



FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Share the joy of the Lord!

Delight in God's goodness!

Praise God who gives each person gifts to be nurtured and shared.

Lord, we thank you for these gifts!

Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, we gratefully acknowledge the gifts you have given to each of us for service in your world. Gifts of teaching, healing, inspiring, challenging and creating are all among the myriad of things you have placed in our lives. Direct our lives to use these gifts as we reach out to our neighbor and nation, witnessing to your love and your healing mercy. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

HYMN

Forward Through the Ages #555

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine; gifts in differing measure,
hearts of one accord, manifold the service, one the sure reward.

Refrain

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light; for it we must labor,
till our faith is sight. Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died. *[Refrain]*

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall; in each loss or triumph
lose or triumph all. Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal. *[Refrain]*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

Here I Am Lord (arr. by Craig Courtney)
Tom Hood, Soloist, Natalie Woodrow, Flute & John Richardson, Piano

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord;
by your Spirit let us see your wonder.
For your justice outruns our sense of fairness;
your love overwhelms our deepest affections.
Open our eyes, unstop our ears,
and show us your most excellent way;
for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON

"An Investment Strategy for the Kingdom"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

A Charge to Keep I Have #413

A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
a never dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill,
O may it all my pow'rs engage to do my Master's will!
Arm me with watchful care as in Thy sight to live,
and now Thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!
Help me to watch and pray, and still on Thee rely,
O let me not my trust betray, but press to realms on high.

SENDING FORTH

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Grandparents and Great-Grandparents, Ann & Bill Calhoun, for their 84th Birthdays in November and July. We love you! Evan, Jennifer, Carson, Harper, Reece, and Sage Myrick

Assisting in Worship Today:

Rev. Laura Parker, Emily Garner

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson, Natalie Woodrow

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

Media and Sound: Kaitlyn Hunter, Ann Lyles Tapscott, Robert Hammon

The Gathering Service

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

OPENING SONGS

*Learning
Trust In You*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The time for harvest is close at hand.
What have you done with the gifts God has given you?
We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.
Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.
We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

BABY RECOGNITION (names and pictures are on the next page)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC *Take My Life (and Let It Be)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections.
Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus 'sake.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 90:1-12

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON *"Living Boldly"* Rev. Ontonio Christie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING SONG

Assisting in Worship Today:
Rev. Ontonio Christie, Tina Wettermark
Music: Shea White and Praise Band
Acolyte: Emery Capstraw
Media and Sound: Robert Hammon, Jamie Waldhour, Amelia Koser

2020 Baby Recognition



Lucas Price Broussard



Mattie Gabel Canida



Etta Mastin Chandler



Frances Elizabeth Corley



Georgie Frances Ellenburg



Isaac Jordan Hanks



William Stringer Knight



William Lofton Leftwich



Baker Portman Pierce



Sawyer Mason Rice



Alexandra Bradley Robinson



Declan Henry Rosser



Leonard Arthur Tucker



Nealie Rhea White



Emmi Josephine Wyrick



Dear Friends,

Welcome to worship! How glad I am that you have chosen to worship with us!

For the next several Sundays between now and the start of Advent, we will be listening carefully for the Word of God in a series of teachings from Jesus in the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel. The underlying anticipation of the coming Kingdom creates a definite sense of urgency in these texts. How do we wait for this Kingdom? What do we do in the meantime? What is at stake for us in

the world as it is? Clearly, there are decisions to be made for all of us. As our society is spinning with competing claims of chaos, various versions of reality, and divergent discussions of speculation and distrust, how hungry we are for a coherent word of grace and truth!

In in this brief series the *Stories That Jesus Still Tells*, we will reconsider the course of action for those who not only want to *know* Jesus, but who desire to *behave* like him too.

As a Reminder:

We are still making plans for our annual Thanksgiving Day service with Pastor Casandra Boykin and our sisters and brothers from the African Universal Church. Truth be told, it will look different this year, as that congregation has suffered significant damage from Hurricane Sally. As we seek ways to walk alongside them at this challenging time, Fairhope UMC will be collecting an additional love offering for the African Universal Church between now and Thanksgiving to assist them with their current insurance deductible on building repairs. Whatever generous level of support we are able to collect from the congregation, we hope to match with resources from our current Caring Ministries Fund. More details on the actual Thanksgiving Day service will be communicated as soon as they are finalized, but you might wish to "pencil-in" a gathering at 9 am on November 26.

Even in this season of immense challenges, I am confident of the Spirit's work among us. It is good to be the church of Jesus Christ here at Fairhope UMC!

Yours,
Darren

Prayers for the People

Medical personnel and first responders

Celebration:

Gail Phillips has a new great grandson, Phillip Glyn Weaver III (Trip) born November 4th in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Proud parents are Brittany and Phillip.

Here is a brief summary of our current stewardship:

Offering Received November 8 - \$44,003

(Online - \$15,909 ~ Mail/Personal delivery - \$28,094)

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

In-Person Worship Reservations will 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 Traditional (Sanctuary)

11:00am Traditional (Sanctuary)

11:00am *The Gathering* (CLC GYM)

Make your reservations at <https://www.fairhopeumc.org/worshipreservations/>

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEETING IN-PERSON

9:45-10:40 AM ON SUNDAYS

Basics - B217

Young couples parenting young children or newly married.

Teaching rotation with varied topics.

Foundations - B215

Parents of children and youth. Teaching rotation with varied topics.

Pathfinders - B210

Multi-generational class with in-depth Bible study. Facilitated by Linda Smith. Beginning a new study on 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.

Homecoming Class - Wesley Hall (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Sundays in November)

Adults 50+, teaching rotation with primary emphasis on Bible study. Will begin a study on Zechariah. Participants may join from home by Zoom. Contact Brenda Robinson for more information: bgodbold@hiwaay.net

Living Word - B207

Ages span several decades and singles and couples faithfully participate. In-depth Bible study facilitated by Doug Garner. Zoom link available.

Grace and Peace - Fellowship Hall (CLC)

Adults of varying ages and stages will find open, honest, thoughtful conversation in a place of radical hospitality. Shared leadership. Zoom link available.

Contact the church for more information about these classes that will continue to meet exclusively 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.

Coming Soon:

Discovery Class is considering whether or not to meet in-person and information will be forthcoming. This is a welcoming group of senior adults, mostly retired, facilitated by Cecil Christenberry.



A note from Rev. Laura:

Monday morning devotionals 9:30am THIS Monday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98533273696>

For information on how to get started on

Zoom, [click here](#).



It is hard to believe the Christmas Season is already upon us. We can all agree that it has been quite the year of disappointments, discouragements, hurricanes, and far too many uncertainties. That's why we are excited to invite you to get into the Christmas spirit with us. This year, we will be putting up Christmas trees around the church campus, along Section Street and Morphy Avenue.

We are looking for 12-15 small groups to take on the task of providing ornaments and decorating a tree. Whether it's your Sunday School Class, Youth Group, Book Club, Mops Group, we need you. We will have a Christmas Tree decorating party on Wednesday, December 2, where each group will gather, and decorate their tree. Each tree will then be placed along the street, to share the Christmas spirit with our community.

Please call the church office at 251-928-1148 to sign up your team by November 20, 2020.



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...



Prayer Ministry continues to faithfully pray for our church family as we move into the days ahead. Know that the team is always ready to lift your needs, concerns and praises. Prayer is the connection we can all share with our Heavenly Father. Your FUMC church family is here for you. Let us know how we can help you today.

Contact the Pastoral Staff or Ann Pearson through the church office at 251-928-1148 or by email, ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Tough Dogs needs more chemo hats for our cancer patients. If you can knit or crochet please help us fill our Chemo Care Bags for our chemo patients. Contact ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or mary.hodgkins@gmail.com.



Fruit Baskets

Our fruit baskets deliveries were a BIG hit for the African Universal Church and Country Place Senior Living facility. Unexpected blessings are some of the best gifts! A big THANK YOU goes to the Church for providing such tremendous support enabling the team to make almost 75 bags of fruit for our neighbors in the community.



The Lord's Pantry

Your response to restocking the Lord's Pantry has been wonderful! Thank you FUMC family for ALWAYS being so responsive and generous with your donations. This will get us started to meet the needs during this holiday season.



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.

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.

Pier & Pier34 meet today from 4:00-5:30pm in Wesley Hall (Education Building). Masks will be worn by all children and adult volunteers. Pier is for K-2nd grade and Pier34 is for 3rd&4th graders.

Note: This is our final Sunday to meet this year. We will evaluate and let you know what the new year brings!

WEDNESDAYS FOR CHILDREN!

SWIFT (5th&6th graders) will meet November 18th from 6:30-7:45pm in Wesley Hall (Education Building).

SAVE THE DATES! *Details on these events coming soon!*

Wednesday, December 2 – Come and Go Christmas Tree Decorating Party (K-6th grade), 5-7pm in CLC Fellowship Hall (*this is part of the church-wide event – see details in bulletin; each age group will make ornaments to go on their tree – K-2nd, 3rd&4th, 5th&6th)*)

Saturday, December 5 – Outdoor Children's Christmas Event – including pictures with Santa, 8:30-10:30am in church parking lot (*this event will replace our annual Breakfast at the Manger this year*)

Sunday, December 13 – Third Grade Bible Presentation, front lawn following the 11:00 worship services (*letter to parents has been mailed*)

Student Ministries...

THIS SUNDAY!

Youth Sunday School

Time: 10:00 am ~ Meet: CLC Attic (7th-12th grade)

Sunday Night Youth Worship

Time: 6:00-7:45 pm ~ Meet: CLC (7th-12th grade)

Sunday night youth is back! Don't miss out for worship, games, and new series called, **"It's Personal."** Plus, free time to hang out with and make some new friends. We CAN'T wait to see you all this weekend! Special Note: We WILL NOT have youth supper until further notice. Please plan to eat before or after we are done with the youth program.

JR & SR GIRLS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, October 27 @ 7:30 pm//FUMC Campus

Our junior and senior girls are invited to join us for Tuesday night in- person Bible study each week on Women of the Bible. If you are interested, please email rachael.waldhour@fairhopeumc.org for more details.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Wednesday's @ 6:30-7:45 pm//CLC// Groups divided by grade.

Check your GROUPME for additional information weekly.

***Please note we **WILL** meet this week 11/11/20.

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!

**ALL ITEMS CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE CLC KITCHEN
STARTING NOV 20TH!
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!**

**WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING HAMS &
TURKEYS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES**

**CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK
MISSIONS@FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG**



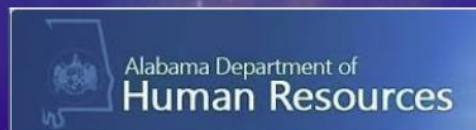
Angel Tree Christmas Giving Our Angels are Coming!

We are partnering with Ecumenical Ministries & DHR helping to provide Christmas for children & elderly in our community.

Our children & elderly angels will be available the end of November.

Angels will be available to pick up outside the church office & in the CLC. We are also happy to email you the information if you are not able to make it by the church.

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 OR CONTACT JENNIFER MYRICK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!**