



# FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

155 S SECTION ST | 251-928-1148 | [WWW.FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG](http://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 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 218 pledge cards totaling \$1,409,200.00 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](http://www.fairhopeumc.org)

## ENDOWMENT



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Permanent Endowment Fund*

### A LASTING ACT OF LOVE AND A STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

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## PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE...

MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND FIRST RESPONDERS

MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: John Ryan Jones, Betty Knight,  
Rusty Winfree, Kim Simmons



CHURCH OFFICE: DECEMBER 25 & 26 | JANUARY 1 & 2

CLC: DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2



# FAIRHOPE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday in Advent  
December 17, 2023 ~ 8:30 and 11:00AM

PRELUDE

*Sussex Carol*

(Alfred V. Fedak)

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

**We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good,  
we are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy. Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

LET US PRAY

**Lord of Light and Love, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning and we gather to hear your word for us. AMEN.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Cathi and Kevin Parish (8:30 am) ~ Steve Pearson, Ann and Beth Claunch (11:00 am)

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3a

**Congregational Response: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

HYMN RESPONSE #209

*Blessed Be the God of Israel, verse 3*

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠HYMN OF PRAISE #204

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

✠THE APOSTLES' CREED

✠GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Handbell Choir

(arr. Moglebust)

✠DOXOLOGY

11:00 CHILDREN'S TIME

Children 4 years old and up can meet at the side doors 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 also available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*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)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON

"Mercy, Mercy, Mercy"

Dr. Darren M. McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH #13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD / GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

8:30 RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS ~ Lori and Penn White

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on a Ukrainian Carol*

(Alfred V. Fedak)

✱ Stand as able

**Assisting in Worship Today:** Dr. Darren M. McClellan **Liturgist:** Ann Pearson**Acolytes:** 8:30 ~ Jentry Determann 11:00 ~ Elizabeth Jones, Savannah Grace Jones**Crucifiers:** 8:30 ~ Judd Determann 11:00 ~ Olivia Molynuex**Communion Servers:** 8:30 ~ Emily Garner, Helen Ingram, Kinga and Duke Low

11:00 ~ Dale McClellan, Bonnie Northcutt, Katie Robertson

**Music Team:** Tom Hood, John Richardson, Handbell Choir, Eastern Shore Community Flute Choir**Media and Sound:** Toby Monckton, Wright Tapscott

Music notes: The Sussex Carol is a British carol that dates back at least to the late 1600s but was popularized by Ralph Vaughn Williams in the 20th century. "On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring." The Ukrainian Carol, also called "The Carol of the Bells," is based on the traditional Ukrainian song "Shchedryk." It is attributed to Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1914. These organ arrangements are by contemporary American composer Alfred V. Fedak.



"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 24 ~ 4<sup>TH</sup> 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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Third Sunday in Advent  
The Gathering: December 17, 2023 ~ 11:00AM

OPENING SONG

*Christmas Eve/ Sarajavo*

Shea White, Praise Team

WELCOME ~ CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

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

WELCOME~CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

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**Lord of Light and Love, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning and we gather to hear your word for us and sing your praises. AMEN.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Furlong Family: Donald, Edmond and Emma Claire

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3a

**Congregational Response: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

SINGING OUR PRAISES

*Joy Unspeakable Joy*

*Gloria*

*He Has Come for Us*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

MUSIC OF THE SEASON

*Heaven Everywhere*

Jenna Hood, Shelby Semmes, and Friends

*\*Children 4 years old and older may leave for Children's Church with Mrs. Jenna or are welcome to remain in the service today and enjoy the Christmas musical presentation.*

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

Jeff Farrow

*Joseph's Lullaby*

Shea White

*Noel*

Blake Nolte

*Mary Did You Know*

Jeremy White

*Breath of Heaven*

Dena White

CONGREGATION

*Away in a Manger*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE~THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy. Thanks be to God: we 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

SENDING FORTH

**Assisting in Worship Today:** Rev. Laura Parker

**Acolyte:** Reese Myrick, Cas Turner

**Communion Servers:**

Rebecca Bell, Rob Bonine, Emily and Doug Garner

**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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