



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 by David Majors
in memory of his parents Curtis and Louise Majors.*



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost | October 19, 2025

Prelude

Let All with Heart and Voice

Mary McDonald

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 158**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

*** Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed**

Ginger Branson

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

Disney Weaver

*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 No. 452

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (v. 1, 2)

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Philippians 4:4-9

Anthem

Think on These Things

Mark Patterson

Sermon

Revealed Through Prayer

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

Be Thou My Vision

Dale Wood

*** 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. 451**

Be Thou My Vision

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction**

Come Away with Me

John Horman

*** Postlude**

Postlude on Slane

Dale Wood



MUSIC NOTES

This morning's music is a veritable potpourri of styles, composers, and genres; unified by the fact all the selections are by contemporary American composers, and each one reflects our Stewardship theme: Revealed Through Prayer. The Call to Worship, *Listen to Your Children Praying*, marries words by popular musician Ken Medema to a tune by Catholic composer Robert Kreutz. The Anthem by Mark Patterson, *Think on These Things*, is a lovely and lyrical setting of today's scripture reading from Philippians. The gentle Benediction, *Come Away With Me*, by John Horman, invites each of us to find a quiet place where we meet God in prayer.

Our three hymns also reflect a variety of styles and traditions. *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*, written by Moravian minister John Bateman in 1843 as a call to worship, is normally sung to the rousing folk-like Spanish melody known as *Madrid*. *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* was written by teacher and poet Ray Palmer during a particularly difficult time in his life. His friend, the prominent American hymn-writer Lowell Mason, supplied the gospel-flavored tune. Our final hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*, has ancient origins. Based on a Gaelic text dating back to perhaps the 6th century, it was translated and paired with the Irish folk song *Slane* in the early 20th century, and has since become a well-loved standard, particularly in the U.S. and Britain. This hymn, along with *Come, Christians Join to Sing*, are the basis for the organ prelude, offertory and postlude.

Prayer: Experiment with Timing

Over the next few days, pick different times and situations with which to experiment using as your 5-10 minute prayer time. Begin with a few moments of gratitude and then ask God, “What do you want me to do today? Speak to me.” Then be in silence and listen.

Try each of the applicable times and situations below and jot down any notes in an app on your phone or in your journal.

- 5-10 minutes first thing in the morning
- in the shower
- in the car, with the radio off or no music
- over lunch, go for a walk
- use your exercise time
- 5-10 minutes before you go to bed

Don’t be afraid to experiment! Afterward, reflect on the following: What was helpful? What wasn’t? Did you hear anything from God? (And if you only hear silence, that’s ok. Keep trying.)

Pray with Scripture

Read one of the following scriptures each day ... Philippians 4:4-9 ... Matthew 13:10-17 ... Psalm 121. Read it slowly to yourself. Then read it aloud. Some people find that writing it out on paper helps them, too.

Notice if there is a particular word or phrase that speaks to you or strikes you as particularly meaningful. Why might that be? What do you think God might be saying to you through this passage?

Pray a Daily Examen

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556 CE) taught a prayer technique now commonly known as ‘The Daily Examen.’ Also referred to as ‘Ignatian Prayer,’ this quick prayer is designed to help us see where God was active within our day. Below is a simplified form of this prayer technique in five steps.

After going through this routine, jot down notes in an app on your phone or in your journal about your experience. What was uncomfortable? What came to mind in each of these five areas? Which step was the most difficult for you? Did you receive any insights or learnings?

1. **Petition and Thanksgiving**

Find a comfortable place to sit where you won't be disturbed. Take a few deep breaths, then begin with giving thanks to God.

Spirit of God,

as I review my day, open my eyes to know You more fully
and to know myself as You see me.

Today I give you thanks for ... *(let your mind go through the day and name your blessings, big and small.)*

2. **Review**

Holy God, where did I see you on my commute? In the day's comings and goings?

Where did I pass by too quickly?

Where did I encounter you in my meals, shared or alone, quick or leisurely?

Where was I ungrateful? Where was I challenged? Where did I fail?

Where did I hear you in the media? Where did I see you on my many devices?

How did I distinguish your voice from all the noise?

How did I encounter you in my neighbor? My family, friends and coworkers?

When did I fail to love others as you love me?

3. **Response: Forgiveness and Healing**

Gracious God,

forgive me and help me let go of failures and mistakes that caused me harm or caused harm to others.

4. **Pray about the Next Day**

As you look ahead, what comes to mind? Imagine what you'll be doing, who you'll be seeing or meetings, and what decisions you may have to make. With what spirit do you want to enter tomorrow?

Holy God,

grant me wisdom and guidance in my comings and goings tomorrow. Guide me in loving you more fully and showing love to all the people I encounter. Amen.



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TRICK OR TREAT ON THE LAWN + FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

NEXT Sunday, October 26 | After Worship

We'll be celebrating Halloween with some Trick or Treating on our front lawn after worship. Adults are encouraged to bring candy or goody bags for the kids to collect. All children and adults are invited to dress up in their costumes. Afterward, we'll enjoy lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. The main dish (fried chicken or ham) and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Let us know what you're bringing by using the QR Code to find the link for our Sign-up Genius or by emailing Jeanne Baker (jbaker@avonumc.net).

HAND TO HEART

THIS Wednesday, October 22 | 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.

CELEBRATING & REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Sunday, November 3 | 10:00am

Join us for All Saints Worship where we'll name those from our congregation who have died over the past year, offer space for other friends and family members to be named aloud, and come to Christ's table to share in holy communion with those present and those saints who have gone on before us. We will also have our bell tree with ribbons where you can pin a bell in memory of a loved one(s). The gentle sound of the tinkling bells reminds us of the singing of the saints in glory. Please make plans to arrive a few minutes before worship if you would like to pin a bell in memory of someone. All are welcome to join us for this meaningful time of worship and remembrance.

BAO BINGO

Monday, November 3 | 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.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 11 | 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 November book is *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr—a look through the lens of the ancient Jewish prophets and how their wisdom might guide us in living compassionately in a time of violence and despair. 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 size medium). Drop off items weekdays at ASP from 8am-11pm, or bring them to worship Sunday.

ALTAR FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

If you'd like to sponsor a floral tribute on the altar in worship, use the QR code in 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

November 1	Christmas Village Toy Collection Begins
November 2 @ 10:00am	Worship: All Saints Sunday
November 3 @ 7:00pm	BAO Bingo
November 11 @ 6:30pm	Book Club
November 12 @ 10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
November 16 @ 2:00pm	Charge Conference @ Grace UMC (Liberty Park)
November 19 @ 9:30am	Women's Coffee
November 19 @ 11:00am	Beeson Lunch (AvonUMC serves)
November 24-26	Decorating the Sanctuary
November 30 @ 10:00am	Worship: Hanging of the Greens



500 40TH STREET, SOUTH • BIRMINGHAM, AL 35222-3310