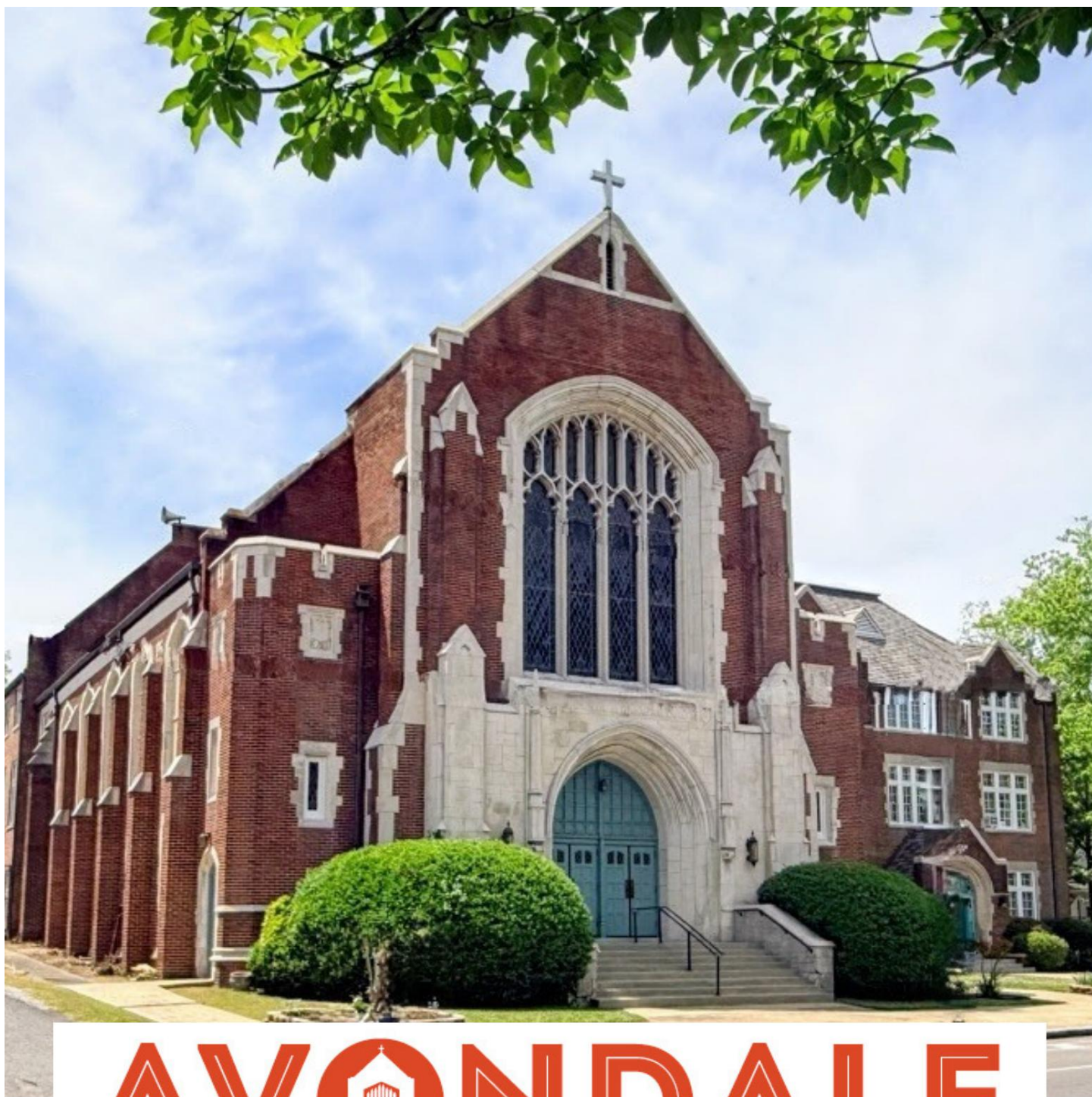




AVONDALE

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 Diane Robinson
in loving memory of her mother Joann Christopher.*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost | August 9, 2026

Prelude

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley | arr. Jan Sanborn

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Sanctuary

John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

* Hymn of Praise No. 369

Blessed Assurance

* 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.

* 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

* Please stand as you are able in body and in spirit.

[†] universal

Faith Goes with You

Faith Moment

Bruce Beaird

Blessing of the Backpacks

*Following the Blessing of the Backpacks,
children will return to sit with their parents for the remainder of worship.*

Act of Centering No. 600

Wonderful Words of Life (v. 1)

Since them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Carrying God's Word with You

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 1:1-5, 14

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

Faith Moment

Therese Laeger

Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles

Choral Anthem

Ancient Words with How Firm a Foundation

Lynn DeShazo | arr. Mark Hayes

The Church Sends You

Faith Moment

Kevin Bokus

Blessing of the Graduates

Choral Blessing

Go Now in Peace

by Don Besig and Nancy Price

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

Children of the Heavenly Father

Traditional Swedish Melody | arr. Jan Sanborn

* 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. 399

Take My Life and Let It Be

* Benediction

* Choral Benediction

Go Now in Peace (reprise)

by Don Besig and Nancy Price

* Postlude

The Trees of Field

Stuart Dauermann and Steffi Geiser Rubin | arr. Jeff Bennett



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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.

ART ON THE HALF SHELL

Tuesday, August 18 | 6:30pm

Celebrate the end of summer with an evening of creativity, conversation, and community! We'll transform ordinary shells into beautiful works of art while enjoying a relaxed evening of hands-on fun with friends—old and new. No artistic experience is needed; just bring your imagination, and we'll provide the supplies and guidance.

Whether you're looking for a creative outlet, a chance to connect with others, or simply a fun way to wrap up the summer season, we'd love for you to join us.

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).

HAND TO HEART

Wednesdays, August 12 & 26 | 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

Wednesday, September 2 | 10:00am

Join us each month on the first Wednesday at 10:00am at the church to dive into thought-provoking reads that center around faith, spirituality, religion, and more. For September, we're reading *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. For October, we're reading *One Hundred Pearls* by Barry Cole. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two.

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.

AVONDALE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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