



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent
The Gathering: March 14, 2021

OPENING SONG

Changed

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us give thanks for the steadfast love of God,
and the wonderful works done for us.
Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy. (Psalm 107)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of the covenant,
in the glory of the cross
your Son embraced the power of death
and broke its hold over your people.
In this time of repentance,
draw all people to yourself,
that we who confess Jesus as Lord
may put aside the deeds of death
and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.**

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*God's Not Dead
There Is Power*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OFFERING

Build Your Kingdom Here

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our darkened world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON

"Only Mostly Dead"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker
Music: Shea White and Praise Band
Media and Sound: Robert Hammon, Jamie Waldhour, Amelia Koser

***In-Person Worship Reservations (Sanctuary Only)
for Sunday, March 21, 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

Sympathy...

Jerry Graham and family in the death of her husband, **Gene Graham**.

Bob and Nancy Grogan in the death of her aunt, Barbara McLean.

Jerry Hall in the death of his niece, Tracy Craig.



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:

Offering Received March 7, 2021 - \$44,051
(Online - \$16,183 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$27,868)

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



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021

PRELUDE

Fugue in D Minor

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

**With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of the covenant,
in the glory of the cross
your Son embraced the power of death
and broke its hold over your people.
In this time of repentance,
draw all people to yourself,
that we who confess Jesus as Lord
may put aside the deeds of death
and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.**

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

PSALTER Psalm 107:1-9

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good;
whose steadfast love endures for ever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom the Lord has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city in which to dwell;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then in their trouble, they cried to the LORD,
who delivered them from their distress,
and led them by a straight way,
till they reached a city in which to dwell.
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For the Lord satisfies those who are thirsty,
and fills the hungry with good things.

OFFERING *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* (Getty/Townsend & Larson)
FUMC Choir, Stephanie Calhoun, cello

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our darkened world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON "Get A Life" Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN *Grace Greater than Our Sin* #365

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair like the sea-waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;

Grace that is greater- yes, grace untold-points to the refuge, the mighty Cross. [Refrain]

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe!

All who are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? [Refrain]

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Prelude in D Minor

J.S. Bach

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Ontonio Christie

Music: John Richardson, Tom Hood, Jenna Hood

Acolytes: (8:30) Jackson Strunk (11:00) Max McClellan

Media: Kaitlyn Hunter

Sound: Robert Hammon, James Brown, Peyton Phillips

SPECIAL ALTAR SETTING FOR LENT:

We hope you enjoy the special altar setting for Lent. Here is an explanation of some of the symbolism you will find there. The purple paraments will be used all during Lent, even on communion Sunday, as a symbolism of our individual and corporate penitence. The bare branches symbolize Abraham's and Sarah's barrenness and the rocks symbolize their solid faith in God's promises. The broken jar symbolizes our brokenness in Lent and the water is how God fills us up and revives us...and reminds us of our solidarity with Christ in our baptism. The crown of thorns reminds us of the foretelling of Jesus' death that is present in this season. The scattered gold coins reminds us of the scripture from the second chapter of John and reminds us of what is scattered and overturned in our own lives. As you enter this sacred space, we encourage you to meditate on these symbols and let them lead you into a meaningful time of worship.

Lilies...

Lilies will be placed in both the sanctuary and CLC on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Acknowledgements will be listed that day in the bulletin. If you would like to place a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form and return it to the office with your check payable to the church no later than **Monday, March 29**. The cost of each lily is \$15.00 (pre-paid). Lilies are available for pick up after the 11:00 services. Forms are available in the sanctuary narthex and at the welcome desk at the CLC.

Outdoor Flower Cross...

We are looking for individuals to help us with our outdoor flower cross that has become a tradition here at Fairhope UMC. This is such a beautiful day during our Easter Sunday celebration. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Jenna Hood, jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org.



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 continues on Monday afternoons, 12:05-1:15. Facilitated by Dr. Darren M. McClellan, this is the "Grace and Grub Group." Drop in and bring your own brown bag lunch. **No registration required—come as you will!**

Weekly studies focus on: Prayer, Searching the Scriptures, the Lord's Supper, Fasting, and Christian Conferencing. 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. Book available for \$10.

Music Culture and Theology Class

Join Rev. Ontonio Christie for a six-week Music Culture and Theology Class. 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.**

Wednesdays, through March 24th, 6:30-7:30 PM, in room B215 in the Education Building.



Sunday, March 14th: 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=ZTE1MVBKMnFrZW1MZ2tseXlXUUY2UT09>

Pathfinders B210

Multi-generational class with in-depth Bible study. Facilitated by Linda Smith. Current study is: "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: Nourishing Holiness Read: 1 Peter 2:1-17

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83571195281?pwd=V1NkOHh2dFFGazR2ZIBRUENXTzROZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7119 5281 Passcode: 415572

Friends in Faith

Retired adults, individuals and couples.

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86771534402?pwd=d2VJVXVpb3cwZzc0Ti9YRjNaK2IzUT09>

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

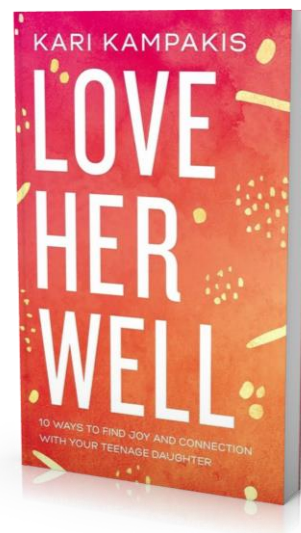
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171481169?pwd=WkE3QlIiFeVdxBFQ2akpXSkZFK1hWUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 7148 1169 Passcode: 575645

BOOK STUDY:

Love Her Well by Kari Kampakis

In this 5 week book study for moms of 6th, 7th and 8th grade GIRLS, bestselling Alabama author Kari Kampakis, shares ten ways that moms can better connect with a teenage daughter during a challenging season. Kari gives mothers hope and reminds them that all things are possible through God. By leaning on Him, moms will gain the wisdom, guidance, protection and clarity they need to grow strong relationships with their daughters at every age, especially during the critical teen years.



