

ASHLAND PLACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 29, 2026 First Sunday of Advent

Moyers, Mike, *Awake My Soul*

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.

MINISTRY MOMENT Kristi and Max McClellan

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

PRELUDE ***The Four Seasons, Winter*** Vivaldi
Silvia Rath, violin

❖CALL TO WORSHIP
O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.
Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near;
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

♫❖HYMN OF PRAISE ***Hail to the Lord's Anointed*** UMH 203

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out - against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE
We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming. For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SUNG RESPONSE *Blest Be the God of Israel*

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

♫❖**HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your
presence— [2]as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name
known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! [3]When you did awesome
deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. [4]From ages past
no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who
wait for him. [5]You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were
angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. [6]We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like
the wind, take us away. [7]There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you
have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. [8]Yet, O Lord, you are
our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9]Do not be
exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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** *The Advent of Our God* Purifoy
Chancel Choir with Silvia Rath, violin

❖**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Mark 13:24-37

[24]"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
[25]and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26]Then they will
see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27]Then he will send out the angels, and
gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
[28]"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you
know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at
the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
[31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32]"But about that day or hour no
one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Beware, keep alert; for you do
not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts
his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35]Therefore,
keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at
midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37]And
what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON **"Dwell in the Dark"** 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ***Gratitude*** Lake
Daniel O'Keefe

♫❖**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 Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*** UMH 213

❖**BENEDICTION**

❖**POSTLUDE** ***Ellacombe*** arr. Monk



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 $12,036

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

ONLINE GIVING

THIS WEEK AT APUMC

9:00am	Ascension Worship Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Worship Service (S)
Monday	Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP) Women's Bible Study, 10:00am (FH)
Tuesday	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)
Wednesday	The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW) Handbell Practice, 5:00pm Choir Practice, 6:00pm
Thursday	Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP) The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW) 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, Ann Cottrell, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Michelle Daigle (John Daigle's niece), Julie & Steve Dugan, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Marcia Golson, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Libba Lyon, Julie McLeod, Jean McCutchen, John McMurphy, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Lance Tanner, Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

THE JOSEPH PROJECT CHRISTMAS CARDS are on sale now. Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall and order yours. Cards are $15/card and includes addressing and postage. The deadline for preaddressed envelopes is December 6.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 6
- Ascension Service - 9:00am - FH
- Lessons and Carols with Chancel and Handbell Choirs - 11:00am - S

Sunday, December 13
- Ascension Service - 9:00am
- Traditional Service 11:00am

Wednesday, December 16 - Children's Nativity Program - 6:30pm - S

Sunday, December 20
- Lessons and Carols with the Ascension Band - 9:00am - FH
- Children's Christmas Breakfast - 10:15am - FH
- Traditional Service - 11:00am - S
- Longest Night Service - 4:00pm - S
- Youth Christmas Party - 5:00pm - FH

Thursday, December 24
- Ascension Service - 3:00pm - FH
- Traditional Services - 4:30pm and 6:30pm - S

Sunday, December 27 - One Combined Service, 10:00am - S

HANGING OF THE GREENS

If you would like to contribute toward the special Christmas floral and greenery arrangements for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve, please complete a form and put it in the offering plate, or use the link in your newsletter to contribute online. The deadline is Wednesday, December 16.

DUMAS WESLEY TOY SALE COLLECTION is now underway. Toy and monetary donations are appreciated, as well as volunteers for their annual Toy Sale on Saturday, December, 12. See your newsletter for more information.

ELEMENTARY WINTER RETREAT AT BLUE LAKE will take place January 29th-31st! If your 3rd-5th grader would like to join us for a weekend of faith, fun, and fellowship, please reach out to Pastor Jennifer or Ms. Linda by Dec. 10th. We are hoping to meet the "early registration" deadline this year!