



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Lent
The Gathering: February 28, 2021

OPENING SONG

Come Ye Sinners

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

We lift our praises to God as we join together in this holy place.

We give glory and honor to the one who has created us!

The Lord, our God, has prepared for our worship.

We, the children of God, stand in awe!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation
and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world.**

**Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him,
that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship
and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*Who You Say I Am
I Have Decided*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY ~ Wednesday Night Prayer Session

OFFERING

10,000 Reasons
Alivia Dowden, solo

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit,
open our hearts to receive your Word,
reveal to us the good news,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 22:23-31

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

SERMON

"The Big If"

Dr. Darren McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren McClellan

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

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

***In-Person Worship Reservations (Sanctuary Only)
for Sunday, March 7, 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)

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

11:00am The Gathering Worship (CLC GYM)

Reservations No Longer Required for this Service

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Celebrations...

Harvey and Cathy McCulloch celebrate the birth of grandson, Andrew David McCulloch born on December 31. Parents are Erin and Erie McCulloch and live in Colorado.

Rick and Marjorie O'Neil on the birth of a daughter, **Carlisle Margaret**, born February 18th. Her proud grandparents are **Stephanie and Paul Hannon**. Big brother is **James** and big sisters are **Caroline and Catherine**.

Sympathy...

Chip and Jennifer McKnight in the death of his uncle, Mark McKnight (brother of Rev. Mike McKnight.)



Sunday Vespers Service ~ Mark Your Calendar!

Join us on March 14 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.



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 22:25-31

- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.
- ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before the Lord.
- ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ **All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.**
All who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord,
and I shall live for God.
- ³⁰ **Posterity shall serve the Lord;**
each generation shall tell of the Lord,
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
Surely the Lord has done it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation
and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world.
Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him,
that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship
and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

11:00 BAPTISM

Cooper Kent Adams

Date of Birth: May 1, 2020

Son of Chris and Amanda Adams

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.

Chris and Amanda,
do you in presenting Cooper for Holy Baptism
confess your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you therefore accept as your duty and privilege a life that becomes the Gospel;
to exercise all godly care that Cooper be brought up in the Christian faith,
that he be taught the Holy Scriptures, and that he learn to give reverent attendance
upon the private and public worship of God?

I do.

Will you endeavor to keep Cooper under the ministry and guidance of the Church
until he by the power of God shall accept for himself the gift of salvation, and
be confirmed as a full and responsible member of Christ's holy church?

We do.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos, You swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.
In the days of Noah You saved those on the ark through water.
After the flood You set in the clouds a rainbow.
When You saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea.
Their children You brought through the Jordan to the land which You promised.
In the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by Your Spirit.
He called His disciples to share in the baptism of His death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.
Pour out Your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it,
to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life that,
dying and being raised with Christ, Cooper may share in His final victory.

BAPTISM

Cooper Kent Adams,

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign:
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include Cooper now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according
to the example of Christ. We will surround Cooper with a community of love
and forgiveness that he may grow in his service to others.
We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

**The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and
strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.**

*Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, and love God more than all.*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

I Can Only Imagine
Mitch and Campbell Johnston, duet

(Millard)

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit,
open our hearts to receive your Word,
reveal to us the good news,
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:13-25

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

SERMON

"The Big If"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me; no turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow, tho' none go with me I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Laura Parker, Dr. Ann Pearson

Music Team: Tom Hood, Jenna Hood, Mitch Johnston

Acolytes: Elliot Determann (8:30) Hackett Robertson (11:00)

Media and Sound: Kaitlyn Hunter, Ann Lyles Tapscott, Peyton Phillips

"I am overwhelmed with the creativity and dedication that our ministers and staff have shown during this unusual time. They have strived to keep us connected in community safely. We have been offered many opportunities to show outreach and care to others as well as being the recipient of that care. Lives are being touched through Sunday Services, Sunday Night Vesper Services, Sunday School for all ages, Bible Studies, and Weekly Devotionals. What an exciting time to be a part of Fairhope UMC and to be a part of what God is doing. May we give God all the glory for all He has done and continues to do."

Gail and others

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received February 21, 2021 - \$33,080
(Online - \$13,240 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$19,840)

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



Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

--Joel 2:13

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. **Restore** to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will **return** to you.

--Psalm 51:10-13

At a time when it is tempting to isolate our hearts as well as our bodies, how important it is to hear the Holy Spirit calling us back into relationship. During a season in which we have wrestled with our reality and grappled with our grief, where do we turn for hope? What are we to do with ourselves and with our situation?

The Word is *return*.

Return to God, who is gracious and merciful. Though our sins may distance us, God has a plan for our reunion. It is time for a new heart, a willing spirit, and thus, a new life altogether.

With its customary emphasis on truth-telling and self-examination, this season of Lent invites us to once again *return* to God in worship, in study, in service and sacrifice, in confession and in pardon. The message is clear and simple: when we *return* to God, we are *restored* by God.

