



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord who is our provider.
The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.
God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.
The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.
Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.
The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious Lord, how shall we do your will today?
Will it be in acts of praise, in gifts shared, in prayers lifted?
Who will you lead us to serve?
Help us trust you.
Help us listen.
Bless this community as we come together in worship.
Encourage us, comfort us, unite us, make our joy complete. Amen.**

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord
The Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
Bears thee on eagle's wings,
e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true God he upholds.
Hast thou not known His sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

(8:30) BAPTISM

Leonard Arthur Tucker
Son of Bo and Lindsay Tucker

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Elizabeth Jones, Natalie Woodrow (Flute Duet)

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord, through these scriptures.
Remind us again of your everlasting power.
May we know your story and our place within it.
May we remember your mighty works and deeds,
that we might know that you are the God of all ages.
May we claim your promise and share your love.
We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON

"Are We There Yet?"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you. [Refrain]

SENDING FORTH

Assisting in Worship Today:
Dr. Darren McClellan, Rev. Ontonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker
Music: Tom Hood, Jenna Hood, John Richardson, Shea White
Media and Sound: Jamie & Rachael Waldhour, Robert Hammon

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy:

Family and friends of Grace Webb.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received September 20 – \$19,467

(Online - \$6,212 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$13,255)

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!



Coming Wednesday, September 30th at Noon and 6:00 pm

Tell Me Something Good! (A Service of Gratitude)

On Wednesday, September 16th at about 4:30 am, our world was set a little off kilter here in Fairhope. But we have seen God's hand and there have been glory sightings all along the way. So, we want to open the sanctuary for a brief time this coming Wednesday at **Noon and 6 pm** to gather God's people. We will sing a song of praise and then give the opportunity for individuals to share some stories of God's goodness they have experienced. Your pastors will be present at the close of the service to pray with any individuals who have need. We ask you to wear masks and observe social distancing as you are seated in the sanctuary. Reservations will not be required. Our SWIFT and student ministries community groups are both meeting from 6:30-7:45pm this Wednesday, however, we know many in our Children and Student Ministries have been serving in our community this past week and we want to hear their stories and how their hearts have been touched. If you have a 5th-12th grader attending the Service of Gratitude, they can either leave the service early to attend their program or wait until after the service to do so. Children 4th grade and younger will attend the full service with their parents/caregivers.



Dear Friends,

As proclaimed last week, the way out of Egypt is *hard*. This is also true for the realities of pandemic, prejudice, brutality, bias, addiction, aggravation, greed, gluttony and whole list of other forms of oppression. None of us are at our best right now. These stories of Moses cover it all, however, and set the stage for the cross of Jesus Christ. Our suffering is not always a problem to be fixed, but rather an experience to be endured in faith. This is the witness of scripture. Therefore, as we approach the richness

of the biblical tradition, our confession is pretty simple. When our plans fall short and our patience worn thin, we need help. We need understanding. We need each other. We need God.

The church has never been closed, mind you, but we know that this season of “online only” on Sunday mornings has been a real disruption to the sacred rhythm of our lives. So for those who will enter our doors today, we say, *welcome back!* And to those who will be joining us remotely, rest assured that you are still every bit part of the body of Christ here at Fairhope UMC.

From now to the end of October, our worship services will be digging in to the call of Moses and the challenges of navigating what was known literally and figuratively as the wilderness of Sin (Ex. 17:1). With all of the obstacles that we see presently before us—for our families, our church, our community, our nation, and in the world—I can think of no better image to inform and inspire us than the memory of that story which began with a burning bush.

Do you suppose that flame is still going? How does God keep it, or us, from burning on without burning out?

In this series, we will be remembering the God who hears the cries of His children and works with them to deliver them up and out from the oppressive conditions of Egypt. We will glean certain insight from the scriptures on how to make decisions in the midst of an otherwise divisive culture, and how to handle the perpetual grumbles and groans that so often come with community. We will also reimagine our calling as Christ’s followers here at Fairhope UMC and dare to renew the pursuit of our own mission for the transformation of the world.

I am excited about what God may reveal to us during this time. God knows we could all use a fresh Word of hope. There is nothing about our experience of 2020 that would suggest to us that this 3rd quarter of the year will be easy. Even so, I believe that the Lord has collectively equipped us for this season (whether we know it or not) and will continue to prepare us for whatever it is that the Spirit would have us to do and to be. As he promised Moses...*Here I am!* So I believe that “I AM” is with us...on purpose...ready to deliver!

I am glad that you have chosen to worship with us. Let us hear the good news together.

Come What May—Here I Am!

Darren

A note from Rev. Laura:

Monday morning devotionals will resume at 9:30am

THIS Monday, September 28th!

Join us by Zoom at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99089887119>

For information on how to get started on Zoom, [click here](#).



Caring Ministries...



