



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter
The Gathering: April 18, 2021

OPENING SONG

All Because of Jesus

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! AMEN!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us courage and strength to witness to your resurrection. For we offer this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*Reckless Love
Even So Come*

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OFFERING

Power To Redeem

Children 4 years-2nd grade can meet at the side doors for Children's Church.

They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the CLC Fellowship Hall.

Nursery is also available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by your Spirit
reveal your radical, surprising love;
come to us through your holy word,
and let us hear what you are saying. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 4

SERMON

"The Continuing Conversion of the Church"

Rev. Ontonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Ontonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

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



We want to know **YOU!**

Fill out the connection card by scanning this
QR CODE and submit your info electronically!

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy:

Greg and Pam McRae and family in the death of their son, **Steven McRae.**

Sandra Harper and family in the death of her husband, **Allen Harper.**

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received April 11, 2021 - \$39,432

(Online - \$11,778 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$27,654)

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

PRELUDE

Toccato in F Major

Buxtehude

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The bread of life opens our eyes.

The word of life opens our ears.

The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,

and by those wounds we are healed.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, both truly human and truly God,

who does not change but is holy in all your works:

Turn us away from unbelief and fill our hearts with the gift of your grace,

that we may believe and know you to be the Savior of all. Amen.

HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing

#568

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Bound for the Promised Land

(arr. by Leavitt)

Choir

DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00)

Children 4 years-2nd grade can meet at the side door at the front of the sanctuary for Children's Church. They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the CLC Fellowship Hall.

Nursery is also available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by your Spirit

reveal your radical, surprising love;

come to us through your holy word,

and let us hear what you are saying. **Amen.**

PSALTER

Psalm 4

Dr. Ann Pearson

HYMN OF PREPARATION

There is a Balm in Gilead

#375

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

SERMON

"The Continuing Conversion of the Church"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

#424

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Allegro in G Major

Buxtehude

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker, Dr. Ann Pearson

Music: John Richardson, Tom Hood

Acolytes: 8:30 Sims Peters

Media: Kaitlyn Hunter

Sound: Ann Lyles Tapscott, James Brown

***The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Pat, Robin and John Merritt and Cissy Cotter
by the family of Bob and Jean Merritt.***



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Jeff White, Business Administrator

Dear Friends,

Most of you have recognized by now my love for music and the creative witness of the songwriter. When I think of the variety of lyrics I have used in sermons over the years, it makes me laugh. Still, I cannot deny that the reading of Scripture will often call to mind a familiar song for me. Some connections are more inspired than others, but the practice does help me to reconsider God's presence and work in the world. Likewise, listening to the story of others always invites us to reimagine just where and how resurrection is still taking place.

One of the passages that corresponds to this Easter season is Psalm 118, which is itself a magnificent song of victory.

O give thanks to Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ...Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord (Psalm 118:1, 19).

We might wonder, why was the psalmist so eager to worship? What was the experience that made him so determined to get through the gate?

It may do just as well to answer that question for ourselves. It is not hard to do!

Consider this bit of commentary, if you will, from blues guitarist Keb' Mo' in his song, "The Door."

*I was down for so long
Everything I did was wrong
And I found fault
In everyone but me*

*I was hurt and alone
I could not find my way home
Broke-down and hungry
And too tired to moan*

*Then I heard somebody calling my name
Saying ain't no need to be shamed
I found out that the door was always open*

*I was trapped in my mind
A prisoner of my own design
Lost in a world
A world of confusion*

*I was there by myself
Couldn't find no help no where else
Thought I'd call up the hotline
But there was nobody there*

*Then I heard somebody calling my name
Saying ain't no need to be shamed
I found out that the door was always open*

Indeed it is! What an incredible awakening...to hear the voice of God calling you by name...and to discover that the door to a new life is always open! This is the good news of the gospel, friends. Once the stone is rolled away, it stays open for good! *Open for Life!*

For those of you who may not have Keb' Mo' on your playlist, I gladly offer Fanny Crosby's version of the same theme:

*To God be the glory, great things he hath done:
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.*

So welcome! We're glad you came to worship with us today! Our purpose this morning is simple:

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

Grace to you,
Darren





GLORY SIGHTING:

OPEN FOR LIFE is our theme for the 50 days of Easter, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord! Evidence of this “grand opening” was seen in the balcony of the sanctuary this past Sunday as a group of regular attenders made their way to this sacred worship space for the first time in more than a year. They announced their shared joy by sporting matching tee shirts: “Balcony Bound,” they said. Yes, Fairhope UMC is now OPEN FOR LIFE.

Stay connected!

THE LINK

Weekly Newsletter

April 18, 2021



WE SEND THIS BY
EMAIL WEEKLY
NOT ON OUR EMAIL LIST?
SUBSCRIBE USING
THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR
PHONE CAMERA:



Worship News...

