



Early one Monday morning in the spring of this year, I was sitting on the Fairhope Pier with two things in hand. One was a fishing pole. The other was a paperback copy of a book whose title is worth the price on its own: *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace* by Miroslav Volf. The fishing pole didn't bring much of a return that day. I was hooked by the book, however, and a big idea that has continued to reel me in ever since:

Unlike gifts received from Santa Claus, whose gifts are the end of the story, God's gifts oblige us to something further. To what do God's gifts oblige us? What is the nature of obligation? How do we make the transition from self-centeredness to God-given generosity? (Volf, p. 39).

At first, I must admit that I stumbled on the notion of "obligation." At our core, most of us do not like to be told what to do by anyone (not even God!). So how do God's gifts oblige us? And what might possibly motivate us to respond in a way that is inspired not by guilt, but grace? Clearly, there is room to grow in our understanding of how God gives and for what purpose.

In thinking about this, we are going to spend several weeks in worship experimenting with a particular formula:

Acceptance of Obligation + Surrender to Love = Joyful Obedience

Christian obedience should always be based on surrender to a person, not simply acceptance of an obligation. That person is Jesus Christ! Thus, the 'abundant life' requires a surrender to love, not just submission to duty.

Too often people only see Christianity in terms of rules and morality—a system of obligations and prohibitions. This entirely misses the point of Christ following. Christian obedience is more like what loving families give each other than what soldiers give their superiors. At their best, families demonstrate their love for each other by doing for one another out of adoration and delight. And so it should be with Christians and their God.

"Far from being incompatible with obedience, surrender provides the motive for obedience. We should obey God because he has won our hearts in love. If he has not, our focus should not be so much on obedience as on knowing his love. For once we get that solidly in place, obedience begins to take care of itself" (*Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality* by David Benner).

Is it time to fall in love all over again? How wonderful that would be!

My prayer for the people of Fairhope United Methodist Church throughout this series is that Paul's encouragement to the church at Colossae will be true for us as well:

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving (Colossians 2:6-7).

Darren



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
The Gathering: October 17, 2021

OPENING SONG

Thank You

Shea White, Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

When we cried to you with our troubles, O Lord, you saved us from our distress.

We give you thanks, O God, for your wonderful works to all of humanity.

Hear now our offerings of praise and thanksgiving, as we tell of your deeds with songs of joy.

Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

God of infinite goodness and mercy, we cannot escape your presence. Your promise remains with us in every situation. When we are desolate, your Spirit comes to comfort us. Amid our tribulation, your Chosen One remains our firm hope. We can sing your song in whatever land we find our abode. We shall forever give thanks for the gift of your grace. You are God who never forsakes us. To you be glory and praise now and forever. AMEN.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

Blessed Be Your Name

Give Thanks

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

OFFERING

Even So Come

*Children 4 years-2nd grade can meet at the side doors for Children's Church.
They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the CLC Fellowship Hall.
Nursery is also available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Colossians 1:9-14

A WORD OF THANKS

Blake Horne, President / CEO, Embrace Alabama Kids (United Methodist Children's Home)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

"Much Obligated...to Gratitude"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren M. McClellan

Acolytes: Aenea Ganey, Max McClellan

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

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



We love knowing you were here today. Thank you for choosing to worship with Fairhope UMC! If you are a member, regular attender or a visitor, scan this QR code and register your attendance for today.

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Sympathy:

Chuck and Michelle Huguley in the death of his father, Charlie Huguley.

Family and friends of **Ruth Conley**.

Kay and Terry Hicks in the death of their son, David Hicks.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received October 10, 2021 - \$32,012

(Online - \$6,054 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$25,958)

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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.)

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Dr. Darren McClellan (Gathering)

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Rev. Laura Parker (Sanctuary) | Dr. Darren McClellan (Gathering)

October 31 "Much Obligated to Participation" 8:30 - Dr. Darren McClellan | SERVE DAY!

All are invited to gather in front of the CLC at 10:30 for a time of devotion and deployment in service to our community. There will be projects for all ages, some on campus and others beyond our walls. If you are aware of a service opportunity for this day, or are ready to help lead a team, please contact Missions Director Jennifer Myrick, Caring Ministries Director Ann Pearson, or one of the pastors.

November 7 "What Is In a Name?" Dr. Darren McClellan (Sanctuary) | Rev. Laura Parker (Gathering)

On this All Saints Sunday, we will be remembering the lives of those in our congregation who have finished their course in faith in the past year, and gathering around the Lord's Table for Holy Communion.

