



# ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 18, 2026    2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

## PRELUDE

*Come, O Jesus, Saviour Mine*  
Alicia Luttrell

Cherubini

## 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

Lisa Cooper

Sing a new song,  
A song of thanks and praise,  
For God has done wondrous deeds,  
And is great beyond compare!

### ♪❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH 140

### ❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Everlasting God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### ❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

*As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove: Open our ears to the truth of your word, that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us and the glad news of deliverance revealed. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE PSALTER

*Psalm 40:1-11*

UMH 774-775

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

### ♪❖ HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Rescue the Perishing* (v. 1-2)

UMH 591

## 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.*

*Today's Acolytes: Henry Bostwick, Remy Graf*

*❖ Please Stand in body or spirit    **Bold Print** – Congregation Reads Aloud*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON****Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

**MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER****♪❖ACT OF PRAISE***Love Divine*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Martin

**❖GOSPEL LESSON****John 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." <sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

**SERMON****"What Are You Looking For?"**

Dr. Darren McClellan

## RECOGNITION OF LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

Dear friends, you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world? **I will.**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace? **I will.**

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen? **I will.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves whole heartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers? **We will.**

### ❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

### ♪ ♦ GLORIA PATRI

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

*My Faith Looks up to Thee*

arr. Berry

### ♪ ♦ 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

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

UMH 580

### ❖ BENEDICTION

### ❖ POSTLUDE

*Faithfulness*

Runyan

❖ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Pace Petrountson and Ryan Childs on January 17, 2026.



## 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.



CONNECT

Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

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

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received    1/11/26    \$24,587



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

ONLINE GIVING

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

**January 18, 2026**

9:00am	Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
5:30pm	Youth

**Monday**      Office Closed for MLK Day

**Tuesday**      Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

**Wednesday**      The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW)  
Handbell Practice, 5:00pm  
Choir Practice, 6:00pm  
Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FP)

**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

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

As we prepare for Lent beginning February 18, we invite volunteers to contribute a devotion for our Ashland Place Lenten Devotional Book. An email went out earlier this week with a sign-up genius link, and there is also a link in your newsletter. Please sign up and submit your devotion by January 29.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning women's bible study will resume on January 26. 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 on Sunday, January 25 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, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn 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)

## Hymns and Responses for January 18, 2026

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

### Rescue the Perishing

UMH 591

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen, tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

2. Though they are slighting him, still he is waiting, waiting the penitent child to receive; plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently; he will forgive if they only believe. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

### Lead On, O King Eternal

UMH 580

1. Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong; and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace. For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears. Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

## Responsive Psalter: Psalm 40:1-11

### Psalm 40:1-11

Ps. 40:11

Don E. Saliers

**RESPONSE (General)**



O Lord, do not with-hold your mer - cy;  
let your stead - fast love pre - serve me.

I waited patiently for the Lord, who inclined to me and heard my cry.

**The Lord drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**Many will see and be in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.**

**R**

Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods!

**O Lord my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!**

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be numbered.

**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; but you have given me an open ear.**

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

**Then I said, "Lo, I come; in the roll of the book it is written of me; I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."**

**R**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

**lo, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.**

I have not hid your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and faithfulness from the great congregation.**

O Lord, do not withhold your mercy from me,

**Let your steadfast love and faithfulness ever preserve me!**

**R**