



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Monthly Publication of Fairhope United Methodist Church

The Link

We exist to **LOVE BOLDLY**, casting the **LIGHT** of **JESUS** into the world.

**FAIRHOPE UMC
PRESENTS:**

*Deaconess
Clara Ester*

“

THE COST OF
MORAL LEADERSHIP

”

FEB 9

Combined 11am
Worship Service (CLC)
*8:30am Traditional
Service will be as usual



FEBRUARY 2020 - VOLUME 2



PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

The Prayer Ministry Team would like to offer church wide prayer. If you are interested in receiving prayer requests, contact the church office, 928-1148.

AT HOME:

Elsie Butgereit	Pat Grubbs	Keith Svendby
Frankie Butgereit	Frances Grace Hirs	Grace Webb
Dorothy & Leon Chambers	George Kirchoff	
Judy Ellis	Barbara Proffitt	
Millie Flynn	Jean Smith	

Fairhope Health & Rehab: Linda Brannan, Hilda Camp, Elinor Simmons (Gayle Simmons' mother)

Huntingdon at Homestead Village: Alice Griffin (Ruth Sully's sister), Corrie Rambo (Gerry Rambo's mother), June Enfinger

Homestead Village: Mercia Coulter, Joan Roberts, Yvonne Cox, Doris Billingsley, Bobby & Mary Lucie Brock (Davis Brock's parents), Claudia & Jerry Fortis, Juanita Kendrick, Ann Wolfe (Michelle Huguley's mom), Gene Moody (Deb Slone's mother), Lois Alspach, Daisy Gilbert, Shirley Lunsford, Ruth Conley

Brennity of Fairhope: Joyce Liukko, Joseph Lammers, Arline Schuster, Joan Hayes, Erika & Karl Pellinat, Thelma Chavers, Alma Johnson (Al Johnson's mother)

Brennity of Daphne: Jean Haney, Dot Mattox (Mitzi Childs' mother)

Westminster Village: Billie Garrison, Ann Kimbrough

Oakland Place: Jim Jones, Zera Roussel

Country Place Senior Living: Rita Higbee

Southern Oaks Nursing Home: Cindy Radtke

Arbors of Gulf Breeze: Sylvia Rhea (Dena White's mother)

William F. Green: Russ Turberville

OUR TROOPS

Jeremy Parish, Britton Rapier, Eric Watton, Mitchell Brown, Deron Frailie, Neil Quinn, Bryan Quinn, John P. Lammers, David Fickle, Chris Berg, Jarrett Laird, Tyler Martenstein, Lauren O'Connor, John Sealy, London Bicker, Alex Wade, Codi Adams, Immanuel Taylor, David Ferguson, Dalton Meyer, Peyton Smith, Kenneth Stein, Josh Tyler, Tom Tyler, Ryan Kramer, Dylan Thomas, Ethan Robinson

SYMPATHIES

Kristi & Lanier Hagood in the loss of her grandmother, Gladys Argent.

Dawn & Mark Mathias in the loss of his mother, Marcia Mathias and her mother, Syble Hughes.

Family & friends of **Michael McGlotheren**.

Terry & Michael Lowell in the loss of his mother and **Marlene & Charlie Robinson** in the loss of his sister, Lillian Lowell.

Vicki & Perry Studstill in the death of his mother, Nancy Studstill. Family and friends of **Terry Howe**.

Kelly & Brian Hayes in the loss of his mother, **Joan Hayes**.

Peggy Sagan & family in the loss of her brother, Bobby Faust.

Susan & Steve McClure in the loss of her mother, Zurlan Allegri.

CELEBRATIONS

Glenn & Douglas Robertson on the birth of a son, Harol Caffey Robertson, "Hux". Proud grandparents are **Lucy & Bill Bingham**.

Marcy & **Cary Thrash** on the birth of a daughter, Robin Louise Thrash. Proud grandparents are **Adrianne & Billy Thrash**.

Samantha & Jeff Rosser on the birth of a son, **Declan Henry Rosser**. Older siblings are **Tyler & Natalie Rosser**.

(Names in **BOLD** are church members)



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIALS

The Finance Team happily reports that the contributions and income for 2019 exceeded the budget for 2019. We're also very excited about 2020 with a robust increase in the budget for this year.

ATTENDANCE

	Traditional	The Gathering	Sunday School
1/5	437	254	296
1/12	383	346	314
1/19	308	248	234
1/26	354	327	291

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

The following memorials have been received:

*Harry and Peggy Bennett by
Juanita Smith (Missions)*

*Peggy Bennett by
Mary Henderson*

*Janet Waite by
Juanita Smith (Caring Ministries)
Robert and Gail DeLoach (United Methodist Children's
Home)*

*Randy Bielinski by
Charlie and Carolyn Newcomer (Shepherd's Place)*

*Gwen Robertson by
Jordan and Pam Lieb*

The following honorariums have been received:

*Wanda Mallet by
Juanita Smith*

*Mrs. Elaine Culver by
Robert Gibson*



DR. DARREN MCCLELLAN

Senior Pastor

darren.mcclellan@fairhopeumc.org

“it was a day to
“pray with our legs”
for the sake of others.”

Dear Friends,

How encouraged I was by the sight of all who participated in our recent “Out of the Pew Sunday.” Sincere appreciation goes to our Director of Missions, Jennifer Myrick, and her devoted team for their leadership in organizing this effort. Hearing the call of the Servant in the prophecy of Isaiah, we as a congregation do realize that it is “too light a thing” to merely look after ourselves; in response, we strive also to shine as a “light to the nations” (49:6). Borrowing from the added wisdom of Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel, it was a day to “pray with our legs” for the sake of others.

In keeping with our renewed vision for 2020 to *discover, discern, and engage*, this sort of activity helps to create many opportunities for fulfillment here at Fairhope UMC. With new visitors coming into our fellowship each week, I am glad for any and every chance to connect through service. On January 19, I was out gleaning satsumas for Prodissee Pantry, meeting new friends, laughing at the children who were chasing each other with rubber snakes that had been hidden in the citrus trees—all the while thinking “what a fruitful experience!” (Yes, Preacher puns are the worst, but you get the idea—there is joy in the abundance).

As I write this article, our nation remembers the legacy of one of its most noted servants of God, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As I do every year on this occasion for observance, I have spent much of the day reflecting on Dr. King’s prophetic witness (his challenge to comfortable white preachers especially) and what he would say to the church in America at this present hour. Would it be any different than what he said before?

There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period when the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society.

Things are different now. The contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church’s silent and often vocal sanction of the way things are.

But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club, with no meaning for the twentieth century.

(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter From A Birmingham Jail.” April, 1963)

I am consistently inspired by the character of King’s address here, and humbled by the context from which it was delivered. Still today, the call to “recapture the sacrificial spirit” is one that still deserves to be heeded. How grateful I am for our guest, Deaconess Clara Ester, who will be helping us to reframe this discussion for the present age on February 9. Her address, “The Cost of Moral Leadership,” will be presented in our Community Life Center at 11:00. Following a brief lunch for our guests, the discussion with Clara will continue at 1:15pm in our Fellowship Hall. All local clergy and lay members are invited and welcome to attend.

Please join me in sharing the invitation to this special event, and praying that the call of God will be heard and received.

GRACE TO YOU,

DR. DARREN M. MCCLELLAN



REV. ANTONIO CHRISTIE

Minister of Outreach

antonio.christie@fairhopeumc.org



REV. LAURA PARKER

Minister of Discipleship

laura.parker@fairhopeumc.org

Dear Friends,

Discover. Discern. Engage:

If there's one thing I've discovered in my almost 40 years on this earth it is that we will always be discovering things about ourselves, others, and God.

You often hear the phrase "the more I know, the more I know I know nothing at all." I find this to be true in my own life as I navigate both my personal and my faith journey. Who am I? and Whom does God want me to be? These are questions I continue to wrestle with. The past couple of months we have heard over and over that "We belong to God". "We are God's Beloved Sons and Daughters." With this realization, how do we live into being God's beloved children, with all the gifts and talents that seem to come naturally? How do we choose what God requires of us versus what society demands? Will I need to unlearn some of the things I hold as truth to be what God has called me to do?

I must confess, I continue to unlearn things I hold as truth from my cultural context, past denominational affiliation, and theological convictions. I continue to climb out of society's confinements to become what God wants me to be. I know for sure that God's call on my life is not a glamorous one. We all have hard-holy work to do.

I am grateful for this community which offers a safe, open space we can all discover who we are together, space where we can continue to discern where God is leading us and what role we play as we co-exist together as the Body of Christ.

We are all needed here.
Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but many.