November 14 "Honor Day"

Dr. Darren McClellan (8:30 Sanctuary) Dr. Darren McClellan (Combined Service in the Christian Life Center)

This is a day of celebration! On this day, we will offer our thanksgiving for the honorable service and sacrifice of our Veterans, we will honor our future as we recognize the new babies in our congregation over the last year, and we will honor our own commitment to God and each other through the consecration of our financial pledge for 2022. Dinner on the grounds will follow immediately after the 11:00 service. It will be a glorious day!

WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT FAIRHOPE UMC

5:00PM-6:00PM / OCTOBER 20, 2021



MENU

RED BEANS
AND RICE

CREOLE CORN
MAQUE CHOUX
SALAD

FRENCH BREAD

COCA-COLA CAKE

\$5 FOR ADULTS
\$4 FOR CHILDREN
MAX \$20 PER FAMILY

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH
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join us for

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 27

Where: Grassy Parking Area @ Fairhope UMC
Chew Chew Food Truck: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Trunk or Treat: 5:30pm



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Darren



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 17, 2021

PRELUDE

Trumpet Sonata in D, Pomposo

(Purcell)

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A WORD OF THANKS

Blake Horne, President / CEO, Embrace Alabama Kids (United Methodist Children's Home)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE #57

O For a Thousand Tongues (verses 1-5)

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

*GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Trumpet Sonata in D, Presto

(Purcell)

*DOXOLOGY

11:00 CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Colossians 1:9-14

HYMN OF PREPARATION #351

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

"Much Obligated...to Gratitude"

8:30 Dr. Darren M. McClellan 11:00 Rev. Antonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #92

For the Beauty of the Earth

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D

(Martini)

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of the wedding of Sara and Jerry Curran
who were married in our sanctuary yesterday.*

Assisting in Worship Today:

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Antonio Christie, Emily Garner

Acolytes: Shep Searcy (8:30) Sims Peters, Brooks Goldman (11:00)

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson, FUMC Choir, Michael Brown, trumpet

Media and Sound: Peyton Phillips, Ann Lyles Tapscott, Colin Richardson



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Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responder

Sympathies...

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OCTOBER 27

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Trunk or Treat: 5:30pm

Stay connected!

THE LINK

Weekly Newsletter

OCTOBER 17, 2021



WE SEND THIS BY
EMAIL WEEKLY
NOT ON OUR EMAIL LIST?
SUBSCRIBE USING
THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR
PHONE CAMERA:



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Monarch butterflies are currently migrating through Baldwin on their 3,000 mile journey. Be on the lookout! During Lent next year, we will introduce a self-paced spiritual renewal program for families focusing on creating a habitat for butterflies. Have you seen our two test-plot gardens outside the CLC? Children of all ages are welcome to join the BG's, aka the Butterfly Garden Working Group.

join us for
TRUNK
OR **TREAT**

OCTOBER 27

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CARING MINISTRIES

Bible Study...

The Drop-In Bible study on the book of John is meeting this Monday October 18th from 1:00 - 2:15 pm in Wesley Hall. We will be reviewing Chapters 16-21. All are invited for this last class.



Treats for Thomas....

Church Family, you have shown amazing love in providing snacks for our healthcare workers. Thanks for helping make this church mission an outreach of love beyond the walls of our church. The hospital is so grateful and appreciative of your love and care.

Hospital Visitation....

Remember to let your Pastoral staff know when you are in the hospital so we can come and pray with you. We want to walk this journey with you and support you.

Support Ministries for our Community...

Grief Group meets each Monday at 3:00 pm in B-112 off of Wesley Hall.

Stephen Ministry Supervision meets Monday, October 18th at 6:00 pm in Wesley Hall.

Caregiver's Support Group meets Tuesday, October 19 at 9:30 am in the Church Library. A zoom option is available by contacting Dr. Ann Pearson at ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Opportunities to serve...

Telephone callers are needed to check in with church members every 4 to 6 weeks for any needs or prayer requests. Please contact Dr. Ann Pearson at the church office at 251-928-1148 if you have time to make those calls and connect with our membership.



Online registration remains open for the following Wednesday night programs – the link is provided below! If you have an interest in serving in one of these programs, please contact Jenna Hood, Director of Children's Ministries at 928-1148. As always, you do not need to have a child in children's ministries to serve!

Children's Choir: K-6th grade | Wednesdays, 4:15-5:00pm | *Wesley Hall (Ed Bldg, 1st floor)

- * Children enjoy learning different kinds of worship music which will be sung in various Sunday services.
- * New friends always welcome! Pre-registration is greatly appreciated.

