

Fifth Sunday of Lent The Gathering: March 21, 2021

OPENING SONG

Graves Into Gardens

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

We continue our Lenten journey, as we move closer to the cross.

Give us abundant grace as we commit our lives to you.

Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, be with your people as we consider the commitment of faith we make as your disciples. Sacrifice is never easy, but help us to face the future unafraid. We long to trust completely in your divine love as you go ahead of us on the journey. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

Blessed Be Your Name How Great Is Our God

THE APOSTLES' CREED

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OFFERING Before The Throne Of God Above

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and is the creative force that makes all things new.

As we meditate on your word this day,

fill us with your Holy Spirit,

that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ie

Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON "When God Says"

Rev. Ontonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Ontonio Christie Acolyte: Sims Peters Music: Shea White and Praise Band Media and Sound: Robert Hammon, Jamie Waldhour

In-Person Worship Reservations (Sanctuary Only) for Palm Sunday and Easter are open!

https://www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations/

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy...

Steve and Suzan Christensen in the death of his mother, Sara Christensen.

Betty Council and family in the death of her husband, Karen and David Lucassen in the death of her father, and Amber and Chris Sparks and family in the death of her grandfather, Teddie Council.



Sunday Vespers Service ~ April 11 at 6pm!

Mark your calendars for the Sunday Vespers Service on April 11 at 6pm in the sanctuary. This is 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:

<u>Offering Received March 14, 2021</u> – \$27,970 (Online - \$7,771 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$20,199)

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent March 21, 2021

PRELUDE Prelude in G Minor J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We continue our Lenten journey, as we move closer to the cross.

Be with us, God, as we consider the call to sacrifice.

Make us willing to open our hearts before the One who knows us completely.

Give us abundant grace as we commit our lives to you.

Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, be with your people as we consider the commitment of faith we make as your disciples. Sacrifice is never easy, but help us to face the future unafraid. We long to trust completely in your divine love as you go ahead of us on the journey. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!

Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING I Shall Not Want (Assad/Marcum/Galibrath & Brown)

Rachael Waldhour, soloist

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and is the creative force that makes all things new.

As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit,

that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 12:20-26

SERMON "Loving the Jesus Way" Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God #420

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Fugue in G Minor J.S. Bach

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker, Jenna Hood Music: John Richardson, Tom Hood, Rachael Waldhour Acolytes: Elliott Determann (8:30) Hackett Robertson (11:00) Media: Kaitlyn Hunter Sound: Peyton Phillips, James Brown



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE @ FAIRHOPE UMC:

Palm Sunday | March 28

8:30 am & 11:00 am (Sanctuary) | 11:00 am The Gathering (CLC)

Children who would like to take part in waving palm branches during the 11am worship services should come with a parent/guardian to the front door of the sanctuary or the entrance to the gym at 10:50 am to receive branches and instructions.

Children's Choir will sing at both 11:00am services (contact Tom Hood for information tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org)

Requested Resurrection Bags (Children's Ministries) can be picked up in CLC Lobby | 9:00 am -12:15 pm

Wednesday | March 31

Centering Prayer w/Mona Pineda | 5:45 pm (Sanctuary)

Pier34 & SWIFT Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt (3rd-6th grade)

6:30-8:00 pm | Meet in Wesley Hall – Education Building

Pizza, Devotion, Egg Hunt on front lawn (bags provided for hunting)

Maundy Thursday | April 1

6:00 pm (Sanctuary) | *Reservations are not necessary.

Good Friday | April 2

Good Friday Crosswalk @ Fairhope Pier | 6:15 pm - 6:25 pm (gather) | 6:30 pm Crosswalk begins

Saturday | April 3

Children's Easter Egg Hunt (2nd grade and younger) | 10:00 am (meet in Sanctuary)

Church Family Lawn Party and Easter Jam | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join your church family for food, fun, and fellowship! We will have entertainment from Shea White and friends and lunch will be available from local food trucks. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and celebrate Easter with us!

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 4

CELEBRATE WITH US!

*8:00 am - 9:30 am - 11:00 am (Sanctuary) ~ 11:00 am *The Gathering* (CLC)

*Please note special service times. Reservations are recommended for the Sanctuary Services. Registration for Easter Services is now open. Go to www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations
Nursery available for ALL services. (ages 3 months to Pk4)

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 remind 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 APULTS ce: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way

Five Wears of Grace: Experience God's Love the five means of grace. John Wesley Wesley are the study is designed to help disuples discover the power of the five means of grace. John Wesley Wesley are the specific and encouraged his followers to do. For Wesley, these spiritual practices are seamlessly integrated with the This stackweek slowing of the five means of grace are the ordinary channels 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 rocus will frayer, sea Prayer the schiptortes, scriptortes studies rocus and Christian Conferencing. Only frayer, sea Prayer the schiptortes, fireiptures studies rocking, and Christian Conferencing. Only frayer, sea Prayer the schiptortes, fireiptures studies, when 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 justices to draw as into a fruitful relationship. Book available for \$10.

Musicy Culture 1arr of 5 pheoiogy elimps: Facilitated by Dr. Darren M. McClellan, outdoor courtyard (Morphy side of building.) This will be the "Grace and Grub Group." Bring your own Join Rewid hard for fair week wisd Culture and The old gy 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 Jour Bibles! No registration required. V Class

Join Rev. Ontonio Christie for a six-week Music Culture and Theology Class, February 24th to March 24th, Wedinson, PM 5125 Six Edition Building Bui

Registration:

Access the church website through this link: https://www.fairhopeumc.org/ministries/adultdiscipleship/ Email: bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org | Call: 251-928-1148

Sunday, March 21st: 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. Members rotate teaching responsibility.

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

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:45 AM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88280028742?pwd=ZTE1MVBKMnFrZW1MZ2tseXIxUUY2UT09

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)."

In person with Zoom option: Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:45

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86534722052?pwd=Skdha0xpWEw0akQ2RTIVa3QwWTdHQT09

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

Not meeting this week. Will resume Zoom on March 28th.

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

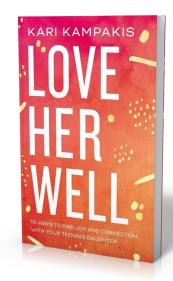
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Meeting ID: 881 7148 1169 Passcode: 575645

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...

Support Group...

Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Zoom meeting is Monday, March 22 at 6:30 pm. Contact Dr. Ann Pearson, ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org, for an invite to join the meeting.

Opportunity to serve...

Our Military Note Ministry is looking for note writers to help with sending notes to the service men and women's families. We are so thankful for our service personnel and we want to continue to support them and their families. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Dr. Ann Pearson, ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org, or Marion McKnight, Pedalpoint16@gmail.com.

Homebound Communion is available.....

Helen Ingram and her team of Lay Servants and your Pastoral staff would be available to bring communion to your home. Please contact the church office or Dr. Ann Pearson to request this ministry.



Director of Children's Ministries - Michelle Graham (<u>michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org</u>)

Children's Ministries Assistant - Kristin Capstraw (<u>kristin.capstraw@fairhopeumc.org</u>)

AGE-LEVEL PROGRAMS - WHAT'S HAPPENING



PIER (K-2nd grade)

Sunday, March 28 – Special Holy Week Lesson & Activities
4:00–5:30pm (meet in Pier Room – B217 in Ed Bldg / pick up from CLC gym)
Discuss the events of Holy Week / Visit with Pastor Laura in Sanctuary for foot washing and Holy Communion / Make Resurrection Gardens

** Let Michelle know if your child will participate so we have enough supplies



PIER34 (3rd & 4th grade)

Learning to Use My Bible
Sundays, March 14, 21, 28 and April 11, 18, 25 and May 2
4:00-5:30pm (meet in Wesley Hall – Ed Bldg / pick up from CLC gym)
** Let Michelle know if your child will participate so we have enough materials



SWIFT (5th & 6th grade)

Wednesdays / 6:30-7:45pm / CLC Gym (will not meet on April 7)

April 28 – Pool Party at Mrs. Michelle's house – 6th graders begin process of transitioning into Student Ministries with Stepping Up Program (parents of 6th graders will receive information soon from Rachael Waldhour, Director of Student Ministries – 7th-12th grade)

ROCKY RAILWAY VBS - Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!

