



# 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](http://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 Diane Robinson in honor of our wonderful team of workers in the Nursery and Children's Church.*



## Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost | November 9, 2025

Prelude

*Variations on Llwyn Oon*

Mark Rippe

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

Choral Call to Worship

*Let All Things Now Living*

Traditional Welsh/arranged by Katherine Davis

\* Call to Worship

based on Hebrews 13:1-2

Ginger Branson

With all your strength, sing aloud to the Lord.

**We will shout forth praise and thanksgiving to God.**

In a world that divides with *us versus them*...

**We will follow God's call to unite as both neighbor and friend.**

Come, let mutual love continue among us.

**We come to worship the living God,  
who draws the circle wider still.**

\* Hymn of Praise No. 384

*Love Divine, All Love's Excelling*

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<sup>§</sup> Please rise in body or in spirit.

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

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.

## \* 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

### Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, \_\_\_

Lord, send your Spir-it in this place; \_\_\_

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, \_\_\_ send us

love, send us power, send us grace. \_\_\_

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\*\* universal

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

### Anthem

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Donnalyn Grunewald

### Sermon

Us vs. Them

### 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

*Passacaglia in F*

John E. West

### \* 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

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

### \* Benediction

### \* Choral Benediction

*We Plow the Fields*

Johann Schultz

### \* Postlude

*Improvisation on We Plough the Fields*

# 2223 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

## *Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love. \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S  
76.76.86 with Refrain

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## MUSIC NOTES

Though Thanksgiving is typically commemorated in the Church on the Sunday immediately preceding the holiday, our music throughout the month of November will celebrate this beloved observance. The Call to Worship, *Let All Things Now Living*, written in 1939 by Katherine K. Davis, is a joyful hymn of thanksgiving that praises God as Creator, Sustainer, and Guide. It is usually sung to the popular Welsh tune, *Llwyn Oon* (The Ash Tree/Grove). This morning, the choir sings the vibrant melody, while two of our talented sopranos – Genie Loggins and Karin Callahan – soar above with a stratospheric descant. The same tune is also the basis for the Prelude, fashioned into a set of variations by American organist Mark Rippe. The Anthem, by contemporary Australian composer and teacher, Donnalyn Grunewald, pairs a gentle and understated melody with select verses of the well-known hymn, *For the Beauty of the Earth* (No. 92 in the hymnal). The result is a quiet offering of thanks.

The organ Offertory and Postlude are by the English musician John Ebenezer West (1863-1929). Though little-known today, he was a prolific composer, was organist at several important London churches, and was an influential music editor and educator. His *Passacaglia in F* sounds suspiciously similar to the infamous *Canon* by Pachelbel; in fact, it utilizes the same technique of a repeated bass (pedal) line over which varied melodic material is presented. The Postlude is a brief improvisation based on the Thanksgiving hymn, *We Plow the Fields*, which also serves as the Choral Benediction.



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## **MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**

**THIS 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.

## **WOMEN'S COFFEE**

**Wednesday, November 19 | 9:30am**

Ladies ... come as you are, bring a friend, and let's enjoy some great company together! Our coffee gatherings happen each month on the third Wednesday at General (3813 Clairmont Avenue, Birmingham 35222).

## **HAND TO HEART**

**Wednesdays, November 12 & 26 | 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.

## **CHARGE CONFERENCE**

**Sunday, November 16 | 2:00pm**

This year for our annual Charge Conference we will be joining other churches from the West District as we share ministry highlights and approve annual reports. Charge Conference will take place at Grace UMC located in Liberty Park (5125 Sicard Hollow Road, Vestavia Hills, 35242).

## Serving Opportunities

*Our mission arm Avondale Samaritan Place (ASP) has several great opportunities to help us reach out to our community and bring us all together as neighbors and friends.*

*Invite your friends and family to join you in supporting these events.*



*Use this QR Code to go online to sign up for any of these opportunities to serve/donate, and to access the Amazon Wish Lists.*

*Questions? Email Susan Sims (ssims@avonumc.net).*

## FEEDING FAMILIES DURING SNAP CRISIS

During the SNAP Benefits crisis, we remain committed to serving hungry individuals and families. There are several ways you can help:

- **Donate Money** – you can do so online through our website. You can also drop money in the offering place or mail a check to the church. If you write a check, please note in the memo line that it is for “SNAP Food Support.”
- **Donate Food** – You can drop off shelf stable items at ASP Monday through Friday from 8am – 11am ... things like spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice, pop top raviolis, cans of chicken or tuna, mac and cheese, canned fruit / vegetables, shelf stable milk.

ASP will be using these donations to support those who come to our doors hungry, families from Avondale Elementary School, and trusted community partners.

## HELP SERVE LUNCH

**Wednesday, November 19 | 10:30am-1:00pm**

Each month our social workers bring the seniors they support for lunch and activities at Avondale Samaritan Place (ASP). Groups from Avondale and Canterbury UMCs take turns serving lunch and leading fun activities. November is our church’s month to serve, which includes welcoming the seniors, leading them in chair exercises, serving lunch, and several rousing rounds of Bingo. To volunteer email Susan Harvill (susan.harvill1252@gmail.com).

## **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – TIME TO SHOP**

Each December, the halls of the ASP gym are decked to become a Christmas Village where low-income parents can shop for gifts for their children that they know they'll love. We're able to offer new toys at greatly reduced prices thanks to the generosity of our church family and larger community. To help stock the Village, drop off un-wrapped gifts to ASP Monday through Friday from 8am-11am ... or if you shop through the Amazon Wish List, you can have them shipped directly to Canterbury UMC. Gifts are due by November 23.

## **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – VOLUNTEER**

We need volunteers to do a whole host of tasks from setting up the Village to serving in hospitality to gift wrapping to helping hand out food in Mrs. Claus' kitchen and so much more. These tasks happen December 1-5.

## **WINTER NEEDS FOR OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS**

In addition to the usual items we give to our homeless neighbors, we need winter items – things like hand warmers, skull caps, gloves, and warm socks. Drop off items weekdays from 8am-11am at Avondale Samaritan Place or bring them on Sunday mornings to worship. You can also donate through our Amazon wishlist and have things delivered directly to us. You can access that using the QR Code in your bulletin.

## SAVE THE DATES

|                              |                                              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>November 1</b>            | Christmas Village Toy Collection Begins      |
| <b>November 2 @ 10:00am</b>  | Worship: All Saints Sunday                   |
| <b>November 3 @ 7:00pm</b>   | BAO Bingo                                    |
| <b>November 11 @ 6:30pm</b>  | Book Club                                    |
| <b>November 12 @ 10:00am</b> | Prayer Shawl Ministry                        |
| <b>November 16 @ 2:00pm</b>  | Charge Conference @ Grace UMC (Liberty Park) |
| <b>November 19 @ 9:30am</b>  | Women's Coffee                               |
| <b>November 19 @ 11:00am</b> | Beeson Lunch (AvonUMC serves)                |
| <b>November 24-26</b>        | Decorating the Sanctuary                     |
| <b>November 30 @ 10:00am</b> | Worship: Hanging of the Greens               |
|                              |                                              |
| <b>December 1 @ 7:00pm</b>   | BAO Bingo                                    |
| <b>December 1-5</b>          | ASP: Christmas Village                       |
| <b>December 7 @ 2:00pm</b>   | ASP: Cookies with Santa                      |
| <b>December 9</b>            | Book Club                                    |
| <b>December 13</b>           | Crock Pots & Game Night                      |
| <b>December 17</b>           | Women's Coffee                               |
| <b>December 21</b>           | Worship: Choir Cantata                       |
| <b>December 24</b>           | Worship: Christmas Eve @ 4:00pm              |
| <b>December 28</b>           | Brunch & Carols                              |



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