEN.**

OPENING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

(UMH #384)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Rev. Laura Parker

GLORIA PATRI

PSALTER (UMH #854)

*Psalms 139:1-18*

OFFERING

*Where Could I Go from Your Spirit*

Tom & Jenna Hood

DOXOLOGY

HYMN

*Rock of Ages*

(UMH #361)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One,

you love with a father's tenderness, a mother's zeal.

Move now in our hearts.

Breathe through the words we hear,

the songs we share, the burdens we carry,

until we discover our purpose in your liberating love,

for we long to join creation's praise

and to shine with the mercy of the Christ,

in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Genesis 28:10-19a*

SERMON

*Dare to Dream*

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

OUR CONFESSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Stand By Me*

Shea White

SENDING FORTH

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**Assisting in Worship Today:**

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Ontonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker,

Music: Tom & Jenna Hood, John Richardson, Shea White,

Sound and Media: Jamie & Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

**Prayers for the People**

**Sympathy:**

Miriam Clark in the death of her husband, Gerald (Jerry) Clark.

**Medical personnel and other first responders**

**Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:**

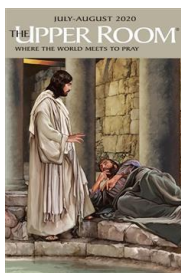
Offering Received July 12 - \$39,361

(Online - \$12,251 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$27,110)

*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



*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](mailto:martha.monckton@fairhopeumc.org)

*The Word for you Today* devotional is also available.

**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 Zoom. 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 9:45am

Link to Zoom Meeting Sundays at 9:45am

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

Meeting ID: 837 8668 8837

Password: 684133

### **Grace and Peace**

Meeting Sundays at 9:30am (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

Meeting Sundays @ 9:30am

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

Connect by Zoom: Every week on Sun, until Jul 26, 2020, 2 occurrence(s)

Jul 19, 2020 09:30 AM, Jul 26, 2020 09:30 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/tj0rcO-vpjMtG9WEaAvecSPISy5F4-2QNxmS/ics?icsToken=98tyKuChqDwsHdydtxiGRox5BI\\_CM-3xiFxaifpquR7EFSVQUTP6BfsXFOYyQun-](https://zoom.us/meeting/tj0rcO-vpjMtG9WEaAvecSPISy5F4-2QNxmS/ics?icsToken=98tyKuChqDwsHdydtxiGRox5BI_CM-3xiFxaifpquR7EFSVQUTP6BfsXFOYyQun-)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

### **Koinonia**

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

Meeting Sundays @ 9:30am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89615210229?pwd=TmVWMmFUOWNHSU5OUy83Zi9WR2hNQOT09>

Meeting ID: 896 1521 0229

Password: 287409

### **Homecoming Class**

Not meeting for the remainder of July. If you would like information about when this class will resume, please contact Brenda Robinson: (205-294-1705) or [bgodbold@hiwaay.net](mailto:bgodbold@hiwaay.net).



Only one more book left for our Summer Book Club:



August 11<sup>th</sup>

*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.

Happy reading!!

Laura



## 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](mailto:ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org).



## Prayer Walk on the Church Campus

Prayer Ministry invites you to come to the church and experience a Meditated Prayer Walk around the Church Campus. There will be 9 stations reflecting the Summer Sermon Series: *The Unbelievable God*. Members and friends are encouraged to come anytime between dawn and dusk to

reflect on the scriptures and prayers located at each station. Come to the front doors of the sanctuary to see the map for the guided tour. Prepare your hearts for intentional prayer as you experience God's presence.



Graduation gifts have been given to our 2020 Seniors from our Knit and Crochet Ministry as a reminder of God's Love.

Surprise deliveries of bread or puzzle pieces are still touching the lives of our church family. A Big THANK YOU to our helpers who are making deliveries:



Paul Waite, Terry Hicks and Bill Nugent.



Doris Iburg and Izzy Pike



Ken and Patricia Cooper

## Children's Ministries

### SWIFT Zoom Get Together

Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30pm

For rising 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Students have been mailed our SWIFT Photo Scavenger Hunt activity! Remember that pictures are due to Mrs. Michelle no later than Tuesday, July 21 to be eligible for prizes!

**Be sure to check out the Children's Newsletter Below!**



**FAIRHOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

July 15, 2020

## PHASED REOPENING PLAN

On June 30, the Board of Stewards approved the Reopening Readiness Team's three-phase plan for reopening the church. While the plan does not include a specific date, it was determined that the metric to be used for reopening will be for COVID-19 numbers in our area to remain steady or decline for a period of two weeks. We will move into phase three with input from the Alabama/West Florida Conference, our Reopening Readiness Team and COVID-19 Medical Team.

Please note that when we move into phase two outdoor worship, nursery and children's church will not be offered. Also, with phase three indoor worship, it is likely that nursery and children's church will not be offered immediately. Children will attend worship services with their families.

