



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 27, 2025 | 8:30AM

✠ please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

*Praise Song on Psalm 37:3 - Trust
in the Lord and do good.*

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are weary and burdened—

For here we find rest in the shadow of the cross.

Christ, who stumbled under the weight, invites us to walk beside Him.

Like Simon of Cyrene, we are called to carry the cross of love.

Let us deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Christ.

We come to worship the One who bore our burdens and bids us do the same.

✠ HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* UMH 384

✠ THE APOSTLES' CREED UMH 881

✠ GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY *Beautiful Savior* PAGE

✠ DOXOLOGY

HYMN *When We Are Living* UMH 356

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Resurrection, you have promised to write your law on our hearts. As we hear the reading of your Word, teach us your law of love, that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may show forth the light of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

✠ SCRIPTURE *Mark 15:15; 21-24*

SERMON *When the Load is Too Heavy*

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

Kathy Ellis, Brian Norris, Kurt Simons, Robyn Simons, Wanda Winfree

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy and gracious God, our sin is a weight we cannot carry alone. We confess our failure to love as you have loved, our reluctance to serve, and our pride that resists asking for help. Forgive us, O Lord. Teach us to bear one another's burdens and to receive your grace with open hands. Like Simon, may we follow you, even when the load we are asked to bear is heavy. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Friends, hear this good news:

Christ carried the cross for us all,

and through him, our burden is light. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✠ HYMN

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

UMH 664

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Recessional on Psalm 67:4 - O let the
nations be glad and shout for joy.*

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Brian Norris
Robyn & Kurt Simons
Wanda Winfree

USHER:

Mark Woodrow

PREACHER:

Rev. Laura Parker

LITURGIST:

Dr. Ann Pearson

READER:

Kathy Ellis

MUSIC

CHANCEL CHOIR
Director, Tom Hood

INSTRUMENTS

Accompanist,
John Richardson
Flutist,
Natalie Woodrow

MEDIA:

Colin Richarson

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my son,
Jeffrey Mark Swanson by Valerie Coen.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:30am Stephen Minister Brunch
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am The Gathering Worship-
Combined Service
6:00pm SALT Student Ministry Movie
Night

MONDAY, APRIL 28

10:00am Knit and Crochet
3:00pm Grief Support Group
6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

6:00pm Handbell Practice

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry
1:30pm Weekly Bible Study
5-6:00pm Wednesday Supper
5:30pm SALT Student Ministry Parent
Meeting- Rising 7th Graders
6-7:30pm Pier Kids (K-4th)
6-7:30pm SWIFT (5th-6th)
6-7:45pm SALT Student Ministry
6:00pm Community Listening Event
6:00pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY, May 1

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

FRIDAY, May 2

11am-1:00pm Community Café

SUNDAY, May 4

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:30am Senior Breakfast
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Traditional Worship, Senior
Sunday
11:00am The Gathering Worship
4:00pm Confirmation Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 7th Wednesday Supper

Roasted Lemon Chicken, Orzo Salad, Spanakopita, Dinner Roll,
Strawberry Hand Pie.

Please call the church office or go online to make reservations
251-928-1148.

Community Listening Event | April 30, 6:00pm

In the third listening session of our vision process, Pastor Michael will present responses from interviews he has conducted with various community leaders about how the most pressing needs of our community, and our guest facilitator will present community research data that includes information on who our neighbors are, how they think about church and faith, and how we can reach our community for Christ. Come to listen, and come to share your thoughts on how we can love BOLDLY and cast the light of Christ into the world in the next 3-5 years.

Confirmation and Senior Sunday | May 4th

Sunday, May 4th is a day of celebration and spiritual milestones! Join us at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary for Senior Sunday as we recognize and honor our graduating seniors, celebrating their time in Youth Ministry and praying for their journeys ahead. Later that day, we'll gather in the afternoon for Confirmation Sunday, where our 7th graders will affirm their faith and officially become members of the United Methodist Church. Come support and celebrate these important moments in the life of our church family!

Be Still and Know Prayer Service | May 11th, 6:00pm

We will be gathering in the Sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 11 to hear prayers, scriptures and music to soothe our souls. Come to this 30 minute time of renewal and refreshment for your spirit.

New Stephen Ministers Commissioned Today

Stephen Ministry is a lay-led, Christian caring ministry where trained individuals, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one, distinctively Christian care to people experiencing life's challenges. We celebrate the commissioning today in our 8:30 service of Kathy Ellis, Brian Norris, Kurt Simons, Robyn Simons, and Wanda Winfree and welcome them as part of our church's pastoral care team. Please contact Dr. Ann Pearson to learn more about this outreach ministry of care: ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org or 251-928-1148.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

Barry Pennington, Gail Phillips

Monthly Finance Report: After all giving and expenses were reconciled for February, we improved on our January shortfall and reduced our year-to-date deficit by half. For the year, our giving is now \$16,000 behind what we need to make our budget by the year's end.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend our next **Coffee with the Pastors on May 18th @ 9:45AM in the CLC Parlor.** Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.

Scan this LINKTREE QR code to access all of Fairhope UMC's resources in one place! From sign-ups, worship times to serving and online giving, this code will take you directly to everything you need to stay connected with our church. Whether you're looking to RSVP for Wednesday Night Suppers, get involved in church activities, or learn more about where YOU can serve, it's all just a scan away.



Rev. Michael Precht, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Parker, Associate Pastor

Rev. Sheila Bates, Southwest District Superintendent

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Alabama-West Florida Conference

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



THE GATHERING

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER*

KID MIN TAKEOVER SUNDAY

APRIL 27, 2025 11:00AM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastors: Rev. Michael Precht, Rev. Laura Parker

Acolytes: Olivia & Peyton Boward

Communion Servers: Andrew Chambless, Rebekah Chambless, Alicia Searcy, Luke Searcy

Music: Kid's Worship Team, Lighthouse Kids Choir

Readers: Savannah Bell, Ann Caryl Johnston, Laz Pryor

Special Music: Campbell Johnston, Mitch Johnston

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

Ushers: Cate Richardson, Charles Searce

**Our worship seasons allow us to re-experience the full life and ministry of Jesus every year. The "50 days of Easter," also known as Eastertide or the Easter season, is a period of celebration in the Christian liturgical year that begins on Easter Sunday and culminates with Pentecost. This season is a time to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit.*

OPENING SONG

Praise

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

SINGING OUR PRAISE

That's Who I Praise

Firm Foundation (He Won't)

*Children will remain in the service today to enjoy the KidsMin worship takeover.
Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.*

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 6:10-12; 16-23

PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Danny and the Shacks!

CONFESSION & PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always been faithful. Like those who bowed to false gods, we have followed the crowd instead of standing firm. Like those who stayed silent, we have been afraid to speak the truth in love. We have not trusted You fully in hard times, and we have sometimes forgotten that You are with us in the fire and in the den. Forgive us, O God. Give us the faith of Daniel, the courage of his friends, and hearts that remain true to You. Make us bold in our love, strong in our trust, and faithful in our witness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Just as God was with Daniel in the lions' den, and with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire, God is with us now, offering grace and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP[†]

SPECIAL MUSIC

Goodness of God

CLOSING SONG

On Christ the Solid Rock

BENEDICTION

[†]You do not have to be a member of this church, or of any, to receive from Christ's table. We welcome all who desire to meet Christ in this meal where He has promised to meet us.

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