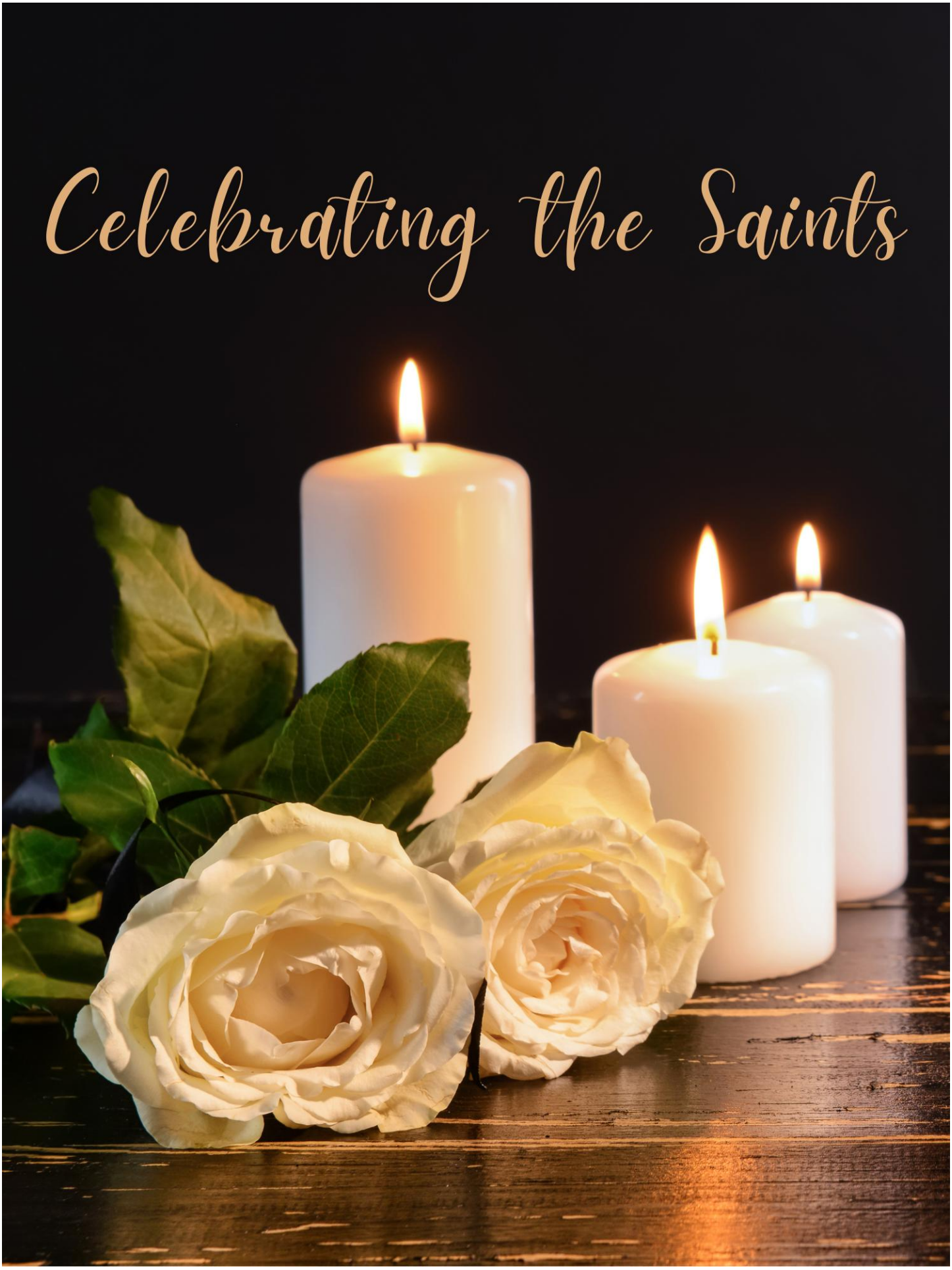
Celebrating the Saints



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
in loving memory of Randy Thomas by Henry Levens.

All Saints Sunday | November 1, 2026

All Saints Day has been celebrated in the church since at least the sixth century. Observed on November 1 or the first Sunday in November, it's a day to remember the great cloud of witnesses—what we call the communion of saints. On this day, we give thanks to God for those who, in their earthly lives, lived for God's glory and worked for God's kingdom on earth. We also recognize the bond between the church here on earth and the church triumphant in God's eternal love.

A bell tree is in the narthex this morning where you may pin a bell in memory of a loved one who has passed from this life into eternity. At the start of worship, the bell tree will be processed into the sanctuary, and the gentle tinkling of the bells will symbolize the singing of the saints in glory. If you would like to pin a bell, please do so before worship begins.

