



THE GATHERING

CHRISTMAS EVE *

DECEMBER 24TH, 2025

3:30PM & 5:30PM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Dr. Kristen Curtis Wright

Communion Servers: 3:30pm-Jane & Don Dolan, Anne & Lane Dorman, Amy & Craig Dowden. 5:30-Kristi & John Hicks, Miles Barnhardt, Ann Pearson

Music: Shea White and Praise Band, Alivia Dowden, Campbell & Mitch Johnston, Ford Macklem

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

Ushers: 3:30pm-Don Dolan, Jennifer Jones, Michelle & Charles Searce, Phil Webb.
5:30pm-Rick Fitzhugh, Michelle & Charles Searce

Readers: 3:30- Olivia Boward, Peyton Boward, Keyes Bryant, James Chambless, Lucy Martin, Irie Meador, Charlotte Ramos, Jackson Strunk. 5:30-Savannah Bell, Hays Bishop, Rosalie Hicks, Scarlett Hicks, Becca Huffman, Sutton Macklem, Whit Macklem, Lucy McIntosh

OPENING SONG

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 9

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST'S CANDLE

3:30 BO, LINDSAY, CASWELL, HARTMAN, AND LEONARD TUCKER

5:30 CHAD, KATELIN, GEORGIA, & CHARLOTTE HOLMES

PRAISE SONG *What Child is This*

SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:26-35, 38*

PRAISE SONG *Away in a Manger*

SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:1-7*

PRAISE SONG *O Holy Night*

SCRIPTURE *John 1:1-5, 9-13*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Noel*

CAMPBELL &
MITCH JOHNSTON

SCRIPTURE *John 1:14-18*

SERMON *The Cradle That Held the Cosmos*

OFFERTORY *Who Would Imagine a King*

FORD MACKLEM

SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:8-20*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Emmanuel*

ALIVIA DOWDEN

SCRIPTURE *Matthew 2:7-12*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of the manger and the stars, you enter our world in vulnerability and love, yet we confess that we often prefer strength to humility and comfort to compassion. We rush past your mystery, seeking brightness without the wonder, and gifts without the giver. Forgive us, O God. Make room in our hearts for your presence, that we may receive you with awe and joy.

Hear the good news:

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. In Christ we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God!

THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

CHRISTMAS CAROL *Silent Night*

BENEDICTION

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 please 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

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!**



FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"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

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