BLESSINGS,

REV. ANTONIO CHRISTIE



Dear Fairhope UMC Friends:

You may have noted in our 2020 publications that we have identified a special focus for this new year. The idea of "2020 Vision" was just low-hanging fruit for your pastors as we sought to center ourselves for our teaching and preaching at the inauguration of this new decade. So, we have called this focus "Be Thou My Vision 2020" and have organized our thoughts around these three themes:

DISCOVER, DISCERN, & ENGAGE.

I am reminded of the lyrics from the song, "Day by Day," from the 1972 musical, Godspell: "Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray...to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly." A process of Discovery allows us to see God more clearly as we learn more about God's revelation to God's people through Jesus Christ. Through Discernment, we draw closer to Christ in a loving relationship and learn to hear God guide us in the choices we make and the directions we travel in our lives. Through Engagement, we follow Christ more "nearly" into his great work of building the Kingdom.

Beginning in Lent this year, we are offering a series of classes that will offer opportunities to move us to deeper places of discipleship as we are invited to participate in small group opportunities facilitated by your pastors and some of our highly trained and gifted lay people. These classes are scheduled at different times during the week for your convenience and we believe will appeal to broad interests among our members. A brief description of these classes is listed as an insert inside this month's LINK and are described in more detail on our website and in a brochure available outside the church office, sanctuary, and the CLC.

I would be happy to talk more with you about these opportunities for small group discipleship, as well, and I encourage each of you to prayerfully see where God may be leading you deeper in your journey to **DISCOVER, DISCERN AND ENGAGE** as you embrace a Vision for 2020 in our church!

BLESSINGS,

REV. LAURA PARKER

WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday

7:55am Worship Choir Rehearsal
8:30am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
9:45am Sunday School
10:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
The Gathering Worship (CLC)
6:00pm - 8:00pm Sunday Night Youth Worship

Monday

10:00am Knit or Crochet for a Purpose (B114)
10:30am Digging Deeper (B215)
1:00pm Drop-in Book Study (Library)
4:00pm Walking by Faith (Parlor)

Tuesday

10:00am - 11:00am Men of the Bible (Women's Study) (B215)
4:00pm Walking by Faith (Parlor)
6:00pm Chancel Bells (Bell Room)

Wednesday

4:00pm Walking by Faith (Parlor)
4:15pm - 5:00pm Children's Choirs
5:00pm - 6:00pm Wednesday Night Suppers
6:00pm - 7:15pm PIER & PIER34
6:00pm - 7:30pm SWIFT
6:00pm Embracing the Chaos (CLC Parlor)
6:00pm Gospel of Luke (CLC Fellowship Hall)
6:00pm Parenting Teenagers (B209)
6:00pm Fast Track Disciple I (B210)
6:00pm Fast Track Disciple III (B212)
6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday

9:00am - 11:30pm Disciple III (B207)

Friday

9:00am - 1:00pm Reservation Nursery
11:00am - 1:00pm Community Café (CLC Fellowship Hall)
5:30pm Al-Anon (CLC)

CARING MINISTRY MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

2/2 - 8:30am Ann's Prayer Partners (Conference Room)
2/3 - 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (B114)
2/4 - 9:30am Caregiver's Support Group (Library)
2/10 - 6:30pm Survivors of Suicide (B207)
2/11 - 9:00am Note Ministry (Workroom)
2/11 - 12:30pm Tough Dogs Support Group (Library)
2/11 - 1:30pm Tough Dogs Chemo Care Bag Assembly (WH)
2/12 - 10:30am Manna On Wheels (Café Area CLC)
2/17 - 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (B114)
2/18 - 9:30am Caregiver's Support Group (Library)
2/25 - 12:30pm Tough Dogs Support Group (Library)
2/26 - 10:30am Manna On Wheels (Café Area CLC)

FAIRHOPE UMC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2/11 - 6:00pm Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)
2/18 - 5:30pm Finance Meeting (Conference Room)
2/18 - 6:00pm Communications Team Meeting (CLC Parlor)
2/19 - 6:30am fm³ Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

2/16 - 9:45am Coffee with the Pastors (CLC Parlor)
Visitors and regular attendees are invited to join us in the parlor and find out more about Fairhope UMC's ministries & the next steps for membership.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

2/5 - Fried chicken, seasoned potatoes, broccoli, roll, dessert
2/12 - Baked spaghetti casserole, salad bar, garlic bread, dessert
2/19 - Taco salad bar, dessert
2/26 - Poppyseed chicken casserole, fruit salad, green beans, dessert

Wednesday night suppers are served from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
Please let us know you are coming by calling the church office, 251-928-1148 by noon on Monday.