SWIFT: 5th & 6th grade | Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm | Attic (CLC, 2nd floor)

- * Students will learn and know how it feels to own their faith. Each week they grapple with a specific question about faith, relationships, choices, and search God's Word for answers. This group engages in large and small group discussions, mission projects, free-play in the gym and social get-togethers! Join us this week as we discuss the topic, "What if Jesus is a liar?"
- * Thanks to SWIFT for creating awesome thank you cards for our "Treats for Thomas" program at Thomas Hospital!
- * New friends always welcome! Pre-registration is greatly appreciated.



JOIN US FOR PIER & PIER34

PIER & PIER34: K-4th Grades | Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:15pm | Wesley Hall (Ed Bldg, 1st Floor)

K-4th graders are invited to join us for "The Game of Life: Learning to Live by God's Rules." This fun series uses classic family games to teach all about living for Jesus! All Pier & Pier34 kids will gather together in our large group experience and enjoy energetic worship, our Bible story & message, and participate in some exciting opening games. Then, we will split into our Pier & Pier34 small groups and learn how to apply what we have just discovered to our lives through activities and discussion! It is going to be so much fun. Grab a friend and make plans to be there! Pre-registration is greatly appreciated!



ACOLYTES IN ACTION Have an acolyte that loves to serve? We want to see our #acolytesinaction! We are so proud of our kids for serving in this way. So, take a picture of your acolyte serving and send it to Jenna at jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org to share on our children's Insta page or post it on your own Instagram account for us to see! Don't forget to tag @fairhopeumc_childrens_min and use the hashtag #acolytesinaction! We can't wait to see all of our wonderful acolytes!



Sign up at www.fairhopeumc.org/wednesdayprograms

RECREATION MINISTRIES



UPWARD BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH

Registration is now open for all boys and girls, 4 yrs. old – 4th grade. K4-5 and 3-4 grade, Teams will be coed.

Register online at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW81095> or use your camera to open the QR Code. Registration is \$95. Deadline to register is October 28. First Practice- Monday, November 1.
First Game- Monday, November 29.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

SMALL GROUP STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

JOHN BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study, facilitated by Dr. Ann Pearson, on the book of John will meet for their last class this week. Everyone is welcome and invited to come with their friends and neighbors to this study that will take place in Wesley Hall, 1:00-2:15 pm.

"PASTOR'S CLASS" UMC 101

All are invited to join Pastor Darren for an interactive Bible study and discussion of the historic theology, beliefs, and mission of the United Methodist Church. Meets in the Fellowship Hall immediately following supper. Wednesdays, 6:10-7:10 pm. Books may be offered but will be optional. No registration necessary. Please note: Nursery can be provided upon request for children 4 years and under.

STUDENT MINISTRIES



Sunday Night Youth//6:30-8:00pm

(October 24 and 31)

7th-12th grade

Sunday Night Youth takes place almost every week and includes: worship, games, free time in the gym, dinner and so much more. We provide an opportunity for every student in grades 7-12 to worship together with one another and we give them space to build relationships. We can't wait to see you there! There's no need to register and you can always bring a friend. We hope to see YOU this Sunday night! Parents, if you'd like to know more about what youth series we are studying. Simply download the PARENT CUE and read the email updates that are sent out at the beginning of every new series. We provide discussion starters and new ideas on how to continue the conversation and growth at home.

Wednesday Nights//6:30-7:45pm

7th-12th grade

Community Groups are for students in grades 7-12. We provide an opportunity for every person committed to attending C-Groups to grow deeper in their faith with a community of believers their own age to support & pray with them. Every C-Group will have 2 adult leaders committed to walking their faith journey with them. Our C-Groups launch on Wednesday, September 1st @ 6:30-7:45pm. The 10-12 grade C-Groups will meet off campus every Wednesday in a host home with their adult small group leaders. The 7-9 grade C-Groups will meet on-campus upstairs in the CLC. Sign-up is now open for the 2021-22 school year.



The new school year is ahead and it's time to get plugged-in! Parents, did you know that you and your students can stay connected and hear about ALL the activities in student ministry as they're first announced? If you are on social media, follow us:

Instagram: @fairhopeumc.youth

Facebook: @fhsaltstudents

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

SAVE THE DATE:

DISCOVERY WEEKEND 2022

FEB 11-13, 2022

Discovery is a 43-hour spiritual retreat designed for Middle School students held on our church campus and led by High School students and Adult Mentors. Registration for 7th-8th grade participants & 9th-12th grade High School leadership will open on October 1! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. If you'd like to help in an adult leadership role, please contact our DW Directors, Larry or Megan Smith.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

Much OBLIGED



SERVE DAY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31ST

10:30AM

PROJECTS FOR ALL AGES!

CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK
MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG