



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 26, 2020

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Ontonio Christie

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

*This is Amazing Grace*

Shea White and Friends

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ Psalm 105:1-6

Tom Hood

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

SONGS OF PRAISE

*Your Grace is Enough*  
*In Christ Alone*

Shea White and Friends

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Keep My Eyes on You*

Tom Hood, Shea White

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ~ Romans 8:26

Spirit of life,  
we do not know how to pray as we ought.  
Meet us in words written, in words spoken;  
intercede for us with sighs too deep for words,  
until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts,  
for we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ Romans 8:26-39

SERMON "Leave-Taking" Rev. Laura Parker

OUR CONFESSION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Ontonio Christie

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG *Alive and Breathing* Shea White & Friends

BENEDICTION

---

Assisting in Worship this Week: Rev. Laura Parker, Rev. Ontonio Christie  
Music: Shea White, Tom Hood, Ike Kessie, Phillip Baggins  
Sound and Media: Jamie Waldhour, Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

## **Prayers for the People**

### **Sympathy:**

**Len and Pam Turner and family** in the death of his brother, Lloyd Turner.

### **Medical personnel and other first responders**

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

Offering Received July 19 - \$29,506

(Online - \$13,905 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$15,601)

*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!**



## *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**

Meets: 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**

Meets: 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

Meets: Sundays @ 9:30 am.

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

Connect by Zoom: Every week on Sun, until Jul 26, 2020

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

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/tj0rcO-vpjMtG9WEaAvecSPISy5F4-2QNxmS/ics?icsToken=98tyKuChqDwsHdydtxiGRox5Bl\\_CM-3xiFxaifpquR7EFSVQUTP6BfsXFOYyQun-](https://zoom.us/meeting/tj0rcO-vpjMtG9WEaAvecSPISy5F4-2QNxmS/ics?icsToken=98tyKuChqDwsHdydtxiGRox5Bl_CM-3xiFxaifpquR7EFSVQUTP6BfsXFOYyQun-)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

### **Koinonia**

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

Meets: Sundays at 9:30am.

This week's lesson: "How Your Life Matters" 2 Timothy 1:5-7

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81205440132?pwd=WDhacE1WWVJkSVoweVhpVzBDTmPudz09>

Meeting ID: 812 0544 0132

Passcode: 253415

Meeting ID: 896 1521 0229

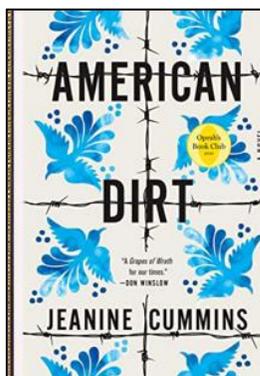
Password: 287409

### 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.



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:



Mary Lucas



Mary Finger



## Mobile Blood Drive

Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot of the church.

Click the link below to see the list of LifeSouth's social distancing guidelines and to schedule your appointment.

[https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/674025](https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/674025)

## Children's Ministries

### SWIFT Zoom Get Together

Wednesday, July 29 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 your child would like to participate but you do not receive the email, contact Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325.





**Gather school uniforms that no longer fit for our school uniform drive  
(The Jones Family)**



**Visit a farmer's market  
(The Bell Family)**



**Bake a treat and deliver to police station  
(The Kemper Family)**



**Bring in a neighbor's recycle bin  
(The Roach Family)**



**Make homemade pizzas  
(The Meador Family)**

## Student Ministry



### STUDENT MINISTRY GAME NIGHTS

Within the past few weeks our student ministry staff has worked hard to bring together our small groups, one grade at a time. We've held a scavenger hunt around town and played games on our front lawn. Despite the heat and rain, it's been encouraging to see these faces and reconnect with them. Our primary purpose has been to give our kids a break from the present worries of our world and reassure each one that we love and miss them greatly!

As every parent and student sets out to make the best decision possible for the upcoming school year, please know that we are praying for all of you daily. We know that this school year will look different for every family. As far as student ministry at FUMC, we are discerning the different ways to offer new and unique programming that meet the needs of your family. Our hope is to challenge these students to grow spiritually and connect in a way that is safe and fulfilling. Stay-tuned for more information on the continuation of Student Ministry and our Fall Community Group season!

### STUDENT MINISTRY PCB MINI MISSION TRIPS CANCELLED

Due to the current health concerns surrounding the pandemic, our Mini Mission Sessions set to take place in the Panama City area with UMCOR the next 2 weeks have been cancelled. We are saddened by this but we know that it is the safest decision we could make at this time. Please continue to pray for our partners in mission with UMCOR as they work tirelessly to help those still rebuilding from Hurricane Michael in the Port St. Joe and Panama City areas.

### NEW TO STUDENT MINISTRY?

All rising 7th grade (student & parent) and new church families with 7th-12th graders are encouraged to connect with us through social media, text messaging reminders, GROUPME for every grade and through our email reminders!

### Want to get plugged in??? Follow SALTSTUDENTS:

Instagram: @fairhopeumc.youth

Facebook: @fhsaltstudents

Email: [Michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:Michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org) to get on our email announcements or to be added to the Groupme for C-Group reminders!

Text Message Reminders: Text the word "Saltstudents" to the number "43506"

# 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 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.

FAIRHOPE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB - THE ROTARY YOUTH CLUB IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CLEAN & ORGANIZE TO GET READY FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THEY ARE WORKING MONDAY-FRIDAY 11-1PM



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