



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 8, 2026 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

Sonata in D Major, K. 288
Alicia Luttrell

Scarlatti

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Rev. Jennifer Porto

Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Will Rath

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
Jesus proclaims, "You are the light of the world."

Thanks be to God.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (v. 1-2)

UMH 206

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we have asked for your righteous judgment against others, but we have not acknowledged the sin in our lives. We have worshiped you with our lips, but have dishonored you with our actions. We have prayed for you to end the suffering in our world, yet we have not practiced compassion and generosity toward others. Our religion has become the source of quarreling rather than a testimony to your grace. Forgive our self-righteousness and give us integrity of heart, that we may shine forth the light of your salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

❖PASSING OF THE PEACE *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit, that as the Word is proclaimed we may receive holy wisdom to understand the gifts you have bestowed on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 112

UMH 833

Please join the choir in the sung response when indicated by the red R.

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION

It is Well with My Soul

UMH 377

Today's Acolyte: George Wolf

❖ Please Stand in body or spirit **Bold Print** – Congregation Reads Aloud
Hearing amplifier devices are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

After the children's moment, children may leave with our staff to go to the nursery. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYER AND 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.

♪ACT OF PRAISE

Great Are You, Lord with Great Is the Lord
Chancel Choir

arr. Wolaver

❖EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:4-14

⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" — ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting

spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Uncanny Wisdom, Uncommon Sense"

Dr. Darren McClellan

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

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. **universal*

♪❖ GLORIA PATRI

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

The Battle Hymn of the Republic
Valencia Montgomery

Howe

♪❖ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖ HYMN OF INVITATION

Lift Every Voice and Sing (v. 1, 3)

UMH 519

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice

Johnson

✠ **CHRISTIAN LOVE and SYMPATHY** to Betsy Yager and family upon the death of her husband, John Yager on January 26.

✠ **CHRISTIAN LOVE and SYMPATHY** to Curtis and Paige Graf and family upon the death of Curtis' father, Curt Graf on February 1.

✠ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Jane Finley's birthday by Laura Jane, Zack, George, Eloise, and James.



WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



CONNECT

Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com
Associate Pastor	Jennifer Porto jporto@apumc.com
Music Director	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
Administrator	Kim Brown admin@apumc.com
Youth and Technology	Joseph Griggs youth@apumc.com
Communication	Leslie Johnston communication@apumc.com
Ascension	Jon Miller millermediaonline@gmail.com
Children	Linda Noble Linda.q.noble@gmail.com
Membership	membership@apumc.com
Preschool	Camille Hieronymus preschool@apumc.com
Building Steward	Danny White building@apumc.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 2/1/26 \$10,591



ONLINE GIVING

To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

February 8, 2026

9:00am	Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
5:30pm	Youth

Monday Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
Women's Bible Study, 10:00am (FH)

Tuesday Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

Wednesday Handbell Practice, 5:00pm
Choir Practice, 6:00pm
Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FP)

Thursday Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

Friday Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PRACTICE

The children are now practicing for songs they will sing on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Next Sunday, please join us for our annual pancake breakfast with the Excelsior Band. Brunch and music will begin at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by one worship service at 10:00am.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Lenten devotionals will be available next Sunday, or you may stop by the church office during office hours beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18.

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed Monday, February 16 and Tuesday, February 17.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Ash Wednesday service will take place February 18 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Bob Cook, Ann Cottrell, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Russell Fountain, Marcia Golson, Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, Jean McCutchen, John McMurphy, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (*new concern this week)

Hymns and Responses for February 8, 2026

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

It is Well with My Soul

UMH 377

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul. It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

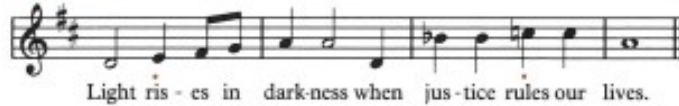
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Responsive Psalter: Psalm 112

Psalm 112

RESPONSE (General)

S T Kimbrough, Jr. (Pss. 112:4,5)
Carlton R. Young



Alternate response at Ps. 10.

R

- ¹ Praise the Lord.
Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches are in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
- ⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful and righteous.
- ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For the righteous shall never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever. R
- ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, trusting in the Lord.
- ⁸ When they see their adversaries,
their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid.
- ⁹ They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever;
their horn is exalted in honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. R