Do not cast me away from your presence we pray.

I will not, says the Lord. I will not, I have not, and I shall not. I cannot return to you, however, because I never left you. Thus, for this relationship to be restored, you will need to return to me. That is the call. Return...and be restored...with joy!

We are glad that you have returned to worship with us today. Welcome home.

Let us repent, rejoice, and be glad...

Darren



LENTEN STUDIES FOR ADULTS

Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way by Elaine Heath

This six-week study is designed to help disciples discover the power of the five means of grace. John Wesley called these means of grace “instituted,” meaning the spiritual practices Jesus himself participated in and encouraged his followers to do. For Wesley, these spiritual practices are seamlessly integrated with the practice of loving our neighbors well. A life of genuine prayer inevitably leads to a life of hospitality, mercy, and justice. Participants in this study will consider how the five means of grace are the ordinary channels that God uses to draw us into a fruitful relationship. Weekly studies will focus on: Prayer, Searching the Scriptures, the Lord’s Supper, Fasting, and Christian Conferencing. Cost of book: \$10

Monday Afternoons, 12:05-1:15 pm. Class began February 22nd, but drop-in participation is welcome week-to-week during Lent. Facilitated by Dr. Darren M. McClellan, outdoor courtyard (Morphy side of building.) This will be the “Grace and Grub Group.” Bring your own brown bag lunch. **No registration required—come as you will!**

Music Culture and Theology Class

Join Rev. Ontonio Christie for a six-week Music Culture and Theology Class. Start of class has been delayed to THIS Wednesday, March 3rd and will go through March 24th, 6:30-7:30 PM, in room B215 in the Education Building. The five sessions of this study will highlight Lenten themes and explore them in connection with today's culture and music. No books necessary, Bring your Bibles! **No registration required.**



Sunday, February 28th: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
In person classes meet from 9:45-10:40 am.

These classes are meeting in person this Sunday:

Basics B217

Young couples parenting young children or newly married. Current study is The Armor of God, by Priscilla Shirer, facilitated by John and Meredith Roach.

Foundations B215

Parents of children and youth. Foundations continues the study, Faith and Works, diving into the books of Galatians and James, considering what Paul and James said about our salvation. Are we saved by grace through faith alone as Paul wrote to the Galatians or are we required to live a life of good works like James outlines? Are the two books contradictory or complimentary? Facilitated by Kristin Capstraw.

Homecoming Class Wesley Hall

Adults 50+. In-Person continues this week with option to connect by Zoom. Current study is 2nd Thessalonians. Contact Brenda Robinson for more information: bgodbold@hiwaay.net

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:45 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280028742?pwd=ZTE1MVBKMnFrZW1MZ2tseXlxUUUY2UT09>

Pathfinders B210

Multi-generational class with in-depth Bible study. Facilitated by Linda Smith. Beginning a new study this week: "ASK: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age"

New Beginnings B209

Adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s. Some retired, some with children in school or college, some with grandchildren. Current study facilitated by Phil Webb (Max Lucado book, looking at issues of "Acceptance)."

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:45

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86534722052?pwd=Skdha0xpWEw0akQ2RTlVa3QwWTdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3472 2052 Passcode: 742529

These classes are meeting by Zoom only at this time:

Peace and Grace

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality.

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9092162907>

Koinonia

Adults of varying ages, facilitated by Tony Caminiti; in depth Bible study and other topical studies.

Lesson: Clearing the Temple of our Hearts; Matthew 21:1-17

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85142332048?pwd=b2wyMXg4N0RsdXZOdUdhRDc3dVRQQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 4233 2048 Passcode: 367547

Friends in Faith

Retired adults, individuals and couples.

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86771534402?pwd=d2VjVXVpb3cwZzc0Ti9YRjNaK2lzUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 7153 4402

Passcode: 585355

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/88171481169?pwd=WkE3QllFeVdxbfQ2akpXSklZFK1hWUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 7148 1169

Passcode: 575645



A note from Rev. Laura:

Please join me for devotionals every Monday morning at 9:30 until we return to more normal gathering routines in the life of our church. This time together will only last about 15-20 minutes and will provide an opportunity to see familiar faces and pray together as we begin our week!

Join us by Zoom at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>

Caring Ministries...

Zoom Caregivers Support Group meeting on Tuesday March 2 at 9:30 am. Contact Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org to join the meeting.

Members in Hospitals Need Our Care....

Starting in March, Thomas Hospital Chaplains are going to be allowed back in the hospital to visit patients and offer support and encouragement. At this time, clergy are only allowed in the hospital per family's request. Please let the church office or the Pastoral Staff know if you are in the hospital and would like a visit. Ann is one of the hospital chaplains so she will be available for hospital visits.

Centering Prayer Service each week at 5:45 – 6:15 in the sanctuary....

This is a reflective time to spend in prayer with your Heavenly Father. Come and join your church family for this time of communion with God.

