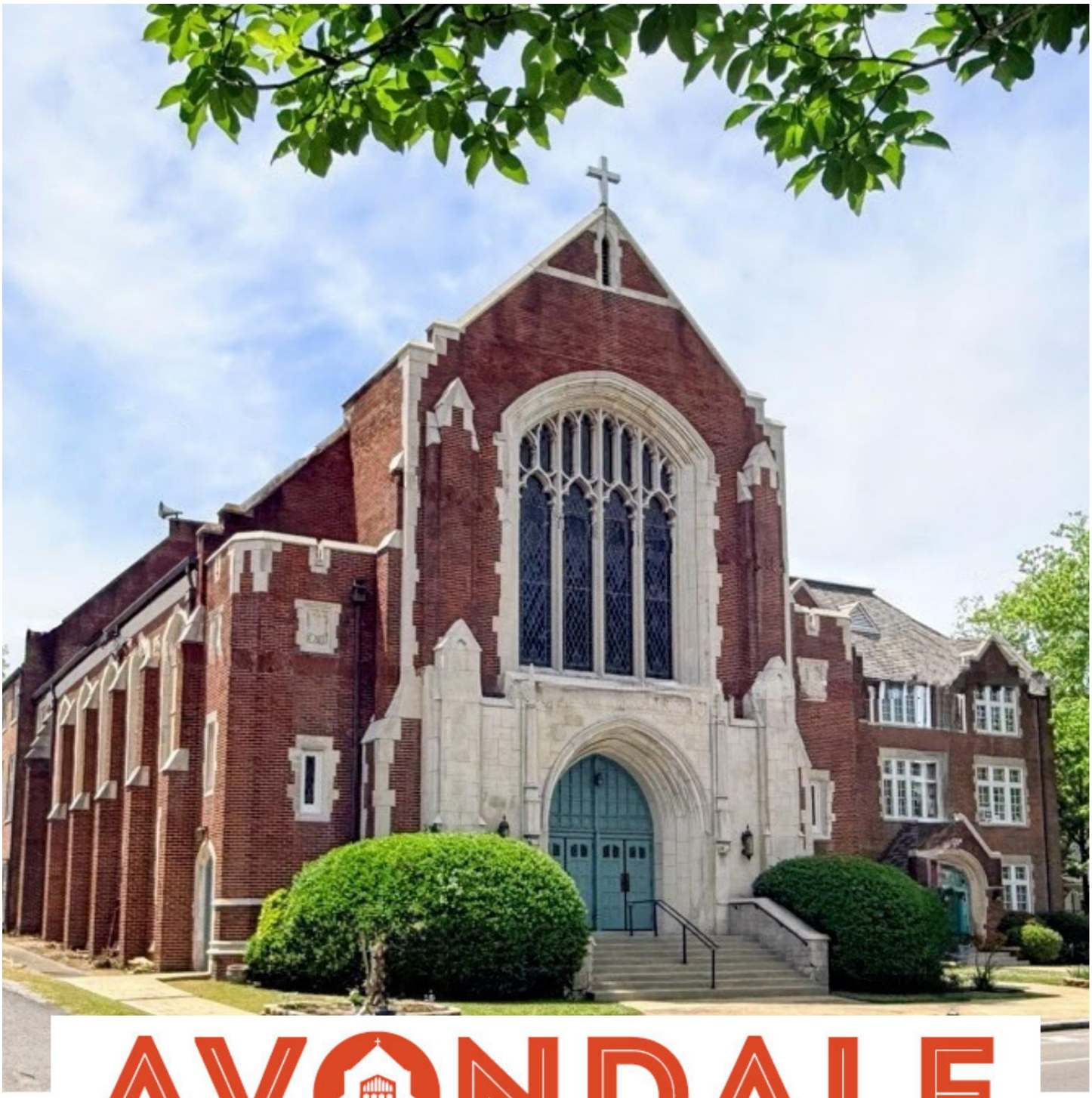

AVONDALE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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
in gratitude for the gift of grace
by Susan Harvill.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost | November 8, 2026

Prelude *Choral Improvisation on St. Anne*
Paul Manz

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship *God of Mercy, God of Grace*
Jerry F. Davidson

Welcome & Opening Prayer Jeanne Baker

*** Hymn of Praise No. 117** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*** 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**

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

Children's Moment Neal Flum

Following the Children's Moment, children (kindergarten through second grade) will be escorted to Children's Church. Parents must pick up their child(ren) from the first floor classroom after the worship service.

Act of Centering *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (v. 1 & 3)
RATHBUN

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Micah 6:6-8

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

Anthem *O Lord Most High*
arr. Richard Shephard

Sermon Patriotism for a Small Planet
Rev. Dr. Bill Morgan

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*
George Whelpton

Offering *Chorale Improvisation on Tallis Canon*

Paul Manz

*** 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. 431** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*** Benediction** *God of Mercy, God of Grace*

Jerry F. Davidson

*** Postlude** *Chorale Improvisation on Old 100th*

Paul Manz

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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*).

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, December 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. Our December book is *Separation of Church & Hate* by John Fugelsang. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two.

SAVE THE DATES

November 24-26	Decorating the Sanctuary
November 29 @ 10:00am	Worship: Hanging of the Greens
November 30 - December 4	ASP: Christmas Village
December 7 @ 7:00pm	BAO Bingo
December 12	Children's Christmas Pageant
December 20	Worship: Choral—Lessons and Carols
December 24 @ 4:00pm	Worship: Christmas Eve Communion
December 28	Brunch & Carols

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.

MUSIC NOTES

Paul Manz (1919-2009) was a prolific and much respected composer of choral and organ music. A devout Lutheran, he held lengthy appointments at influential churches in Minneapolis and Chicago. As a performer, Manz was most famous for his hymn festivals. Instead of playing traditional organ recitals, Manz would generally lead a "festival" of hymns from the organ, in which he introduced each hymn with one of his creative organ improvisations based on the hymn tune in question. The congregation would then sing the hymn with his accompaniment. Many volumes of these improvisations were later notated and published and are played by church organists throughout the world. We hear three this morning.

Richard Shephard (1949-2021) was acclaimed as one of the most significant composers of church music of his time. His anthem, *O Lord Most High*, is an accessible arrangement of the famous Tallis Canon (a tune written by Thomas Tallis in 1567). The tune is heard twice by the full choir before being treated canonically; one voice follows another in the manner of a round. This same treatment is employed by American composer Jerry Davidson in his 2015 work, *God of Mercy, God of Grace*.