



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday after Christmas
The Gathering: December 27, 2020

OPENING SONGS

We Three Kings
The First Noel

Praise Team

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see,

God is there. Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

Take My Life (and Let It Be)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Light of life, you came in flesh,

born into human pain and joy,

and gave us power to be your children.

Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,

that as we hear your holy word today,

we may sing new songs of gladness

and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"My Eyes Have Seen"

Rev. Antonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Gloria

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Antonio Christie

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

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

***In-Person Worship Reservations
for Sunday, January 3, are 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/>

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathies:

Gail Sullivan in the death of her sister, Rebecca Mae Gifford.

Tom and Anne Davis in the death of his sister, Barbara (Bobbie) Jean Davis Bolton.

Peggy and Steve Vogle and family in the death of her father, **Joe Holliday**.

Lanier and Kristi Hagood and family in the death of his father, John Hagood.

Harry and Agnes Smith in the death of their brother-in-law, Bill Smith.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received December 20 - \$52,058

(Online - \$32,340 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$19,718)

*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. **YEAR END GIVING NOTE:** According to the IRS, all contributions for 2020 must be received by 1pm on December 31 in the church office or postmarked that date if mailed. Thank you so much for your continued support to Fairhope United Methodist Church. Jeff White, Business Administrator*



Fairhope United Methodist Church
First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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This very morning,
God is here.

In the future we cannot see,
God is there. Let us worship God!

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened the heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Simeon's Song

Tom and Jenna Hood

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Light of life, you came in flesh,
born into human pain and joy,
and gave us power to be your children.
Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,
that as we hear your holy word today,
we may sing new songs of gladness
and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

Rest & Redemption: The Last Sermon of 2020

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

There's A Song in the Air

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

SENDING FORTH

Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Rev. Laura Parker

Liturgist: Emily Garner ~ Music: Tom Hood, Jenna Hood

Media and Sound: Jamie Waldhour, Kaitlyn Hunter, Robert Hammon and Peyton Phillips

The flowers on the altar in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Studstill,
Mr. Pleasant Morehead and Mrs. JoAnn Sutton by Vicki and Perry Studstill.

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathies:

Gail Sullivan in the death of her sister, Rebecca Mae Gifford.

Tom and Anne Davis in the death of his sister, Barbara (Bobbie) Jean Davis Bolton.

Peggy and Steve Vogle and family in the death of her father, Joe Holliday.

Lanier and Kristi Hagood and family in the death of his father, John Hagood.

Harry and Agnes Smith in the death of their brother-in-law, Bill Smith.

Holiday Office Hours:

Church office will be closed on December 28 and January 1.

It will be accessible 9am - 1pm, December 29, 30 and 31.

Christian Life Center Hours of Operation:

Open - 7am-5pm, December 28, 29 and 30

Closing at 3pm - December 31 ~ Closed - January 1



A note from Rev. Laura:

We will continue our devotionals every Monday morning at 9:30 in the new year until we are able to return to more normal gathering routines in the life of our church. This time together lasts about 15-20 minutes and provides an opportunity to see familiar faces and pray together as we begin our week!

Our holiday schedule: We will take off Monday, December 28th.

We will RESUME "Zoom" on Monday, January 4th.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>

Caring Ministries...

We celebrate the birth of our Savior and look forward to the blessed days ahead. Our prayers remain for all those dealing with struggles and grief in this season. Contact your Pastoral staff, Stephen Ministers or Ann Pearson at the church office 251-928-1148 if you would like us to pray with you or be that Christian sounding board.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ~ 9:45-10:40 AM ON SUNDAYS

NOTE: In-Person Sunday School will not be offered for adults, youth or children on December 27th and January 3rd.

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*.

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

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 2-4pm. **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 10:00am.
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.

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 today or next Sunday, January 3rd. We will resume on January 10th.

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.

COMING SOON...

Book Study for 3rd & 4th Graders on Sunday afternoons beginning January 17th! An email will be sent to parents with details, including registration, in early January! Children's Ministries will order and pay for the books.

One-Day Winter Retreat / Saturday, February 6th / Blue Lake Camp

We will charter a bus, leave around 7:00am and return around 9:30pm. Plans for the retreat are still being finalized but for now, save the date! Registration information will be sent as soon as it is available! Winter Retreat is for 3rd - 6th graders. This will be an outdoor event.

Student Ministries...



DNOW OUTDOOR RETREAT

Jan 9-10, 2021

***Registration form, *NEW easy online payment and more parent information can be found on the youth page of our church website today!**

- **Where:** Camp Beckwith
- **What:** Tent/ Sleeping Bag
- **When:** January 9th (begins 2:30 pm) thru 10th (ends 1:30 pm)
- **Registration Deadline:** January 2nd

- **How much: \$75 (Scholarships Available)**
- **Who: 7th -12th**

We cannot wait to come together as a community for our outdoor worship, small groups and free time for the 2021 DNOW at Camp Beckwith! Our speaker will be Deon Cossio and our worship band, Yeah, Probably. This reimagined DNOW Retreat is January 9-10 and we will take all necessary precautions to make this a safe event for all students and adults. You will find these details along with participation options for each student in the detailed email you received this past week. When you register your student online, you will get to choose for them to remain on-campus overnight at Camp Beckwith for a camp-out or you may pick-up your student at 9:00 pm and return them by 8:30 am. Please we now have a NEW and easy online payment process for student ministry retreats! For more information, contact rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org.



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!



Save the Date!
Sunday, January 17th
More details to come!!