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP - IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!

MISSION DATES: May 22/23-May 31-June 1st

2/10 6:00pm Team Meeting (Room TBA)



ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

12:00PM-FUMC SANCTUARY
4:00PM-FAIRHOPE PIER
6:30PM-FUMC SANCTUARY

RECREATION MINISTRY

jamie.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org

PICKLEBALL CLINICS FOR BEGINNERS

The Bama Beach Pickleball Club will be holding two CLINICS for those between the ages of 9 and 95 who would like to learn how to play the game of pickleball – the fastest growing sport in the USA.

The first clinic will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, from 2 to 4:30pm at The Church of Christ in Gulf Shores. The second clinic will be on February 29th from 2 to 4:30pm. The Church is located at 2414 West 1st Street in Gulf Shores.

These clinics are for new players or for those who have played maybe once or twice. You will learn the basics of the game and we expect after two clinics, you'll be on your way to being a regular player at the many indoor and outdoor venues in Baldwin County.

If interested:

1) call or email Sam Strite 251-965- 5122, samcstrite@gmail.com to reserve your spot, 2) come to the church wearing comfortable playing clothes and tennis shoes and 3) bring \$3 per person. We will have paddles and balls for you to use.



UPWARD BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH

Upward Basketball started back in December and it has been a great season. This year we had 143 families participating, including 33 volunteer coaches. The mission of Upward is to promote the discovery of Jesus through sports. Upward Sports stresses biblical values—such as leadership, teamwork, integrity and respect—over and above winning. The coaches take time in the midst of every practice to lead a short devotional for their team. Games are every Friday night and Saturday morning at the CLC Gym. The current season ended January 25.



CLC STEWARD SUBSTITUTES NEEDED - WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE ON A "CALL LIST?"

If you are looking for an area to serve, we are in need of people who are willing to be a substitute for our regularly scheduled volunteers at the CLC Welcome Desk. You would be on the "call list" if needed when a Steward is absent. Stewards assist in check-in and check-out of participants, check-out equipment and provide hospitality and assistance to our members and guests. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michael Spicer at 928-1148 (ext. 241).

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER OPERATING HOURS:

Mon. & Tues. 7am-8pm • Wed. 7am-5pm • Thurs. 7am-7pm • Fri. 7am-6pm





ADULT

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

FOR LENT AND EASTER



FAIRHOPE
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www.fairhopeumc.org

BE THOU MY VISION 2020: DISCOVER, DISCERN, ENGAGE

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Discovery allows us to see God more clearly as we learn more about God's revelation to God's people through Jesus Christ. Through **Discernment**, we draw closer to Christ in a loving relationship and learn to "hear" God guide us in the choices we make and the directions we travel in our lives. Through **Engagement**, we follow Christ more "nearly" into his great work of building the Kingdom.

*During our Lenten and Easter season this year, we are offering a series of classes that will offer opportunities to move us to deeper places of discipleship as we participate in small group opportunities facilitated by your pastors and some of our highly trained and gifted lay people. These classes are scheduled at different times during the week for your convenience and we believe will appeal to broad interests among our members. Please prayerfully consider where God may be leading you further along in your journey to **DISCOVER, DISCERN AND ENGAGE** as you embrace a Vision for 2020 this year.*

Rev. Laura Parker,
Minister of Discipleship

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES:

Living into the Answers:

We hear these questions often and there are those that are certain of the answers while others quietly struggle within their relationship with God. These questions dance around our understanding of DISCERNMENT. "Discernment is paying attention to where God meets us in our human experience. And while it may prompt us to respond in the form of a decision, its primary movement is one of listening." (Andy Otto) Scripture, prayer, and discussion will accompany this workbook study. *Facilitated by Rev. Cheryl Bray. Class begins March 4, 6:00-7:15pm and continues through April.*

Cost of book: \$8

Creative Word: Join with Rev. Antonio Christie in this five-week process of discovery and discernment as you engage the scriptures through reflection, meditation, and the use of art. You don't need to be an artist to attend. *Facilitated by Rev. Antonio Christie. Wednesdays, beginning March 4th, 6:00-7:15 pm. Cost of Materials: \$25.*

Creation Care: In the Beginning, A Song of Creation: What is Creation Care? Who practices it? Where do we encounter it in our Methodist heritage? How can creation-care practices heal people and bond faith communities? Using different parts of the tree-of-life as a metaphor each week, the ecological functions of each part will demonstrate the unity of the inquiry. Resources and readings will be assigned in advance each week for the following session; the format is conversational. *Facilitated by Ran Nisbett. Begins Wednesday, March 11th for 6 sessions, 6:00-7:15 pm, ending on Earth Day, April 22nd.*

OTHER OFFERINGS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Discernment: A book study by Henry Nouwen.

The premise of this book is that God is always speaking to us—individually and as the people of God. Discernment is the spiritual practice that accesses and seeks to understand what God is trying to say. *Facilitated by Rev. Laura Parker. Begins Monday, March 2nd, 10:30-11:45 am for 5 sessions. Cost of book: \$12.*

Gifted2Serve: A Unique Way to Discover Your Spiritual Gifts and Pathway to Service.

This two-part class will guide you through a journey of self-discovery using an assessment tool that uncovers your unique personality traits and the innate spiritual gifts God has given you. An individual consultation will be provided upon completion of the class. *Facilitated by Michele Manasco, PhD, assisted by Katie Turner and Rev. Laura Parker. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, March 10th and 17th from 6-8:00 pm. Participants must register by March 4th, so that you will have time to complete an on-line assessment prior to the first class.*

Focus on Prayer: A Means of Seeking a More Intimate Presence with God. Prayer is an incredible gift from God that allows us amazing access in our relationship with Christ. What better place to journey into Discovery and Discernment? These six-sessions will be discussion based with a moderate amount of outside reading. *Facilitated by Nancy Dumas. Begins Thursday, March 12th, 10:00-11:30 am. Class is limited to 7-12 participants.*

On the Road with St. Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless Hearts:

A book study by James K.A. Smith. As the author describes his own work, "this is not a book about Saint Augustine. In a way, it's a book Augustine has written about each of us...(He) is the patron saint of restless hearts--a guide who has been there, asked our questions, and knows our frustrations and failed pursuits. Augustine spent a lifetime searching for his heart's true home, and he can help us find our way." *Facilitated by Dr. Darren McClellan. Begins Friday, February 28th, at 1 pm and will be open-ended depending upon the desires of the group. Cost of book: \$18*

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE FOR THESE CLASSES.
CLASS SIZE WILL BE LIMITED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE
EFFECTIVE DISCUSSION AND GROUP INTERACTION.
MORE EXTENSIVE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS CAN BE FOUND
ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

FACILITATORS FOR OUR LENT AND EASTER OFFERINGS:

Rev. Cheryl Bray, facilitating "Living into the Answers," is an ordained Deacon in the AWF Conference and has been a member of Fairhope UMC since 1999. The owner of Bray Counseling Services in Daphne, Rev. Bray is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Alabama, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in Florida and supervises counselors in training. She is currently enrolled at Spring Hill College in the Spiritual Direction Training Program, and upon completion, will be a Certified Spiritual Director.

Facilitating our "Focus on Prayer" is **Nancy Dumas**, a relatively new member of Fairhope UMC, who moved here to be close to family after the loss of her husband. She has an MA degree in Spiritual Formation from Asbury Theological Seminary and serves on the Board of Trustees for that institution. She holds a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Archdiocesan of New Orleans Spirituality Center, and is currently studying at Creighton University Christian Spirituality Program: Spiritual Direction.

Dr. Richard A. "Ran" Nisbett will be leading our "Creation Care" class. Ran earned a PhD in Anthropology and MSPH in the Infectious Diseases of Poverty. He has worked extensively beyond the end of the road on tropical community ecology, biodiversity conservation and tropical community health in a half-dozen countries in Africa, the Circum-Caribbean and Southeast Asia. Ran has partnered with diverse faith communities and organizations, particularly African Methodists and the Liberian Annual Conference. After living in Liberia and working the West African Ebola Epidemic with Methodist colleagues in 2013-2014, he retired to Fairhope with his wife Nancy in 2017. Since 2019, he has been a Resident Fellow of the Sewanee School of Theology focusing on creation care initiatives.

We are excited to offer our Gifted2Serve class again this Spring, led once again by **Dr. Michele Manasco and Katie Turner. Michelle** obtained her Ph.D. in 1998 from the University of Alabama in the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology, an M.A. in Health Studies from the University of Alabama and a B.S. from Samford University in Birmingham. For over 20 years, she has assisted individuals and corporations through transition. She has expertise in the areas of college advising, career coaching, change management and employee selection. **Katie** has her B.S. from University of Alabama and is a published writer and blogger. Her blog, fourundertwo.blog chronicles her experiences parenting identical triplets and a daughter under two years old. She is a trained Stephen Minister and leads a small group at Homestead Village. **Rev. Parker** will assist in this class as well.

*We are excited about the line-up of talented and gifted facilitators we have assembled for our Spring offerings. Along with your pastors, **Dr. Darren McClellan, Rev. Laura Parker and Rev. Antonio Christie**, they look forward to spending time with you this Spring as you commit yourself to a time of Discovery, Discernment and Engagement!*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

michelle.graham@fairhopeumc.org

WHAT'S WITH THE ASHES?

Ash Wednesday, which follows Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras Day), falls on February 26. This is the beginning of the church season called Lent – the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter not including the Sundays in between (February 26 – April 11). During this time, we think about how we've disappointed God with our sins. We focus on ways we can change and do things differently to become closer to Jesus. To help us with that, we remember what Jesus did for us when he suffered and died on the cross.

In Bible times, people who were sorry for their sins wore sackcloth (rough, itchy cloth) and sat in ashes or put ashes on their bodies. This was to show others that they were sorry for the ways they disappointed God. While we don't do this today, our pastors will use ashes to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads during our Ash Wednesday service (6:30pm, Sanctuary). When others see the cross, they know we are followers of Jesus.

Did you know the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday services are saved and used on Ash Wednesday? As the branches are burned and change to ash, we are to think how we can change to become more like Jesus. Our kids in Pier34 will burn the branches and prepare the ashes on Wednesday, February 12.



Pier34 burning palm branches last year



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2/9: Children's Church will not be held due to the special combined 11:00 worship service (see [page back page](#))

2/12: Pier34 burns palm branches for Ash Wednesday service

2/19: SWIFT Mission Night

2/26: Pier & Pier34 will not meet; SWIFT will attend the Ash Wednesday service together (meet as usual at 6:00 in CLC, attend service at 6:30 in sanctuary, pick up as usual in CLC)

COMING SUMMER 2020 - - SAVE THE DATES!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Rocky Railway –

Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

Monday - Friday, June 1 - 5

8:45am - 12:15pm



Elementary Program: Rising 1st - 6th grade

Preschool Program: 3 & 4 year olds of on-site volunteers and rising Kindergarten

Nursery Program: for on-site volunteers only (must have an older child in preschool or elementary program)

BLUE LAKE ELEMENTARY SUMMER CAMP – ENERGIZE

Monday - Friday, June 15 - 19

For those who completed 3rd, 4th and 5th grade this year!



We'll let you know when online registration opens!

Early rate \$320 / Late rate \$340 – additional \$50 for charter bus transportation and snacks on bus.

Scholarships available / Adults needed to chaperone – contact Michelle Graham.

MOPS

If you are the mother of a child, newborn - kindergarten, join us

Monday, February 10

9:30am - 11:30am

Christian Life Center / 2nd Floor Loft



MOPS meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the school year for fellowship, encouragement and fun. **Note:** There will not be a meeting on February 24 due to Mardi Gras break. For more information, follow Fairhope MOPS on Facebook and contact fairhopemops@yahoo.com

RESERVATION NURSERY

Fridays: 9:00am-1:00pm

\$20 per child | Ages 6 months-3 years

The spaces are by reservation, so there are always openings! Extra spots available this month in the baby room, ages 6 months to 18 months. Reservations accepted by email starting on the 10th of each month.

For availability, contact Tina:

tina.wettermark@fairhopeumc.org

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

missions@fairhopeumc.org

OUT OF THE PEW, INTO THE WORLD DAY OF SERVICE



THANK YOU for SERVING!

Together we packaged 1,000 Hygiene Kits for Project Homeless Connect, delivered over 120 flower arrangements to Homebound and Community Friends, prepared over 150 snacks for Rotary Youth Club, delivered 300 meals to Homebound, Fairhope, Daphne, & Spanish Fort Police Departments, APHEA & Community, painted fire hydrants, painted 9/11 Memorial for Fairhope PD, 31 people donated blood, satsumas were picked and donated to Prodissee Pantry & Ecumenical Ministries, & made pillow cases for foster care children.

MUSIC MINISTRY

tom.hood@fairhopeumc.org

I hope everyone had a chance to catch their breath after a very busy holiday season. I want to personally thank everyone involved that made so many programs possible! I would like to say a special thank you to Mitch Johnston who led our 9pm Christmas Eve service. It was such a nice experience to have that moment of tranquility before heading off to other Christmas festivities. We closed with a very entertaining yet at the same time edifying epiphany service. What an entertaining way to tell the story of the wise men visiting Jesus. Through the course of the evening we learned there were many wise cracking wise men, inflatable cows and just about every type of animal one can think of that paid the holy family a visit that night.

Now we are beginning a new year and that that means new opportunities and chances to serve. The beginning of the New Year is always a good time to try something new. For instance singing in the church choir! Anytime is a good time to join either our Worship or Chancel choir!

Our children's choir program has started up again and we have multiple opportunities for them. They will be singing in our special Jazz service on February 23 and on May 3 they will be performing the musical "Are We There Yet?" This musical is a fun take on Moses and the exodus from Egypt. We are still casting and parts are open to anyone in the community that may be interested.

Be sure to join us February 23 for our special Jazz Sunday service at 11am in the sanctuary. We are still getting positive feedback from last year's service and are so excited to make this an annual tradition. Come and hear some very talented local musicians and worship with us to some familiar hymns.

Finally we are making plans for Holy Week and Easter services and are always looking for more voices. As the saying goes "all God's creatures have a place in the choir!"

Blessings,
Tom Hood
Director of Music Ministries



YOUTH MINISTRY

rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MARCH 29 | 6PM | SANCTUARY



CARING MINISTRIES

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org

Community Support Offerings

- **Seeking Peace Grief Group** meets weekly on Mondays from 2:00-3:00pm, Ann's office. Grief comes in many different forms whether it is physical death or the loss of a dream. Grief recovery does not go in a particular order so it can be beneficial to explore and work through the strong feelings of one's loss to bring about peace and wholeness.
- **Survivors of Suicide** is a group of individuals who have experienced one of the most devastating losses in their lives. Those in this group have a real heart of compassion and true understanding of loss. The group meets the second and fourth Mondays in Rm 207 of the Education building at 6:30pm.
- **Caregivers Support Group** meets to be supportive to persons who are caring for loved ones 24/7. This exhausting role weighs on the caregiver and hope is needed to persevere. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month in the church library at 9:30am.
- **Tough Dogs Cancer Support Group** grew out of the love of 2 women who were fighting cancer and wanted to be supportive to others in their cancer journey. It is a great place to get resources and support for the individuals health journey. The group meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 12:30pm in the church library.
- **Al-Anon** is a support group for families who have a family member or friend who struggles with substance addiction. They meet every Friday at 5:30pm in the CLC.

Save these dates...

January - February Birthday Celebration



**Sunday
February 16
1:30 - 3:00pm
Ann's Home
(101 Royal Lane)**

RSVP to the church office

COMING MARCH 10! MERRY METHODIST LUNCHEON



Opportunities to Serve:

Prayer Ministry

Use your gifts and find your place of service.

You will be blessed and grow in your faith by your obedience to Him.

Prayer Room

Praying over the prayer cards in the prayer room each day. The Prayer Room is located on the left side as you enter the front doors of the sanctuary. You can come anytime during office hours so this is a flexible area of service.

Contact Nancy Myrick at
251-928-1868

Prayer Email Team

Be a part of the Prayer Email Team to pray over needs, concerns and blessings.

Contact Mary Lucas at 753-1820
marylucas501@gmail.com

Prayer Note Writing

Sending notes of response to prayer card request. Gayle Lawrence and Lynn Roberts are leading this ministry.

One on One Prayer

We are inviting volunteers to pray with individuals following morning worship services or during communion in *The Gathering* worship service.

If you have the gift and heart for praying with others, please contact:
Dr. Ann Pearson 251-928-1148,
Gayle Lawrence 251-517-7419

February Birthdays

- 2/01** Bealle Dawson, Dona Cooksey, Hadley Turner
- 2/02** Jane Barton, Graham Huguley, Randy Fidler, Paula Flowers, Paula Wilson
- 2/03** Marshall Shoemaker, Mary Smith, Barry Baskin
- 2/04** Rick Chastain, Linda Smith, Hugh Ashurst, Shannon Hesse
- 2/05** Becky Jones, Kelly McGriff, Rose Keel, Melissa Bicker, Ava White
- 2/06** David Pliska
- 2/07** Jacob Graham, Paul Bullington, Kristin Capstraw, Adelaide Robertson, Ian Sullivan
- 2/08** Mary Parsons, Harry Smith, Kat McCaghren
- 2/09** Lisa Calhoun, Margaret Cunningham, Waters Norris, Jim Parker, Michael Spicer, Chandler Wesley
- 2/10** Bo Coleman, Epsie Dorman, Linda Stringfellow, Lois Alspach
- 2/12** Betty Stejskal, Candy Clark, Kim Gibson, Lawson Hellmich, Amity Jones
- 2/13** Jessica Connick, Mary Beth Price, Larry Smith, Randy Crocker, Jaime Cooper, Terry Lowell
- 2/14** Anna Word, Jimmy Taylor, Mattie Will, Celeste Neil, Mimi Smith, Tom Hood
- 2/15** Tommy Harris, Robert Long, Hayes Adams, Cindy Vines, Robert Brown, Florrie Adams, Greyson White, Bobby Long
- 2/16** Clay Calhoun, Terri Thompson, Susan Boteler, Zachary Wilson, Jean Haney, Tait Moore, Sarah-Nolan Jernigan, Spencer Davis, John David Gardner, Robert Grant, Diana Justis, Tom Slone, Emma Waldhour
- 2/17** David Barr, Bill Lambert, Morgan Fleming, Carson Myrick, Lynn White, Cary Thrash
- 2/18** Martin Myrick, Adan Rivenbark, Charles St. Pierre, Stuart Gay, Colin Richardson, Aidan Marks, Ginny Laird, Grace Jones, Scott McCaghren
- 2/19** Whieldon Smith, Jeff White, Warren Waters
- 2/20** Amber Sparks, Betty Miller, Patterson Branyon, Paige Roe, Susan Koenig, Zera Roussel, Peyton Richardson
- 2/21** Dennis Sherrin, Stephen Connick, Daisy Gilbert, Lee Turner, Allyson Dyas, Jennifer McKnight, Lyda Murray, Brian Richardson
- 2/22** Mac Morrison, Lillibet Taul, Randy Lamb, Dillion McKnight
- 2/23** Hannah Dees, Christian St. Pierre, Caroline Hill
- 2/24** Steve Odom, Greg McRae, Campbell Olds, Ellis Ann Allgood, Izzy Pike
- 2/25** Jack Burrell, Tamra Carraway, Sue Oberg, Vivian Glass, Mady Allman, Henry Engeriser
- 2/26** Jerry Dees, Robyn Koser, Becky Bennett, Will Farrow, Sue Fitzpatrick, Anna Elliot Dorman, Betty Carter
- 2/27** Alex Beaman, Gabrielle Glass, Holli Parks, Ann Carothers
- 2/28** Trinity Lamb, Sage Myrick
- 2/29** Brian Hayes, Houston Glass

NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISM



Peggy Ellis & Jim Sheffield
31126 Oakleigh Drive
Spanish Fort, AL
Joined 12/22/2019



Baptism of
William Chandler Wesley

Son of
Katie Campbell Wesley
Baptism 12/22/2019



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fairhopeumc.org

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FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA 36532
251-928-1148

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DEACONESS CLARA ESTER

“The Cost
of Moral Leadership”

On Sunday, February 9, Fairhope UMC is proud to welcome Deaconess Clara Ester as a special guest speaker. An activist in the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis, Tennessee, Ms. Ester was on the scene at the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968, the day that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Since then, she has remained steadfast in her witness for Christ as a passionate advocate for the rights of all persons; especially those in dire need of God's love and justice.

Clara Ester was one of the founding members of Habitat for Humanity of Mobile and People United to Advance the Dream. She is the former executive director of Dumas Wesley Community Center, a United Methodist Women national mission institution located in the Crichton neighborhood of Mobile, AL. In 2016, she was elected to serve as the Vice President of the National United Methodist Women.

For Clara Ester, mission and evangelism are more than supplying goods and services and sharing the Gospel. They are about letting God show through your actions, taking the time to get to know our neighbors and caring for one another. All are welcome to join together at 11:00 am in the CLC to hear Clara's address "The Cost of Moral Leadership." Following this service, we extend the invitation to other local church leaders to join us for lunch immediately following the service and then to continue this conversation with Clara at 1:15 pm that afternoon. All are welcome!

FEBRUARY 9 | COMBINED 11AM SERVICE | CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

***PLEASE NOTE: 8:30 TRADITIONAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AS USUAL**

We exist to **LOVE BOLDLY**, casting the **LIGHT** of **JESUS** into the world.