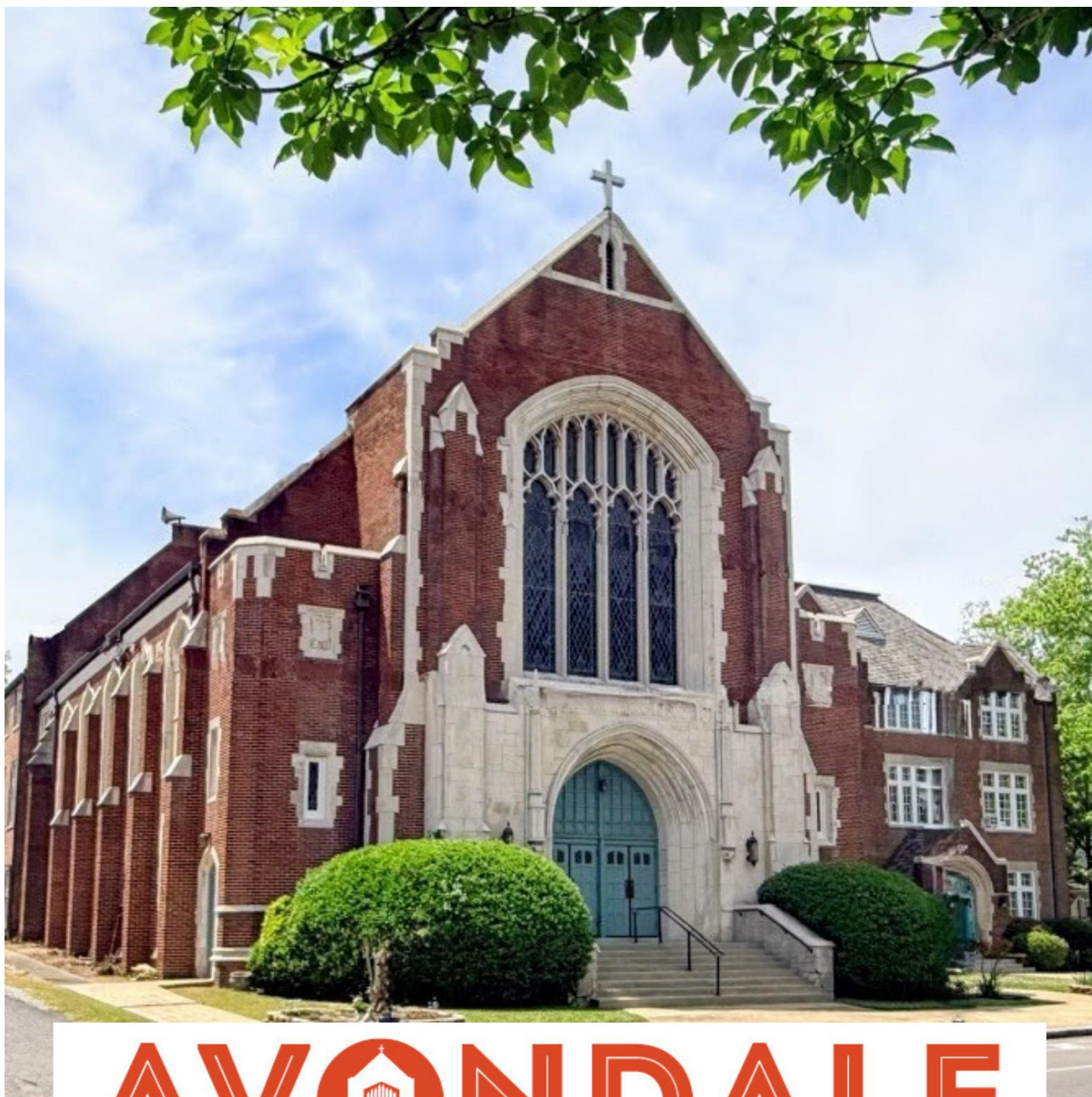




AVONDALE

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 Barb Walker in celebration of her children – Rodney, Mat, and Kelly.*



PRESSING ON

In Full Accord

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 20, 2026

Prelude

Prelude on Hyfrydol (Alleluia, Sing to Jesus)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship

This is the Day

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rev. Malinda Weaver

*** Hymn of Praise No. 568**

Christ for the World We Sing

*** 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.**

* 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

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling (v. 1-2)

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13

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

Anthem

At the Name of Jesus

Ralph Vaughan Williams | arr. Larry Shackley

Sermon

In Full Accord

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.

Choral Response to Prayer

Hear Our Prayer

T.P. Ryder

Offering

Variation on a Welsh Hymn Tune

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*** 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. 536**

Take the Name of Jesus with You

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction**

God Be with You

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*** Postlude**

Toccata

Ralph Vaughan Williams



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HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, September 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).

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, October 7 | 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. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two. Here are our reads for the rest of the year:

October 7 – *One Hundred Pearls* by Barry Cole

November 4 – *The Color of Water* by James McBride

December 2 – *Separation of Church & Hate* by John Fugelsang

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, October 21 | 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).

COAT DRIVE FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

In September and October we're collecting coats of all sizes to share with our Christmas Village families – from sweatshirts to fleeces to winter coats – from kids to adults sizes. These can be in good used or new condition. Drop off donations weekdays from 8–11am at Avondale Samaritan Place, or bring them to worship on Sundays.

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

Today's music is by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), one of England's finest and most well-loved composers. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century. Throughout his life, he sought to be of service to his fellow citizens, and believed in making music as available as possible to everyone. To that end, he wrote numerous works for student and amateur performance, including a large body of pieces for amateur church choirs. His contributions to hymnody are invaluable. Not only did he write original hymns, he collected and arranged thousands of others. Most importantly, he served as the editor of *The English Hymnal*, (still the most influential English hymnal in publication), *Songs of Praise*, and *The Oxford Book of Carols*.

Our anthem, *At the Name of Jesus*, is a festive arrangement of Vaughan Williams' original hymn tune: *King's Weston*. Composed in 1925, the haunting, folk-like melody, soars to a wonderful climax and is beautifully wed to Caroline Noel's poetic paraphrase of today's scripture, Philippians 2:5-11. The hymn is a great favorite in Britain, though less well-known in this country. (It may be found at #168 in our hymnal.) The Call to Worship and Benediction are also drawn from Vaughn Williams' corpus of hymn tunes.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SPECTACULAR

Our choir has begun rehearsing for our Christmas Music Spectacular, and they welcome more voices to sing with them for the season. Rehearsals will be twice a month on Wednesday evenings until the performance in December. Join them this month for their second rehearsal on September 23 at 5:30pm. For more info, email Michael Vaughn (mvaughn@avonumc.net).

AVONDALE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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