



Swanson, John August, *Last Supper*



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 6, 2026 15th Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Alleluia from *Exsultate Jubilate*
Alicia Luttrell

Mozart

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

George Hardesty

I appeal to you therefore, my sisters and brothers,

by the mercies of God,

to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God

This is our act of spiritual worship.

Let us no longer be conformed to the world,

But let us be transformed by the renewing of our minds

So that by testing you may discern what is the will of God

What is good and acceptable and perfect.

🎵❖HYMN OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art (v. 1, 3, 4)

UMH 77

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, as your Word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 139:1-18

UMH 854-855

Please join the choir in the sung response 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; let the earth hear the words of my mouth. ²May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. ³For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God, without deceit, just and upright is he;

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

MORNING PRAYER

❖**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Titus 3:1-9

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. ⁹But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

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

SERMON

"The Work In Progress"

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

Feed Me, Lord
Chancel Choir

arr. Liebergen

♪❖ 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.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖ HYMN OF INVITATION *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* (v. 1-4)

UMH 357

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art

Hine

✠ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Ellie's parents, Lucille and Peyton Tutwiler, by Paul and Ellie Fox.



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 dmcclellan@apumc.com
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Porto jporto@apumc.com
Minister of Community Care	Rev. Julie Hare jhare@apumc.com
Music Director	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
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Children	Linda Noble Linda.q.noble@gmail.com
Preschool	Jenny Powell preschool@apumc.com
Building Steward	Danny White building@apumc.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received Last Sunday \$3,755



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

ONLINE GIVING

THIS WEEK AT APUMC

10:00am	One Combined Service (S)
Monday	Office Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)
Wednesday	Handbell Practice, 5:00pm Choir Practice, 6:00pm
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, Jackson Alexander, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Ann Cottrell, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Carl George (Chance George's father), Marcia Golson, Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Libba Lyon, Jean McCutchen, John McMurphy, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Sherry Thomson, Sandy Tones, Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY— Begins September 8

Pastor Darren will begin a virtual book study on Rev. James Lawson's book *Nonviolence*. See your newsletter for more information and a link to sign up.

WISTERIA PARLOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On Sunday, September 13 at 10:00am, the class will be starting a new book study on *Better Ways to Read the Bible*, by Zach Lambert. All are welcome!

MINISTRY FAIR

On September 20, during the Sunday School hour (10-11), we will be hosting a ministry fair in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how you can become more involved in the various fellowships and ministries here at Ashland Place and in our community.

TEAMING WITH TANZANIA

Join us Tuesday, September 22nd at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, and a special "Teaming with Tanzania" presentation. Rev. Eric Soard, Exec. Director of Wesley College Foundation, and Jackson Sampson, a Wesley College graduate, will share their experiences and the exciting work God is doing in Tanzania. Come hear their stories, learn how God is working through this ministry, and discover how you can be part of it!

COMMUNITY CARE UPDATES

Please contact Rev. Julie Hare with all of your ongoing community care needs, including circle of concern updates, births and death. You can reach her at jhare@apumc.com or 251.478.6356.

Hymns and Responses

How Great Thou Art

UMH 77

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the [worlds] thy hands have made, I
see the stars, I hear the [rolling] thunder, thy power
throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my
soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art,
how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior
God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the
cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died
to take away my sin; Then sings my soul, my Sav-
ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou
art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclama-
tion and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there
proclaim, my God, how great thou art! Then sings
my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou
art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great
thou art!

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian
love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that
above.

2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent
prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our
comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens
bear; and often for each other flows the sympathiz-
ing tear.

4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to
meet again.

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

UMH 357

1. Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood
was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to
thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of
one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a
conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within,
without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches,
healing of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Responsive Psalter: Psalm 139

4 All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth;
and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For the Lord is high, but regards the lowly;
yet knows the haughty from afar. **R**

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies
and your right hand delivers me.
O Lord, fulfill your purpose for me.
O Lord, may your steadfast love endure for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. **R**

Psalm 139

RESPONSE (General)

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts.

R

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,
you know it altogether.
You pursue me behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high, I cannot attain it. **R**

17 Whither shall I go from your spirit?
Or whither shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you,
the night is bright as the day;
for darkness is as light with you. **R**

18 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.
Wonderful are your works!
You know me very well;
my frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
in your book were written
the days that were formed for me,
every day, before they came into being.
How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
When I awake, I am still with you. **R**

19 O that you would slay the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me,
those who maliciously defy you,
who lift themselves up against you for evil.
Do I not hate them that hate you, O Lord?
And do I not loathe them that rise up against you?
I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts;
and see if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! **R**