Worship Ministries has several opportunities to serve and connect with others! We are currently looking for servant hearts in all services to help with communion preparations, serving communion, and ushering. If you are interested in serving or would like to know more, please contact Jenna Hood, jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org.

Music Ministries is excited to be growing and is looking forward as we are open for life! If you have a song in your heart and a willingness to be a part of great group of individuals, come to choir practice at 6:30pm on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary! Or if your song is more instrumental in nature and you would like to share your gift, let us know. For questions or more information, contact Tom Hood, tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org.

Our Children's Choir will be presenting a Spring Showcase and Talent Show on May 5th at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited to come support our kids and hear them as they present music and talents for us and to the glory of God!



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>

Sunday, April 18th: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
In person classes meet from 9:45-10:40 am.
Please note highlighted changes.

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, a Bible study grounded in Galatians and James. Facilitated by Kristin Capstraw.

Homecoming Class B207 (room change)

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=ZTE1MVBKMnFrZW1MZ2tseXlxUUUY2UT09>

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)

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

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

Meeting ID: 865 3472 2052 Passcode: 742529

Living Word B212

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate.

In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner. In-person with Zoom option:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171481169?pwd=WkE3QlIFeVdxbFQ2akpXSksZFK1hWUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 7148 1169 Passcode: 575645

These classes will RESUME in-person this week:

Peace and Grace B211 (New room!)

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>

Friends in Faith Wesley Hall (Open Area)

Retired adults, individuals and couples. Teaching rotation.

Meeting by Zoom only:

Koinonia

Lesson: "Our road to Emmaus" Luke 24: 1-35

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 09:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81115711133?pwd=TXRKQjlzNXhYY2NxeGxsb1YrT2kvUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 1571 1133 Passcode: 070372

Will resume in-person NEXT WEEK:

Discovery B114 (Wesley Hall Classroom)

This is a welcoming group of senior adults, mostly retired, facilitated by Cecil Christenberry.

Caring Ministries...

Hospital Visitation....

Please let us know when you are admitted to the hospital. Our Pastoral staff would love to come see and pray for you. Call the church office at 251-928-1148 to let us know.

In person with Zoom option Support Group meeting

Caregivers Support Group, Tuesday, April 20 at 9:30 am, Church Library. Contact Dr. Ann Pearson ann.pearson@fairhopeumc for your Zoom option invite.

Genesis Bible Study begins Monday April 26....

New 4-5 week Bible Study is being offered on Mondays from 1-2:15 in Wesley Hall. Dr. Ann Pearson will be facilitating a study on Genesis. Bring your Bible and let's learn and reflect on things in this beginning book of the Bible. My hope is to travel through Genesis and recall the significant events and people as we journey together. I look forward to joining you in this study. It will be helpful for handout purposes to let Ann know if you will be attending the class.

Deliveries are being made to the homes of our church family....

Thank you to our drivers last week who made 310 surprise deliveries. More deliveries will go out on Monday, April 19th. If you would like to be a driver and make deliveries, contact Dr. Ann Pearson through the church office 251-928-1148 or ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.



Stephen Ministers...

If you would like a confidential friend to walk alongside you offering spiritual support and encouragement, contact Dr. Ann Pearson, ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org. This team serves in many ways and is available to serve you.

Tough Dogs Cancer Ministry Outreach...

Thank you so much for the many donations that came in for the Tough Pups care bags. You all made a huge difference with your generosity. One item needed for the adult bags are gently used magazines. Our inventory is low at this time. We are also in need of someone to embroidery our blankets for the Cancer Care bags. Contact Mary Hodgkins at mary.hodgkins@gmail.com or

Dr. Ann Pearson at ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org

Homebound Note Writing volunteer needed

Harriet Outlaw is stepping aside from coordinating the note writing ministry to our homebound. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for her years of service. Norma Walden has graciously offered to lead the team going forward. If you would like to send 3-4 notes a month please contact Norma Walden, 205-907-5322 or Dr. Ann Pearson at the church office 251-928-1148.



VBS REGISTRATION OPENS THIS SUNDAY!

Reserve your spot on the children's ministries page at www.fairhopeumc.org!



ROCKY RAILWAY VBS
Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!
Monday - Friday, June 7-11
8:45am - 12:15pm

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids, youth and adults alike discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. You are encouraged to register Sunday! Space is limited and we fill quickly! Once we reach capacity, registration will close and a waitlist will begin.