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 location? Go to www.fairhopeumc.org under children's ministries or see a greeter on Sunday mornings.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ARE STARTING BACK!

Calling all kids from Kindergarten through 6th grades! Children's choirs **will start meeting this Wednesday, March 3rd, from 4:15-5:00pm in the Sanctuary**. First performance planned for Palm Sunday, March 28th, at the 11:00am services! Hope to see you there and don't forget your masks! For more information, contact Tom Hood, tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org

BLUE LAKE WINTER RETREAT

Our registration has closed for this one-day retreat on Saturday, March 6 for 3rd – 6th graders. We are excited to have 44 kids and 7 adults registered!

PIER34

Today (Feb 28) is our last meeting of our 3rd & 4th grade book study (4:00 in Wesley Hall). Our special guests will be our three pastors.

Next Sunday, March 7, we will begin an 8-week study *Learning to Use My Bible* (4:00 in Wesley Hall). All 3rd or 4th graders are invited to participate. Call Michelle if you plan to attend (251/377-2325).

SWIFT

Our ministry for 5th & 6th graders will meet this Wednesday (March 3) at 6:30 in Wesley Hall.

PIER

Thanks to all who gave your preference on the day/time you'd like our Pier ministry for K-2nd grade to meet. An overwhelming majority said Sundays from 4-5:15. We hope to begin meeting again on Sunday, March 14. This will depend on whether we have enough volunteers.

FACEBOOK GROUP

If you haven't done so, please join our Fairhope UMC Children's Ministries Facebook group!

Student Ministries...

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH

7-12th graders// CLC @ 6:00-7:45pm

Join us for Sunday Night youth this weekend. Gym opens for free time at 5:30 pm for all students in 7th-12th grade. Games, worship, and a message. Hope to see you then!

JR & SR GIRLS BIBLE STUDY

Thursday @ 7:30 pm // FUMC Campus

Our junior and senior girls are invited to join us for Thursday night study. We are doing a new book study in Philippians. If you would like more information, please [email rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org) for details.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Wednesday @ 6:30-7:45 pm//10th-12th (Host Homes) & 7th-9th (CLC)

Come join in a C-Group and connect with kids your own age, learn more about your call as followers of Christ and support one another in prayer! Our 10-12 grades are now meeting in host homes and our 7-9 grade meet at the CLC. For more information, contact Rachael Waldhour.

CONFIRMATION 2021

Weekly Meetings Sunday's @ 12:30-2:00 pm

The Confirmation Class of 2021 meets Sunday's from 12:30-2:00 pm with Pastor Darren in the CLC Fellowship Hall. You may register your student on the youth page of our church website. Confirmation is open to any student in 7-12th grade seeking to learn more about the faith formation.

ARE YOU NEW TO STUDENT MINISTRY?

Interested in learning more about Student Ministry? Connect with us on social media, sign up for our text message reminders, get plugged into our GROUPME for every grade and subscribe to our parent 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!

HOW ARE WE SERVING ?

SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & BEYOND 2020

- Over 10,500 meals prepared & served through our COVID food outreach
- Over 450 sets of uniforms distributed during Back to School Bash w/Fairhope PD
- Costa Rica Medical Team served over 500+ patients
- Thanksgiving Outreach- 275+ meals (Community, Law Enforcement, Meals of Wheels)
- Christmas Angel Tree Program- Serving 125+ Children & 40+ Elderly
- Local Family Outreach- Temporary Shelter for 8+ Families
- DHR, Foster Care & Child Advocacy Center Outreach- 150+ Backpack & Supplies
- Disaster Response- 250+ Cleaning Buckets for Hurricane Victims
- Hurricane Sally- Debris Cleanup, Food Distribution, Supplies (1500+ cases of water)
- Youth & Children's Ministry Serve Days (Prodissee Pantry, Hurricane Sally Response)
- Thanksgiving Meal Outreach- Groceries for 10 families in need
- Hygiene Kits- 1000+ prepared & distributed to homeless population
- Dance & Cheer Lessons- 4 girls through our Foster Care Outreach
- Missionary Support & Love Offering to our Missionaries in Costa Rica & Bus Drivers
- Baldwin County EMA- Providing Lunch during COVID & Hurricane Sally Response



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & BEYOND!

LOCAL NEED : PEREZ FAMILY

We are currently working with the Perez Family from Guatemala. They are expecting their third child, a baby girl in the coming weeks. The doctors discovered a heart condition and the baby is expected to have surgery 3 days after birth at UAB. Both the mother & father are currently working construction. The family is in great need of support due to the nature of the heart condition of the baby girl who they are planning to name Leslie. We are planning to collect diapers, baby items & gas cards to help the Perez family. Leslie will have to return to UAB at 4 months for additional surgery. For more information about serving this family, please contact Jennifer

CHURCH LIFE MINISTRIES
ANNNNNND WE'RE BACK...
BLOCK PARTY

SAVE THE DATE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3RD
4:30PM - PORTERHOUSE BBQ

