



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
NOVEMBER 30TH, 2025 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM

✠ please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

The Wexford Carol

ARR. HAYES/WAGNER

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS VIDEO

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 40

A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

We will make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

On those who lived in deep darkness, light has shined!

Come, let us worship the One who brings order out of chaos and light out of darkness.

✠ HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203

✠ APOSTLES' CREED

UMH 881

✠ GLORIA PATRI

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH 8:30 Patrice and Alex Goldman
11:00 Jane and Bob Tharp

We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we find in your promises, O Lord. For you bring light to those who walk in darkness, strength to those who are weary, and purpose to those who wait. We trust in your steadfast love that endures forever.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

OFFERTORY

O Come to Us, Emmanuel

MARTIN

✠ DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00)

11:00- Children 5 years old through 6th grade can meet at the side door for Children's Church. They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the Pier Room upstairs in the Education Building. Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

HYMN

*I Want to Walk as a
Child of the Light*

UMH 206

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of light and life, speak your steadying Word into our restless hearts, that we may see and know your truth made flesh among us. Amen.

✠ SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-3

SERMON

*When You've Got a Problem
You Can't Solve*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, in this season of wonder we confess that we often trust our own understanding more than Your wisdom. We rush to make sense of everything, trying to fix what we cannot fix and control what we cannot control. We add to the chaos around us with our worry, our striving, and our fear of not having everything figured out. Forgive us for the noise we create in our hearts and for forgetting that You are God and we are not. Speak Your Word of life into our confusion and help us rest in Your mystery. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ holds all things together even and especially when we cannot. In him there is forgiveness and grace for all our sin. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✠ HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

UMH 89

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Minor

WALTHER

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

COMMUNION SERVERS:

8:30
Kim & John Estes,
Michelle & Bruce Graham
11:00
Katie & Robby Robertson

ACOLYTES:

(11:00) Juliette Jones

PREACHER:

Rev. Michael Precht

LITURGIST

(8:30) Gene Lammers
(11:00) Hackett Robertson

STEPHEN MINISTERS:

(8:30) Ann Pearson
(11:00) Ginger Ready

USHER:

Head Usher, Mark Woodrow

MUSIC

Chancel Choir
Director, Tom Hood
Accompanist, John Richardson

MEDIA:

Colin Richardson
Hackett Robertson

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am The Gathering Worship
12:00pm Discovery Leadership Meeting
1:30pm Discovery Drama Team Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:15am Walk and Talk with Jesus
10:00am Knit or Crochet for a Purpose
3:00pm Grief Support Group
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00am SALT Students Breakfast Club
9:30am Twelve Disciples Study
9:30am Caregiver's Support Group
6:00pm Experiencing God Bible Study
6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry
1:30pm Dr. Ann's Weekly Drop-In Bible Study
4:15pm Lighthouse Kids Choir
5:00pm Christmas Cookie Swap & Supper
5:00pm Youth Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir Practice
6:00pm SALT Student Angel Tree Shopping
6:00pm Pier Kids and Swift Ministry

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30am Reservation Nursery
11:00am-1pm Community Café

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30am Breakfast at the Manger
12:00pm Campus Advent Decorating

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am The Gathering Worship
5:00pm Board of Stewards Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENU – DECEMBER 3RD

Curry Chicken and Wild Rice, Seasoned Green Beans, garlic Knots, Blonides

Kids: Popcorn Chicken, Mac-N-Cheese, Fruit, Cookie

Go online or call the church office to make your reservation!

Breakfast at the Manger | Dec 6th

Church and community are invited to join us for a Pancake Breakfast (\$5/person, \$25 max per family) and a morning of celebrating the Christmas season. Join us for crafts, games, and pictures with Santa, who will read Twas the Night before Jesus around 10:00am. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jenna Hood at jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org

Advent Campus Decorating | Dec 6th

Help us prepare our church home for the Advent season! Join us on Saturday, December 6 at 12:00 PM on the front lawn for brief instructions, then we'll team up to decorate the worship spaces and set up the outdoor Nativity. Contact: katie.robertson@fairhopeumc.org

Cookie Swap and Supper | Dec 10th

Join us for a festive Cookie Swap on Wednesday, December 10 during Wednesday Night Supper! Bring 2 dozen homemade or store bought cookies/treats on disposable trays and you'll go home with 2 dozen assorted cookies beautifully boxed and ready to gift or enjoy. Come share something sweet, enjoy fellowship, and leave with treats to brighten someone's Christmas! Sign Up Online!

Elementary Winter Retreat at Blue Lake Camp | Registration

Deadline: Jan. 5

3rd-6th graders are invited to join us *January 30-February 1* for an unforgettable weekend at Blue Lake! Campers will enjoy worship, campfires, archery and field games, the challenge course, and more. This year's theme is "Echo"—discovering how to share God's love in the world around us.

Cost: \$125 if registered by Dec. 10; \$140 after Dec. 15

Bus Fee: \$60, Scholarship Deadline: Dec. 10 Questions?

Email jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org. Registration link can be found on church linktree.

Discovery Weekend | January 23rd -25th

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation retreat that is intended to be holy and fun at the same time. The weekend experience creates an environment in which middle schoolers can better listen to God and be aware of God's presence. The weekend celebration of God's love is designed to involve much of our church family in planning, leading, and providing resources. If you're interested in being involved in Discovery please reach out to Miles (students@fairhopeumc.org)! No matter your prior experience with Discovery (or Youth in general) there's a job for everyone!

Angel Tree

Our Angels are here! We are so excited to partner with Ecumenical Ministries, local schools and DHR to provide Christmas for families and elderly this year! Our Angel Trees will be located in the CLC and outside the main office. For more information, please contact Jennifer Myrick missions@fairhopeumc.org

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

SYMPATHY:

Kathy and Jim Ellis and family in the loss of her father, Earl George.

Monthly Finance Report: Giving through September was 2% higher than anticipated, while year-to-date expenses were 1% lower than anticipated. We finished the month with a \$113,208 deficit, compared to a typical \$165,704 deficit at this point of the year. We remain on track to meet 100% of our budget and finish the year with a small surplus.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend **Coffee with the Pastors on December 14th @ 9:45AM in the Christian Life Center Parlor.** Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.

ONE LINK. ALL THE INFO. Want to sign up? Volunteer? Register your kids? RSVP for an event? Scan the QR code to access all of Fairhope UMC's resources in one place! Stay in the loop...**SCAN NOW!**



"LOVE BOLDLY, CASTING THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"

REV. MICHAEL PRECHT, SENIOR PASTOR
DR. KRISTEN CURTIS WRIGHT, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. SHEILA BATES, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON, ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

155 SOUTH SECTION STREET FAIRHOPE, AL 36532
FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG • 251-928-1148



THE GATHERING

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT *

NOVEMBER 30TH, 2025 11:00AM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching: Dr. Kristen Curtis Wright

Liturgist: Sidney Carol Barnhardt

Communion Servers: Shelly & Rick Fitzhugh, Jennifer Galloway, Meg Galloway

Music: Shea White and Praise Band

Media and Sound: Cole Jones, Karl Langley, Jamie Waldhour

Stephen Minister: Dr. Ann Pearson

Ushers: Rick Fitzhugh, Charles Scarce, Phil Webb

**Advent is the four-week season in the church year when we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ. It's a time of waiting, hope, and expectation as we remember Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and look ahead to his promised return. Throughout these weeks, the church marks the journey with candles, Scripture readings, and special songs as reminders of God's light breaking into our world. All of this preparation culminates on Christmas Eve, when we celebrate the birth of Christ anew.*

OPENING SONG *God of Wonders*

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 40

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

JO AND GEORGE NELSON

SINGING OUR PRAISE

O Come, O Come Emanuel

Light of the World

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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SCRIPTURE *John 1:1-3*

SERMON *When You've Got a Problem You
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THANKSGIVING

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**CURRY CHICKEN AND WILD RICE, SEASONED GREEN BEANS,
GARLIC KNOTS, BLONIDES**

KIDS: POPCORN CHICKEN, MAC-N-CHEESE, FRUIT, COOKIE

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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