



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS,
DECEMBER 28TH, 2025 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM
✠please stand as you are able

PRELUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* JOHANN PACHELBEL

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Please sign the attendance pads located on the end of each row.*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM 95

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

We gather to worship the God who is our refuge and strength.

✠ HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* UMH 224

BAPTISM OF MAE ELIZABTH CASE
& COLLINS BANE CASE JR. (11:00)

✠ APOSTLES' CREED (8:30) UMH 881

✠ GLORIA PATRI

OFFERTORY ARR. ROUSE

✠ DOXOLOGY

HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH 242

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence. Sharpen our minds that we may desire your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON

Holding Even This Together

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, in the glow of Christmas joy, we confess that we do not always live as people changed by your coming. We cling to comfort when love calls us to courage. We turn inward when you invite us outward. We grow weary of doing good and slow to trust your promises. Forgive us for the ways we resist your light, even when it shines so near. Open our hearts again to the life you offer, that we may follow Christ with renewed faith and hope.

Hear the good news. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. God's mercy is deeper than our fear and stronger than 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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

JOHANN GOTTFRIED
WALTHER

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

COMMUNION SERVERS:

8:30
Mary Finger,
Robyn & Kermit Simons
11:00

ACOLYTES:

8:30
Bennett Harrison

PREACHER:

Rev. Michael Precht

LITURGIST

(8:30) Carolyn Kidd
(11:00) Steve Pearson

STEPHEN MINISTERS:

(8:30) Dr. Ann Pearson
(11:00) Ann Claunch

USHER:

Head Usher, Mark Woodrow

MUSIC

Chancel Choir
Director, Tom Hood
Accompanist, John Richardson

MEDIA:

Colin Richardson

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30am Traditional Worship

9:45am Sunday Schools

11:00am Combined Traditional Worship

*No Children's Sunday School or Children's Church on 12/28

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

3:00pm Grief Support Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day-Office Closed

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:30am Traditional Worship

9:45am Sunday Schools

11:00am Traditional Worship

11:00am Gathering Worship

SAVE THE DATE

Rita Sweatt Speaks | January 7th

Rita Sweatt brings the Book of Ruth to life in a moving dramatic monologue. This timeless story highlights Ruth's perseverance and God's enduring faithfulness. The event will be held at 5:45 pm in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Register today using bulletin QR Code or church website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elementary Retreat at Blue Lake | Register by Jan. 5

3rd-6th graders are invited to a weekend at Blue Lake, *January 30-February 1!* Register using the bulletin QR code. For more info: Jenna Hood, jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org

Discovery Weekend | January 23rd -25th

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual retreat that helps middle schoolers experience God's love in a fun and meaningful way. This church-wide event relies on many hands. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Miles(students@fairhopeumc.org)!

Embrace Alabama Kids | Special December Offertory

Our December communion offering will support **Embrace Alabama Kids**, a ministry of the United Methodist Church providing safe homes, hope, and healing for children and families across our state. If led to give, place your donation on the prayer rail during worship or use the QR code to donate online.

College Scholarship Deadline | January 11th

Please have your application for the 2026 school year submitted by January 11th. For additional information email scholarships@fairhopeumc.org

District Conference | January 11th

FUMC will be hosting the annual gathering of the Southwest District, led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Sheila Bates. This gathering will bring together clergy and laity from across southwestern Alabama for a time of worship, training, and exciting announcements about the shared missions and ministries of the churches in our area.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

SYMPATHY:

HOSPITALIZED:

Monthly Finance Report: Through October, income and expenses remain on track with our 2025 budget. We anticipate ending the year with a small increase in reserves.

End-of-Year Giving

As we approach the close of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider your end-of-year gifts to support the ministry and mission of Fairhope UMC. Your generosity helps us finish the year strong and continue sharing Christ's love with our church family and community. All gifts received or postmarked by December 31 will be credited to the 2025 giving year.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend **Coffee with the Pastors on January 11th @ 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