Monday - Friday, June 7-11 / 8:45am - 12:15pm

Youth and Adults: We need you on our volunteer team! There are so many ways to serve and we are looking for early commitments. Contact Michelle or Kristin to find the right fit for you. Can't be with us the week of VBS? No problem! There are things you can do to help us prepare – even from the comfort of your own home!

Younger Elementary Program: Rising 1st - 4th grade

<u>Older Elementary Program</u>: Rising 5th & 6th grade (participate in opening and closing sessions, do daily mission projects in between – some projects off campus)

Preschool Program: 3 & 4 year olds of on-site volunteers and rising K

Nursery Program: for on-site volunteers only (must have an older child in preschool or elementary program)

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS SUNDAY, APRIL 18!





BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP: July 15-17

Current 3rd-6th graders save the date! Once details are finalized, you'll be the first to know!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY HAPPENINGS

Resurrection Bags

Our Birthday Bags for Jesus were such a hit for Christmas, we've decided to offer Resurrection Bags for Easter. Each bag will include a set of resurrection eggs plus other goodies! To reserve a bag for your family, contact Michelle no later than Monday, March 22 (text or call 251/377-2325 or email michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org). Bags will be available for pickup on Palm Sunday, March 28 in the CLC lobby and in the church office during that week.

March 28 Palm Sunday (11:00am worship services) – children who would like to take part in waving palm branches should come with a parent/guardian to the front door of the sanctuary or the entrance to the gym at 10:50am to receive branches and instructions.

Children's Choir will sing at both 11:00am services (contact Tom Hood for information tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org)

Requested Resurrection Bags can be picked up in CLC Lobby (9:00am - 12:15pm)

- March 31 Pier34 & SWIFT (3rd-6th grade) Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt / 6:30-8:00pm Meet in Wesley Hall Ed Bldg / Pizza, Devotion, Egg Hunt on front lawn (bags provided for hunting)
- **April 1** Maundy Thursday Service / 6:00pm / Sanctuary
- April 2 Good Friday Crosswalk at Fairhope Pier / 6:15-6:25pm Gather / 6:30pm Crosswalk begins
- April 3 Easter Egg Hunt / 2nd grade and younger / 10:00am / meet in Sanctuary

Church Family Easter Jam / 11:00am-1:00pm
Join your church family for food, fun, and fellowship! We will have entertainment from
Shea White and friends and inflatables for children, youth and those young at heart! Lunch
will be available from local food trucks. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and celebrate
Easter with us!

Easter Sunday

April 4 Easter Services
8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am in Sanctuary
11:00am The Gathering in CLC
Holy Communion served in all services
*Nursery available for all services



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.



SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH//MARCH 21st

Students don't miss this Sunday night @ 6-8 pm in the CLC Gym. Games, inflatables, dinner, karaoke and more! Bring a friend and see you then!

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)

PLUG-IN TO STUDENT MINISTRY:

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

HOW ARE WE SERVING?

LOCAL NEED: PEREZ FAMILY UPDATE!!

We are currently working with the Perez Family from Guatemala. They traveled to Birmingham this past Wednesday to deliver the baby at UAB. Griselda went into labor on Thursday morning. And Leslie was born sometime Thursday afternoon. Mom and baby are doing well.

Early on in the pregnancy, doctors discovered a heart condition and Leslie will have surgery in the coming days. We have arranged for a place for them to stay post surgery until they are cleared to come home. Thank you to so many who have provided support, gift card, gifts, diapers etc. for this precious family.

Leslie will have another heart surgery in a few months. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.

For more information, please contact Jennifer.

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.

THANK YOU TO THE ASHURST & NIEMEYER REAL ESTATE GROUP



FOR PROVIDING,
PREPARING &
DELIVERING OUR
MEAL LAST WEEK!



