

Prayers for the People...

Medical personnel and first responders

Military Service Men and Women

Hospitalized this week: Leisa Richardson

Sympathies: Ellen Dinges and family in the death of her husband, Ken.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd.

Here I Am, Lord! Send Me!

We are actively recruiting those who are willing to assist our worship services as **ushers, greeters, and communion servers** in the new year.

Also, if there are those who have an interest in developing security measures for future church events and activities, we encourage you to let us know. Mr. Mark Phillips phillips2924@gmail.com will be coordinating this effort.

If you are willing to volunteer for any of these service opportunities, please contact katie.robertson@fairhopeumc.org

Grow beyond our limits. Love beyond ourselves. Serve beyond our walls.

Stewardship: YTD through November 2022 - \$1,869,670

We planned for 81% of the budget through November

We have received 80% of the budget through November

Thank you so much for your continued support to Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Jeff White, Business Administrator

Fairhope United Methodist Church

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Parker, Associate Pastor Rev. Tom East, Minister of Evangelism

155 South Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532 ~ 251-928-1148 ~ www.fairhopeumc.org

Dr. Debora Bishop, District Superintendent

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Conference

A Stephen Ministry Church ~ Christ Caring for People Through People



Invitation to Join the Church ~ Present this to the pastor during the last song.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Joining by Transfer of Church Membership

Transferring from: _____

_____ Joining by Profession of Faith (have not previously been baptized or a member of a church).

_____ Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith (have been baptized but not sure last church where membership was held).

If you are not yet ready to join but would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend *Coffee with the Pastors on January 8th @ 9:45 am, Conference Room, adjacent to the sanctuary.* Enter through the door under the bell tower or by the steps behind the sanctuary facing the parking lot. Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The First Sunday After Christmas
Epiphany of the Lord
January 1, 2023 ~ 8:30AM

PRELUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Pachelbel

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING WORDS

On this first Sunday after Christmas, as we embark upon a new year we meditate upon the birth of the promised Messiah, and the responses of those who encountered this Holy child.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2:7-12

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself:
dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world,
yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another
that we may receive release from our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.
We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.
We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.
We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory.
Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin
and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Children of God, know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ
and live as God's beloved.

✠PASSING THE PEACE

✠HYMN OF PRAISE #224 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

✠THE APOSTLES' CREED

✠GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING *He Shall Reign Forevermore* Jeff & Dena White

✠DOXOLOGY

Children's Church will not be held today. On the first Sunday of each month, children stay for the entire service so they can worship and receive Holy Communion with their families. Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, by your grace,
through the power of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your wisdom.
Speak to us in your Word read and proclaimed,
that hearing we may in turn share with others the boundless riches of Christ,
that everyone might come to see your plan for all creation.
In Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. **Amen**

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-40

SERMON *"When the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary"* Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *UMH#13*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD / GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

CLOSING HYMN #242 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Walther

✠ Stand as able

Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Laura Parker, Dr. Ann Pearson

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson Media and Sound: Alex Beaman, Colin Richardson

Music Notes

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (in German, Von Himmel hoch, da komm ich her) is a Christmas hymn written in 1534 by Martin Luther. From its 17 verses, here are a selected few:

1. From heaven above to earth I come to bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring whereof I now will say and sing:

2. To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all your earth.

17. Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto man His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth a glad New Year to all the earth.

This old Lutheran hymn has inspired many organ settings including those by Pachelbel (1693) and Walther (after 1700) shared today.



New Study in January

Epic of Eden ~ Psalms

Sandra Richter, Old Testament Scholar and former pastor, brings our ancestors in the faith to the table where we learn from them in a cross-cultural experience bridging historical and modern-day life. This eight-session study of the Book of Psalms masterfully mixes scholarly and practical teaching through the most-known wisdom Book of the Bible. Experience the Psalms with fresh connections to present-day worship and devotional practices. *Facilitated by Linda Smith, 8 weeks beginning January 11th, 10-11:30am. Cost \$18. Register through the church website using the QR code or call the church office 251.928.1148.*



TAKE NOTE:

Leadership Orientation will be on Thursday, January 5th at 5:30 pm in the CLC fellowship hall. This orientation will be for all elected leadership, Board of Stewards, Committee Chairs and Committee members.

LIFE SOUTH BLOOD DRIVE is on Sunday, January 15

They will be in the back parking lot from 8am until 1pm. Give the gift of life to save a life.

SAVE THESE DATES

The Discernment Team for FUMC will host three information sessions in February to share information related to the ongoing discussion of human sexuality and the future of our church. We invite church family to participate and ask for your prayers as we seek God's direction and guidance for the mission and ministry of FUMC.

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February 5 - info meeting for youth and their parents, 4 pm

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FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The First Sunday After Christmas
Epiphany of the Lord
The Gathering: January 1, 2023 ~ 11:00AM

OPENING SONG

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Shea White, Praise Team

WELCOME~CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OPENING WORDS

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CALL TO WORSHIP

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whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
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that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen.**

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*Made To Worship
Light of the World
Hope for Everyone*

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GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"When the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin
and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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and live as God's beloved.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC: *He Will Reign Forevermore*

Jeff White

As you come before God to receive this Holy Meal,
You are invited to bring all of who you are as an offering
to the one who has given all of who he is for us.

****Baskets are available to present your offering
as you come forward to receive the bread and cup.*

INVITATION TO PRAYER AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

Acolyte: Adelaide Robertson

Communion Servers: Shelley and Rick Fitzhugh, Nadine and Barry Baskin

Media and Sound: Jamie Waldhour, Alex Beaman, Nellie Myers

VISITING WITH US TODAY?

We want to know! Scan this QR CODE:



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HAVE YOU HEARD?

For the past several months our staff and a small group of leaders have been putting our Church App powered by **ShelbyNext** to the test. We have been using our online church directory, online giving portal, group features such as attendance, child check-in and mass contact options, and more.

The **ShelbyNext** Portal will be used exclusively by church members who have a valid email address that matches the one in our database. Rest assured that your personal data is secure. The only information that is shared between members is your immediate contact information (ie. Name, Email, Phone Number) and you can set restrictions on what you would like viewed as well. The roll out of the new church directory app powered by **ShelbyNext** provides our congregation with a tool to effectively connect with one another while connecting, as a community, with God and the mission and ministries He has called us to take part in. Before we launch, make sure we have your correct

email address in the database. **Let's Stay Connected!**



If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Hobbs, *Communications Coordinator*, bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org or 251-928-1148