**DOWNLOAD  
PLAN HERE!**



Click [here](#) for Summer Family Challenge information

## SUMMER FAMILY CHALLENGE

Our 2020 Summer Family Challenge is underway! I hope you and your children have picked some of the activities you want to complete! Points are given for the ones completed and prizes will be awarded. In addition to several drawings from all \*participant names, the family with the highest score will receive the Grand Prize of tickets to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo! **Families must submit their score cards on or before August 9. Winners will be announced on August 10!**

*\*Be sure to list all names of family members who participated on your Family Score Card to be eligible for the drawings!!*



### Choose from ...

- 20 Family Fun challenges (10 points each)
- 10 Acts of Kindness challenges (20 points each)
- 9 Bible Time challenges (50 points each)
- 1 Time Capsule challenge (100 points)

You are encouraged to take pictures of your family doing some of the challenges! Text the pictures to Michelle (251/377-2325) and we'll post them on the church's social media and in Sunday bulletins! Check out these that we've already received!

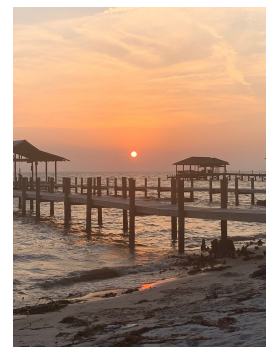
Email [michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org) to let her know that your family has said YES to the challenge and will participate!



**Bring fresh flowers to someone who needs a smile**  
submitted by Marass Family



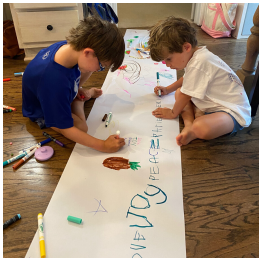
**Have a family game night**  
submitted by Dowden Family



**Watch the Sunrise or Sunset**  
submitted by Dowden Family



**Chalk driveway with positive message/drawing**  
submitted by Marass Family



**Learn the Fruit of the Spirit**  
submitted by  
O'Connell Family



**Thank you note for postal worker**  
submitted by  
O'Connell Family



**Build an awesome indoor fort**  
submitted by  
Friedman Family

**Thanks for the great idea  
Goldsberry Family!**  
When learning John 3:16, watch  
this video of football player Tim Tebow  
sharing how and why he shares John 3:16!

[Click here to watch!](#)

## BLUE LAKE CAMP UPDATE

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! I really don't want to see the doors of Blue Lake close! My heart would break if our children could not go to Winter Retreat and Summer Camp each year and our church family could not go to our annual Fall Retreat!

Click [here](#) to watch a heartfelt video from Steve Lewandowski, Blue Lake's Executive Director. Please keep Blue Lake in your prayers and consider making a financial donation.



**2020 Winter Retreat**  
(Fairhope UMC had the MOST attendees!)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

In the past, this has been a busy time of preparation in our Children's Ministries! With the approach of a new school year, we'd normally be finalizing our roster for Sunday School teachers, preparing for training and getting classrooms stocked and ready! We'd be counting down the days till Promotion Sunday, the Blessing of the Backpacks, our Bible presentation to 3rd graders, registration for our Wednesday night programs and recruitment of leaders for Pier, Pier34 and SWIFT.

But these are not normal times are they? Things have changed over the past 4 months and even now, they still seem to change daily. Just like you, I look forward to the continuing updates on the opening of schools. Will they open when they are supposed to and what will it actually be like when they do? When the schools open their doors, will that mean it's safe to open our children's ministries? Can we proceed with our plans for the fall?

I certainly wish I had all the answers, but I confess that I don't. One thing, however, that I absolutely do know is that we are not alone! Our God is with us every step of the way. Always has been. Always will be. His extravagant love for us never changes. It is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. So as we press forward, let's remember that our God keeps His promises! For me, knowing that He promises to be with us and love us helps me to rest in my unanswered questions and calm my anxious heart! I pray it does for you as well! I'll let you know what our fall schedule looks like as soon as I know! As always, if you ever have any questions, call, text or email me! Remember... stay well, stay safe and stay filled with the joy only Jesus can offer! I miss you and your children so much and look forward to the day we can all return safely to church!



Blessings,

*Michelle Graham*

michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org / 251.377.2325 (cell)

## 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/](https://fairhopeumc.org/ministries/youth/youth-events/)

# 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 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 TOTAL EACH FRIDAY.



BALDWIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - WE ARE COLLECTING BOTTLED WATER & INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS FOR THOSE CONDUCTING COVID-19 TESTING. THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING TESTING 5 DAYS A WEEK. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE BOTTLED WATER OR SNACKS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



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](mailto:MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG) OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

MUCH LOVE TO ALL.  
JENNIFER MYRICK, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS