



**BIRMINGHAM FIRST**  
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*...gathered here for good!™*

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**JANUARY 25, 2026**

**9:30AM & 11:00AM**

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**PRELUDE**      *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*      W. T. Best  
(tune: St. Anne)

**\*HYMN #117**      *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Although we may have walked through shadows this week,

**People: And we come carrying the weight of what we've seen,**

Leader: We still come to the altar of God. Not because the shadows  
have lifted, but because something in us remembers light.

**People: Something in us believes it's still shining.**

Leader: It is. It always has been. Even in the darkest valley, the light  
has never gone out.

**All: Let us turn toward the light together.**

**\*RESPONSE #601**      *Thy Word Is a Lamp* - refrain

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANTHEM**      *The Ground*      Ola Gjielo  
Chancel Choir

Pleni sunt caeli	The heavens and
et terra gloria tua.	earth are full of your glory.
Osanna in excelsis.	Hosanna in the highest.
Benedictus qui venit	Blessed is He who comes
in nomine Domini.	in the name of God.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis	Lamb of God, who takes away
peccata mundi,	the sins of the world,
dona nobis pacem.	grant us peace.

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*O Clap Your Hands*  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

O clap your hands together all ye people:  
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.  
For the Lord is high and to be feared:  
He is the great King upon all the earth.  
He shall subdue the people under us:  
And the nations under our feet.  
He shall choose out an heritage for us:  
Even the worship of Jacob whom he loved.  
God is gone up with a merry noise:  
And the Lord with the sound of the trump.  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God:  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our king.  
For God is the king of all the earth:  
Sing ye praises with understanding  
O clap your hands together all ye people!

\*DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, 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!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #185

*When Morning Gilds the Sky*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:12-17

MESSAGE

*Light in the Shadows*

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.

\*HYMN #568

*Christ for the World We Sing*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Festpostudium*

Christian Fink

\* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE



*Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of the love, friendship and support of Rex Smith, Sr., and Jack Bolton, fathers of Rex and Sue Smith, who miss them dearly.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God and in honor of all those who serve as the hands and feet of Christ.*



## FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### **Cinnamon Roll Sales**

Come to Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour this morning and purchase a cinnamon roll - nothing tastes better on a cold winter's morning than a hot cinnamon roll to compliment your coffee. All proceeds go to support the scholarship fund for the Youth Choirs' 2026 England tour.

### **Sunday Night Dinner – All Are Welcome**

Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for Sunday Night Dinner. Take the night off and enjoy a warm meal with friends. Everyone is welcome. Tonight's menu includes baked chicken, hash brown casserole, roasted vegetables, and dessert.

### **Scout Sunday – We'd Love to See You Next Week**

Make plans to return next Sunday, February 1, for Scout Sunday. Scouts from our Birmingham First units will participate in both worship services, celebrating the values of faith, service, and leadership. Be sure to stop by Thomas Parlor for a Scouting display, where you can meet our Scouts and leaders and learn more about their experiences. Both Cub Scouting (kindergarten–fifth grade) and Scouts BSA (ages 11–17) meet on Wednesdays and welcome new members. Learn more about our Scouting ministries at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org/1032scouts](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org/1032scouts).

### **Urgent Winter Needs at Cass Community Social Services**

Cass Community Social Services (CCSS), one of our local missions, is in urgent need of the following items: washcloths and bath towels, soap and shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent, hand lotion, deodorant, lip balm, tissues, socks, twin sheets, blankets, coffee, sugar, creamer, and peanut butter. Donations may be sent directly to Cass Community Social Services, c/o Sue Pethoud, 11475 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206.

### **Hospitality & Connecting Ministry Greeters Needed**

Help us create a warm, welcoming experience for all! Sign up to serve as a greeter in 2026—make coffee and lemonade, set up beverage stations, welcome worshipers with a smile, answer questions, or greet at the Sanctuary doors, main doors, and Circle Drive near the Choir Room. You can also help staff the kiosk between services to recruit other greeters. Join us in sharing Christ's hospitality—sign up today at the Kiosk on Fellowship Hall.

### **Voice of Hope**

Need a little encouragement? Call our Voice of Hope line at 248-646-6407 and press 2 to hear an uplifting message recorded just for you. Whether you're seeking comfort, inspiration, or a gentle reminder of God's love, take a moment to listen. New messages are shared each week—don't miss your moment of hope today.

### **Easter Books Available at the Circuit Rider Bookstore**

Stop by the Circuit Rider Bookstore in Fellowship Hall after worship and find meaningful books that make wonderful additions to Easter baskets. For children, *Snuggle Time Easter Stories* offers gentle rhymes that introduce our youngest readers to the true meaning of Easter, while *'Twas the Morning Before Easter* joyfully shares the story of Jesus' resurrection through colorful illustrations and engaging, rhyming text. For adults, *Why Easter Matters* by Andy Stanley invites readers to explore the powerful people and moments surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

### **Books Available for Purchase During Office Hours**

During weekday office hours, Church Secretary Dorothy Duensing can assist you with purchasing two special books currently available. One of 10 remaining copies of *I Know My Way Home* by Senior Pastor Emeritus and guest preacher William Ritter is available for \$15 (paperback), with all proceeds donated to our Music Ministries. Also available are 28 remaining copies of last week's guest speaker Jack Krasula's hardcover book, *With God, Anything Is Possible* (co-authored with Dale Buss) for \$25. Jack Krasula is generously donating all proceeds to UMCOR ministries.

### **Spring Rummage Sale for Missions: April 26-May 1**

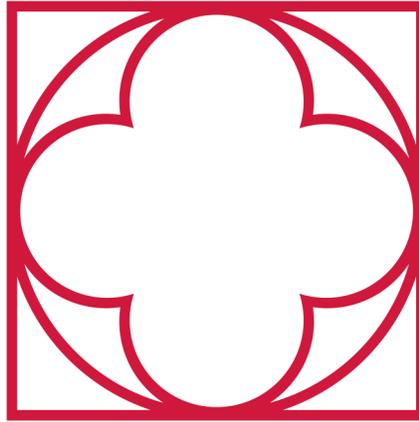
The United Women In Faith invite you to begin cleaning out closets and gathering items to donate. Volunteers are greatly needed (and appreciated!) throughout the week, including women, men, and middle and high school youth. This is a fun week of fellowship and service - please prayerfully consider how your time, talents, and abilities can help support our mission work. Easy drop-off donation days are April 26 & 27. There is no truck pick-up of donated items. Visit the church website at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org/rummage](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org/rummage) for full details.

### **We've Got You Covered**

Need to borrow an umbrella, snow scraper, or even a pair of reading glasses after a service or meeting? We've got you covered! Umbrellas and snow scrapers are available at three main locations: the Main Entrance, Kitchen Door, and Circle Drive. Reading glasses can be found at the Sanctuary Welcome Center near the rear of the Sanctuary. Please be sure to return any borrowed items when you're finished with them so they're ready for the next person who may need them.

#### **BULLETIN COVER**

Because this evangelist began his Gospel by tracing the human descent of our Lord, the figure of the winged man has become St. Matthew's traditional symbol. The small symbol beneath Matthew is a pen and inkwell, recognizing him as the author of the Gospel written to convey the teachings of Jesus. The purple flowers at Matthew's feet symbolize divine authority, are associated with God's majesty and sovereignty, and remind believers of the preciousness of their relationship with God. (located in the southwest Chancel wall of Runkle Chapel)



**Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr.,** Senior Pastor

**Rev. Sarah Alexander,** Associate Pastor

**Rev. Rachael M. Dunlap,** Associate Pastor

**Rev. Zack L. Dunlap,** Associate Pastor

**Casey Proch,** Executive Director

Worship, Music & Operations

**Doris Hall,** Organist

**Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,**

**Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish & Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,**

Pastors Emeriti



For more information about Birmingham First, or to make an online donation, please visit our website at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org), or scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera.

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