



FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

155 S SECTION ST | 251-928-1148 | WWW.FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Parker, Associate Pastor

Cathi Parish, Minister of Evangelism

Dr. Debora Bishop, District Superintendent

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Conference

A Stephen Ministry Church - Christ Caring for People Through People

STEWARDSHIP

YTD through October 2023 - \$1,651,637

We planned for 76% of the budget through October.

We have received 73% of the budget through October.

Thank you to all who have already submitted a commitment card pledging your regular giving toward our 2024 Ministry Budget. As of today, the church has received 215 pledge cards totaling \$1,392,900.00 of the required \$2,382,991.00. If you have not yet submitted your 2024 pledge card, we hope you will do so today as together we live into our covenant to serve Christ faithfully at Fairhope UMC through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. You can pledge online at www.fairhopeumc.org

ENDOWMENT



*Fairhope United Methodist
Permanent Endowment Fund*

A LASTING ACT OF LOVE AND A STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Your church fully supports an Endowment Ministry. Donors who contribute to the endowment show their love for Fairhope UMC and understand that their gifts positively impact Church ministry and mission programs in perpetuity. For more information, scan the QR Code or contact one of our Endowment Committee members.



PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE...

MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND FIRST RESPONDERS

MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Gail Phillips, Hattie Kuglar

SYMPATHY:

Family and friends of Bob Vincent.

Ruth & Eddie Bo Rogers in the loss of his mother, Catherine Rogers.

BIRTHS:

Krissy & Matt Derrenbacher in the birth of a daughter, Regan Sue Derrenbacher, born on November 19.



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS

Welcome Dinner

December 13 | 6:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Deadline to RSVP

December 10





FAIRHOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023 ~ 8:30 and 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

(J.S. Bach)

INTROIT

Canticle of the Turning

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Please sign the registration pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In those days, before the final coming of Christ in glory, there will be mighty signs.

They will be seen in the heavens and on earth.

They will remind us of God's eternal presence and power.

We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Therefore, let our hearts be glad and our souls rejoice!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship.

We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever. Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

LET US PRAY

God of justice and peace, bring your dazzling light into our hearts and spirits that we might see the glorious opportunities we have to serve you. Help us to see that following your mandate to feed the hungry, bring nourishment to those who thirst, offer clothing to those in need, visit the sick and those who are imprisoned, welcome the stranger – any activity of service – is an act of great privilege and joy. We praise you for the light of your son, Jesus Christ, who boldly bids us care for each other and become those who would bring good news of peace for all. AMEN

Brandon Marcus (8:30AM) | The Moore Family: Wills, Tracy, Maxine & Alex (11:00AM)

✠HYMN RESPONSE #209

Blessed Be the God of Israel (verse 1)

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠HYMN OF PRAISE #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

✠THE APOSTLES' CREED

✠GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

(arr. Foreman)

✠DOXOLOGY

Children's Church will not be held today. On the first Sunday of each month, children stay for the entire service so they can worship and receive Holy Communion with their families. Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May our generation be attentive to Your word so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may remember your ways, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

"Wait...and Watch"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH #13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD / GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

CLOSING HYMN #202

People Look East

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS ~ (8:30AM)

Laura & Stan White

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Minor

(J.G. Walther)

✠ Stand as able

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker **Liturgist:** Dr. Gene Lammers

Acolytes: Cate Richardson (8:30) Evan Jones (11:00)

Communion Servers: Helen & Bennie Ingram, Jolene & James Schmitt (8:30) | Elizabeth Sandoe (11:00)

Music Team: Tom Hood, John Richardson, Chancel Choir **Media and Sound:** Toby Monckton & Wright Tapscott

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor and appreciation of Katie Robertson by Mary & Van Finger

Music notes: The first Sunday of Advent is the very beginning of a new Christian year. The prelude today is J.S. Bach's (1685-1750) arrangement of Philipp Nicolai's text inspired by the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). Read the English version of this hymn in our hymnal at number 720 - "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying." J.G. Walther's (1684-1748) Toccata in C Minor rounds out the service by connecting Advent 1 back to Christ the King Sunday and reminding us as we wait and watch that it's not time for Christmas yet.



"Canticle of the Turning" is a contemporary paraphrase of Mary's words in Luke 1:46-55, which echo earlier prophetic songs from the Old Testament. The hymn uses an Irish folk song for an upbeat, lively setting of Mary's song, full of hope and determination.

We'll be learning this song together in each week of our worship through this season of Advent.

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!*

Advent & Christmas Schedule...

DECEMBER 3 ~ 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Traditional Worship | 8:30 & 11:00 am | Sanctuary
The Gathering Contemporary Worship | 11:00 am | CLC
Kid's Choir Musical | 4:00 pm | Sanctuary
Drive Thru Nativity | 5:00 pm - 7 pm | Fairhope Pier

DECEMBER 10 ~ 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

A Celtic Christmas Celebration | 8:30 & 11:00 am | Sanctuary
The Gathering Contemporary Worship | 11:00 am | CLC

DECEMBER 13

Welcome Dinner for New Members & Visitors | 6:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 17 ~ 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Traditional Worship | 8:30 & 11:00 am | Sanctuary
Christmas Celebration @ The Gathering | 11:00 am | CLC

DECEMBER 24 ~ 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Traditional Worship | 8:30 am | Sanctuary
Nursery available for children 6 months to 4 years of age. No Children's Church.

DECEMBER 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Contemporary Candlelight Service with Communion | 11:00 am | CLC
Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion | 3:00 pm | Sanctuary
Contemporary Candlelight Service with Communion | 3:30 pm | CLC
Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion | 5:00 pm | Sanctuary
Nursery available for children 6 months to 4 years of age at all services.

DECEMBER 31 ~ NEW YEAR'S EVE

Traditional Worship | 8:30 am | Sanctuary
COMBINED Worship | 11:00 am | Sanctuary

*No Gathering Service.
Nursery available for children 6 months to 4 years of age.
Children's Church WILL meet.*



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday in Advent
The Gathering: December 3, 2023 ~ 11:00AM

OPENING SONG

Canticle of the Turning

Shea White, Praise Team

WELCOME ~ CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Please sign the registration pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In those days, before the final coming of Christ in glory, there will be mighty signs.

They will be seen in the heavens and on earth.

They will remind us of God's eternal presence and power.

We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Therefore, let our hearts be glad and our souls rejoice!

LET US PRAY

God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in, that we may become more attentive disciples of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Thompson Family: Willy, Terri, Emma Jane, Charlie & Henry

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-3, Mark 13:35

Congregational Response: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Light of the World

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May our generation be attentive to Your word so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may remember your ways, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

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SERMON

"What Do You Expect? "

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

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GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

As you come before God to receive this Holy Meal,
You are invited to bring all of who you are as an offering
to the one who has given all of who he is for us.

****Baskets are available to present your offering as you come forward to receive the bread and cup.*

INVITATION TO PRAYER AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SENDING FORTH

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren M. McClellan

Acolytes: Anne Pavey Grant & Caroline Turner

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

Media and Sound: Jamie Waldhour, Nellie Meyers, Karl Langley

**First time worshipping with us today?
We want to know! Scan this QR Code:**





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