

The Good News

from

Fairhope Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2023

*Reach up to God,
Reach into our hearts,
Reach out to others.*

Inside this issue:

CWF Update	2
Prayer List.....	3
April Recap	4
Notes & Upcoming Events	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Proposed Liturgy	6
May Servants	6
Calendar	7
Disciples Making Disciples	8



From the Pastor's Pen:

"Where are we going?" "Are we there yet?" —These are questions that plague many a parent or traveler, especially when it involves children. But the same questions can be asked of the church, especially the one, "Where are we going?" We must answer this question before we can even entertain the second. We need to know where we are going in order to know when or if we get there. If we have no idea where we are going, how will we ever know if we get there?

Churches that are successful understand the importance of knowing where they are going, of having a vision, a vision that is led by the Spirit rather than by human interests. These churches leverage this vision to develop ministries that feed into this vision, that support it, and help it reach its fullest potential. Anything that does not point to this vision is set aside, not because it is not worthy, but that it can detract from the vision and tie up valuable resources that will be needed for the vision. While this may seem harsh, it is the only way to remain focused on the

vision, on the direction the church is going.

One thing I have learned is that I cannot be everything to everybody and church is the same. There is no way we can be everything to everybody, it is just not possible. We would run ourselves ragged and not do anything particularly well. Our vision would become cloudy and blurred causing us to make decisions that adversely affect our ministries and our direction as a church. We start to fracture as we try to jump into the next "hot" ministry or activity because we want to keep up with the "Joneses." We must understand that we are not like other churches, and they are not like us. Each body of believers have their own sets of talents, of gifts, and resources that they bring to the table in service to their vision. Each one offers something a little different, providing a unique service or ministry, and each adds to the whole building a more vibrant and fruitful universal church.

(Continued on page 2)

We are all involved in the same mission, to spread the Word of God, to make disciples, and to share the love of God with all we see. And we all have a part to play in that, but to play our part we need to have a vision, a focus— something that we can do and do well.

And the way to understand what vision to focus on, we need to ask God. We need to pray seeking God's will for this church. We need to hit our knees and ask God what it is that God wants us to do, and we need to be open to whatever response God gives us. It does us no good if we short-circuit this by putting restrictions or caveats on this request with things like, "Lord, you know we are old and there is not much more we can do, so don't ask much of me." Or "Lord, we have tried this before and it didn't work, why try it again?" If we sincerely seek God's will, God will provide us with the vision that

not only works for this church but brings glory to God.

Over these next few weeks, I ask you to join me in prayer seeking God's will to be revealed to us guiding us to who God wants us to be and what God wants us to do.

And once we know where we are going, then we can ask the next question, when will we get there. I look forward to asking that second question.



CWF - APRIL RECAP

Both of the CWF morning and evening groups met on Tuesday, April 11th at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. respectively. The morning group discussed the upcoming day trip to the Mobile Mardi Gras Association with lunch at A Spot of Tea the upcoming Friday, April 14th. The group included six ladies from the church and two guests. A van was reserved to make the trip easier and Pastor Rick was kind enough to drive. The majority of the morning meeting was in discussion of the Afternoon Tea to be held Saturday, May 6th from 2 to 4 p.m. It was decided that eight tables would be set up and decorated. Dian Mangus agreed to order the sandwiches like the kind ordered for last year's tea. Most tea-sized desserts would be purchased by the group. Ellen Malugani stated that she would make a sugar-free option and Tina Frego would make some gluten-free muffins. Debbie Carpenter was able to book a speaker from Neighborhood Bridges for the event. The men of the church have, again, volunteered to serve the ladies. All ladies of the church are invited and everyone is looking forward to this event.

The evening group continued the book study of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. Small bottles of laundry detergent were collected to be donated to Prodissee Pantry. It was decided that toiletry items would be collected next month to donate to our own Blessing Box. Several ladies in the evening group are also excited about the upcoming Afternoon Tea. The next meeting for both groups will be Tuesday, May 9th at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. respectively. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend either meeting.

Blessings,
Debbie Carpenter/Ellen Malugani, co-chairs.

