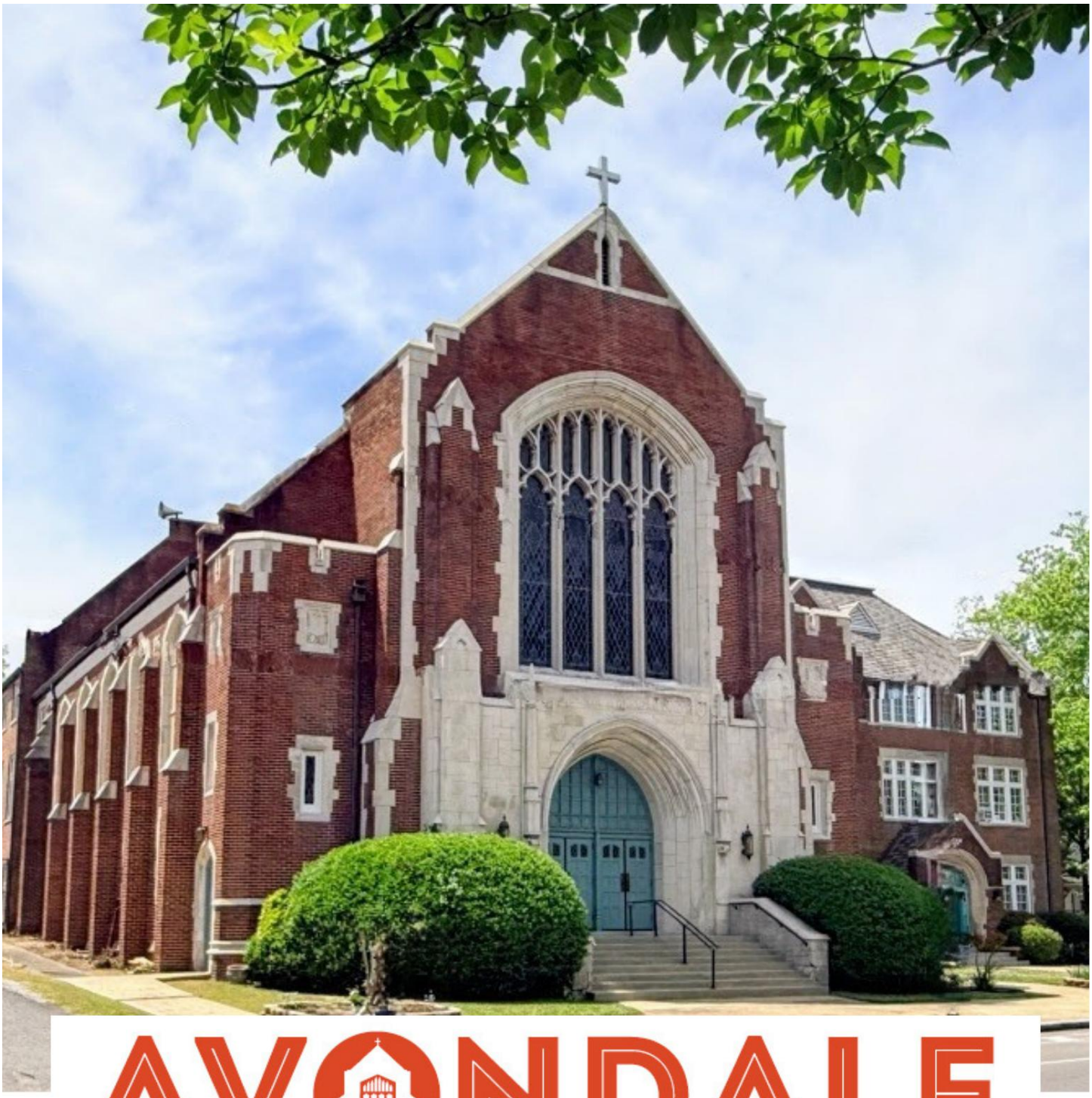

AVONDALE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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, 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.

Floral Tribute

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
by Judy Sharp with joy for the marriage of her granddaughter
Hannah Minor and Garett Pharez on June 26, 2026.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost | June 28, 2026

Prelude *American Hymn*

Richard Keys Biggs

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship *Psalm 90*

Charles Ives

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 140** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*** Affirmation of Faith** Pam Carter

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.

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* Please stand 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

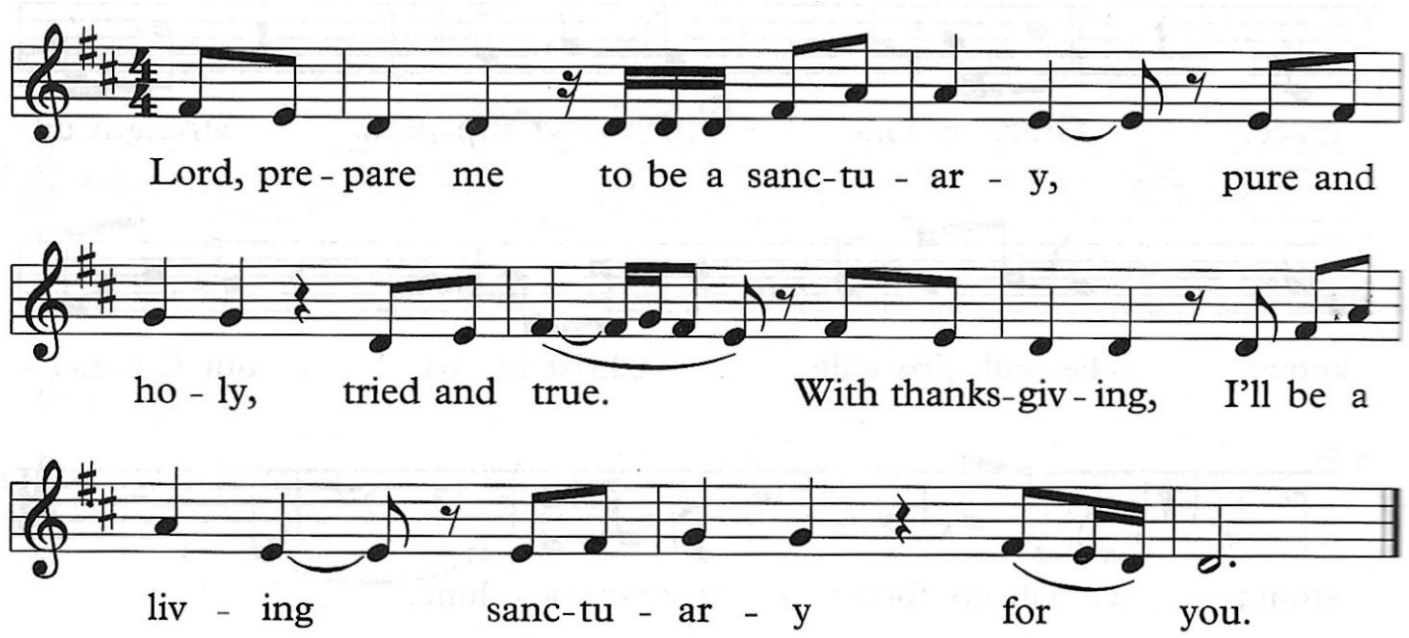
Disney Weaver

Following the Children's Moment, children will return to sit with their parents for the remainder of worship.

Act of Centering

Sanctuary

John Thompson & Randy Scruggs



Ministry Moment – Use Your Noodle

Henry Levens

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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

Anthem

Choose Life

Michael Vaughn

Sermon It's Not Too Late to Choose Life

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 *Year of Jubilee*
Charles Ives

*** 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. 111** *How Can We Name a Love*

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction** *Choose Life*
Michael Vaughn

*** Postlude** *Variations on America*
Charles Ives

at AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH all are welcome to... connect with God and others. grow together in faith and love. serve the world for Jesus Christ.

BREAKFAST CHURCH

Sunday, July 5 | 10:00am

Our worship will look a little different on July 5th as we instead gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast, hymns, and meaningful conversation led by our new Creation Care Team. Together, we'll explore what it means to care for God's creation and begin imagining ways our church can make a difference. Come enjoy this relaxed time of fellowship, learning, and connection as we share a meal and grow together in faith. Please bring a breakfast dish (casserole, fruit, yogurt, etc.) to share.

HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, July 8 & 22 | 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).

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, July 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. For July we're reading *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. And for August we'll be reading *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two.

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, July 15 | 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).

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.

USE YOUR NOODLE – SUMMER LEARNING CAMP

Planning is well underway for our annual summer learning camp. Use Your Noodle provides literacy and math enrichment to help prevent learning loss over the summer. It does so in a way that sparks children's curiosity and helps them develop critical thinking skills. This camp is open to school children who are Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. The dates are July 6-24. To register your child(ren), use the QR Code in the bulletin to find the link.

And … we want you to be a part of it!! While professors, teachers, student teachers, and volunteers are rocking and rolling … can you provide some support items?

Use Your Noodle – Prayer Cards

Let's show some love to the students and families participating in Use Your Noodle! One way to encourage them is by sending cards before camp begins to let them know we're praying for them. If you'd like to help, email Susan Harvill (susan.harvill1252@gmail.com) to receive 5–10 names, addresses, and cards.

Use Your Noodle – Snacks

All that fun, hands-on learning makes the kids hungry! You can access our snack wishlist using the QR Code in your bulletin. Or you can purchase items to bring to the church. The wishlist includes things like: squeeze applesauce, fruit cups, individual packs of pretzels or popcorn, and rice crispy treats.

Use Your Noodle – Teacher Happies

Help shower our teachers with encouraging treats for all the work they're putting in to teach our kiddos this summer. Grab some friends to help and be creative in what you come up with to show appreciation ... cute bags of candy, a coffee bar, sweet/salty treats, etc. Use the QR Code to find the link to sign up, or email Pastor Malinda (malinda@avonumc.net).

MUSIC NOTES

To honor the upcoming July 4th holiday and our Semiquincentennial, today's music comes from American composers. The Call to Worship, Offertory, and Postlude are by Charles Ives (1874-1954). Though little-known outside of musical circles, he was an innovative – even quirky – musician, whose highly personal style was influenced by hymns, folk tunes, dances, band music, and the vast array of popular American songs. Many of his compositions are characterized by harsh dissonances, complex rhythms, polytonality, and other experimental techniques. (Don't worry – the pieces we'll hear are easy on the ear.) So avant-garde was his music that he was largely ignored during his own lifetime, though he has since been recognized as one of this country's most important and influential musicians.

Michael Vaughn is decidedly not one of this country's most important musicians but the composer of today's anthem, nonetheless. The text is taken directly from this morning's Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20. The music attempts to capture the changing moods of the text: from death and destruction to life and joy. Portions of the melodic material are borrowed from Lowell Mason's hymn, *Ora labora*.

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