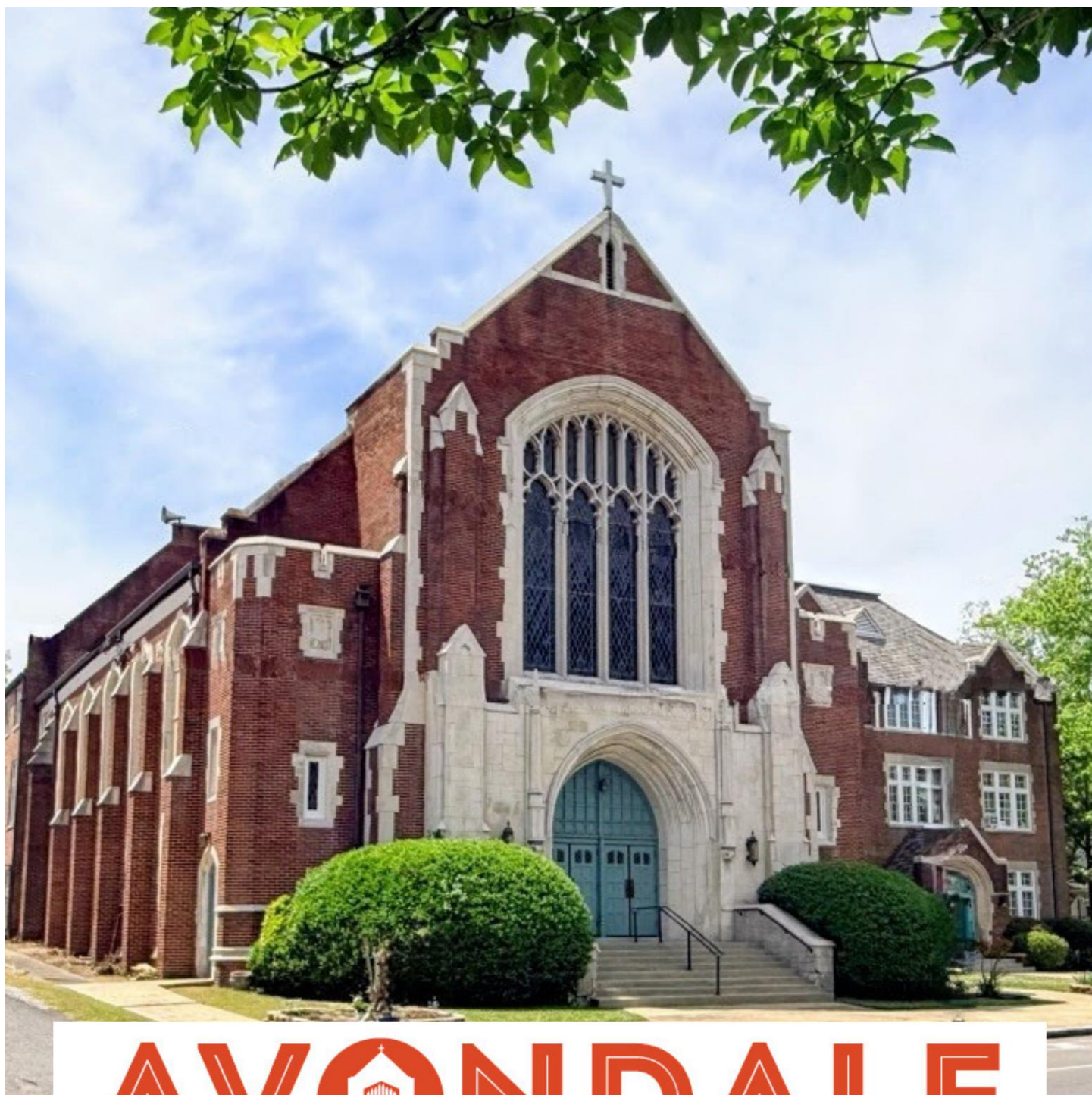




AVONDALE

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 Wayne Key in memory of his mother, Shirley Key,
in honor of what would have been her 91st birthday.*

*The flowers in the foyer are given to the glory of God
by Donna Rankin in memory of her late husband, David Rankin,
in honor of their wedding anniversary.*

LOVE one another

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | August 30, 2026

Prelude

Fantasia on Joyful, Joyful

Lani Smith

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

Let Our Joys Be Known

Aaron Williams

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 89**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*** 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

Help Us Accept Each Other

MERLE'S TUNE

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 15:1-11

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

Anthem

I Am the Vine

Stephen DeCesare

Sermon

Abide in Love

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

Hymn of Joy

Robert Scoggin

*** 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. 557**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction**

Go Forth With Joy

Aaron Williams

*** Postlude**

Trumpet Tune

David Johnson



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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.

ARTY PARTY + DINNER

Tuesday, September 8 | 6:00pm

Let your creative juices flow! Join us at the home of Diane Robinson (642 39th Street South, Birmingham, 35222) for an evening of good food, good friends, and a little artistic fun—no artistic talent required! The details of what we'll be creating are still in the works, but go ahead and save the date. Come ready to enjoy a relaxed evening of creativity and connection! Let us know you're coming so we can plan for art supplies and food (d.robinson1@att.net).

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, September 16 | 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

Wednesday, September 9 & 23 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Through stitches and prayer, Hand to Heart shares comfort with others. This prayer shawl ministry meets monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays 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.



MUSIC NOTES

Our opening hymn, *Joyful, Joyful* is based on a melody composed by Ludwig van Beethoven as part of his 9th Symphony; a work which extols the unity of all humankind. Though not an adherent of any particular denominational doctrine, Beethoven held deep religious convictions and firmly believed in the ideal of universal brotherhood and sisterhood as made possible by a benevolent, loving Heavenly Father. Though his own life was tumultuous and the world around him chaotic, he was convinced a state of perfect joy, in which all people would be united as one, was a possibility, and a goal towards which we should strive. This theme is echoed in today's closing hymn, *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*. Written in 1772 by English minister John Fawcett, it commemorates the author's last minute decision to stay with his devoted parishioners in a small village rather than accept a prestigious appointment in London. The first verse reminds us that the fellowship with others we enjoy here on earth, is but a foretaste of that to come in the Heavenly realm.

The anthem, *I Am the Vine*, is by contemporary musician Stephen DeCesare. With over 1,500 published works, he is one of America's most prolific composers. Though he writes in various genres, including opera, orchestral, and musical theater, his religious pieces have found the greatest acceptance and popularity. *I Am the Vine* combines text from today's Gospel, John 15:1-5, with a flowing, gentle melody to movingly illustrate, once again, the importance of loving God and one another.

****Next week, the choir begins preparation for our annual Christmas musical presentation. We would love to have additional singers take part. Perhaps, you can't commit to the weekly responsibilities of full-time membership; this would be the perfect opportunity to join us. No experience necessary! If interested, see Michael or any choir member.**

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