Our Church Prayer List:

<i>Melba Asby</i>	<i>Berry Fulford</i>	<i>Barry Nix</i>	<i>John Stephens</i>
<i>Doris Badger</i>	<i>Lonnie Gibbs</i>	<i>Emily O'Toole</i>	<i>Millie Stephens</i>
<i>June Berry</i>	<i>Michelle Grene</i>	<i>Mike Patrick</i>	<i>Laura Talley</i>
<i>Kristy Bishop</i>	<i>Sharon Grimes</i>	<i>Chance Pope</i>	<i>Laura Todd</i>
<i>Sandra Bishop</i>	<i>Louise Good</i>	<i>Cullen Potter & Family</i>	<i>Gary Turner</i>
<i>Paul Bivins</i>	<i>Bobby and Barbara Harris</i>	<i>Sharon Quimby</i>	<i>Oleta Volking</i>
<i>Jesse Bond</i>	<i>Hugh Hays</i>	<i>John Ray</i>	<i>Daryl Wasp</i>
<i>Margaret Buchanan</i>	<i>Daniel Herrea</i>	<i>Marlene Robinson</i>	<i>Xavier Weller</i>
<i>Nettye Carter</i>	<i>Dottie Hughes</i>	<i>Wally & Judy Robinson</i>	<i>Erika White</i>
<i>Logan Chandler</i>	<i>Jerry Johnson</i>	<i>McKenzie Rockwell</i>	<i>Fonda Winfrey</i>
<i>Janice Clifford</i>	<i>Collin Loris</i>	<i>Margie Robinson</i>	<i>Conor & Elizabeth Wohleber and Family</i>
<i>Jim Clifford</i>	<i>Mack Maclaren</i>	<i>Elise Rogers and Family</i>	<i>All with COVID-19 and all caregivers</i>
<i>Haley Clift</i>	<i>Sarah Maddox</i>	<i>Jennifer Penry Romano</i>	
<i>Clay Conrad</i>	<i>Peggy McCarthy</i>	<i>Lisa Seymour</i>	
<i>Don Darnel</i>	<i>Brad Jason McCullough</i>	<i>The Family of Barbara Smith</i>	
<i>The Family of Ashley Emrick</i>	<i>Brian Moore</i>	<i>Jeanette Smith</i>	
<i>Blake Ernest</i>	<i>The Family of Marc Nattier</i>	<i>Elijah Sprague</i>	

We pray for others in the Disciples' Fellowship:

May 7 – Falkville, Cedar Plains – Clint Lee,
Minister

May 14 – Tallassee, Macedonia – David Hooks,
Minister

May 21 – Hayneville, Mt. Zion – Cassandra Smith,
Pastor


May 28 – Ft. Walton Beach, First – Roger Peadro,
Minister

Military Prayer Requests:

Sgt. Samantha Helms,
Anchorage, AK; granddaughter of Morris & Janet

Major Ross Malugani,
Ramstein AFB, Germany; son of Pastor Rick & Ellen






Mother's Day is Remembrance Day
And we pause on the path of the year
To pay honor and worshipful tribute
To the Mother our heart holds dear...

For, whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide,
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside...

Time cannot destroy her memory

And years can never erase
The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face...
And, when we think of our Mother,
We draw nearer to God above,
For only God in His Greatness
Could fashion a MOTHER'S LOVE.



Helen Steiner Rice

NOTES & UPCOMING EVENTS



Volunteer

Christian Education is seeking volunteers to help with the children during Worship on a rotating basis. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Dian Mangus at 251-929-2339.

- The **Christian Men's Fellowship** will meet Saturday, May 6th at 9am.
- There will be a **Ladies' Tea** on Saturday, May 6th beginning at 2pm.
- **Pentecost Offering** will be collected May 21st-28th. This special offering is in support of the new church movement in our region and across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- The **Mission Planning Team** will meet Wednesday May 3rd at 10am.
- Our **Dinner/Bible Study** continues through the month of May every Wednesday from 5-7pm!
- The **CWF** will meet Tuesday, May 9th at 10am and 7pm. Please bring toiletries to donate to our Blessing Box.



