



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent
The Gathering: November 29, 2020

OPENING SONGS

Salt and Light
Here I Am To Worship

Shea White, Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Henderson Family: Kyle, McLean, Mary Stella and Jordan

RESPONSE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

Light of the World

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of promised new beginnings,
open our hearts to the nourishment of your word,
so we might know that stirring tremble
deep within us;
open our lives to the fresh bud of fruitful service,
so we might grow with mounting hope
as we wait for your advent among us. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

SERMON

"While We Were Waiting"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020

Traditional Worship

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

J.G. Walther

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Let your hand be upon us that we may be made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,

and we will call on your name.

Let us worship God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Estes Family (8:30am) ~ The Roach Family (11:00am)

Response:

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Shepherd of Israel, you open our lips; our mouths give you praise. You shepherd your flock, gathering us from our wanderings, assembling us in Christ's name to learn of your will. Your covenant names us, your law guides us. The prophets attest to your promise that we shall not be forsaken. With great expectation we watch for your unfolding plan of salvation. Be present with us and guide us toward the truth in Christ's name.

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's Strength and Consolation hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Robert Lau

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of great deeds: On the first day of the week you wondrously called forth light out of darkness. Grant that as we gather on this first day once again, that our darkness would be transformed by the power of your Spirit. Grant us wisdom, Lord, that we might be renewed by your truth. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

SERMON

"Lilies, Lumens, and the Beauty of Bulbs " Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided —
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Minor

J.G. Walther

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren McClellan

Acolytes: Jackson Strunk (8:30) Sims Peters (11:00)

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson

Media and Sound: Robert Hammon, Ann Lyles Tapscott

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathies:

Family and friends of **Erika and Karl Pellinat**.

Mark and Cindy Vines in the death of her mother, Jane Erskine.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received November 22 - \$45,562

(Online - \$9,649 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$35,913)

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

In-Person Worship Reservations will 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)

11:00am *The Gathering* (CLC GYM)

Make your reservations at <https://www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations/>

**Reservations for sanctuary worship services on Christmas Eve open on December 1.
1:00pm, 3:00pm & 4:15pm**

Next Sunday, December 6

We are welcoming Rev. Angie Long

Preaching at the 8:30 and 11:00 Gathering Service

Angie was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She has worked in public accounting as a CPA, as well as in private industry. As a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery, she felt a calling to seminary and ordination in the United Methodist Church.



She most recently served First United Methodist Church of Greenville when she again was called to a new ministry with the United Methodist Children's Home. She now is the Director of Development and Church Relations for the UMCH. Angie and her husband, Keith, have two children, Brady and Brinkley and they reside in Greenville, AL.



A note from Rev. Laura:

Monday morning devotional 9:30am THIS Monday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>

For information on how to get started on

Zoom, [click here](#).



This year, we will be putting up Christmas trees around the church campus, along Section Street and Morphy Avenue. We are looking for 12-15 small groups to take on the task of providing ornaments and decorating a tree. Whether it's your Sunday School Class, Youth Group, Book Club, Mops Group, we need you. We will have a Christmas Tree decorating party on Wednesday, December 2, where each group will gather, and decorate their tree. Each tree will then be placed along the street, to share the Christmas spirit with our community. **It is not too late!** Please call the church office at 251-928-1148 or email Bobbi Jo at bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org to sign up your team. Grab dinner from Chew Chew Food Truck (Donations accepted).

Poinsettias...

During the Christmas Season, poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary and CLC on Sunday, December 13th to help celebrate the season. Acknowledgements will be listed that day in the bulletin. If you would like to place a poinsettia 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, December 7. The cost of each flower is \$15.00 (pre-paid). If you wish, you may pick up your poinsettia following any of our Christmas Eve services. Forms are available in the sanctuary narthex and at the welcome desk at the CLC.



WALKING LIGHT

ADVENT 2020

NOV 29 FIRST SUNDAY {HOPE}

SANCTUARY 8:30 | 11:00 - DM | GATHERING 11:00 - LP

DEC 2 BLOCK PARTY & TREE DECORATION

5:00-7:00 PM | ADVENT WREATH KITS AVAILABLE

DEC 5 CHILDREN'S CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS

8:30-10:30 AM | CHURCH PARKING LOT

DEC 6 SECOND SUNDAY {LOVE}

SANCTUARY 8:30 - *AL | 11:00- OC | GATHERING 11:00 - *AL

*GUEST PREACHER, ANGIE LONG, UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

DEC 13 THIRD SUNDAY {JOY}

SANCTUARY 8:30 | 11:00- LP | GATHERING 11:00 - DM

DEC 13 ADVENT VESPERS

SANCTUARY 6:00 PM

DEC 20 FOURTH SUNDAY {PEACE}

A CHRISTMAS STORY - A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

SANCTUARY 8:30 | 9:45 | 11:00 | GATHERING 11:00

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

1:30 | 3:00 | 4:15 SANCTUARY

COMMUNION AT ALL 3 SERVICES | CANDLELIGHT AT 4:15

5:30 HALSTEAD AMPHITHEATER

Coastal Alabama Community College, Fairhope

CANDLELIGHT WALK FROM AMPHITHEATER TO CHURCH FRONT LAWN

6:45 COMMUNION ON FRONT LAWN



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEETING IN-PERSON
9:45-10:40 AM ON SUNDAYS

Foundations & Basics ~ Fellowship Hall

Parents of children and youth, young couples parenting young children and newly married. These classes will be meeting together through the end of the year. Dr. Darren McClellan will be facilitating a discussion of an Advent study by Walter Brueggemann, *Names for the Messiah*. Zoom link is available.

Pathfinders ~ B210

Multi-generational class with in-depth Bible study. Facilitated by Linda Smith. Studying the book of Jonah.

New Beginnings ~ B209

Adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s. Some retired, some with children in school or college, some with grandchildren. Teaching rotation with a variety of topics. Phil Webb is leading an Advent Study by Andy Stanley, *Who Needs Christmas*. Zoom link is available.

Homecoming Class ~ Wesley Hall

Adults 50+, teaching rotation with primary emphasis on Bible study. Current study is on Zechariah. Participants may join from home by Zoom. Contact Brenda Robinson for more information: bgodbold@hiwaay.net

Grace and Peace ~ B217

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality. Shared leadership. Zoom link available.

Living Word: Meeting by Zoom only November 29th:

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate. In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner. *Will resume in-person, B207, December 6th.*

Contact the church for more information about these classes that will continue to meet exclusively through Zoom until further notice:

Koinonia

Adults of varying ages, facilitated by Tony Caminiti; in depth Bible study and other topical studies.

Friends in Faith

Retired adults, individuals and couples. Teaching rotation with in depth Bible study.

Not meeting this week:

Discovery Class

Will meet in person on December 13th and 27th. Look for updates on room assignment. This is a welcoming group of senior adults, mostly retired, facilitated by Cecil Christenberry.



Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life
Facilitated by Dr. Darren McClellan
(via Zoom)

Disciple IV is the final study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program and concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. This is the original version – not Fast Track.

****Prerequisite:** Participants must have taken Disciple I (original or Fast Track). Disciple Bible Studies do not need to be taken in order.

When: Friday afternoons, beginning January 22nd from 2-4 pm. **ZOOM ONLY**. The Old Testament component (16-weeks) will be taught through the Spring, concluding May 14th. Plans now are to teach the New Testament component in the Fall of 2021. We will determine at that time whether or not the NT will be taught by Zoom or in-person.

Cost: \$45

Invitation to John: A Short-Term Disciple Study
Facilitated by Barbara Stewart (in-person)

The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me." Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

During the weekly video segments, travel into the Scripture as you hear the Word, experience the grand artwork connected with each story and interview the scholar. Each week wraps up with a small group discussion on video to spark your own conversation.

****There is no prerequisite for this class.**

When: Wednesday mornings, beginning January 13th at 10:00 am. Will be taught in-person in Wesley Hall with social distancing and masks requested. Twelve weeks concluding March 31st.

Cost: \$13

Registration for either class: Please email bobbi.hobbs@fairhopeumc.org or call the church office to register.

Caring Ministries...

Caring Ministries hopes you received a card of well wishes from the church this past week. FUMC is committed to walking with you as we take steps moving into the Advent season.



Decorating a Christmas Tree...

Caring Ministries is participating in decorating a Church Christmas tree this Wednesday Dec. 2 at 10:00 am on the front lawn. Hope to see many of you there to help. All decorations are asked to be in Ann's office by noon on December 1.

Let us know...

If you have needs, concerns and praises to share, please contact the Pastoral Staff, Stephen Ministers or Prayer Warriors through the church office at 251-928-1148 or by email, ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Children's Ministries...

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? Go to 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.

THIS WEDNESDAY FOR CHILDREN ...

December 2 - Come & Go Ornament Making Party (in conjunction with church-wide Block Party & Tree Decorating) / K-6th grade / 5-7pm in CLC Fellowship Hall / Grab dinner from Chew Chew Food Truck (donations accepted) / Parents are asked to stay and participate with their children (with the exception of 5th&6th grades)

UPCOMING EVENTS ...

JESSE TREE - Ornament swap participants can pick up their ornament set today from 8am-12pm and tomorrow from 9am-1pm in the church office.

**Candy
Cane**

CHRISTMAS

Fairhope United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 5

8:30-10:30am

Parking Lot



Candy Cane Course

Decorate your bike/riding toy for Christmas and bring to church to ride the course! (no motorized toys please; remember your helmet)

Pictures with Santa

Pancake & Sausage on a Stick and Hot Chocolate

Decorate Cookies & Make Reindeer Food

Play Games & More!

**In the event of rain, this event will be cancelled.*

**Candy
Cane MISSION**

Help us spread the spirit of Christmas! We are collecting new bikes and riding toys during the event to give to children for Christmas! Donations will be distributed through DHR, Ecumenical Ministries and Fairhope UMC Missions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need adults to help prepare for our Candy Cane Christmas on Thursday, Dec 3 and Friday, Dec 4 from 9am-12pm. We also need help on Saturday, Dec 5 beginning at 7am to set up tables/chairs outside the CLC and the Candy Cane Course in the parking lot! Please contact Michelle Graham at michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org or 251/377-2325 if you can help!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION / Sunday, December 13 / Front lawn following the 11:00 worship services / If you have a 3rd grader and did not receive a letter, contact Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325.

Student Ministries...

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (November 29)

Time: 10:00 am ~ Meet: CLC Attic (7th-12th grade)

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH (November 29)

Time: 6:00-7:45 pm ~ Meet: CLC (7th-12th grade)

Don't miss out for worship, games, and new series called, "It's Personal." Plus, free time to hang out with and make some new friends. We CAN'T wait to see you all! Special Note: We WILL NOT have youth supper until further notice. Please plan to eat before or after we are done with the youth program.

JR & SR GIRLS BIBLE STUDY (December 1)

Tuesday's @ 7:30 pm//FUMC Campus

Our junior and senior girls are invited to join us for Tuesday night in- person Bible study each week on Women of the Bible. If you are interested, please email rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org for more details.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Wednesday's @ 6:30-7:45 pm//CLC// Groups divided by grade.

ARE YOU NEW TO STUDENT MINISTRY?

All rising 7th grade (student & parent) and new church families with 7th-12th graders are encouraged to connect with us through social media, text messaging reminders, GROUPME for every grade and through our email reminders!

Want to get plugged in???

Follow SALTSTUDENTS:

Instagram: @fairhopeumc.youth

Facebook: @fhsaltstudents

Text Message Reminders: Text the word "Saltstudents" to the number "43506"

Send a quick note to michael.spicer@fairhopeumc.org to be added to our email list or to Groupme for C-Group reminders!



HOW ARE WE SERVING?

Angel Tree Christmas Giving Our Angels are HERE!

We are partnering with Ecumenical Ministries & DHR helping to provide Christmas for children & elderly in our community.

Angels will be available to pick up outside the church office & in the CLC. We are also happy to email you the information if you are not able to make it by the church.

Elderly Angels are due to Ecumenical Ministries Office by Dec 7th

Children Angels are due to the church office or CLC by Dec 11th

More info? email missions@fairhopeumc.org



Foster Care Outreach:

We are currently working with three foster care families. We received a request from DHR asking for us to help provide the resources so the 4 little girls could have a safe outlet. All 4 girls are in dance or cheer. Our commitment is to help sponsor the girls for current dance/cheer season. This is our second year to provide support for 3 of girls. If you are interested in supporting this outreach, please let me know. We work regularly throughout the year supporting the needs of DHR & CareHouse.



THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED,
PROVIDED FOOD & SUPPORT FOR THIS
GREAT OUTREACH!

WE ARE ARE SO THANKFUL
FOR EACH OF YOU!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO SERVE
EMAIL [MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG](mailto:missions@fairhopeumc.org) OR CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!