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

# THE GOOD NEWS

FROM



# FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Volume 11, Issue 7

July 2023

#### From the Pastor's Pen:

ne of the most precious things we have in this world is relationships. Money is great, fame is wonderful, but having relationships with others is much more rewarding. All too often one hears at a funeral, "if only I had spent more time with him or her." I feel this way about my granddad. He was a great storyteller, but I did not spend enough time listening to him and now those stories are forever lost. It is a regret that will follow me to my grave, and I am sure there are similar feelings among many of us. We get so wrapped up in our own little world trying to get ahead or in some cases just stay afloat that we forget to nurture our most valuable commodity, our relationships.

Our busy schedules may leave little time to sit and invest needed time in these relationships causing them to wilt and slowly fall away to our loss and once lost, they may never be recovered. It is said that "no one on their deathbed wished they had spent more time at work." We don't regret the time missed at work, but we do regret the time missed nurturing our

relationships. It is the people in our lives that really build value, which create vital connections and give us a sense of being. It is these relationships that we crave, especially when we look back and realize that all that we have missed because of choices we made. This doesn't mean those choices are necessarily bad, just a matter of priorities.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had this to say about relationships; "If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples of all kinds to live together in the same world at peace."

Relationships are a vital part of our existence, for we were created to be in relationship with each other and with God.

Zephaniah 3:17 reminds us; The Lord God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exalt over you with loud singing.

This is a God who is present, who desires to be part of our lives not just

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every now and then, but every moment of every day. God is not some far off deity watching from a distance, rather God is intimately involved in our daily journey offering us guidance, comfort, peace, and love.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, Romans 5:8.

Through Jesus, God made this relationship personal, reaffirming God's love and commitment to us by offering us redemption, salvation, and life everlasting, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Psalm 139:7-10; Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me and your

#### right hand shall hold me.

This is how much God loves us, this is how much God is committed to us, this is how much God wants to be invested in our lives, building a relationship that will not only last this lifetime, but the eternal lifetime to come.

Let's take time to reinvest ourselves in our earthly relationships, spending time with our friends and family, showing them how much we care and love them. Let us also spend time reengaging with our God, building that relationship that will stand through the end of time. It will be the most precious time we ever spend, and the rewards will be great.



### **News and Notes**



#### Sally's Shoeboxes (Operation Christmas Child)

I know it seems early to think about Christmas Shoeboxes, but if we go ahead and start gathering needed items, we will be able to fill as many shoeboxes as last year! To start with:

- 1) If you have empty shoeboxes you no longer want, please bring them to the church and put in the OCC Room.
- 2) If you would like to start bringing items to fill the shoeboxes, stores start stocking school supplies after July 4th. We will need one subject notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, and pencil sharpeners. I will have a basket for the school supplies in the foyer on Sundays starting July 9th.

Thanks to everyone for supporting Sally's Shoeboxes!!

—Pam Chambers





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
i		en only				1
9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship  Guest Pastor: Rev. David Chambers	3 Office Closed Pastor Rick Out	Office Closed Happy 4th	10am Mission Planning	6	7	9am Men's Fellowship
9 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship Guest Pastor: Rev. David Chambers	Magnolia Squares 6:30pm Pastor Rick Out —	11	8am Prayer (via Zoom) Pastor Rick returns!	13	14	Fellowship Hall Reserved
9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship	Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	18	Newsletter Items Due	11am Lunck Bunch @ Agave 6pm General Board Meeting	21	22
9am-Christian Ed 30 10am- Worship Christian Ed 10am- Worship	24  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	25	26	27	28	30

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## Our Church Prayer List:

Melba Asby Daniel Herrea Elise Rogers and Family June Berry Dottie Hughes Jennifer Penry Romano Kristy Bishop *Jerry Johnson* Lisa Seymour Collin Loris Sandra Bishop Elijah Sprague Paul Bivins Mack Maclaren John Stephens Shannon Boatwright Sarah Maddox Millie Stephens *Jesse Bond* Peggy McCarthy *Ieff Swedenberg* Laura Talley Margaret Buchanan Brad Jason McCullough Laura Todd Nettye Carter Rev. Bob Moffitt Logan Chandler The Family of Gary Turner Barry Nix Haley Clift Emily O'Toole Oleta Volking Clay Conrad Mike Patrick Daryl Wasp Don Darnel Xavier Weller

Don DarnelPhyllis FondrenXavier WellerBlake ErnestChance PopeErika WhiteBerry FulfordCullen Potter & FamilyFonda WinfreyLonnie GibbsSharon QuimbyAll with COVID-19

John Ray

All traveling during the summer

Wally & Judy Robinson

Marlene Robinson

McKenzie Rockwell

Margie Robinson

## We pray for others in the Disciples' Fellowship:

Jul 2 – Hartselle, First – Mickey Johnson, Minister

Michelle Grene

Sharon Grimes

Louise Good

Bobby and Barbara Harris

Hugh Hays

**Jul 9** – Greenville, New Bethel – Tommie Means, Minister

**Jul 16** – Birmingham, Valley – Edd Spencer, Minister

Jul 23 – Pensacola, Arbol de Vida – Israel and Jeanette Martinez, Co-Pastors

Jul 30 – Letohatchee, Big Union – Timothy Silmon, Minister

#### **Military Prayer Requests:**

holidays

#### Sgt. Samantha Helms,

Anchorage, AK; granddaughter of Morris & Janet

#### Major Ross Malugani,

Ramstein AFB, Germany; son of Pastor Rick & Ellen





Happy Anniversary!

23 - Tommy and Shannon Boatwright

July 3 — Bill Carpenter

July 5 — Wayne Hoffren

July 7 — Jerry Johnson

July 12 — Addison Parish

July 14 — Carolyn Boothe

July 22 — Colbie Ragland

July 28 — Pam Maddox

July 31 — Jerry Davis



# Liturgy

July 2 — Guest Pastor, Rev. David Chambers

July 9 — Guest Pastor, Rev. David Chambers

July 16 — TBD

July 24 — TBD

July 30 —TBD



# July Servants

		Lay Leaders	<u>Liturgists</u>	Fellowship Hosts	<b>Elders</b>	<u>Diaconate</u>
	July 2			Joanne & Margie	David Chambers &	Susan & Bob Broughton
1	July 9	Donna Kenny		Pam C. & Susan B.		
,	July 16		Donna Kenny			
	July 23				Donna Kenny	Droughton
	July 30					

# Disciples Making Disciples Sharing the Good News in Our World Today

There are three "Great" statements in the Bible that guide us in our faith walk. I have covered the first two: the Great Confession and the Great Commandment. The Great Commission is the third. Calling this statement the great commission is unnecessarily redundant. It is THE COMMISSION! There is no other commission by which the Kingdom of God is grown.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you... (MT 28:19-20)

The part about teaching them to "observe" or "obey" is where we often get hung up. The traditional way of teaching is teaching to apply (this is what we learn to do in school). Jesus' words indicate that we should be teaching to obey. This is how a parent teaches children.

Disciple-makers function as spiritual parents. A church pastor cannot carry that burden for the whole congregation. Each of us needs a dedicated person who comes alongside us and says either "you are doing great; way to go" or "you are dropping the ball; let me help you hold the ball better." Do you have someone in your life who truly cares about whether you sin of do not sin? Is there anybody in your life who knows you well enough to see your sin, loves you enough to confront you about your sin? If you do, you know how powerful that friend can be. Be that kind of friend.

Coming to church, sitting in a pew and staying there is not an option. We are only completing our calling as Christian, as Disciples making Disciples when we "go."

> 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
Anya Scott, Musician
Ashley Weller, Admin. Assistant