

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

July 15, 2020

PHASED REOPENING PLAN

On June 30, the Board of Stewards approved the Reopening Readiness Team's three-phase plan for reopening the church. While the plan does not include a specific date, it was determined that the metric to be used for reopening will be for COVID-19 numbers in our area to remain steady or decline for a period of two weeks. We will move into phase three with input from the Alabama/West Florida Conference, our Reopening Readiness Team and COVID-19 Medical Team.

Please note that when we move into phase two outdoor worship, nursery and children's church will not be offered. Also, with phase three indoor worship, it is likely that nursery and children's church will not be offered immediately. Children will attend worship services with their families.

**DOWNLOAD
PLAN HERE!**



Click [here](#) for Summer Family Challenge information

SUMMER FAMILY CHALLENGE

Our 2020 Summer Family Challenge is underway! I hope you and your children have picked some of the activities you want to complete! Points are given for the ones completed and prizes will be awarded. In addition to several drawings from all *participant names, the family with the highest score will receive the Grand Prize of tickets to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo! **Families must submit their score cards on or before August 9. Winners will be announced on August 10!**

**Be sure to list all names of family members who participated on your Family Score Card to be eligible for the drawings!!*



Choose from ...

- 20 Family Fun challenges (10 points each)
- 10 Acts of Kindness challenges (20 points each)
- 9 Bible Time challenges (50 points each)
- 1 Time Capsule challenge (100 points)

You are encouraged to take pictures of your family doing some of the challenges! Text the pictures to Michelle (251/377-2325) and we'll post them on the church's social media and in Sunday bulletins! Check out these that we've already received!

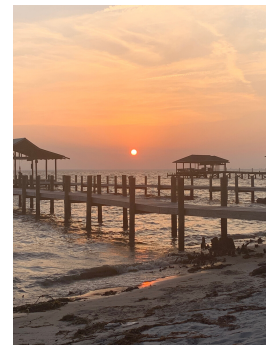
Email michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org to let her know that your family has said YES to the challenge and will participate!



Bring fresh flowers to someone who needs a smile
submitted by Marass Family



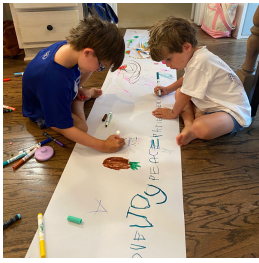
Have a family game night
submitted by Dowden Family



Watch the Sunrise or Sunset
submitted by Dowden Family



Chalk driveway with positive message/drawing
submitted by Marass Family



Learn the Fruit of the Spirit
submitted by
O'Connell Family



Thank you note for postal worker
submitted by
O'Connell Family



Build an awesome indoor fort
submitted by
Friedman Family

**Thanks for the great idea
Goldsberry Family!**
When learning John 3:16, watch
this video of football player Tim Tebow
sharing how and why he shares John 3:16!

[Click here to watch!](#)

BLUE LAKE CAMP UPDATE

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases and not reaching minimum registration to afford to run camp, Blue Lake staff has made the difficult decision to cancel all July Family Camps. Please continue to keep Blue Lake in your prayers and consider making a donation to help the camp stay open! I really don't want to see the doors of Blue Lake close! My heart would break if our children could not go to Winter Retreat and Summer Camp each year and our church family could not go to our annual Fall Retreat!

Click [here](#) to watch a heartfelt video from Steve Lewandowski, Blue Lake's Executive Director. Please keep Blue Lake in your prayers and consider making a financial donation.



2020 Winter Retreat
(Fairhope UMC had the MOST attendees!)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

In the past, this has been a busy time of preparation in our Children's Ministries! With the approach of a new school year, we'd normally be finalizing our roster for Sunday School teachers, preparing for training and getting classrooms stocked and ready! We'd be counting down the days till Promotion Sunday, the Blessing of the Backpacks, our Bible presentation to 3rd graders, registration for our Wednesday night programs and recruitment of leaders for Pier, Pier34 and SWIFT.

But these are not normal times are they? Things have changed over the past 4 months and even now, they still seem to change daily. Just like you, I look forward to the continuing updates on the opening of schools. Will they open when they are supposed to and what will it actually be like when they do? When the schools open their doors, will that mean it's safe to open our children's ministries? Can we proceed with our plans for the fall?

I certainly wish I had all the answers, but I confess that I don't. One thing, however, that I absolutely do know is that we are not alone! Our God is with us every step of the way. Always has been. Always will be. His extravagant love for us never changes. It is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. So as we press forward, let's remember that our God keeps His promises! For me, knowing that He promises to be with us and love us helps me to rest in my unanswered questions and calm my anxious heart! I pray it does for you as well! I'll let you know what our fall schedule looks like as soon as I know! As always, if you ever have any questions, call, text or email me! Remember... stay well, stay safe and stay filled with the joy only Jesus can offer! I miss you and your children so much and look forward to the day we can all return safely to church!



Blessings,

Michelle Graham

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