

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 8

August 2023

From the Pastor's Pen:

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I recently took out a dollar bill to pay for something and as I handed it over to the clerk my eyes caught these words written on the back of the bill, "In God we trust." Simple words but loaded with meaning and purpose. To say, "In God we trust," means to say we believe in God's promise to be present throughout our earthly lives, to believe that God's love for us is steadfast and true and to believe that God has our best interests at heart, even if difficulty and sometimes catastrophic events occur in our lives. Trusting in God means we don't rely on our own understanding as much as we rely on God's wisdom and guidance, as illustrated in Proverbs 3:5, **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."**

This kind of trust means engaging God, seeking wisdom and direction even if we think we know the way to go, because quite often things are not as they seem. What we may think is a good choice can turn out to be disastrous, while one we think would be troubling actually works out better.

Remember these words from Jeremiah 29:11, **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope.'"**

I know there are times when we doubt this, especially when dealing with troubling times and circumstances, but it is especially important during these times that our trust in God should be at its highest, for God uses these times to transform and strengthen us, molding us into a people who not only endure, but overcome. But it can only happen if we put our trust in God and truly believe that God is present, working to help us through whatever we are facing.

Deuteronomy 31:8 reminds us, **"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."**

The Lord is with us and will always be with us. This gives us confidence and trust that no matter where we go or what happens, our Lord will be there offering guidance, support,

(Continued on page 2)

comfort, and love.

It all comes back to love, doesn't it? Love is what binds us together with each other and with our God. It is this love that God shows us, a love so great it led to one of the most tragic and yet wonderful moments in all of history. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life,"** John 3:16.

If ever there was a moment to fully understand the love God has for us, this is it. If ever there was a moment to truly believe in God's promises to recover a lost people, this is it. If ever there was a moment to trust in God as our creator, sustainer, and redeemer, this is it. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God not only revealed his plan but put it in action, offering us redemption, salvation, and everlasting life.

If God went to this length, willing to sacrifice this much, why wouldn't we put our trust in God to do that which God has promised? It is this trust that will guide us as we wrestle with difficult decisions and circumstances. It is this trust that will carry us through the ups and downs of our earthly life. And it is this trust that will lead us to the promised land, where pain and suffering will be no more, where joy and happiness abound.


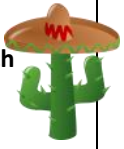
In God we trust!



NEWS AND NOTES

- We will host a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Aug. 1st from 1-5pm. Please donate if you're able!
- The Mission Planning group will meet Wednesday, August 2nd at 10am.
- The Christian Men's Fellowship meets Saturday, August 5th at 9am.
- Food Truck Sunday is August 6th from 4-6pm! Join us for some delicious food from Wacked Out Weiner and The Goodie Box dessert truck. Please invite friends, neighbors, and family!
- There will be a short deacon's meeting after worship Aug. 13th.
- The Lunch Bunch will meet at Agave 11am on Thursday Aug. 17.
- The Elders will meet Thursday. Aug. 17th at 6pm.
- Go ahead and mark your calendars!
 - * FCC Homecoming is Sunday, September 17th!
 - * Saturday Sept. 23, at 10am we will be having our District V annual gathering at Westwood Christian Church in Pensacola. You are encouraged to attend.
 - * Our Operation Christmas Child Packing Party is set for 10:30am Saturday, November 4th!
 - * Fairhope Christmas Parade is Friday, December 1st at 7pm.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Red Cross Blood Drive 1-5pm	2 8am Prayer (via Zoom) 10am Mission Planning	3 Boy Scouts 6-8pm	4	5 9am Men's Fellowship
	6 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship Food Truck 4-6pm Wacked Out Weiner	7 Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	8	9 8am Prayer (via Zoom)	10	11
	13 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship Deacons Meeting following worship	14 Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	15	16 8am Prayer (via Zoom)	17 11am Lunch Bunch @ Agave  6pm Elders Meeting	18
	20 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship	21 Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	22	23 8am Prayer (via Zoom) Newsletter Items Due	24	25
	27 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship	28 Magnolia Squares 6:30pm	29	30 8am Prayer (via Zoom)	31	THERE IS HOPE Weekly Meeting Schedule: Mondays- Saturdays: Fridays: 9am - Men only 7:30am, 12pm Tuesdays: 10:30am - 5:30pm Women only



the gift that keeps on giving!

Buying this bouquet
during the month of August
gives us \$1
to help us give to those in need!

Fairhope Christian Church's Blessing Box has been selected to receive \$1 from every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of August 2023 at the Winn-Dixie of Fairhope!

We are grateful and excited to share that our Blessing Box has been selected to benefit from Winn-Dixie's "Bloomin' 4 Good" program!

For the month of August, every purchase of a \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet (with the red circle sticker) from the Winn-Dixie at Fairhope will earn FCC's Blessing Box \$1!

Please share the news with neighbors, friends, and family! Call, email, and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the more we can raise!

(For more information on the program, visit seg.2givelocal.com)





Members and friends of Fairhope Christian Church, it's that time of year again! Time to start thinking about and working on **Operation Christmas Child**! As we did last year, we will have items of the month that are needed to fill the shoeboxes. Thank you for all that donated school supplies during July!

Schedule of items to donate by month:

⇒ **August—Hygiene Items:**

Washcloths, bar soap (no liquids, please,) toothbrushes, combs/brushes

⇒ **September—Toys:**

Stuffed animals, yoyo's, small cars, Legos, paddleballs, balls, play-doh, jump ropes, slinkies, harmonicas

⇒ **October—Clothes:**

Socks and T-shirts

If you would like to contribute to Operation Christmas Child, but are unable to shop or just not sure what to buy, please consider contributing financially. If writing a check, make it out to the church and write "OCC" in the memo line and I will do the shopping for you.

I'm also looking for empty shoeboxes to wrap and use for Operation Christmas Child. If you have any sturdy shoeboxes you're not using, please don't throw them away! Bring them to church and put them in the Operation Christmas Child Room.

Lastly, mark your calendar for our annual Packing Party scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:30am. Hope to see everyone there!

If you have any questions about OCC, feel free to talk to me.

—Pam Chambers



Our Church Prayer List:

<i>Melba Asby</i>	<i>Bobby and Barbara Harris</i>	<i>Wally & Judy Robinson</i>
<i>June Berry</i>	<i>Hugh Hays</i>	<i>McKenzie Rockwell</i>
<i>Kristy Bishop</i>	<i>Daniel Herrea</i>	<i>Margie Robinson</i>
<i>Sandra Bishop</i>	<i>Dottie Hughes</i>	<i>Elise Rogers and Family</i>
<i>Paul Bivins</i>	<i>Jerry Johnson</i>	<i>Jennifer Penry Romano</i>
<i>Shannon Boatwright</i>	<i>Collin Loris</i>	<i>Lisa Seymour</i>
<i>Jesse Bond</i>	<i>Mack Maclaren</i>	<i>Elijah Sprague</i>
<i>Margaret Buchanan</i>	<i>Sarah Maddox</i>	<i>John Stephens</i>
<i>Nettye Carter</i>	<i>Peggy McCarthy</i>	<i>Millie Stephens</i>
<i>Logan Chandler</i>	<i>Brad Jason McCullough</i>	<i>Jeff Swedenberg</i>
<i>Janice Clifford</i>	<i>Charles McKenzie</i>	<i>Laura Talley</i>
<i>Haley Clift</i>	<i>Rev. Bob Moffitt</i>	<i>Laura Todd</i>
<i>Clay Conrad</i>	<i>Barry Nix</i>	<i>Oleta Volking</i>
<i>Don Darnell</i>	<i>Emily O'Toole</i>	<i>Daryl Wasp</i>
<i>Paula Darnell</i>	<i>Mike Patrick</i>	<i>Erika White</i>
<i>Blake Ernest</i>	<i>Phyllis Fondren</i>	<i>Fonda Winfrey</i>
<i>Berry Fulford</i>	<i>Chance Pope</i>	<i>All with COVID-19</i>
<i>Lonnie Gibbs</i>	<i>Cullen Potter & Family</i>	<i>and all caregivers</i>
<i>Michelle Grene</i>	<i>Sharon Quimby</i>	
<i>Sharon Grimes</i>	<i>John Ray</i>	
<i>Louise Good</i>	<i>Marlene Robinson</i>	



We pray for others in the Disciples' Fellowship:

Aug 6 – Hayneville, Little Union – Willie Timmons,
Minister

Aug 13 – Huntsville, First – Paul Allen and Laura
West, Ministers

Aug 20 – Cottdale, Cottdale – Drexel Rayford,
Minister

Aug 27 – Tuskegee, Union – Jeff Damron, Minister

Military Prayer Requests:

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

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





6—Tommy Boatwright 18—Gabe Light
 11—Tina Frego 27—Maxine Elliott
 11—Wayne McCullough 29—Starr Basham
 13—Don Jennings 30—Morris Helms
 15—Pam Chambers



18th—Louis and Melinda Mapp



Liturgy

August 6 — Matthew 15:10-20

August 13 — Psalm 14:1-7

August 20 — Isaiah 25:6-9

August 27 — Mark 9:21-29

August Servants



Lay Leaders

Liturgists

Fellowship Hosts

Elders

Diaconate

Aug 6	Sue Hammac	Susan Broughton		June Berry & David Chambers	Jim Clifford & Dale Talley
Aug 13		Donna Kenny			
Aug 20	Donna Kenny	Sue Hammac			
Aug 27					

Disciples Making Disciples

Sharing the Good News in Our World Today



A Matter of Focus

If we are to be disciples making disciples then the focus of our faith walk should be outward not inward. Jesus came to earth to be a living example of the love of God and show us the way to God. After Jesus comes the Holy Spirit as a “helper” for us along this way. The third essential part of this journey is the church which exists to come along beside people on this way and help them in their journey. If a church is not focused on making disciples and teaching them all that Jesus has taught, then they are not being the church God intends (see the Great Commission.) All Christians have the potential to fulfill the Great Commission to go and the Great Commandment to love but sometimes our focus needs to be re-aimed. Today, I am going to include a quote from John Piper in “Consider Each Other How to Stir Up Love” to help us re-focus:

Here is the focus for your life. Here is what you aim at from morning till night as a Christian. Notice carefully: It is not what you might expect. It is not: consider how to love each other and do good deeds. That would be biblical and right. But it’s different: “Consider how to stimulate each other to love and good deeds.” Focus on helping others become loving people. Aim at stirring up others to do good deeds. And of course the implication would also be that if others need help and stirring up, we do too, and so we would be aiming at what sorts of ways we can think and feel and talk and act that will stir each other up to love and do good deeds. The aim of our lives is not just loving and doing good deeds, but helping to stir up others to love and to do good deeds.

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 – Friday
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
Anya Scott, Administrator