



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord
The Gathering: January 10, 2021

OPENING SONGS

Let It Rise
All Who Are Thirsty

Jeff White, Praise Team

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate a special baptism; the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.

God says:

Look! See my chosen servant,
the One in whom I utterly delight;
**I have placed my Spirit on him,
he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,
and the Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**"This is my dearly loved Son,
with whom I am delighted."**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most wonderful God,
foolish and flawed though we are,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As in his name we gather in the house of many praises,
may the heavens be opened for us,
that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our common days
with a beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen!

OFFERING

Washed By the Water

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God –
tear open the veil of heaven
and speak to us as beloved children
so that we may hear and believe
the good news of your Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

"Remember! Claim it! Live it!"

Rev. Laura Parker

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

I Surrender All

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker

Music: Jeff White and Praise Band

Acolyte: Emery Capstraw

Media and Sound: Robert Hammon, Jamie Waldhour, Amelia Koser

In-Person Worship Reservations for Sunday, January 17, are open today at 4pm!

We are asking those wishing to join us to use the reservation system we have in place to ensure that we keep the attendance to a size that enables a 6 foot physical distance between families. For anyone not able to attend the worship service we will continue to share online through Facebook, YouTube & our website.

WORSHIP TIMES:

8:30am & 11:00am Traditional (Sanctuary)

11:00am *The Gathering* (CLC GYM)

Make your reservations at <https://www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations/>

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathies

Barbara Barnes in the death of her husband, and **Jeff and Reta Barnes** in the death of his father, **Bobby Barnes**

Matthew and Sarah Downs and family in the death of her brother, Richard McCollum.
Family and friends of **Shirley Allen.**



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord Sunday January 10, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!

OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, in glory everlasting. Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY

The Work of Christmas
Tom Hood, solo

(Dan Forrest)

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE

Acts 19:1-7

SERMON

“What Have You Heard?”

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism,

we are initiated into Christ’s holy Church.

We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith,

we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,

acknowledge what God is doing for us,

and affirm our commitment to Christ’s holy Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the Church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you,

will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church

and serve as Christ’s representatives in the world?

I will.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith

as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrections of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING HYMN

When Jesus Came to Jordan

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren M. McClellan
Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson Acolyte: Jackson Strunk (8:30)
Media and Sound: Ann Lyles Tapscott, Jenna Hood

FLOWER CALENDAR... The flower calendar for 2021 is in the hallway across from the main office. If you would like to sign up to place flowers on the altar in the sanctuary, please come by or give us a call (251-928-1148) to check available dates.



In the New Testament, Christian baptism always carries the meaning of initiation into Christian faith and life. Wesley calls it “the initiatory sacrament, which enters us into covenant with God.”

Do you remember your baptism? Most of us do not...at least not on our own. It takes a covenant community in Christ to help us to remember who (and whose) we are.

On this subject, I have enjoyed the reflection of Anthony Robinson in his book *What's Theology Got to Do With It?* He recalls an encounter with a young man who was worried that he might not have sufficient grasp of Christian beliefs to even be eligible for baptism, or that his life didn't measure up to the stature of Christ.

This was his response:

“Remember...that none of us deserves baptism. None of us understands enough or is ‘Christian enough’ to qualify. It is, after all, grace, gift. While we should make every effort to prepare, our role really comes on the other side of baptism, in our response. Sometimes we can become too focused on ourselves, whether we have a sufficient grasp of Christian faith or whether we are morally or spiritually ‘good enough’ for baptism. But baptism is not, first of all, about us. It is about God. This conviction is particularly evident in infant baptism. God’s love and grace precede our understanding, even our comprehension.

These concerns are not unusual. We human beings are often focused on ourselves. Sometimes we think too highly of ourselves, and sometimes we are overly critical. Such self-examination is not, of course, all bad or wrong. But in some measure, baptism and the Christian life direct our focus elsewhere. They direct our concern away from ourselves to the holy, merciful, mysterious and majestic God who births creation in each of us. Just as Jesus was not the main actor at his baptism but was the recipient, we are not the main actors at our baptism. This is God’s doing. This is grace.