Prelude *Requiem aeternam (Grant them eternal rest)*
Franz Liszt

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Malinda Weaver

Procession of the Bell Tree

Choral Call to Worship *Introit* from *Requiem*
Gabriel Faure

*** Call to Worship** Pam Carter

We gather today to remember and give thanks for the cloud of witnesses.
We are grateful that their lives are part of the fabric of our faith.

We give You thanks for the memory of their words and deeds.
Thanks be to God for the ways they touched our lives!

We give You thanks for the joyful hope of reunion with them
in the world to come …
… and for our communion with them now. Thanks be to God!

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

* Hymn of Praise No. 711 *For All the Saints*

* Affirmation of Faith

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

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 *For All the Saints* (v. 1, 3)

words by John Bell | English Folk Melody

For all the saints who've shown your love
in how they live and where they move,
for mindful women, caring men, accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who named your will,
and showed the kingdom coming still
through selfless protests, prayer, and praise, accept the gratitude we raise.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture — Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11

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

Sermon — In God's Time

Remembering the Saints

Pastoral Prayer | Prayer of Confession & Pardon

During this time of prayer, Pastor Malinda will pray for our world, community, and congregation.
She will then guide us into our time of confession and pardon
as we acknowledge that we are sinners saved only by God's grace.

And holy God, as we come before you, we recognize our failings.
Hungry for your mercy,
we join together now to tell the truth of our lives,
so that we might receive your grace.

Great God, we confess that we are not always faithful,
that we do not always love others,
that we do not always follow Your will.
Forgive us, Lord.
Restore and strengthen us that we may abide in Your love
and serve only Your will.

Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings,
no one who takes refuge in God will be condemned.
Believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

Response to Prayer

For All the Saints (v. 4)

words by John Bell | English Folk Melody

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Offering

Pie Jesu from *Requiem*

Gabriel Faure

Merciful Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

* Doxology

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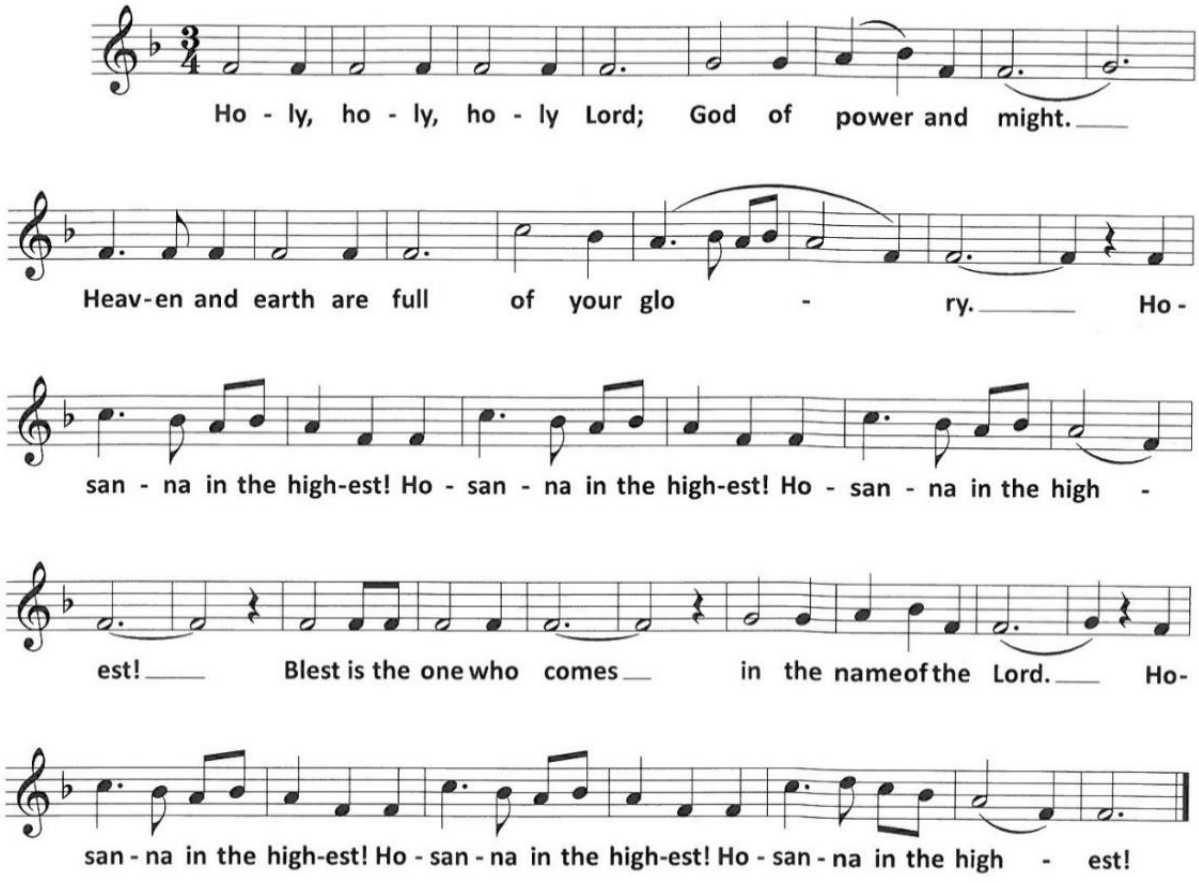
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

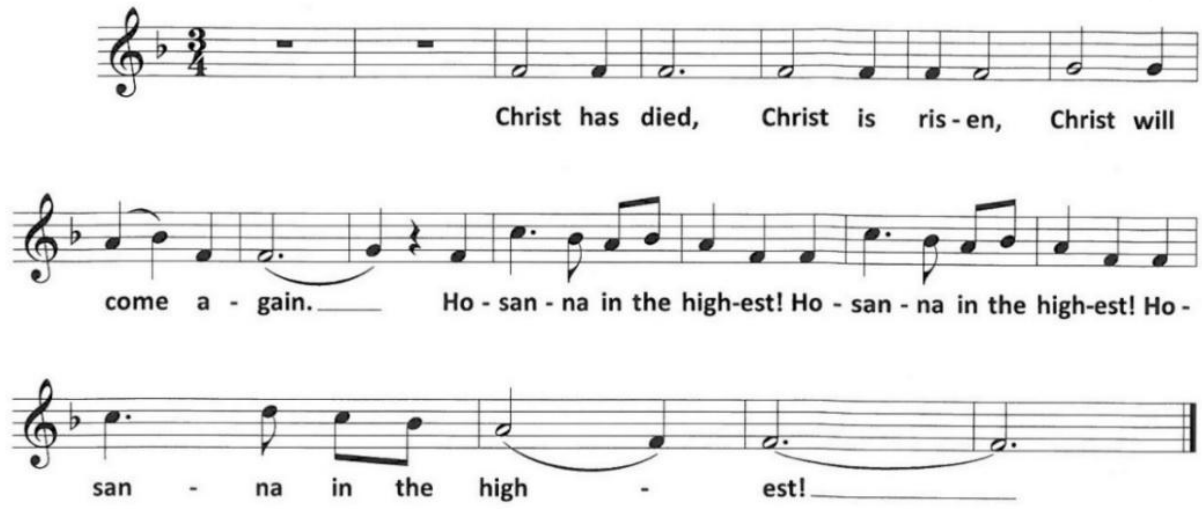
Pastor Malinda will continue by giving thanks
and remembering God's acts of salvation.

And so, we gather with them, our cloud of witnesses, at your table,
as we sing together their unending hymn:



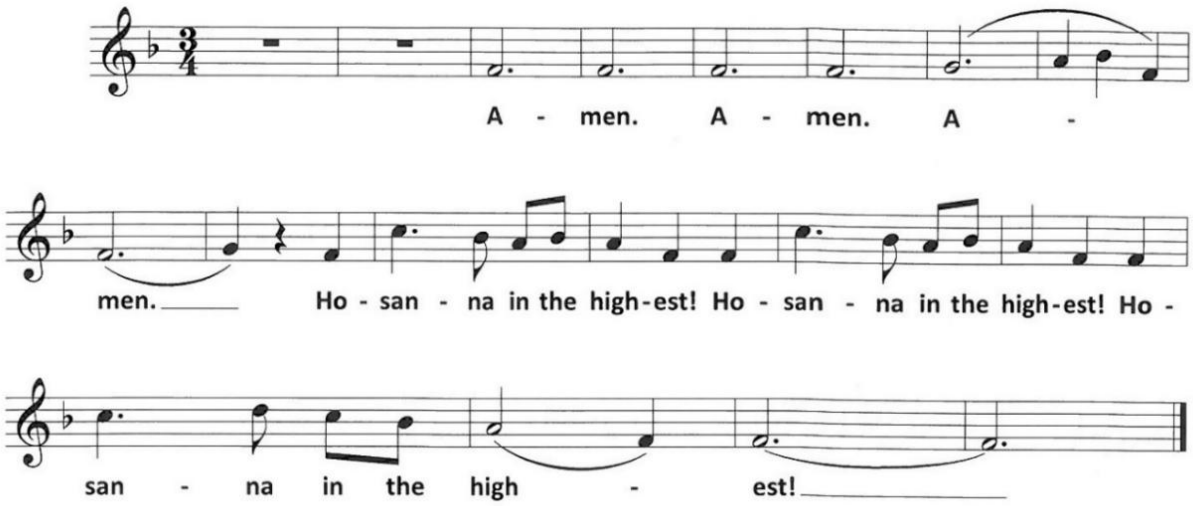
Pastor Malinda will recall the institution of the Lord's Supper.

