



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM

✠ please stand as you are able

✠ PRELUDE *I Wonder as I Wander* (ARR. HAYES/WAGNER)

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

ADVENT WREATH *Jeremiah 33:14* (8:30) ELLENBURG FAMILY
(11:00) BRASFIELD FAMILY

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

While fear, anxiety, confusion, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

✠ HYMN *People Look East* UMH #202

✠ THE APOSTLES' CREED (8:30)

BAPTISM OF BOOKER BEATTY LARKIN (11:00)

Response: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you, in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY *Let There Be Peace On Earth* LOWE

✠ 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.

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH #211
(Verses 1 & 2)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may we remember your ways and meet you wherever and whenever you appear. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-8

SERMON

Heavy Metal Christmas

REV. MICHAEL PRECHT

CONFESSION AND PARDON

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. 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!

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✠ HYMN

*I Want to Walk
As A Child of the Light*

UMH #206

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong Merrily on High

ARR. HAYES/WAGNER

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Communion Servers:
8:30 Mary Finger
Bob & Dana Whitfield
11:00 Helen & Bennie Ingram
Kimberly McKeough,
Carol Willis

Preacher: Rev. Michael Precht
Liturgist: Gene Lammers
Acolytes: 11:00 Juliette Jones,
Gigi Webb

Music: Tom Hood,
John Richardson, Chancel Choir,
Handbell Choir and Director:
Judy DeBray
Media: Toby Monckton,
Gabe Dreher

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in gratitude for the excellent ministers and staff at our church.*

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am The Gathering

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

10:00am Knit and Crochet
3:00pm Grief Support Group
6:00pm Stephen Ministry
Supervision

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30am Caregiver's Support Group
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:30pm Weekly Bible Study
4:15-5:00pm Kids Choir
(K-6th grades)
5-6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper
6-7:30pm Pier Kids (K-4th grades)
6-7:30pm SWIFT (5th-6th grades)
6-7:45pm SALT Student Ministry
6:00pm Pastor's Drop-in Study
6:00pm Adult Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

11am-1:00pm Community Café
7pm Fairhope Christmas Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30am Breakfast at the Manger

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:30am Christmas Music Worship
Service
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Christmas Music Worship
Service
11:00am The Gathering
6:00pm "Be Still and Know"
Prayer Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **Choir Christmas Service** is an annual celebration during our traditional worship services, featuring our chancel choir, handbell choir, and guest orchestra.
Sunday, December 8 | 8:30 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary

Breakfast at the Manger is family-friendly gathering featuring \$5 Pancake breakfast, inflatables, games, fellowship, and an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Santa will also be in attendance! No registration is required, and all are welcome.
Saturday, December 7 | 8:30-10:30 in the CLC

The **Lighthouse** children's choir musical is *The Joy of Christmas*. Hear our children tell the story of the true meaning of Christmas.
Sunday, December 15 | 4:00 in the Sanctuary

We will have a **an alternate worship schedule** on the first Sunday *after* Christmas. 8:30 will follow its usual schedule, but our 11:00 services combine in the Sanctuary. Youth and Children's Sunday Schools will also be on a one-week break. *Sunday, December 29.*

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of outreach to comfort, encourage and walk alongside persons in times of challenging situations. If you would like more info about this ministry, contact Dr. Ann Pearson by phone 251-928-1148 or email ann.pearson@fairhopeumc.org.

Menu for Wednesday Night Supper, December 4

Baked Ziti, Caesar Salad,
Dinner Rolls and Assorted Desserts.
\$7 Adults, \$4 Children, Max \$25 for family
Please call the church office or
go online to make your reservation,
251-928-1148.

Prayers Of The People

Medical Personnel | First Responders | Military Personnel

Hospitalized This Week:

Jimmie Allen

Monthly Finance Report: Historically through October, we have received **75.6%** of the total income that we will receive for the full year. Our actual total income through October is **72.6%** of our full year budgeted expenses. This current shortfall through October suggests the likelihood of a year-end income shortfall of approximately **\$103,134** which is **\$8,513** less shortfall than was projected as of the end of September. This shortage can be covered if required through available cash reserves this year.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend our next **Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, December 15th @ 9:45AM in the Parlor of the Christian Life Center.**



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.



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Precht, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Parker, Associate Pastor

Rev. Sheila Bates, Southwest District Superintendent

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Alabama-West Florida Conference

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

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



THE GATHERING

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

DECEMBER 1, 2024 | 11:00AM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Laura Parker

Communion Servers:

Sidney Carol & Miles Barnhardt, Trey and Amanda Canida, Mary & Noah Funderburg,
Jennifer Jones

Music: Shea White, Praise Team

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

**Our worship seasons allow us to re-experience the full life and ministry of Jesus every year. The first season of the Christian year, Advent, is a season of preparation. Even before Jesus came in the flesh, He prepared us to recognize him, through the promises of his prophets.*

OPENING SONG

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Shea White, Praise Band

ADVENT WREATH

Jeremiah 33:14

CANIDA FAMILY

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of **earth** for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

While fear, anxiety, confusion, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

✠ SINGING OUR PRAISE

Light of the World

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Thanks Giver

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-8

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SERMON

Heavy Metal Christmas

Rev. Laura Parker

CONFESSION & PARDON

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. 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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

When the pastor concludes the Prayers of the People, all are invited to join in the Lord’s Prayer (the words will be displayed on the screen).

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP[†]

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

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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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:

Jimmie Allen

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