



Hannah Garrity, *To Be a Blessing*

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.*

PRELUDE

Lenten Meditation
Handbell Choir

arr. McKlveen

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily McGough

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

I Stand Amazed in the Presence (v. 1, 2, 4)

UMH 371

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be?

What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst?

How can we follow you more clearly?

As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text. Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 121

UMH 844

Please join the choir in the sung response number 2 when indicated by the red R.

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

MORNING PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

♪ACT OF PRAISE

Remember Me
Chancel Choir

Govenor

❖GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

SERMON

"Seeking: Will You Give Me a Drink?"

Dr. Darren McClellan

❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' 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.

INVITATION, CONFESSION and PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Gethsemane
Handbell Choir

arr. Afdahl

♪❖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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Service of Word and Table II

UMH 13-15

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

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

❖BENEDICTION

❖POSTLUDE

My Savior's Love

Gabriel



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

February 22, 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

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, 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), Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

EASTER CANDY is now being collected for our Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt. Please place donations on the Fellowship Hall counter. **NO CHOCOLATE PLEASE.**

LADIES WHO LUNCH will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at their luncheon on March 8. Please rsvp by Thursday, March 5 to Iwstreet@gmail.com. A donation of \$10 is appreciated and all ladies are welcome.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

GOOD FRIDAY FIELD TRIP

You are invited to join Rev. Jennifer Porto, District Superintendent Rev. Sheila Bates, Deaconess Clara Ester, and members of APUMC on Good Friday, April 3, 2026, for a congregational pilgrimage to the Legacy Museum and memorial sites in Montgomery, Alabama. Schedule for the day includes:

- Early morning departure from APUMC by charter bus (7:00 am)
- Guided visit to the Legacy Museum in the morning
- Lunch at a local Montgomery restaurant
- Visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice
- 20-minute boat ride to the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park
- Light Dinner (perhaps "to go" depending on timing)
- Return home between 8-8:30.

Cost: \$75 per person (includes transportation, meals, and admission)
Click on the link in your newsletter to reserve your spot.

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.



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

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

- Senior Pastor** Dr. Darren McClellan
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 2/22/26 \$6,978



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

ONLINE GIVING

Hymns and Responses for March 1, 2026

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

UMH 371

1. I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean. How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful! (O how wonderful!) And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful (O how wonderful) is my Savior's love for me!

2. For me it was in the garden he prayed: "Not my will, but thine." He had no tears for his own griefs, but sweat-drops of blood for mine. How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful! (O how wonderful!) And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful (O how wonderful) is my Savior's love for me!

4. He took my sins and my sorrows, he made them his very own; he bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone. How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful! (O how wonderful!) And my song shall ever be: How marvelous! (O how marvelous!) How wonderful (O how wonderful) is my Savior's love for me!

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

[5]. In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

Responsive Psalter: Psalm 121

Psalm 121

Eph. 6:10

RESPONSE 1 (*Evening Prayer & General*)

Carlton R. Young



Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's might.

Ps. 63:7

RESPONSE 2 (*General*)

Michael Joncas



In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

Wis. of Sol. 5:15

Arr. from *Gesangbuch, Meiningen*

by Timothy E. Kimbrough

RESPONSE 3 (*Funerals and Memorial Services*)



The righteous live for ever,
their reward is with the Lord.

R

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil,
and will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore. **R**