



AVONDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

where all are welcome ... to *connect* with God and others.
... to *grow* together in faith and love.
... to *serve* the world for Jesus Christ.

Restrooms

If you need a restroom, exit the sanctuary through the door at the front to the right of the pulpit. The women's restroom is just off the foyer. The men's restroom is down the hallway from the foyer on the right.

Nursery

We welcome children of all ages in worship; however, a nursery is available for infants and toddlers under four years old who may need it. Please see an usher for assistance.

Hearing Support

We have hearing assistive technology that connects via bluetooth available. Check with an usher for an instruction card to help you connect.

Visual Support – Large Print Hymnals & Bulletins

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. The hymnals are located on the side table to the right of the pulpit at the front of the sanctuary. Ushers can help you locate both the hymnals and the bulletins as needed.

Connect + Grow + Serve



Use this QR code (or www.AvonUMC.net/HereIAm) to go online to let us know you're here, enter a prayer request, and/or make a contribution. You can also access volunteer opportunities and wish lists to support our local outreach as well as sign up to provide flowers in honor/memory of someone one Sunday on the altar in worship.

Prayer Frame

The wooden frame at the front of the sanctuary is designed to serve like the prayer wall in Jerusalem where people tuck their written prayers into the cracks of the stones. It serves as a way for us to bring our prayers before God and hold one another in prayer as a community. Feel free to write your prayers on the slips of paper provided on the front table and place them in the frame. Whether it's a joy, a concern, or something-in-between, know that your prayers are seen, held, and lifted up.

Floral Tribute

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in honor of the Choir
by Susan Harvill.*



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 21, 2025

Prelude

Judea from Mors et Vita

Charles Gounod

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

* Hymn of Praise No. 130

God Will Take Care of You

* Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

Steve Thomas

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

[§] Please rise in body or in spirit.

** universal

* Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

* Ritual of Friendship

Children's Moment

Neal Flum

Following the Children's Moment, children (kindergarten through second grade) will be escorted to Children's Church. Parents must pick up their child(ren) from the first floor classroom after the worship service.

Act of Centering

In His Time

Diane Ball

1. In his time, _____ in his time; _____ he makes all things beau-ti -
2. In your time, _____ in your time; _____ you make all things beau-ti -

6
ful in his time. _____ Lord, please show me ev - ery day as you're
ful in your time. _____ Lord, my life to you I bring; may each

11
teach-ing me your way, that you do just what you say in your time.
song I have to sing be to you a love - ly thing in your time.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalms 46:1-3 | Romans 8:35, 38-39

Anthem

Send Out Thy Light

Charles Gounod

Sermon

Everything Happens for a Reason

Pastoral Prayer with The Lord's Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Prayer

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Hymn of Praise No. 128

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

* Benediction

* Choral Benediction

The Love of God Be With Us

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

* Postlude

Sortie pour Grande Orgue

Charles Gounod



MUSIC NOTES

Though Charles Gounod (1818-1893) and Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) were close contemporaries, their musical careers were quite different. Gounod, born and trained in Paris, was primarily devoted to the composition of secular songs, orchestral works, and, most notably, operas. His *Faust* and *Romeo et Juliette* became immediate hits and remain staples in the international repertory. However, he was also a devout Christian, contemplated becoming a priest, served for a time as a church organist, and wrote a fair amount of sacred music. *Send Out Thy Light*, a setting of Psalm 43, is one of his most popular incidental anthems and demonstrates the dramatic and lyrical gifts that served him so well in the opera house. The text is: “Send out Thy light and Thy truth let them lead me. And let them bring me to Thy holy hill.” Likewise, *Judea*, which we hear as this morning’s prelude, also has a rather theatrical affect.

Meanwhile, Wesley (a grandson of Methodism’s own John) limited his musical activities to the church. He was one of England’s leading organists, held posts at Hereford, Exeter, Gloucester, and Winchester cathedrals, and was Professor of Organ at London’s Royal Academy of Music. As a composer, his anthems and services were highly prized and several are still considered gems of the 19th century English choral tradition. None is more beloved than the brief *Lead Me, Lord* in which Wesley crafts an elegantly simple and contemplative melody to accompany a prayer-like verse from Psalm 5. A somewhat simplified version of this piece can be found in our Hymnal at #473. The Choral Benediction utilizes Wesley’s popular hymn-tune, *Aurelia*.



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SUN DAY BHAM: POP-UP MARKET

Sunday, September 21 | 1:00pm-4:00pm

Sun Day events are being held across the United States this weekend in an effort to fight for climate justice and sound the call for solar and renewable energy. Our local event will take place in our church's Gym as a Pop-up Market that includes vendors whose wares range from cupcakes and honey to apparel and art as well as local nonprofit organizations that advocate for solar energy. Bring a friend and join us in celebrating our world and the ways in which we can work together to save it.

HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, September 24 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Hand to Heart, our prayer shawl ministry, meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Archive Room on the first floor. This ministry is open to experienced needleworkers as well as those who want to learn. If you know someone for whom a shawl would bring comfort, contact Barb Walker (205.672.9687). We have several beautiful shawls available to give away.

BAO BINGO

Monday, October 6 | 7:00pm

Join us as we support our friends from Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO) in their monthly Bingo fundraiser. The cost for a seat is \$25 at the door. Email Henry Levens (levenshenry@gmail.com) to reserve a seat at our table. BAO is located at 205 32nd Street South.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Wednesday, October 8 | 1:30pm

Calling all friends of the animal kingdom! We're joining with Red Mountain Community School for a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your furry friends, scaly sidekicks, and aquatic acquaintances to the Church Lawn where we'll join in a processional for the service to the Avondale Park Amphitheater. Or if your pet doesn't do well in social situations, bring a photo of your pet for Pastor Malinda to bless instead.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 14 | 6:30pm

Join us each month on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm at the church to dive into thought-provoking reads that center around faith, spirituality, religion, and more. Our October book is *Love Does* by Bob Goff—an exploration of how we might love our neighbors through the simple act of showing love rather than trying to have all the “right answers” or checking the “right boxes”. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and maybe a friend or two.

HOMELESS MINISTRY NEEDS

Our homeless neighbors often need items to take with them. We’ve created an Amazon wishlist to make ordering and delivery easy. You can access that using the QR Code in your bulletin. Or you can purchase items to bring to the church. The wishlist includes: cleaning wipes, deodorant, travel shave cream, men’s disposable razors, underwear (most prefer boxer briefs in sizes medium or large). Drop off items weekdays from 8am-11pm at Avondale Samaritan Place, or bring them to worship on Sunday morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

If you’d like to sponsor a floral tribute on the altar in worship one Sunday, use the QR code in the front of the bulletin to sign up and our florist will handle the rest. You’ll be able to note if you’d like the flowers to be in honor or memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50 each Sunday. Questions? Reach out to Susan Harvill (susan.harvill1252@gmail.com).

SAVE THE DATES

Monday, October 6 @ 7:00pm	BAO Bingo
Wednesday, October 8 @ 1:30pm	Blessing the Animals
Tuesday, October 14 @ 6:30pm	Book Club
Wednesday, October 15 @ 9:30am	Women’s Coffee
Sunday, October 19 @ 8:30am	Men’s Breakfast
Sunday, October 26	Stewardship Commitment Sunday, Trick or Treating on the Lawn, & Fellowship Lunch



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