



# ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 25, 2026 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

## PRELUDE

*Savior, Source of Every Blessing*  
Alicia Luttrell

Mozart

## WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Dr. Darren McClellan

*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

Kathy McMaken

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

UMH 66

## ❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.**

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

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 27

UMH 758-759

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

*Today's Acolytes: Frances and Mae Stabler*

❖ *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 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

*Jesus Paid It All*

arr. Lanier

Chancel Choir

❖EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel – and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

SERMON

“The Problem We Didn't Ask About”

Rev. Jennifer Porto

❖ 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

*In Christ Alone*

arr. Koerts

♪❖ 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

*The Church of God, United* (v. 1, 4)

UMH 547

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

*Lauda Anima*

Goss

☞ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding anniversary of Jane and Bruce Finley on January 22 and of George and Oleta Hardesty on January 25 by her brother and their son.



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### January 25, 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

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

As we prepare for Lent beginning February 18, we invite volunteers to contribute a devotion for our Ashland Place Lenten Devotional Book. There is a sign-up genius link in your newsletter. Please sign up and email your devotion to [jpporto@apumc.com](mailto:jpporto@apumc.com) by January 29.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning women's bible study will resume tomorrow at 10:00am. All women are invited to gather for meaningful conversations, spiritual growth, and fellowship around God's Word. The focus will be on exploring the power of our words—how we speak, how we listen, and how our speech reflects our hearts.

## DILL LECTURE SERIES AT DAUPHIN WAY UMC

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston will be the lecture speaker today at 5:00pm and our Ashland Place Choir will be performing in the service. Bishop Holston is the resident bishop of the AL West Florida and North AL Conferences. His love for missions has taken him around the world and gained him recognition as a mission specialist.

## TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Save the date for our annual pancake breakfast with the Excelsior Band on Sunday, February 15. Brunch and music will begin at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by one worship service at 10:00am.

## 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, Judie Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Mihyon Ellis, Lanier Faircloth, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Russell Fountain, Marcia Golson, Curt Graf (Curtis Graf's father), 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, Lonni 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)

## 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

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

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 1/18/26 \$45,264



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

ONLINE GIVING

## Hymns and Responses for January 25, 2026

### *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

UMH 66

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and quick to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.

3. Fatherlike, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows; motherlike, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.

4. Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

### *Take My Life, and Let It Be*

UMH 399

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

### *The Church of God, United*

UMH 547

1. O church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.

4. May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son: to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

## Responsive Psalter: Psalm 27

### Psalm 27

Ps. 36:9

Jane Marshall

**RESPONSE** (General)

For with you is the foun-tain of life;  
in your light do we see light.

**R**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

When evildoers assail me, to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes shall stumble and fall.

**Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in the Lord's temple.**

**R**

The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, will conceal me under the cover of his tent, and will set me high upon a rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

**R**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**"Come," my heart said, "seek the Lord's face." Your face, O Lord, I seek.**

Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, for you have been my help.

**Cast me not off, forsake me not, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother should forsake me, the Lord would take me up.**

**R**

Teach me your way, O Lord; and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe our violence.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord!**

**R**