- Our monthly **Game Day** will be Thurs., April 11th from 2-4pm.
- **Lunch Bunch** meets Thurs., May 18th at 11am. at Agave.
- There will be a **General Board Meeting** May 18th at 6pm.
- Our next **Movie Night** is Thursday, May 25th 6-8pm!
- Due to Mother's Day & Memorial Day weekends, the **Youth Group** will meet Sunday May 21st from 2-3pm.





(No Anniversaries this month)

May 1 — Anna Myers

May 11 — Gene Boothe

May 20 — Brody Light

May 2 — Dale Talley

May 11 — Joanne Brown

May 25 — Margaret Parish

May 3 — Paul Bivins

May 15 — Fred Crawford

May 28 — Susan Acree



May Liturgy

May 7 — Psalm 8:1-9

May 14 — Proverbs 31:30-31

May 21 — Matthew 5:21-22

May 28 — Acts 2:1-13



May Servants



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!!



Lay Leaders

Liturgists

Fellowship Hosts

Elders

May 7	Donna Kenny	Donna Kenny		June Berry & Janet Helms
May 14	Fred Crawford	Linda McCullough		
May 21		Ken Vaughn		
May 28		Janet Helms	Pam C. & Susan B.	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 8am Prayer (via Zoom) 10am Mission Planning Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm	4 Boy Scouts Round Table 6-8pm	5	6 9am Men's Fellowship 2-4pm Ladies' Tea
7 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Outdoor Service Fish Fry	8 10am Craft Circle Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	9 10am CWF 7pm CWF	10 8am Prayer (via Zoom) Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm	11  2-4pm Game Day	12	13 12-4pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
14 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship 	15 10am Craft Circle Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	16	17 Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm	18  11am Lunch Bunch @ Agave 6pm General Board Meeting	19	20
21 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship Pentecost Offering 2-3pm Youth	22 10am Craft Circle Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	23	24 8am Prayer (via Zoom) Newsletter Items Due Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm	25  6-8pm Movie Night	26	27
28 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship	29 Office Closed 	30	31 8am Prayer (via Zoom) Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm	<div><div>THERE IS HOPE</div><div>Weekly Meeting Schedule:</div><div><div>Mondays-Fridays: 7:30am, 12pm Tuesdays: 5:30pm</div><div>Saturdays: 9am - Men only 10:30am - Women only</div></div></div>		

Disciples Making Disciples

Sharing the Good News in Our World Today



There are three core competencies that determine if we are ready to be a disciple and to make other disciples. They are the three "Greats;" The Great Confession, the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission.

In Matthew 16 we find the Great Confession. Jesus asks his disciples who they say he is and the ever-impetuous Peter says, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (v16). So the question is how does a person know if he or she has made the Great Confession in earnest? How does one know the difference between head knowledge and heart change? How do I know if the person I am discipling has taken this step?

The key indicator of knowing if we are ready to move forward in our spiritual walk centers around how we deal with the Word of God. In John 8:31 Jesus says, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine." To be a disciple of Jesus, Jesus expects us to

"abide in" or "dwell in" the Scriptures. According to Jesus, the proof of my identity as a disciple is that I "live by the book." If I am going to invest in the discipling process of someone else's life, then I will need to train that person to come alive to the Scriptures.

This hunger for the Scriptures does not have to be a two-hour Bible study or a three-sermon-podcast-per-day. However, there should be a hunger to grow in a relationship with one's Savior and Lord. The bottom line is that for a disciple, Scripture should be a significant part of his or her daily life. If a person has a desire for and competency in God's Word, then they should be ready to take the next step: the Great Commandment.

Blessings,
David Chambers



Fairhope Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

349 Fairwood Blvd.

Fairhope, AL 36532

Join us! Everyone is welcome!

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School - 9 am

Worship Service - 10 am

(live-streaming online)

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday

10 am - 2 pm

Phone: 251-928-8495

Pastor's Cell: 251-510-1915

E-mail: pastor@fairhopechristian.org or

office@fairhopechristian.org

FairhopeChristian.org

Church Staff:

Rick Malugani, Pastor

Cindy Bishop, Financial Assistant

Justin Gipson, Choir Director

Anyia Scott, Musician

Ashley Weller, Admin. Assistant