



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 22, 2026 1st Sunday of Lent

Lauren Wright Pittman, *Who will you listen to?*

PRELUDE

Hope
Alicia Luttrell

Benedict

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

Lisa Cooper

Listen!

There is hope to be found here.

Listen!

God calls you by name here.

Listen!

There is love that abides here.

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

God is speaking.

Let us worship.

Amen.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord, Who Through These Forty Days

UMH 269

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station – something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us – easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts 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.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

All who would like to extend a blessing are invited to come up and kneel at the altar.

We celebrate this special ministry of Ashland Place and give thanks for those who participate in our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Out of love and concern for our Christian brothers and sisters, these ladies work to share this tangible gift to those in need. O God, help us all to know who is in need of your healing power and presence and help us reach out to them.

O God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for this opportunity to see the world beyond ours. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of hope that is promised to all of us.

May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of us, through these shawls and through the lives that they will touch. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the prayer for Illumination, we always ask for God to speak to us through scripture. However, when we do that, we end up doing all the talking. So today, in fitting with the theme of listening, we are simply going to carve out a few moments for silence. I invite you to take a deep breath, to close your eyes, and to listen for what God might be saying to you now. The moment of silence will conclude with a bell.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 32

UMH 766

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

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (v. 1-2)

UMH 359

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

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ³: ¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Written in Red
Chancel Choir

arr. Kirkland

❖ GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

"Seeking: Who Will You Listen To?"

Rev. Jennifer Porto

❖ 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

Jesus Paid it All

arr. Sinclair

♪ ❖ 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

Amazing Grace (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)

UMH 378

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Luttrell

☞ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the heavenly birthdays of Edna Kyser Quinley and Eloise Butler Noble with love by Linda Noble.



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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PRACTICE

The children are now practicing for songs they will sing on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

WELCOME SGT JOHN YOUNG!

Beginning today, we are pleased to welcome Sgt. John Young of the Mobile Police Department as a regular participant in our Sunday morning services. With gratitude for his experience and service to the city of Mobile, we are excited to imagine how his presence will further support our desire for greater hospitality and growing witness, empowering us to love our neighbors with boldness.

YOUTH INFORMATION MEETING TODAY!

Pastor Darren and Joseph Griggs are planning a backpacking trip through the mountains of North Carolina for youth (rising 6th graders–2026 graduates). The dates are June 20 – 25. Interested? Come join Pastor Darren around the APUMC fire pit at 5:30 on February 22 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE – April 3, 2026

Our Good Friday field trip to the EJI Legacy Museum in Montgomery is coming together. The itinerary is still being finalized, but more details will follow soon.

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, Russell Fountain, 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*)

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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- Music Director** Alicia Luttrell
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 2/15/26 \$19,249



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

ONLINE GIVING

Hymns and Responses for February 22, 2026

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

UMH 359

1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I? At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.
2. Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree! At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.

Amazing Grace

UMH 378

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Psalm 32

Ps. 32:11

Gary Alan Smith

RESPONSE (General)

Be glad in the Lord and re-joice;
shout for joy, you up-right in heart.

R

- 1 Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- 2 **Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- 3 When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";
then you forgave the guilt of my sin. R**
- 6 Therefore let those who are godly
offer prayer to you;
**at a time of distress, the rush of great waters
shall not reach them.**
- 7 You are a hiding place for me,
you preserve me from trouble;
you encompass me with deliverance.
- 8 **I will instruct you and teach you
the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
- 9 Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without
understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.
- 10 **Many are the pangs of the wicked;
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**
- 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;
shout for joy, all you upright in heart! R