

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Avondale United Methodist Church

Wandering Heart

"I'm fixed upon it"

Every Sunday: Small Groups @ 9 a.m. | Worship @ 10:10 a.m. | Prayer Circle @ 11:20 a.m.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Gathering

* Call to Worship

* Song of Faith

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

ENGAGING

The Brown Bag Mystery Tour

R² & The AUMC Young Ones

Children and youth of all ages and stages are welcome to come to the front of the sanctuary to hang out with Rev. Rebecca as we discover the surprise awaiting us in the Brown Bag.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 | Matthew 16:21-23

Act of Praise

I Want to Know Christ

Joel Morrison, Vocals

Message

Wandering Heart: "I'm fixed upon it"

Affirmation of Faith

THANKSGIVING

Call to Prayer

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

Call to Confession | Prayer of Confession | Words of Forgiveness

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

Offering

One of the ways we give thanks to God at Avondale UMC is by meeting God's generosity with our own. The Connection Card in the bulletin is a tool for offering to God our acts of discipleship throughout the previous week. It's also a place to share with the pastor any prayer requests. As



the offering plate comes your way, we encourage you to connect with your nearest neighbors.

Musical Offering *Through It All* Joel Morrison, Vocals
* Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95
* Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

Upcoming

These upcoming opportunities are a chance to carry this week's message into the world. Be sure to mark your calendars and invite others to join us.

* Song of Faith *The Way*

Blessing

Parting Music *Something Beautiful*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak Ministers: The People
Music Director: Kevin Hershberger Guest Musician: Joel Morrison, Vocals
Worship Leader: Jason Wimberley Tech Team: Brent Henry & Stephanie Johnson
Candle Lighters: Our Youth



AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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“I’m fixed upon it” | The 4th Sunday in Lent

Fermata: In music, the fermata symbol represents a prolonged note or a pause. After learning Jesus would suffer and die, Peter rebukes Christ saying, “this must never happen to you” (Matt. 16:22). Jesus rebukes Peter right back, knowing he cannot yield on his journey of nonviolence and love. The fermata represents how Peter is fixed on how he wants things to go, but Jesus calls him to stop and get behind him. The symbol also looks like an empty tomb, which is foreshadowed in this story.

This Week’s Centering Practice for Wandering Hearts | Center yourself through gentle movement. Stretch your body.

This Week’s Journaling Prompts for Wandering Hearts | **Sunday:** Jesus shares a hard truth with Peter that challenges his faith (Mt. 16:21-23) What truths or events have challenged your faith? | **Monday:** How are you growing right now? Are you experiencing growing pains? | **Tuesday:** What is a good thing in your life that you cling to? | **Wednesday:** In this season, what are you learning? | **Thursday:** What do you need to hold loosely? | **Friday:** When and how have you changed your mind? | **Saturday:** God’s plans do not always alight with our plans. What does this teach us about God? About us? About faith?



Beseeking, ink on paper, inspired by Matthew 16:21-24 by Hannah Garrity

Open Hands

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that’s where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that’s why Peter cries, “Never!”
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we’ve known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.