And so, we remember. We remember what you did for us through Jesus Christ.
And now we dedicate ourselves again to you,
thankful and transformed as your holy people who proclaim the mystery of faith:



Pastor Malinda will request the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon us and praise the Trinity.

For it is through your son Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
that all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.



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.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

We believe Holy Communion is a gift from God to all people.
In The United Methodist Church everyone is welcome to receive Communion.

Gluten-free bread and a separate cup are available. Please inform the server of your needs.

Music during Communion

Sanctus and *Agnus Dei*
Franz Liszt

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God,
we thank you for this mystery of grace
where we have known the presence of Christ
in communion with the saints.
Having been nourished at your table,
now send us out to welcome others as we have been welcomed,
to work for a world where all are fed,
and to follow you in all we do. Amen.

*** Hymn of Praise No. 707** *Hymn of Promise*

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude** *Postludium*

Franz Liszt

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.

BAO BINGO

Monday, November 2 | 7:00pm

Join us as we support our friends from Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO) in their monthly Bingo fundraiser. The cost for a seat is $25 at the door. Email Henry Levens (levenshenry@gmail.com) to reserve a seat at our table. BAO is located at 205 32nd Street South.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, November 4 | 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:

November 4 – *The Color of Water* by James McBride
December 2 – *Separation of Church & Hate* by John Fugelsang

HAND TO HEART

Wednesdays, November 11 & 25 | 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).

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, November 18 | 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*).

Serving Opportunities

Our mission arm Avondale Samaritan Place (ASP) has several great opportunities to help us reach out to our community and bring us all together as neighbors and friends. Invite your friends and family to join you in supporting these events.

Use this QR Code to go online to sign up for any of these opportunities to serve/donate, and to access the Amazon Wish Lists.
Questions? Email Susan Sims (ssims@avonumc.net).

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – TIME TO SHOP

Each December, the halls of the ASP gym are decked to become a Christmas Village where low-income parents can shop for gifts for their children that they know they'll love. We're able to offer new toys at greatly reduced prices thanks to the generosity of our church family and larger community. To help stock the Village, drop off un-wrapped gifts to ASP Monday through Friday from 8am-11am … or if you shop through the Amazon Wish List, you can have them shipped directly to Canterbury UMC. Gifts are due by November 29.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – VOLUNTEER

We need volunteers to do a whole host of tasks from setting up the Village to serving in hospitality to gift wrapping to helping hand out food in Mrs. Claus' kitchen and so much more. These tasks happen November 30-December 4.

WINTER NEEDS FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

In addition to the usual items we give to our unhoused neighbors, we need winter items – things like hand warmers, skull caps, gloves, and warm socks. 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 wish list.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Wednesday, November 4 | 11:30am

Our annual Charge Conference will be held Wednesday, November 4, at 11:30am at the church. During this time we will share ministry highlights and approve annual reports.

MUSIC NOTES

Dating back to the Middle Ages and still used in Catholic, Orthodox, and some Anglican traditions, the Requiem is the solemn liturgy for the souls of the departed. In early practice, most portions of the Requiem were sung, leading many composers to set the ancient texts to music. Over time, the Requiem developed into a separate musical entity, often taking on great length and calling for large numbers of singers and instrumentalists. Famous examples are the Requiems of Mozart and Verdi; Brahms's *German Requiem*; and the sublime setting by Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), from which this morning's choral music is drawn. Unlike other composers before him who emphasized the pains of death and the horrors of final judgement, Faure focused, instead, on eternal rest and consolation. He wrote, "It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death. But I see death as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above. My Requiem is dominated, from beginning to end, by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." The Introit makes this clear, with a straightforward setting of the words: "Lord, grant them eternal rest. May eternal light shine upon them." This sentiment is echoed in the famous *Pie Jesu*: "Merciful Jesus, grant them everlasting rest." Scored for soprano solo with choral accompaniment, the melody is a gentle plea, underpinned by the feeling of calm assurance that death in Christ is not the end, but a new beginning.

All of today's organ music comes from Franz Liszt's (1811-1886) *Requiem fur die Orgel* (*Requiem for the Organ*). Written in 1883, it was a reworking of an earlier choral piece meant to honor the memory of several deceased family members. Unlike Liszt's virtuoso compositions for piano which are typically dense, bombastic and fiery, the Requiem is a restrained, contemplative work.