



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Gathering: April 25, 2021

OPENING SONG

My Redeemer Lives

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to worship God, the Shepherd of our souls.

The one who has created us, who sustains us, who redeems us;

The one who walks beside us in good times and bad,
and who calls us to follow.

This is our God! Let us worship Him together!

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, you know your children.

You know our disappointments and our discomfort.

You know our longings and our needs.

Help us to see what you are making new in heaven and on earth,

in our lives and in our communities that we may participate in your healing work.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

Power
What A Beautiful Name

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OFFERING

Cornerstone

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

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths
all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 4:1-12

SERMON

"Jesus, our Cornerstone"

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



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:

Jill and Trent Scott and family in the death of her uncle, Tim Jackson.

Martha Monckton and family in the death of her sister, Melissa Botine.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received April 18, 2021 - \$40,502

(Online - \$8,107 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$32,395)

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



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



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

PRELUDE

Give Me Jesus

Marianne Kim

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We are your people, O God —

the sheep of your pasture,

the flock you have gathered.

Lead us beside still waters;

teach us the way of righteousness;

and feed us at your table;

through Jesus Christ,

our good shepherd. Amen.

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues

#57

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Dona Nobis Pacem

Lombardo

Flute 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

Lord God, good shepherd,
by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen for your voice
and follow in your paths
all the days of our lives;
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PSALTER

Psalm 23

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#381

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON

"Out of the Ordeal"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

#128

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Recessional on "To God Be the Glory"

Douglas E. Wagner

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryan Carr,
by Mary Finger.*

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Ontonio Christie

Music: John Richardson, Tom Hood

Flute Choir: Celeste Boone, Pam Christakos, Lucie Fralicks, Elizabeth Jones,

Marsha Morrow, Randi Patterson, Linda Smith, Natalie Woodrow

Acolytes: 8:30 – Elliot Determann, 11:00 – Hackett Robertson

Sound: Robert Hammon, Ann Lyles Tapscott, Peyton Phillips

Media: Kaitlyn Hunter



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Martha Monckton and family in the death of her sister, Melissa Botine.

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Jeff White, Business Administrator



Many things in the life of our church got interrupted during 2020. One of the things we love to do is make new people feel at home and that was hard during a pandemic! So, to make up for lost time and open the doors wide for hospitality we are hosting a dinner for new members and visitors! Some of our staff and volunteers will be present for you to get to know as well as other folks that are somewhat new to our family.

Please join us! Call the church office at 251-928-1148 to RSVP.

Stay connected!

THE LINK

Weekly Newsletter

April 25, 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!

Students 3rd grade and above can be trained as Acolytes beginning April 27th-May 11th. Acolytes will be asked to serve in both the Sanctuary and The Gathering services. After serving 5 times they will receive an engraved silver cross to wear when serving. Training will be done in small groups. A parent needs to be present for the hour long training. Masks are to be worn. Please call or text Helen Ingram at 251 923 7743 or email at heleneingram@gmail.com to set up a time for training.



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 25th: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
In person classes meet from 9:45-10:40 am.

THESE CLASSES ARE MEETING IN PERSON:

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

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. 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=Skdha0xpWEw0akQ2RTIVa3QwWTdHQT09>

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

Peace and Grace B211

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

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 9:45 AM

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

Friends in Faith Wesley Hall (Open Area)

Retired adults, individuals and couples. Teaching rotation.

RESUMES IN PERSON THIS WEEK!!

Discovery B114 (Wesley Hall Classroom)

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

MEETING BY ZOOM ONLY:

Koinonia

Lesson: Have you Seen our Lord?

Join Zoom Meeting Time: 09:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89005472793?pwd=WU1ublYyNINpaWRKRU9nWjlleEZKdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 0547 2793 Passcode: 345887

Caring Ministries...

Genesis Bible Begins Monday, April 26....

Come and join us each Monday from 1-2:15pm in Wesley Hall. Bring your Bibles and we will learn about the significant events and people in this first book of the Bible. Dr. Ann Pearson will be facilitating the study for the next 5 weeks.



Some of our drivers who made deliveries.

Deliveries to our member's homes....

Once our deliveries are completed, a total of 683 gifts to our members. We have just one more week of deliveries so if you are available to drive on Monday April 26, please let Ann know by email ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or calling the church office 251-928-1148.

Hospital Visitation and Home Bound Communion...

Please contact the church office 251-928-1148 to let us know when you are in the hospital or if you would like communion brought to your home. We are standing ready to serve you.

Note writing ministry...

If you would like to send 3-4 notes a month to our homebound church family, please contact Norma Walden or Dr. Ann Pearson at the church office 251-928-1148. A hand written note is a gift to anyone. Join us in blessing others.

Support Groups meeting in person with a Zoom option available. Contact Dr. Ann Pearson at ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org for your Zoom invite.

SOS Survivors of Suicide meets Monday 6:30 in Wesley Hall.

Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group meets Tuesday 12:30 in B114, off Wesley Hall.



***ALL GRADES FOR VBS ARE FULL!**

We are only taking waitlist registrations now. To register on the waitlist, go to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/fairhopeumc2021vbs>. Those on the waitlist will be contacted if a spot opens in the grade needed.

***VOLUNTEER NEED ...**

We are in need of (7) more CREW LEADERS for 1st-4th grade! No prep work involved! You and 5-6 children will experience all VBS has to offer together!



ROCKY RAILWAY VBS | 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. Space is limited and we fill quickly! Once we reach capacity, registration will close and a waitlist will begin.

PARTICIPANT PROGRAMS

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

FULL Older Elementary (CLC): Rising 5th-6th grade (attend opening and closing session; do daily mission projects in between – some projects off campus)

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

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

VOLUNTEERS

We have over 100 youth and adults already on the team but there are still spots available. We need 7 more **CREW LEADERS** in the younger elementary program! 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!

ALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING ...

Sunday, June 6 | 12:15pm (lunch served) | CLC Fellowship Hall

SUPPLY NEEDS

Check out our VBS NEEDS displays 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?

- appliance boxes (dryer, washer, dishwasher, etc. for building trains) – Please call Michelle if you have any (251/377-2325)
- (1) children's train sets 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 25-May 1)

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 | SWIFT (5th-6th grade) | 5:30-7:30pm | Mrs. Michelle's House | **End-of-Year Pool Party**



BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP
July 15 - 17
Open to those finishing 3rd-6th grade
this school year

Let Michelle know if your child would like to attend. We need an estimate on the number of kids we will take! 251/377-2325 or michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org

Save the date! Details on cost and registration are still being worked out with Blue Lake! 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

REGISTRATION will close on MAY 12.

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 will close on May 12 for all summer mission trips! Please save your spot today!**



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION 2021

(Rising 10 grade-College)

June 27-July 3//Nashville, Tennessee

Cost=\$650

REGISTRATION will close on MAY 12.

Come serve with our High School team throughout downtown Nashville, Tennessee. We are partnering with TEAMEffort which is a ministry and that helps with home repair and construction projects in the Copperhill, Tennessee. **Registration will close on May 12 for all summer mission trips! Please save your spot today!**



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

Reservation Deadline is Sunday, April 23.

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//FUNDRAISER 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

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Final C-Group of the semester is this Wednesday @ 6:30-7:45 pm. Every C-Group will be meeting at a different location for dinner on this evening. Please look in your Groupme message app for more details regarding your group or text Rachael/Michael.

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"

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: SUNDAY MAY 23RD 10:00AM

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 not be inside seating this year

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