



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
The Gathering: December 13, 2020

OPENING SONGS

In the Light
The Light In Me

Shea White, Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Meador Family: Mike, Ashley, Irie Anne, Miriam and O'Neill

RESPONSE

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Magnify your love within us. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. 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

Away In A Manger

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
as we await the coming of your Son.
Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth
and glorify you according to your Word;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 126

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS ~ Carianne Wright and Collin Farrell

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON *"Bear With Me"* Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG *Running Down A Dream*

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Antonio Christie

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

Acolyte: Sims Peters

Media and Sound: Robert Hammond, 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.



POINSETTIAS...

We have extended the deadline for purchasing a poinsettia to Monday, December 14 and will list the acknowledgements on December 20th. If you would like to place a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, you may call the church office (928-1148) or fill out a form and return it to the office with your check payable to the church. 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.



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 13, 2020
Traditional Worship

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

arr. Harris

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, dear people, God has blessed our gathering.

We come again on this journey, following the light.

God's light shines for us today, bringing peace and comfort.

May we, like Mary, respond to God's presence and love, with confident joy. AMEN.

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.*

*Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Corbitt Family (8:30 am) ~ The James Family (11:00 am)

Response:

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope.
Magnify your love within us. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but
must be shared. 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.

BAPTISM (11:00)

Sawyer Mason Rice
Son of William and Katharine Rice

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still
Piano Solo, Alivia Dowden

(arr. by Alexander)

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
as we await the coming of your Son.

Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth
and glorify you according to your Word;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

CHORAL RESPONSE

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

Response: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the LORD,

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is the name of the LORD, whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.

The arm of the LORD is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich empty away.

God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Repeat Response

SERMON

"Mary and the Angel"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(arr. McDonad)

Assisting in Worship Today:

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

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson

Acolytes: (8:30) Jackson Strunk, (11:00) Radney Shaw

Media and Sound: Jamie Waldour, Kaitlyn Hunter, Robert Hammond, James Brown

Third Grade Bibles Presentation...

Following the 11:00 worship services today, our third graders and their families will join together on the front lawn for our Third Grade Bible Presentation. All are welcome to join us as they receive their Bibles – a precious gift from our congregation. Thank you to Jane Dolan for inscribing their Bibles.

Mollie Katen Bishop, Anna Elliott Dorman, Graham Downs, Josie Jill Gardner, Gavin Garner, Brooks Goldman, Jackson Goldsberry, Mary Stella Henderson, Mary Kathryn Jacobs, Ella Jennings, Campbell Johnston, Savannah Grace Jones, Ansley Lane, Maggie Langston, Emilynn Lieb, Murphy Lowell, Karys Mayfield, Kylee Mayfield, Harper Myrick, Brickell Neil, Alex Ogburn, Will Roach, Annie Sparks, Brooklyn Seelhorst, Rowan Seelhorst, Benton Vance, Chandler Wesley



Sunday Vespers Service ~ Tonight

Join us tonight at 6pm in the sanctuary for a Vespers Service offering prayer, song, and scripture. Plans are to have this take place regularly on the second Sunday of each month.

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy - Family and friends of Donna Dodson

Celebration - Nancy and Paul LeBlanc have a new granddaughter, Elizabeth “Libby” Jean Roll. Proud parents are Nick and Amanda Roll .

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received December 6 – \$42,123

(Online - \$13,420 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$28,703)

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



Next Sunday, December 20, all of our worship services will focus on the sounds of the Christmas Season. This year the orchestra planned for the Traditional Services is a little smaller but the music certainly isn't! We invite you to join us at the 8:30 am, *9:45 am or 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) or at the 11:00 am Gathering Worship (CLC)

COME CELEBRATE THE JOYOUS SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS WITH US!

Please note we have added a special 9:45 am worship time to allow for additional families to enjoy the sounds of the season!
Reservations Required.

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, 9:45am & 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 Time: 1:30pm

Please note that the 3:00pm and 4:15pm service is now full.

