

AVONDALE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

connect ~ grow ~ serve

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 and wish lists to support our local outreach.

Floral Tribute

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and with thanksgiving in honor of Michael Vaughn, our extraordinary music director,
whose talents and rich knowledge of sacred music bless us all.
Given in love and gratitude by Margaret Kneisley.

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost | November 22, 2026

Prelude *Largo George*
Frederic Handel

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Call to Worship *Prayer of Thanksgiving*
Dutch Folk Song | arr. Edward Kremser

Welcome & Opening Prayer Steve Thomas

*** Hymn of Praise No. 111** *How Can We Name a Love*

*** 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 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 Fellowship Hall after the service.

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

Act of Centering No. 381 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (v. 1)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture John 10:1-10

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

Anthem *Thanks be to Thee*

George Frederic Handel

Sermon Abundant Life

Rev. Stephanie York Arnold

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 *Lord, Hear our Prayer*

George Frederic Handel

Offering *Pastorale*

George Frederic Handel

*** 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. 128** *He Leadeth Me*

*** Benediction** *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Dutch

*** Postlude** *Voluntary in D*

George Frederic Handel

MUSIC NOTES

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759), lauded by Beethoven as "the greatest composer that ever lived," remains a favorite today through such masterpieces as *Messiah* and *Water Music*. Born in Germany and educated in Italy, Handel took British citizenship in 1727 and became a national hero. Upon his death, throngs lined the streets and over 3,000 people attended his funeral and burial in Westminster Abbey. A master of many forms, he is, perhaps, best loved for his stirring, choral music in which his penchant for majestic pomp and pageantry was used to great effect in pieces such as the famous "Hallelujah Chorus." However, Handel could also create tender, emotive melodies and lush harmonies, as heard in this morning's anthem, *Thanks be to Thee*. The gradually rising tune is supported by an undulating accompaniment that propels the music ever forward to an emotionally and musically satisfying conclusion. The text is a song of praise and thanksgiving for the bountiful mercies provided us by a loving God.

Though he never held a church position, Handel was a virtuoso keyboard player and wrote a large quantity of organ music. Many of the pieces were likely intended to serve as preludes to his oratorios and other large-scale compositions. Handel himself would have performed these short compositions, much to the delight of his adoring public.

A CAROL A DAY...

What would Christmas be without *Silent Night*, *Joy to the World*, and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*? Music is an integral part of our holiday celebrations and most of us eagerly anticipate singing the beloved, familiar carols of the season. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent and continuing through the month of December, our Director of Music Ministries will lead us on a journey through the rich storehouse of traditional Christmas carols. Each day will feature a different carol and will include information on the story/history of the music and provide a suggested playlist of recommended recordings. If you would like to participate and receive A CAROL A DAY, see Michael after the service or simply send an email to mvaughn@avonumc.net.



DECK THE HALLS FOR ADVENT + CHRISTMAS

Get in the holiday spirit by helping decorate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll spread the work out over several days as we fluff and put together everything to prepare our church—trees, garland, wreaths, ribbons, and more. Join us during any or all of the following times:

- TODAY, Nov. 22 after worship—stay for about 30-45 minutes to help get trees up
- Monday, Nov. 23 12:00pm—3:00pm … AND … 4:30pm—7:30pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 24 9:00am—12:00pm … AND … 4:30pm—7:30pm

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 29 | 10:00am

The Advent season begins with our annual Hanging of the Greens service. During worship, we'll add the finishing touches of our Advent and Christmas decorations as we recall together the scriptural significance and the symbolism of each item.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Saturday, December 12 | 4:00pm

Our children have been hard at work writing their very own Christmas Pageant, and they can't wait to share it with you! We'll enjoy a delicious dinner of soups, cornbread, and dessert—all provided free of charge—so you can simply relax and enjoy an evening with your church family. Invite a friend and celebrate the joy of the season together!

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 20 | 10:00am

During this time of worship, we will hear the scriptures read from creation to Christmas, and our choir will accompany them with beautiful songs of the season.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Thursday, December 24 | 4:00pm

This is our traditional service where we will read the Christmas story, hear a Christmas message, share communion, and end by lighting candles as we sing together *Silent Night.*

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.

HAND TO HEART

Wednesday, November 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).

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.

BAO BINGO

Monday, December 7 | 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.

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Wednesday, December 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*).

Serving Opportunities

Our mission arm Avondale Samaritan Place (ASP) has several opportunities to help us reach out to our community and bring us together as neighbors and friends. Use this QR Code to go online to sign up 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 – BAKER'S DOZEN

Bake a dozen treats over the Thanksgiving holiday with your family and/or friends, and deliver to ASP on Monday, November 30. Our goal is 200 dozen baked treats!

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.

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