



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost  
August 2, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Laura Parker

INTROIT

*Holy Ground*

Tom Hood, Shea White

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: On this new morning and in every moment of our lives, gracious God,

**PEOPLE: from generation to generation, we praise your holy name.**

LEADER: Like our ancestors before us, we proclaim your greatness to our children,

**PEOPLE: for we have seen your deeds of power and witnessed your goodness in our lives.**

LEADER: As you have opened your hand to all, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

**PEOPLE: open our hearts so that we might share the gifts we have received from you.**

**ALL: Let us worship God in gratitude and joy!**

HYMN #126

*Sing Praise to God*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

PSALTER (UMH #857)

Psalm 145:8-21

Tom & Jenna Hood

HYMN #399

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

OFFERING

Rev. Laura Parker

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Stephanie Calhoun

DOXOLOGY

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Providing God, by your Holy Spirit  
feed us with your Word, that we might be filled  
with the bread of life. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ Isaiah 55:1-5

## SERMON

"Come, Eat What is Good"

Rev. Ontonio Christie

## OUR CONFESSION

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The promise of our faith is this:  
for all who call out in truth, God is near.  
Therefore, let us honestly confess our sin.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of justice and mercy,  
we admit that we are not always free of deceit.  
We are fooled by the false promises of the world  
into pursuing things that do not truly nourish us.  
Hear our cry and save us, dear God,  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Here is good news for everyone:  
God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love,  
and gives us forgiveness and grace.  
We do not have to earn it with sacrifice  
because it is a free gift from a generous God!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN #480

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

## SENDING FORTH

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Ontonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker

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

Media and Sound: Jamie & Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

## Prayers for the People

### Sympathies:

**Gene Kirchoff** in the death of her husband, **George Kirchoff**.

Family and friends of **Jim Jones**.

**Dona Cooksey** in the death of her mother, Velda Sandifer.

Mary Patrick in the death of her mother, Eloise Brewer.

**Tom and Jenna Hood** in the death of his father, Tommy Hood.

### Celebration:

Congratulations to **Jeremy and Jessika White** on the birth of a daughter, Nealie Rhea, born July 28, 2020. Proud grandparents are **Dena and Jeff White**.

### Medical personnel and other first responders

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

Offering Received July 26 - \$37,465

(Online - \$11,758 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$25,707)

*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:*

There will be NO ZOOM DEVOTIONAL on Monday, August 3rd. I will be taking a few vacation days. We will resume on Monday, August 10th.

**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: Sunday Mornings 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

This class will not be meeting the month of August.

## Koinonia

Facilitated by: Tony Caminiti

Meets: Sunday Mornings at 9:30am

This week's lesson: "Blessed are the Meek" Matthew 5:5

All are invited to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83476106832?pwd=bnRuUVFCQmJGSUUvL2R5SWdvN1FOdz09>

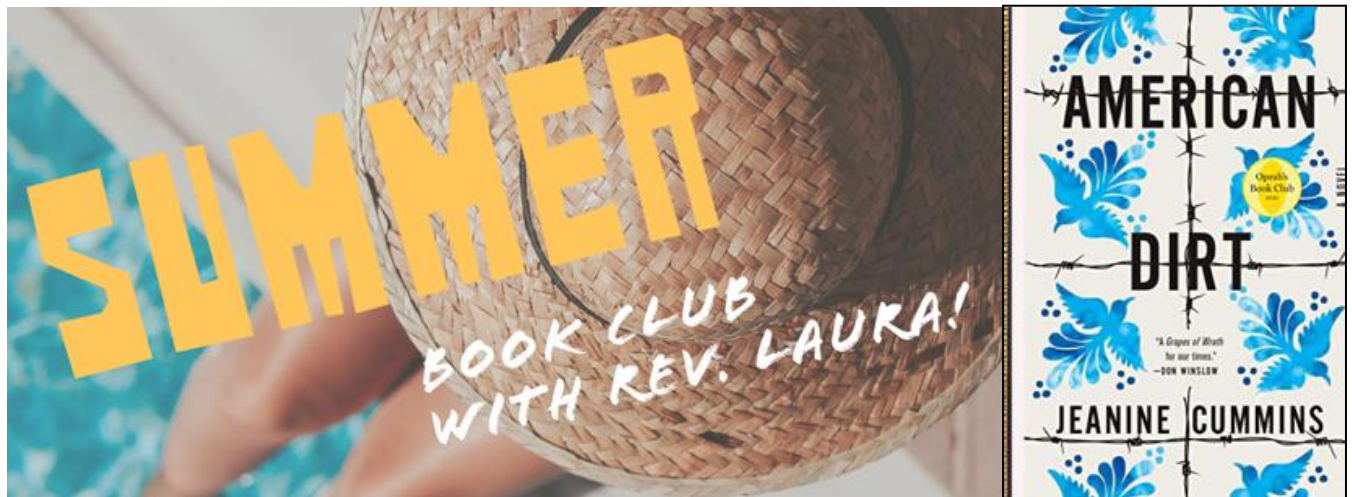
Meeting ID: 834 7610 6832

Passcode: 659761

## Homecoming Class

This class will not meet this Sunday.

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).



August 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm via Zoom:

Our final selection is *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97195809793>



## Caring Ministries...



### Prayer Walk

Prayer Ministry invites you to come to the church and experience a Meditated Prayer Walk around the Church Campus. There are 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.



Prayer Ministry offers New Prayer Banner outside Wesley Hall

### Support Group Zoom Meeting This Week

Caregivers Support Group will be having a zoom meeting Tuesday, August 4 at 9:30am. Please email [ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org) and she will send you an invite for the meeting.

Lynn White and other drivers made deliveries this week.





## 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. Time proposed 9am-1pm (you must schedule an 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 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

We will not meet this Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>! Our next Zoom will be Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Parents will receive an email with the Zoom link on the Monday before! If your child would like to participate but you do not receive the email, contact Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325.

### Summer Family Challenge

This is the last week to compete in our Summer Family Challenge! **Family Score Cards must be submitted no later than Sunday, August 9!** Go to [www.fairhopeumc.org](http://www.fairhopeumc.org) click on ministries/children for instructions on how to submit your score. Here are some more pictures that have been submitted.



### Shaw Family

Watch the Sunset



### O'Connell Family

Create Your Own Act of Kindness (bake cookies for family member who is sick)





**Friedman Family**

Make homemade slime

### **Thank You**

Thank you families for your uniform and supply donations for the Back to School Drive-Thru event! What a difference you've made for our community!

### **MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)**

Registration information for the 2020-2021 year is available on church website under preschool/MOPS.

*Note: The start date of September 14<sup>th</sup> is hopeful but subject to change depending on the reopening phase we are in at that time.*

## 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

## 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



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES & UNIFORM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ITEMS NEEDED \* PLEASE DELIVER TO CHURCH BY AUGUST 1ST \*:  
NEW OR GENTLY UNIFORMS  
(NAVY & WHITE POLOS NAVY OR KHAKI SHORTS)  
CRAYONS, ELMER'S GLUE, WASHABLE MARKERS, PENCILS, GLUE STICKS

AUG 5TH

4-6PM



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY. FOR MORE INFO PLEASE EMAIL [MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG](mailto:MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG) OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.  
MUCH LOVE TO ALL.  
JENNIFER MYRICK, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS