



**GATHERING**

Gathering Music *What Wondrous Love Is This*  
 Gathering  
 \* Call to Worship  
 \* Song of Faith *We Are Part of Christ's Own Body*

**ENGAGING**

The Brown Bag Mystery Tour R<sup>2</sup> & 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.*  
 Scripture Luke 10:38-42  
 Song of Faith *Ministry and Presence*  
 Message *everything [in] between: faith & works*  
 Affirmation of Faith

**THANKSGIVING**

Call to Prayer *Breathe, Listen, and Notice*  
 Call to Confession | Prayer of Confession | Words of Forgiveness |  
 Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer

Celebrating Generosity

*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 *Slow Down*

\* Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

\* Prayer of Dedication

### **SENDING**

\* Next Steps

*These upcoming opportunities are a chance to take next steps in our faith, growing deeper in God, and carrying this week's message into the world. Be sure to mark your calendars and invite others to join us.*

\* Song of Faith

*Sent Forth by God's Blessings*

UMH 664

\* Blessing

Parting Music

*Sent Forth by God's Blessings*

## **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Ministers: The People

Music Director: Kevin Hershberger

Worship Leader: Jason Wimberley

Tech Team: Mike Slavik & Brent Henry

Candle Lighters: Our Youth



## **AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

3101 NE Winn Road | Kansas City, MO 64117 | (816) 452-3518

www.avondalemethodist.org | avondaleumc@gmail.com

Office Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday

Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Kevin Hershberger

AvondaleUMCPastor@gmail.com

KevinHershbergerm633@gmail.com

*To connect with us on Slack for general church chats and/or the Prayer Chain send a request to Brent at avondaleumctech@gmail.com*

**A**s United Methodists, we believe in open hearts, open minds, and open doors. The congregation of Avondale United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, is open to all of God's children. We welcome, include, fully affirm, and celebrate the lives of all people. People of all physical and mental ability, race, ethnicity, age gender, gender identity, gender expressions, family structure, marital status, socio-economic class, faith history, and sexual orientation are welcome, affirmed, and loved here. We believe that all individuals are created by love in God's image. As a Reconciling Ministry Church, we strive to create a safe space and a community that enriches the life of each person. We embrace our diversity and invite all to be a vital part of our church family and ministry. ~ Adopted November 2019





## everything [in] between **faith & works**

**Mary & Martha host Jesus:** In many translations, Jesus says that “Mary has chosen the better part,” which has been used to create a divide between Mary and Martha. However, in the Greek, Mary has chosen the “good portion,” and Martha’s tasks are called “ministry.” Therefore, perhaps Mary represents our faith, our desire to know God intimately, and Martha represents our good works, our desire to transform the world. Both are needed, and both are good.

### **This Week’s Centering Practice for everything [in] between** |

Center yourself in scripture. Read Luke 10:38-42 a few times through. Read it in several translations.

### **This Week’s Journaling Prompts for everything [in] between** | **Sunday:**

Have you ever received the message that you did not belong? How did that impact you? |

**Monday:** Do you see yourself in Mary or Martha, both or neither? |

**Tuesday:** Have you ever received the message that you must work to earn your self-worth? What does your faith say to that? |

**Wednesday:** What would it look like for you to lean more into faith, or more into works? | **Thursday:** What is in your comfort zone and what are your growing edges: *thinking* about faith, *feeling* your faith, or *acting* on faith? |

**Friday:** When or where have you had a close, intimate connection with God? |

**Saturday:** What are you hungry to learn about lately? Where would you like to grow and go deeper?



Mary & Martha  
by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman  
*Digital painting*

# Wildfire

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted sesame seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back. The sweet date she samples—the way it stretches and clings to the back of her teeth, leaving the taste of honey in her mouth.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her mouth part like a fish in the air, questions forming and reforming on her curious lips. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how,  
for generations, this story of two brazen women in scripture, a story of two women so close to Jesus, may have felt like an untamed wildfire. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how Martha's questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened,  
but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered a ministry of cooking? What if they discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?  
I can imagine it. Can you?

*Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*