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



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**



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](#).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
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 is 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*.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83571549271?pwd=aGFLdDdzZ0g2ZmdUczlucEhvczIxZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7154 9271 Passcode: 689350

Grace and Peace ~ B217

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality. Shared leadership facilitating and Advent study by Walter Brueggemann, *Names for the Messiah*. Zoom link available.

Contact the church for more information about these classes meeting through Zoom:

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/89004353112?pwd=WTg0OE0rZ1N6MDhOT3RrWjhIdmFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 0435 3112 Passcode: 750337

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

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.

Caring Ministries...



We wish to thank all of our ministries of care: Stephen Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Tough Dogs Chemo Bags, Knit and Crochet Ministry, Durable Medical Equipment, Lord's Pantry, Support Groups, Food Ministries, Telephone and Note Ministries. Each one has made a significant contribution to the many lives we have served this year. We have much to celebrate in spreading the love of Christ in our community.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING...

Survivors of Suicide will be meeting on zoom Monday, December 14, at 6:30pm. If you would like to join the virtual meeting, please contact ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org for your invite.

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.

Note: Children's Sunday School will not meet on December 27th.

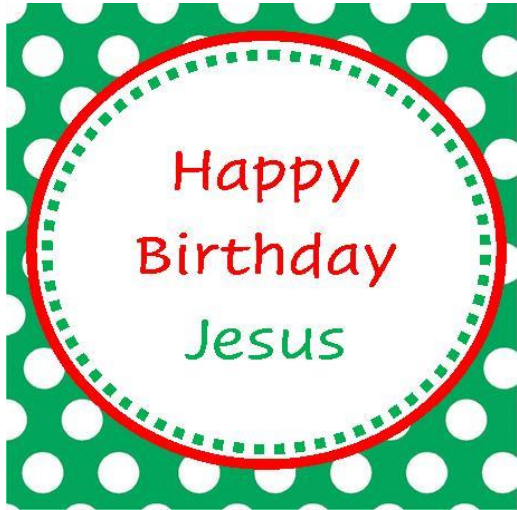
Children ages 3 months-PreK4 can stay in the **Nursery** during our 3 worship services and Sunday School.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to our third graders who will receive Bibles today after the 11:00 worship services. Their names are listed in this bulletin.

SWIFT (5th & 6th Grade)

The Christmas Party and art project with Pastor Antonio scheduled for tonight has been cancelled.



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 complimentary birthday bag by 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. **Today is the last day to request a birthday bag!**

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

Student Ministries...



Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applications are due January 15, 2021.

Fairhope UMC is privileged to administer scholarships to help prepare leaders for the church, community, and world. These scholarships are awarded to church members whose character and accomplishments make them worthy representatives of FUMC and the individuals whom these grants honor. Scholarships are awarded to students who are actively involved with Fairhope United Methodist Church.

Some scholarships are awarded to an applicant who is preparing for ordained ministry, attending a Methodist college, or pursuing a church related vocation; need based; or other criteria. Numbers and amounts of scholarships will depend on annual availability of funds. This is the time to apply for these scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year. *The deadline for applications is January 15, 2021.* The scholarships are awarded in February. This will position the scholarship winner to apply for matching funds offered through the Methodist conference and by many colleges.

Click the link above for the new online application that can be found on our church website.

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!



 **FAIRHOPE**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ART EXHIBIT

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

FEATURING SEVERAL ARTISTS
FROM FAIRHOPE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH.

ALL ART WILL BE ON SALE!

Stop by the Christian Life Center Lobby and see the Art Exhibit, featuring artists from our congregation. Steve Pearson, Marcus Smith, Dr. Perri Jacobs, Lisa LaTourette, Barry Baskin, Kristin Capstraw, Shelly Fitzhugh, Alexa Frank, Sarah Grace Hobbs, Kadine Christie, and Antonio Christie.

There will be a special showing on December 18th from 5-7 PM and a final showing on December 23rd from 5-7 PM. Several pieces are available for sale!

HOW ARE WE SERVING?

Angel Tree Christmas Giving

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for supporting this outreach this Christmas Season! We are so grateful for your continued support of the children throughout Baldwin County

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!**