PARTICIPANT PROGRAMS

Younger Elementary (CLC): Rising 1st - 4th grade

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

Preschool (Ed Bldg): 3 & 4 year olds of on-site volunteers and rising Kindergarten

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

VOLUNTEERS

We have over 80 youth and adults already on the team! There are still spots available. **Our greatest need is for crew leaders in both the preschool and elementary programs!** There is no prep work needed for this important position! Want to know more? Contact Michelle (michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org | 251.377.2325) or Kristin (kristin.capstraw@fairhopeumc.org | 786.417.5000). 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!

NEEDS

Check out our VBS NEEDS displays next Sunday (April 25) in both the CLC and Education Building. You can help us by donating or letting us borrow some items that we need. For now, can you begin to save these items for us? Drop off at church office.

- appliance boxes (dryer, washer, dishwasher, etc. for building trains) – Please call Michelle if you have any (251/377-2325)

- Children's train set with buildable track and multiple train cars
- Plastic water bottle lids
- Plastic juice bottle lids
- Empty Gatorade bottles with lids
- Empty food boxes
- Lots of Mardi Gras beads (need 500 total)
- Metal bottle caps (need 120, will be painted black)
- Artificial Christmas trees

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK? (April 18-24)

Sunday Morning | **Sunday School** for ages 3 years – 6th grade (9:45-10:40am) | **Children's Church** is back during the 11:00am worship services!! Children (4 years -2nd grade) will attend the beginning of the service with their family then be dismissed with a Children's Ministry leader to the CLC Fellowship Hall for Children's Church. Children are to be picked up immediately following worship.

Sunday Afternoon | Pier34 (3rd-4th grade) | 4:00-5:30pm | **Learning to Use My Bible** | Meet in Wesley Hall in Education Building/Pick up from CLC Gym

Wednesday | Children's Choir | 4:15pm | Sanctuary

SWIFT (5th-6th grade) | 6:30-7:45pm | Wesley Hall | **Special Art Night with Pastor Antonio**



BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP ~ July 15 - 17

Open to those finishing 3rd-6th grades this school year

Save the date! Details on cost and registration are still being worked out! We will leave early

Thursday morning by bus
and return Saturday night. Adult volunteers needed!

Student Ministries...



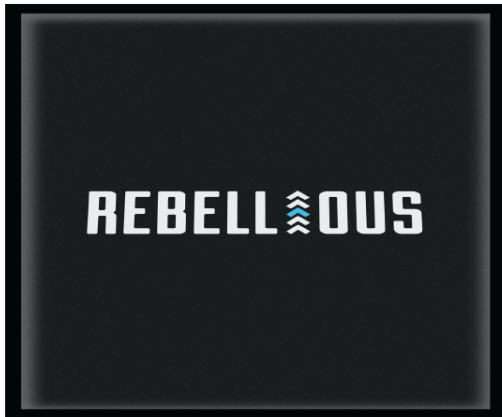
MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION 2021

(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!

SUMMER MISSIONS//FUNRAISER DETAILS

If you would like support in raising funds for your summer mission trip, please email michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org for more details or find a link on our student ministry page of our church website.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Welcome back!!!! Student Ministry will meet this Sunday, April 11 @ 6-7:45 pm in the CLC for dinner, Worship, games, and more! We cannot wait to see you all!

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).

***** Don't miss the opportunity to SERVE with your C-Group on April 21 from 5:00-8:00 pm!**
Check-in with your C-group leader if you plan to attend!***

PLUG-IN TO STUDENT MINISTRY:

Instagram: [@fairhopeumc.youth](https://www.instagram.com/fairhopeumc.youth/)//Facebook: [@fhsaltstudents](https://www.facebook.com/fhsaltstudents/)//Text Message Reminders: Text the word "Saltstudents" to the number "43506"

Missions...

HOW ARE WE SERVING?



WE CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR LOCAL HOMEBOUND EACH WEEK! WE ARE PREPARING OVER 180 MEALS EACH WEEK! IN ADDITION TO DELIVERING MEALS, WE ALSO PROVIDE A "DRIVE THROUGH" OPTION FROM 11:30-12:30.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY MAY 21ST & SUNDAY 23RD 2021

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



OUR GOAL IS TO PACK 50,000 MEALS!
THE COST OF EACH MEAL IS \$.34.
WE ARE ASKING OTHER CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS AND
BUSINESSES
TO PARTNER WITH US TO HELP REACH OUR GOAL!



ARTS & CRAFTS SHRIMP BOIL
FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH-SUNDAY, MAY 2ND

11:00AM-2:00PM

\$10 ADULTS & \$6 KIDS

BOILED SHRIMP, CORN, POTATOES & DESSERT

JOIN US ON THE FRONT LAWN OR PICK UP TO-GO

*** THERE WILL BE NOT INSIDE SITTING THIS YEAR ***

EMAIL MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG TO PRE-ORDER OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE