



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent
The Gathering: December 6, 2020

OPENING SONGS

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
O Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Jeff White, Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Canida Family: Trey, Amanda and Mattie Gabel

RESPONSE

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you in this season of preparation and planning.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative
power of hope. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed
by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the sun 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

O Come All Ye Faithful / Sing To The King

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to light the darkness,
that the good news of this age may be proclaimed
through your word, which stands forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

SERMON

"Give Comfort, Give Joy"

Rev. Angie Long

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Assisting in Worship Today: *Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker*

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Angie Long, United Methodist Children's Home*

Acolyte: *Aenea Ganey*

Music: *Jeff White and Praise Band*

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



**CHRISTMAS SEASON ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT TOYS OR PRESENTS OR WHAT'S UNDER THE TREE.
IT'S ABOUT SHARING JOY, LOVE AND FAMILY.**

Unfortunately, there are children in our communities who have been abandoned, neglected and left without the support they so desperately need. But with your help, we can give them the greatest gifts of all — hope, love and a place to call home.

Mark this season of giving with a donation to the United Methodist Children's Home. Your gift will help us provide homes, love and better opportunities for children in need. It's perhaps the greatest gift you will give this Christmas season. Special offering envelopes are available by the CLC Gym doors & in the Narthex of the sanctuary.



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 6, 2020
Traditional Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is dark and cold.

We look for signs of your coming.

The world is hungry for righteousness.

We look for signs of your coming.

The world yearns for your love and light.

We look for signs of your coming.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of winter and starlight, you have promised us your presence: to live among us, to right all wrongs, to bring good things to all who wait for your new day.

In these dark days, we look for signs of your coming:

the sounds of children at play, the music that fills our hearts with anticipation, the company of all who serve the last and the least.

Make us at home with righteousness, that we may be ready to walk in your holy ways.

Amen.

HYMN

#529 *How Firm A Foundation*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Fralicks Family (8:30am) – The Tapscott Family (11:00am)

Response:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you in this season of preparation and planning. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the sun 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (arr. by Christensen)
Flute Choir: Celeste Boone, Pam Christakos, Lucie Fralicks,
Randi Patterson & Natalie Woodrow

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to light the darkness,
that the good news of this age may be proclaimed
through your word, which stands forever. **Amen.**

8:30	Scripture Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11	
	Sermon	<i>"Give Comfort, Give Joy"</i>	Rev. Angie Long
11:00	First Lesson	Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13	
	Second Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11	
	Sermon	<i>"Pain We Carry"</i>	Rev. Antonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #381 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Antonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker

Guest Preacher (8:30): *Rev. Angie Long, United Methodist Childrens Home*

Liturgist (11:00): *Steve Pearson*

Acolytes: *Shelby Semmes (11:00)*

Music: *Tom Hood, John Richardson*

Media and Sound: *Robert Hammon, Peyton Phillip, Jamie Waldhour*

Today we welcome Rev. Angie Long as our guest preacher!

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.



Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathies:

Ashley and Pete Jones and Jack Jones in the loss of their father, Emory Jackson Jones, Sr.

Mitzi & Rick Childs in the loss of her mother, Dortha Dean Dillard Mattox.

Jan & Bob Nall in the loss of his brother, Joe Nall.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received November 29 - \$26,921

(Online - \$12,338 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$14,583)

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 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 are OPEN!

Available Times: 1:00pm, 3:00pm

Please note that the 4:15pm service is now full.

Go to <https://www.fairhopeumc.org/article/walking-light-advent-christmas-eve/>

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.



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.

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.

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.

Homecoming Class

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85243119506?pwd=OTJMMkNXcmthdGt1YzJLQWk0R08wdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 4311 9506 | Passcode: 624106

Living Word

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate. In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner.

NOT MEETING THIS WEEK:

Discovery Class

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES COMING IN JANUARY...

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.



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](#).

Caring Ministries...



Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care....

If you need or want a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you during these days contact one of the Stephen Leaders, Cecilia Lammers, Janie Mullins, Kim Gibson or Ann Pearson by calling the Church office 251-928-1148. Our Stephen Ministers continue to care through telephone communication and encouraging notes and cards.

Tough Dogs support Group....

Tough Dogs Cancer support Group will be meeting by zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 12:30 pm. If you would like the zoom information contact Ann Pearson at ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.



Prayer Connects Us....

Submit your prayer request through email to ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or by calling the church office 251-928-1148. Lifting one another in prayer can sustain us for the days ahead.

United Methodist Women...

EDITH LAWSON CIRCLE sadly was unable to host our annual "BAKE SALE" this year due to COVID!

Because this is our main fundraiser we will be accepting donations from the membership to help replenish our budget for 2021 so that we may continue to support our favorite missions with our main focus on women and children. No amount is too small! We just appreciate your support as in the past and look forward to hosting another great "Bake Sale" in 2022! Please drop off or mail checks to the church made payable to: FUMC (please write EDITH LAWSON CIRCLE DONATION on the "for line")

Donations accepted through 12/31/2020



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.

SWIFT EVENTS (5th & 6th Grade Ministry) ...

Wed, Dec 9 - Angel Tree Shopping / 6:30-7:30pm

Fairhope UMC is once again partnering with Ecumenical Ministries and DHR to provide gifts for children and the elderly in our community. This is a great way for kids to be part of the Christmas spirit of giving!

Students will be divided into small groups to shop for 8 angels. Masks will be worn. Those participating are asked to bring \$20 (or whatever amount chosen) to contribute towards the gifts we purchase (cash or check payable to FUMC). We will not carpool from the church this year. Parents will be responsible for bringing kids and picking them up. We'll meet at the Fairhope Walmart at the Home/Pharmacy entrance.

Sun, Dec 13, 6:30-7:45pm, Wesley Hall

Rev. Antonio will lead SWIFT in a **Christmas Art Project** and then we'll have our **SWIFT Christmas Party!**

If your 5th or 6th grader plans to attend either of these events, contact Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325 if you've not already done so.

UPCOMING EVENTS ...

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.

Birthday Party for Jesus

Since we won't be hosting our Birthday Party for Jesus this year during Children's Church, we want to give you what you need to celebrate at home! Reserve your family a complementary birthday bag by calling or texting Michelle Graham at 251/377-2325 or emailing michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org. Bags will include cake mix, frosting, sprinkles and some surprises. It will also include a book that you can read together on Christmas Eve about Jesus' birth. Requests must be made no later than Sunday, December 13.

Those who have requested bags can pick them up in the CLC on Sunday, December 20. They'll also be available in the church office on December 21-23.

Student Ministries...

STUDENT MINISTRY ANGEL TREE SHOPPING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

We will have small groups of student volunteers helping us shop for Angel Tree @ 5pm this Sunday night. If you would like to volunteer to help your C Group with your sponsored Angel, please let your group leader know in your C group Groupme account as soon as possible. We will not have our regularly scheduled Sunday night programming this week. This year parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the store.

STUDENT MINISTRY BONFIRE CANCELED

Due to rising Covid numbers, our Christmas Bonfire has been canceled. Therefore, we have scheduled a different kind of Christmas gathering for this Wednesday night. Please see the details below.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SOCK EXCHANGE Wednesday, December 9

6:30-7:15 pm

All 7th and 8th graders, please join us this Wednesday night @ 6:30-7:15pm around the Fire pits outside the CLC to gather with your C-Group. We will play a game of Dirty Santa with our Christmas socks! You can grab a NEW pair of inexpensive socks for the holiday, wrap them up and bring them for the game! We will have hot chocolate and a special treat plus time for celebrating the season. (Please be sure to bring your mask!) Make plans for your parents to pick you up at 7:15! The gym will not be open that evening.

HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SOCK EXCHANGE Wednesday, December 9

7:15-8:00 pm

All 9th-12th graders, please join us this Wednesday night @ 7:15-8:00pm around the Fire pits outside the CLC to gather with your C-Group. We will play a game of Dirty Santa with our Christmas socks! You can grab a NEW pair of inexpensive socks for the holiday, wrap them up and bring them for the game! We will have hot chocolate and a special treat plus a time for celebrating the season. (Please be sure to bring your mask!)

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.



**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!**