



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 Superintendant

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Conference

A Stephen Ministry Church - Christ Caring for People Through People

STEWARDSHIP

YTD through November 2023 - \$1,840,263

We planned for 84% of the budget through November.

We have received 81% of the budget through November.

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 217 pledge cards totaling \$1,404,200.00 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: Don Bedwell, John Ryan Jones
SYMPATHY:

Jess Williams in the loss of his wife and Beth & Van Knight
in the loss of her mother, Betty Williams.

Family & friends of Yvonne Cox.

Carol Willis in the loss of her brother, Robert Walter
Humphries.



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

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023 ~ 8:30 and 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Theme and Variations on "I Wonder as I Wander"

Marianne Kim

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us hear what God will speak, for the Holy One speaks peace to the people,
to the faithful, and to all who turn to God in their hearts.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Righteousness and peace will embrace.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Holy One will give what is good, and we will bring our praise and song.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives,
to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—
a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever.

We are afraid of your promised coming.

We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power.

We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace,
afraid that you will change the way things have always been.

**As we wait for you to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see
that you have always been here.**

In God's love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

LET US PRAY

**God of winter and starlight, you have promised us your presence: to live among us, to right all
wrongs, to bring good things to all who wait for your new day. In these dark days, we look for
signs of your coming: the sounds of children at play, the music that fills our hearts with
anticipation, the company of all who serve the last and the least. Make us at home with
righteousness, that we may be ready to walk in your holy ways. Amen.**

(11:00) RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS ~ Ryan, Amy, Peyton and Olivia Boward

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jim and Kathy Ellis (8:30AM) ~ Ryan, Amy, Peyton and Olivia Boward (11:00AM)

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1

**Congregational Response: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of
community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠HYMN OF PRAISE

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
 So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

(Refrain)

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.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
 And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,
 You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
 Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
 The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
 There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
 God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
 This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
 'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

✠THE APOSTLES' CREED

✠GLORIA PATRI

BLESSING FOR OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS *A Christmas Invitation* (Martin)

MUSICAL PRESENTATION *Tidings of Joy* (Martin)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN #238 *Angels We Have Heard on High (verse one)*

POSTLUDE *Huron Carol* Alfred V. Fedak

✠ Stand as able

Assisting in Worship Today: Dr. Darren M. McClellan **Liturgist:** Emily Garner
Acolytes: Cate Richardson, Adelaide Robertson (8:30) ~ Savannah Bell, Darby Butler (11:00)
Music Team: Tom Hood, John Richardson, Chancel Choir
Media and Sound: John McClellan, Colin Richardson

Music notes: "I Wonder as I Wander" is an Appalachian folk hymn collected by John Jacob Niles in 1933 in Murphy, North Carolina. "I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky." This theme and variations is arranged by contemporary Korean American composer Marianne Kim. The Huron Carol is an old Canadian carol dating to the 1600s; it relates the story of Jesus' birth in the terms of First Nations, or indigenous, culture. You can read the English text in our hymnal at number 244. This arrangement is by contemporary New York-based composer Alfred V. Fedak.

Soloists:

Roger Dreher, Jonah Adkins, Carolyn Kidd, Natalie Woodrow, Jenna Hood

Orchestra Personnel:

Anne Brooks
Anthony Young
Bob Whitfield
Celeste Boone
John Richardson
Josh Titford

Julie Marks
Laura Morris
Linde Lynn
Mary Barnes
Rebecca Atkins
Richard Coarsey

Robyn Koser
Sarah Schrader
Stephanie Calhoun
Susan Unger
Will Steward
Zach Dorta



“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 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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Second Sunday in Advent
The Gathering: December 10, 2023 ~ 11:00AM

OPENING SONG

Jesus Messiah

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

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.
Lift up every valley; lower every mountain. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

LET US PRAY

God of winter and starlight, you have promised us your presence: to live among us, to right all wrongs, to bring good things to all who wait for your new day. In these dark days, we look for signs of your coming: the sounds of children at play, the music that fills our hearts with anticipation, the company of all who serve the last and the least. Make us at home with righteousness, that we may be ready to walk in your holy ways. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Hicks Family: John, Kristi, Ava Jewell, Scarlett, and Rosalie

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1

Congregational Response: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

SINGING OUR PRAISES

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Glory

Winter Snow

Children dismissed for Children's Church

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

"People, Get Ready"

Rev. Laura Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives,
to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—
a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever.

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In God's love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world.
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

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

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

The Harris Family: Hunter, Courtney, Ava, Sophie and Nora

SENDING FORTH

Assisting in Worship Today: Rev. Laura Parker

Acolytes: Olive Downs, Cas Turner

Communion Servers:

Rick and Shelly Fitzhugh, Jennifer and Meg Galloway,
Ann Pearson, Adelia and Mark Phillips

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:**





"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.

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