We tend to be doers, activists, and highly responsible people. This is good and commendable. But it can also be a heavy burden. We take the weight of the world—of life itself—upon our shoulders. It may prove a crushing weight. Baptism brings into focus one of the great, liberating truths of the Christian life: it’s not about you. It’s about God, what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do... (Thus) baptism offers a word of judgment upon our grandiosity as well as a word of grace in times of discouragement.”

Martin Luther, when despondent, used to pointedly touch his forehead and say “I have been baptized,” by which he meant, *I belong, by God’s grace to Jesus Christ.*

Today, we come to worship to remember the same. I have been baptized. This is our foundation. God’s act, by which we have been named, claimed, loved, and called.

Grace to you,
Darren

Sunday, January 10th: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Zoom links provided for your convenience.

NOTE: In-Person Sunday School will not be offered for adults or children until January 24th due to rising COVID numbers.

Peace and Grace

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality. Assignment for this Sunday: watch this interview for prospective book study: YouTube https://youtu.be/_0IE9NhvLoc .

Time: Jan 10, 2021 9:30 AM

John Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9092162907>

Koinonia

Adults of varying ages, facilitated by Tony Caminiti; in depth Bible study and other topical studies. Lesson: DO THEY KNOW? Matthew 5:14-16

Time: Jan 10, 2021 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88661972544?pwd=TjY4cGFvSlcXSEo1Vm5HYyszdGhSdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 6197 2544

Passcode: 582003

Friends in Faith

Retired adults, individuals and couples.

Scheduled teachers for upcoming weeks: Ed Colvin, Joe McGilberry and Carol Willis.

Time: 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting (This Zoom link is good through January 24th.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86771534402?pwd=d2VJVXVpb3cwZzc0Ti9YRiNaK2IzUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 7153 4402

Passcode: 585355

Homecoming Class

Adults 50+, teaching rotation with primary emphasis on Bible study.

Current study: Paul's message to the Thessalonians about Christ's Second Coming.

The study guide is "Be Ready: Living in Light of Christ's Return" by Warren Wiersbe.

Contact Brenda Robinson for more information: bgodbold@hiwaay.net

Time: 9:45 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280028742?pwd=ZTE1MVBKMnFrZW1MZ2tseXlxUUy2UT09>

Meeting ID: 882 8002 8742

Passcode: Aacw7m

Living Word

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate.

In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85643262499?pwd=UE9vN0ZFUXI2UmdRZ01xNTVSb0pFQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4326 2499

Passcode: 397857

**Other classes are meeting by Zoom, but only these provided links by deadline for publication in the bulletin.



Sunday Vespers Service ~ Tonight

Join us tonight at 6pm in the sanctuary for a Vespers Service offering prayer, song, and scripture. Plans are to have this take place regularly on the second Sunday of each month.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

2020 Year End Offering - \$156,516
(Online - \$58,345 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$98,171)
Offering Received January 3, 2021 - \$13,538
(Online - \$6,250 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$7,288)

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:

We will continue our devotionals every Monday morning at 9:30 in the new year until we are able to return to more normal gathering routines in the life of our church. This time together lasts about 15-20 minutes and provides an opportunity to see familiar faces and pray together as we begin our week!

We will RESUME "Zoom" tomorrow morning.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>



COMING IN JANUARY...

Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life
Facilitated by Dr. Darren McClellan
(via Zoom)

Disciple IV is the final study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program and concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. This is the original version – not Fast Track.

***Prerequisite: Participants must have taken Disciple I (original or Fast Track). Disciple Bible Studies do not need to be taken in order.*

When: Friday afternoons, beginning January 22nd from 2-4pm. **ZOOM ONLY**. The Old Testament component (16-weeks) will be taught through the Spring, concluding May 14th. Plans now are to teach the New Testament component in the Fall of 2021. We will determine at that time whether or not the NT will be taught by Zoom or in-person. Cost: \$45

Please email bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org or call the church office to register.



Caring Ministries...

Support Groups continue to meet virtually....

Survivors of Suicide (SOS) virtual support group meeting will be Sunday, January 10th at 6:30pm Contact Ann Pearson by email (ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org) for your zoom meeting invite.

Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group is meeting virtually Tuesday, January 12 at 12:30pm. Contact Ann Pearson by email (ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org) to receive your zoom invite.

Serving in Caring...

If you would like to serve by making telephone calls to our membership and remain safely in your home this is a perfect way to volunteer. These calls are to check-in with our membership to see if our families have any needs that we can help with. Contact Ann Pearson in the church office 251-928-1148 or by email ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Children's Ministries...

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN ...

All children 3 years old-6th grade are invited to **Sunday School** from 9:45-10:40am (3 year old birthday must be before 9/1/20). Masks will be worn by teachers and students in our K-6th grade classes. Need to find a classroom? Go to www.fairhopeumc.org under children's ministries or see a greeter on Sunday mornings.

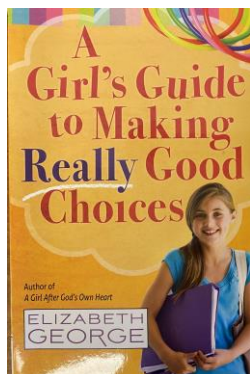
Note: Children's Sunday School will not meet today or Jan 17. We will resume Jan 24.

Children ages 3 months-PreK4 can stay in the **Nursery** during our 3 worship services and Sunday School.

Children's Church is not available at this time. Children are seated with their families for the whole service. Take-home **Worship Bags** are available for preschool-2nd grade. Activity bulletins are available for children 3rd-6th grade.

SWIFT (5th & 6th grades) will resume on Wednesday, Jan 20 in Wesley Hall, 6:30-7:45pm.

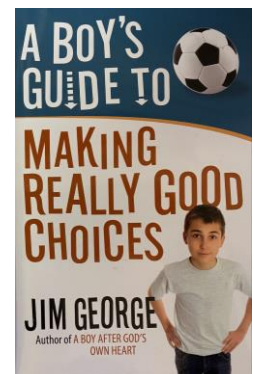
Book Study for 3rd & 4th Graders



*A Girl's Guide/Boy's Guide
to Making Really Good Decisions*

Sundays - Jan 24, 31 and Feb 7, 21, 28

Wesley Hall, 4:00-5:15pm



If your child would like to participate, let Michelle Graham know by Jan 11 (email michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org or text 251/377-2325). Children's Ministries will order and pay for the books. Even if your 3rd or 4th grader can't participate, please feel free to request a book.

UPDATE: BLUE LAKE WINTER RETREAT

The one-day, outdoor retreat planned for Saturday, February 6 has been postponed due to the rise in Covid cases. Once a new date has been determined, we will let you know! Winter Retreat is for 3rd - 6th graders.

Student Ministries...

Youth Sunday School

Time: 10:00 am ~ Meet: CLC Attic (7th-12th grade)

(Starting Jan. 24)

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH WORSHIP

Time: 6:00-7:45 pm ~ Meet: CLC (7th-12th grade)

Sunday night youth is back on Sunday, January 17. Hope to see you then!

JR & SR GIRLS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday's @ 7:30 pm//FUMC Campus

Our junior and senior girls are invited to join us for Tuesday night in-person Bible study each week on Women of the Bible. If you are interested, please [email rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org) for more details.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Wednesday's @ 6:30-7:45 pm//CLC

Check your GROUPME for additional information weekly.

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

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

Send a quick note to michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org to be added to our email list or to Groupme for C-Group reminders!



Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applications are due January 15, 2021.

Fairhope UMC is privileged to administer scholarships to help prepare leaders for the church, community, and world. These scholarships are awarded to church members whose character and accomplishments make them worthy representatives of FUMC and the individuals whom these grants honor. Scholarships are awarded to students who are actively involved with Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Some scholarships are awarded to an applicant who is preparing for ordained ministry, attending a Methodist college, or pursuing a church related vocation; need based; or other criteria. Numbers and amounts of scholarships will depend on annual availability of funds. This is the time to apply for these scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year. *The deadline for applications is January 15, 2021.* The scholarships are awarded in February. This will position the scholarship winner to apply for matching funds offered through the Methodist conference and by many colleges.

Click the link above for the new online application that can be found on our church website.

Missions Ministries...



Save the Date! Sunday, January 17th
More details to come!!