

*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 4

April 2023

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### From the Pastor's Pen:

Are we there yet? Many a parent has heard these words from the backseat while going from one place to another. Are we there yet, how much longer, when is this going to be over?

Oh, how many of us have said this a time or two. Sitting in a dentist chair gripping the armrest as the drill makes contact with a nerve for the umpteenth time. Waiting on a plane as it takes its place in line on the runway as the captain informs that there will be a small delay, a delay that is now threatening our connection at our next stop. Spending most of a day waiting on the service tech to arrive knowing that the eta was somewhere between 8 am and 8 pm. These little inconveniences remind us that there is much in our lives that we are not in control of, and this can lead to impatience, anxiety and a sense of hopelessness.

Oh, if only our lives were like those television shows that wrapped everything up in less than thirty minutes to an hour. Shows like "Leave it to Beaver," "Laverne and Shirley," and even "Gilligan's Island." But our

lives are not television shows no matter how much reality is claimed. Our lives are real and the issues and challenges we face are real and they are not always fixed in a neat and expected time frame.

It took Sarah ninety years to have her first child, it took the Hebrews forty years to make it to the land God had promised, it took Jesus forty days in the desert before he was tested by Satan, and we have been waiting over two thousand years for Jesus to return after his crucifixion and resurrection.

The point is: our lives are filled with circumstances that can bog us down or in our minds take too long to work themselves out and we can become impatient and discouraged.

But just as Sarah, or the Hebrews or even Jesus, if we trust in our Lord, if we truly believe that our Lord is with us and for us, then we can navigate these seemingly endless situations with confidence and with courage. We can leverage our faith to help us persevere, to have the endurance to continue on

*(Continued on page 2)*

our life's journey knowing that God has a plan for us and while that plan may take some time to evolve, it will be fulfilled in God's time and according to God's will.

***For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope, Jeremiah 29:11.***

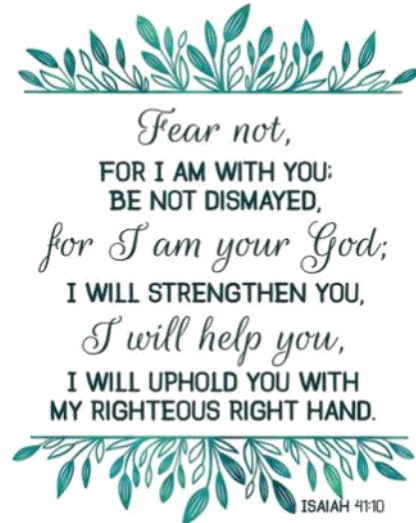
In these words, we find the confidence to be patient, to wait upon the Lord understanding to the love of our God will not only lead us out but welcome us in when our time comes.

***Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you, Genesis 28:15.***

God has promised to restore us, to reclaim us, and to bring us all back. And while it may seem like

it is taking forever, just remember that what God has promised *is* forever. And when we look back, we will see that what seemed far too distant or taking too long in reality was as close as yesterday is to today, it is just that we viewed this through our human understanding of time rather than God's.

So, be patient, be confident, and be persistent knowing that while it may not be an easy journey, it will be one that has a happy ending; this is our reality.



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## CWF - MARCH RECAP

Both the morning and evening groups of CWF met on Tuesday, March 14th at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. The morning group had 6 members present at the meeting and the evening group had 3 present. Sarah Snarr presented a wonderful devotion on how we need to be broken like a child's glow stick to be able to shine for Jesus. A field trip to the Mardi Gras Museum is planned for Friday, April 14th with lunch to follow at the Spot of Tea in downtown Mobile. The evening circle started a new book, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* By Joanna Weaver. The group will collect small bottles of liquid laundry detergent to donate to Prodissee Pantry. The next meeting of both groups will be Tuesday, April 11th at both 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. All ladies of the church and community are invited to either meeting.

Blessings,  
Debbie Carpenter/Ellen Malugani, co-chairs

## *Our Church Prayer List:*

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



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

**Apr. 2** – Birmingham, First – Beth Thomason and Robin Blakemore, Ministers

**Apr. 9** – Birmingham, New Vision – Edward Williams, Minister

**Apr. 16** – Huntsville, Grateful Life – Sherry Birney, Minister

**Apr 23** – Greenville, Harrison Street – Timothy O'Neal, Minister

**Apr 30** – Birmingham, Macedonia – Kenneth Hill, Minister

### **Military Prayer Requests:**

**Sgt. Samantha Helms,**

Anchorage, AK; granddaughter of Morris & Janet

**Major Ross Malugani,**

Ramstein AFB, Germany; son of Pastor Rick & Ellen



# March 2023 Highlights



Pictures from Ecumenical Ministries Chili for Charity February 25th!



L-R: Pastor Rick and Ellen Malugani, Pam and Jim Maddox, Bob and Susan Broughton

**We welcomed Justin Gipson as our new Choir Director!**



**We hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive March 17th**



Thank you to Rev. Bill Bagby, Dian Mangus, and Bob Renner for leading service in Pastor Rick's stead on April 12th





# 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 251-929-2339.



**Blessing Box Sunday** is April 16th. Monetary donations are always appreciated. If you would like to donate items, the following are needed:

**Canned Meats**

**Peanut Butter & Jelly**

**Toiletries**

**Toilet Paper**

- The **Christian Men's Fellowship** will meet Saturday, April 1st at 9am.
- There will be an **Easter Offering** April 2nd-9th.
- Join us Sunday, April 2nd for **Palm Sunday Lunch** after worship.
- The **Mission Planning Team** will meet Wednesday April 5th at 10am.
- Our new **Dinner/Bible Study** series begins Wednesday April 5th from 5-7pm and will continue every Wednesday going forward!
- There will be a **Good Friday prayer vigil** from 6am-6pm. Please sign up to stay during a 30 minute period during the day.
- The **CWF** will meet Tuesday, April 11th at 10am and 7pm.
- Our monthly **Game Day** will be Thurs., April 13th from 2-4pm.
- All are invited Friday, April 14th to join the CWF on a **church trip** to the Mardi Gras Museum, followed by lunch at Spot of Tea in downtown Mobile. The cost is \$8 plus the price of lunch. Please sign up by Sunday, April 9th, if you are interested in going. The plan is to meet at the church at 9am and go as a group, returning mid-afternoon.
- **Blessing Box Sunday** is April 16th! Please see the list above for needed items. Monetary donations are always welcomed.
- **Lunch Bunch** meets Thurs., April 20th at 11am. at Agave.
- Our next **Movie Night** is Thursday, April 27th 6-8pm!
- The **Youth Group** will meet Sunday April 23rd from 2-3pm (There will not be a meeting on Easter Sunday).



# Happy Birthday



Rick Malugani, 4/18	Donna Kenny, 4/30
Lilly Parish, 4/18	Ann Sadler, 4/30
Glen Morris, 4/22	John Wimpee, 4/30



## April Liturgy

**Apr 2 — Palm Sunday** John 12:12-16

**Apr 9 — Easter Sunday** John 20:1-2

**Apr 16 —** John 21:15-16

**Apr 23 —** Rev. David Chambers

**Apr 30 —** Matthew 6:1-4



## April Servants



### Lay Leaders

### Liturgists

### Fellowship Hosts

### Elders

<b>Apr. 2</b>	Donna Kenny	Donna Kenny	Palm Sunday Dinner	Donna Kenny and Fred Crawford
<b>Apr. 9</b>	Ken Vaughn	Linda McCullough	(Easter)	
<b>Apr. 16</b>	Sue Hammac	Sue Hammac	Donna Kenny	
<b>Apr. 23</b>	Fred Crawford			
<b>Apr. 30</b>		Linda McCullough		

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>THERE IS HOPE</b> Weekly Meeting Schedule:</p> <p>Mondays-Fridays: 7:30am, 12pm Tuesdays: 5:30pm</p> <p>Saturdays: 9am - Men only 10:30am - Women only</p>						<p>1 9am Men's Fellowship</p> <p>Fellowship Hall Reserved</p>
<p>2 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship <b>Palm Sunday Dinner</b> <i>Easter Lily Forms Due</i> Easter Offering</p>	<p>3 10am Craft Circle  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8am Prayer (via Zoom) 10am Mission Planning Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm</p>	<p>6 Boy Scouts Round Table 6-8pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship  Easter Offering</p>	<p>10 10am Craft Circle  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm</p>	<p>11 10am CWF  7pm CWF</p>	<p>12 8am Prayer (via Zoom)  Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm</p>	<p>13  2-4pm Game Day</p>	<p>14 9am CWF Mardi Gras Museum &amp; Spot of Tea trip </p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship  Blessing Box Sunday</p>	<p>17 10am Craft Circle  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm  Pastor Rick Out</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>  Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm</p>	<p>20 11am Lunch Bunch @ Agave</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9am-Chr. Ed 10am-Wor. 30 2-3p Youth → 9am-Christian Ed 10am-Worship</p>	<p>24 10am Craft Circle  Magnolia Squares 6:30pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8am Prayer (via Zoom)  Dinner/Bible Study 5-7pm</p>	<p>27  6-8pm Movie Night</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

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## Disciples Making Disciples

Sharing the Good News in Our World Today



If we want to be disciples who help other people along the way to becoming disciples, then we will first invite them along the way that we are traveling. In a spiritual sense, that would be the disciple's path. If you were sitting in a theology class and I was the professor, I would say we are going to look at the "doctrine of sanctification." But I am just a simple retired preacher, so I'm going to say we are going to look at the way toward spiritual maturity. The Bible often refers to this as "The Way." What is the "Way?" It is the method and message of Jesus, and it is this method and message that we use to bring others along the way toward spiritual maturity.

Jesus said In John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." If we are a part of Jesus' church and we are walking the path he has for us, then we are already

on "the Way" toward being transformed into the image of Christ. Spiritual maturity is never accidental, nor does it occur in isolation from other brothers and sisters in the local church.

The book of Acts calls Jesus' Church "the Way," the phrase indicates that the people of Christ's first-century church contributed to intentional partnerships to help each other along this path of growth. There are three steppingstones that help us along this way and thus help us bring others along with us. We cannot travel this path without these three hallmarks of Jesus' teaching. They are: The Great Confession (Matthew 16), the Great Commandment (Matthew 22), and the Great Commission (Matthew 28). We will look at each of these more closely in the coming months.

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](mailto:pastor@fairhopechristian.org) or

[office@fairhopechristian.org](mailto:office@fairhopechristian.org)

[FairhopeChristian.org](http://FairhopeChristian.org)

**Church Staff:**

Rick Malugani, Pastor

Cindy Bishop, Financial Assistant

Justin Gipson, Choir Director

Anya Scott, Musician

Ashley Weller, Admin. Assistant