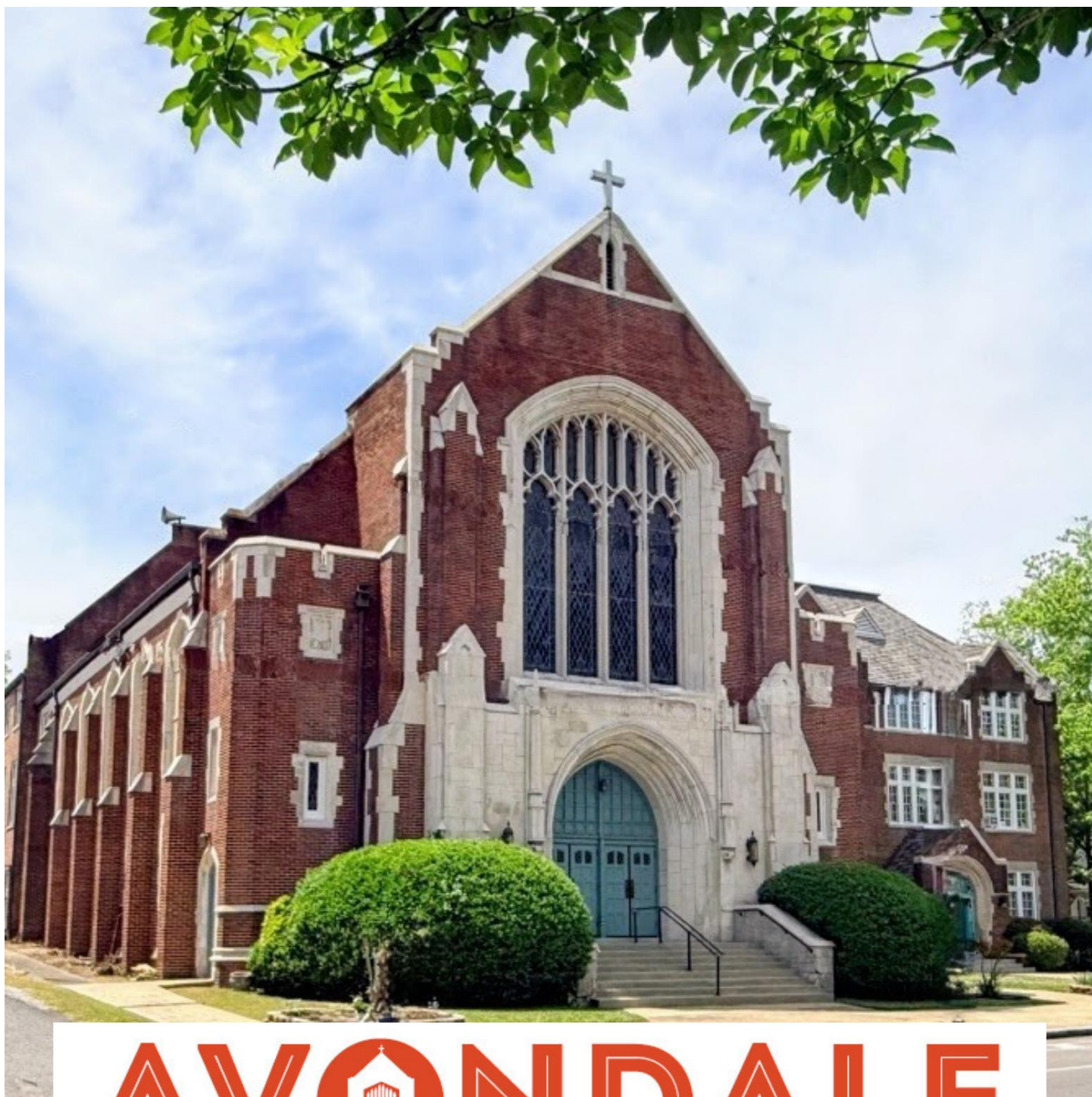




AVONDALE

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.



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost | July 19, 2026

Prelude

Psalm
Gordon Young

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Come, Wanderer, Come
Ira D. Sankey

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 380**

There's Within My Heart a Melody

*** Affirmation of Faith**

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 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 No. 394

Something Beautiful

Something beautiful, something good; all my confusion he understood;
all I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life. *(repeat)*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 15:11-32

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

Anthem

Lord, I Am Coming Home

William Kirkpatrick | arr. Martin Gilbert

Sermon

It's Not Too Late to Be Forgiven

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

At the River

Gordon Young

*** 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. 378**

Amazing Grace (vs. 1, 3, 4, 6)

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction**

Lord, I'm Coming Home

Kirkpatrick | Gilbert

*** Postlude**

Postlude in Classic Style

Gordon Young



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CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We're getting a head start on our annual Christmas Village toy collection for children served through Avondale Samaritan Place! It's easy to help... purchase from our Amazon Wish List using the QR Code in your bulletin and have toys delivered directly to our partners at Canterbury UMC ... or shop locally at Snoozy's Kids and drop off toys at ASP during the week or bring them to worship on Sunday. By giving early, you'll help us stock the shelves and provide gifts for more than 350 local children before our November toy drive begins.

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.

HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, July 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).

BLESSING OF THE BOOK BAGS

Sunday, August 9 | 10:00am

All teachers, students, administrators, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, etc. to worship on August 9, so we can offer a special blessing for each person and begin the new school year covered in prayer. We'll also be doing a special sending forth for AJ Galltiz as she prepares to head to college ... and we'll be presenting Bibles to our children entering 3rd grade.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

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

CREATION CARE – COFFEE TALK

Sunday, August 16 | Immediately Following Worship (30 minutes)

How can our church better care for God's creation in practical, meaningful ways? You're invited to join us for our first Creation Care Coffee Talk where we'll learn more about recycling in Birmingham, what can (and can't) be recycled, what really happens to the items we recycle, and how our church can make a greater positive impact through simple, faithful practices.

We'll also explore questions such as:

- What is Avondale UMC currently doing to recycle?
- What improvements could we make?
- How can members of our congregation get involved?

Whether you attended Breakfast Church in July or are joining the conversation for the first time, everyone is welcome. Come enjoy a cup of coffee, ask questions, share ideas, and help us discern how we can be better stewards of God's creation—together.

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, August 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).



MUSIC NOTES

Today's choral pieces come from the canon of late 19th century American gospel music, and two of its most influential figures. Ira Sankey (1840-1908), composer of the Call to Worship, was an associate of famed evangelist Dwight L. Moody, and penned hundreds of hymns and songs for use in Moody's revival crusades. Over 50 million copies of Sankey's hymns were published during his lifetime, making him a wealthy man. Following in Sankey's footsteps, William Kirkpatrick (1838-1921) produced and published 91 books of religious songs, which included such famous hymns as *Away in a Manger*, *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*, and *Jesus Saves*. Our anthem, *Lord, I'm Coming Home*, was hastily written during a tent revival in 1892. Its timeless message of redemption and grace is loosely based on the story of the prodigal son, as heard in today's Scripture.

Gordon Young (1919-1998), longtime director of music at Detroit's First Presbyterian Church, was a superb organist and choral director. He published a large number of organ works – many based on popular American hymns – which remain in print and continue to be performed in church and concert settings.



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