Meetings will be held on campus on Sundays, March 21, April 11 & 25, May 2 & 16 from 6:00-7:45 in the courtyard. Books are \$15.

Contact Amy Dowden to register or for more information: acdowden@att.net



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...

Homebound Communion is available for you during Holy Week and going forward....

Helen Ingram and her team of Lay Servants and your Pastoral staff would be happy to bring communion to your home. Please contact the church office 251-928-1148 or Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org to request this ministry.

Spring is coming...

We are looking for drivers to deliver in person surprises to our member's homes in April. Deliveries will be made the week of April 12 and 19th. Contact Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org if you might be available.

Praying is communion with our Heavenly Father.

If you would like to be on our Church Wide Prayer Email Team, contact Mary Lucas marylucas501@gmail.com or Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org. Prayer requests are sent out to the team and your only responsibility is to pray for the needs of our church and community from your home. Updates are provided to the team when we receive information.

Children's Ministries...

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ARE MEETING!

Calling all kids from Kindergarten through 6th grades! Children's choirs **are meeting on Wednesdays 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 info, contact Tom Hood, tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org.

SAVE THE DATE ...

Rocky Railway VBS will not be derailed this summer! Mark your calendar for June 7-11! Details on volunteer opportunities and registration coming around the bend soon!



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 our church website, 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.

For more information on what's happening in Children's Ministries, check out our latest newsletter on the church website.

Click here: [Children's Ministry March Newsletter](#)

FACEBOOK GROUP

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

Student Ministries...



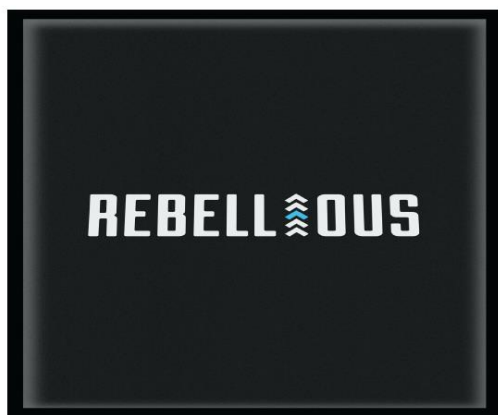
MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION 2021

(Rising 7-9 grade)

June 13-18//Albany, Georgia

Cost=400

Student Ministry summer missions are back! This summer our middle school students (rising 7-9 grade) will serve in Albany, Georgia with the Mission Change. Registration is open now on our student ministry page of the church website. For more information, please check your email or contact rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org to be placed on our distribution list! We cannot wait to serve with YOU this summer!



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION 2021

(Rising 10 grade-College)

June 27-July 3//Nashville, Tennessee

Cost=\$650

Come serve with our High School team throughout downtown Nashville, Tennessee. We are partnering with Trinity Commons which is a ministry and homeless outreach in the city. We will also serve with other ministry partners to Trinity Commons in that area to help our brothers and sisters in need. For more information, please check your email or contact rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org to be placed on our distribution list! We cannot wait to serve with YOU this summer!



STEPPING UP 2021

(Rising 7th graders)

May 5,12, 26//CLC//6:30-7:45 pm

Stepping Up is a 3-week bridge program that prepares our current 6th graders to enter into our student ministry program. We use current students as mentors so that they can get-to-know some of our crew! The 3 weeks are jammed packed with dinner, games, worship, surprises & prizes of all kinds. Once you complete this program, our summer ministry begins on Wednesday, June 2 and you are all invited to DIVE IN with our summer! We cannot wait to have your child in student ministry! You can sign-up on our student ministry page.

SENIOR SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Class of 2021//High School Graduates

Sunday, May 2//9:00 am//CLC



The class of 2021 and your family are invited to our Senior Sunday Celebration on May 2. We will begin with a breakfast at 9:00 am and then move into the Sanctuary for Senior Sunday Recognition in the 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service. Please be sure to email michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org to reserve your family breakfast table no later than Sunday, April 25. We are so thankful to have been a part

of your journey through middle and high school and we cannot wait to celebrate with you and your family!

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH MEALS are back this **Sunday, March 14 @ 6:00 pm!** Come hungry and bring a friend for youth worship, games, free gym time and food! Hope to see you this weekend!

JR & SR GIRLS BIBLE STUDY

Thursday @ 7:30 pm // FUMC Campus

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

CONFIRMATION 2021

Weekly Meetings Sundays @ 12:30-2:00 pm

PLUG-IN TO STUDENT MINISTRY:

Instagram: @fairhopeumc.youth//Facebook: @fhsaltstudents//Text Message Reminders: Text the word "Saltstudents" to the number "43506"

H O W A R E W E S E R V I N G ?

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

Thank you to all who have responded to this need. The family will be heading to Birmingham on March 17th. Please continue to lift them in prayer.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 2021

**WE WILL BE PARTNERING WITH TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN, FAIRHOPE PD,
LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS & OTHER CHURCHES!
MORE DETAILS TO COME!**



WE CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR LOCAL HOMEBOUND
EACH WEEK! WE ARE PREPARING OVER 175
MEALS EACH WEEK! IN ADDITION TO
DELIVERING MEALS, WE ALSO PROVIDE A
"DRIVE THROUGH" OPTION FROM 11:30-12:30.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING,
PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK.