



AVONDALÉ

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, wish lists to support our local outreach, and/or sign up to provide flowers in honor/memory of someone one Sunday on the altar in worship.



Fourth Sunday of Easter | April 26, 2026

Prelude

Intrada in C-major

John Holler

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ Has Triumphed

Carl F. Mueller

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 318**

Christ Is Alive

*** Affirmation of Faith**

Jeanne Baker

**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 as you are able in body and 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 No. 381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (v. 1, 2)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 10:1-10

This is the word of God, for us, the people of God ... **thanks be to God!**

Anthem

The Lord's My Shepherd

Carl F. Mueller

Sermon

The Guardian of Our Souls

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

Andante Pastorale

James Tomlinson

*** 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

*** Membership Vows**

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction**

Alleluia!

Carl F. Mueller

*** Postlude**

Festal Postlude

William R. Spence



Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982) was a prominent American organist/choir master and, from the 1940s through the 1960s, one of the country's most prolific and popular composers of sacred choral music. Several of his anthems remain staples in the choral repertoire. His style was straightforward and uncomplicated, as demonstrated in the two pieces we hear this morning. *Alleluia! Christ Has Triumphed* is a vigorous celebration of the risen Christ. In contrast, *The Lord's My Shepherd* is Mueller's setting of the gentle Scottish hymn known as *Crimond*. Long a favorite in the British Isles, the tune achieved widespread fame when it was sung at the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II in 1947. The text is a metrical setting of Psalm 23, as found in the 1650 edition of the Scottish Psalter.

The three organ works are by American composers contemporary to Mueller. Though little-known today and of negligible musical importance, the compositions of John Holler, William R. Spence, and James Tomlinson are well suited to our historic Skinner organ, as it was for such an instrument, with its host of orchestral stops and versatile color combinations, that these pieces were conceived. Written in a comfortably familiar late Romantic style that was popular in the early 20th century, the works are tuneful, evocative, and accessible.



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WOMEN'S FIESTA NIGHT

Monday, April 27 | 6:00pm

Ladies ... it's time for our quarterly Fiesta Night. This time we're heading to Panchos Mexican Grill located next to the Walmart shopping center (1676 Montclair Road, Birmingham 35210). Join us for some good food and great conversation, and bring a friend or two.

FOLK FESTIVAL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, May 16

We're excited once again to be one of the sponsors and venues for the Birmingham Folk Festival that's happening in and around Avondale Park. We need volunteers to help throughout the day with hospitality at the church. We will find out timing of events happening at the church in coming weeks. Email Jeanne Baker to volunteer (jbaker@avonumc.net).

BAO BINGO

Monday, May 4 | 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, May 12 | 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. For May we're reading *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two.

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, May 20 | 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, May 13 & 27 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Through stitches and prayer, Hand to Heart shares comfort with those in need. This prayer shawl ministry meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the archive room (first floor) and welcomes both experienced needleworkers and those who want to learn. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl, contact Barb Walker (205.672.9687).

MINISTRY NEEDS FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

Our Unhoused Neighbors often need items to take with them (*body wipes, toothbrushes/paste, underwear, etc.*). Drop off donations weekdays from 8–11am at Avondale Samaritan Place, bring them to worship on Sundays, or send them directly to us through our Amazon wishlist—just scan the QR code in your bulletin.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Wednesday, April 29 | 5:00pm

There will be a brief Charge Conference via Zoom to vote on selling the parsonage. Only professing members are allowed to vote at Charge Conference. If you have questions, please reach out to Church Council chairperson Lisa Holloway (lholloway33@bellsouth.net). For the Zoom login info, email Pastor Malinda (malinda@avonumc.net).



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