Caring for our Church Family:

Continue to pray for the needs of our members and community through the days following Hurricane Sally. If you would like a volunteer team to come and help you we are available to assess your situation. We are all in this TOGETHER. Don't hesitate to call us at the church office 251-928-1148 and we would be honored to help in any way we can.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group (SOS) is meeting Monday, September 28 at 6:00pm (New Time) on the Church Campus outside the building near the breezeway. There is a Zoom option also if you contact ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org and she will send you the invite.

Children's Ministries...

NURSERY OPEN DURING WORSHIP!

Remember, our nursery is now open on Sundays during all three worship services.

Numbers are limited and reservations are required. Each service will allow 5 children ages 3-17 months and 8 children 18 months-4 years. To ensure your spot, register early! Registration for next Sunday, October 4th will open at 4:00pm today on church website.

SWIFT MEETS IN-PERSON!

Our SWIFT ministry for 5th & 6th graders will meet in-person this Wednesday, September 30th from 6:30-7:45pm in Wesley Hall (Education Building). Parents will receive an email and text with details.

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD! (Service of Gratitude)

I have seen so many children from our church serving during the aftermath of Sally! It warms my heart! Be sure to read in this bulletin about the special Service of Gratitude this Wednesday in the sanctuary. Have a conversation with your kids about how they served those in need after the hurricane. Allow them to express how it felt to be the hands and feet of Christ. Then, encourage them to share their story on Wednesday night. I really hope to see your families there! Here are a few pics of some of the kids!



Student Ministry...

Join us for a message and Community Groups now on **Wednesday's at 6:00-7:45 pm in the CLC**. We look forward to seeing our students each week and reconnecting in our small groups!

Students will no longer be required to register on a weekly basis for our Wednesday night programming. For your safety and the safety of our leaders, please continue to wear a face covering, practice social-distancing and use the easily accessible hand sanitizing stations located around the campus. Thank you in advance for keeping our student ministry family safe and healthy by paying close attention to the first sign of illness and not participating if you have any symptoms of sickness!

The **Senior High Girls Virtual Bible Study** will meet on **Sunday's @ 8:00 pm** this group is open to all 9-12th grade girls interested! Please email Rachael Waldhour to join the group!
(Rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org)

SUNDAY NIGHTS

Senior High Girls (Virtual) Bible Study @ 8:00 pm (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Student Ministry Program & C-Groups @ 6:00-7:45 pm (CLC)
(*All 7th-12th Graders)

ARE YOU 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 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"

FAIRHOPE UMC
OUTDOOR
BLOCK
PARTY!



BRING YOUR
LAWN CHAIRS

OCT **7** **5PM**
- 7PM

GRAVEL PARKING AREA
@ FAIRHOPE UMC



PORTERHOUSE BBQ FOOD TRUCK
ENTERTAINMENT BY
"YEAH PROBABLY" & FUN FOR ALL!

* Food provided for, donations accepted

DISASTER RESPONSE HURRICANE SALLY RESPONSE

WE ARE PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY HURRICANE SALLY. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN SERVE NOW:

P R A Y

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY THE STORM.

G I V E

DONATIONS CAN BE GIVEN TO FAIRHOPE UMC MARKED "DISASTER RESPONSE" OR YOU MAY GIVE DIRECTLY TO UMCOR.

S E R V E

WE ARE CONTINUING TO ASSESS & SEND VOLUNTEERS OUT TO SERVE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING VISIT WWW.FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

THANK YOU

FOR SERVING OUR COMMUNITY& BEYOND



TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY. FOR OVER A WEEK NOW, WE HAVE BEEN A RECEIVING & DISTRIBUTING SITE FOR THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WORK ALONGSIDE VARIOUS PARTNERS PROVIDING & MEETING MANY EMERGENCY NEEDS POST STORM. WE WERE GRATEFUL TO WORK ALONGSIDE MANY BUSINESSES WHO DONATED ICE, WATER, CLEANING SUPPLIES, FOOD, GAS, TARP & MANY OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO PARTNER WITH OTHER METHODIST DISTRICT & CONFERENCE CHURCHES, THE BALDWIN COUNTY VOA, RED CROSS & MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE IN PRAYER FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANE SALLY.



OCT. 5, 2020

CLC REOPENS!

A Soft Reopening for Members and Guests

From 7am – 5pm, the facility will open the following spaces for groups and or individuals:

- Upstairs Track for walkers.
- Gym for FIT exercise program, Pickleball and morning basketball group.
- Fellowship Hall for group meetings.



The following areas will remain closed in October:

- Parlor
- Fitness Room
- All upstairs Classrooms
- All upstairs Lofts
- The Attic
- The Nursery (with the exception of Tina's programming)

Operating Hours

Mon – Fri

7am – 5pm

**Face mask
required to enter
the building.**

**Face masks and
social distancing will
be required for all
meetings within the
Fellowship Hall as
well as times
“between exercise”
in the Gym and on
the Walking Track.**

Any groups that desire to use the CLC for gatherings/meetings, please contact Michael Spicer at michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org.