



**GATHERING**

Gathering Music *We Have Come Into His House* Patsy Derrell  
 Gathering  
 \* Call to Worship  
 \* Song of Faith *For the Fruits of This Creation* UMH 97

**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 13:6-9  
 Song of Faith *Beneath the Soil*  
 Message *everything [in] between: rest & growth*  
 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 UMH 895  
 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 *There Is a Savior* Patsy Derrell  
\* 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 *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707  
\* Blessing  
Parting Music *Hymn of Promise*

## **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak  
Music Director: Kevin Hershberger  
Guest Musician: Patsy Derrell

Ministers: The People  
Worship Leader: Karsten Flinn  
Tech Team: Brent Henry & Stephanie Johnson  
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  
AvondaleUMCPastor@gmail.com

Kevin Hershberger  
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 **rest & growth**

**Parable of the fig tree:** The gardener in the vineyard knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time—and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are only ever resting, we won't bear fruit or grow. The fig tree also teaches us that the in between time—of nurture before fruit—can be where transformation begins.

**This Week's Centering Practice for everything [in] between** | Center yourself in scripture. Read Luke 13:6-9 a few times through. Read it in several translations.

### **This Week's Journaling Prompts for everything [in] between**

**Sunday:** Do you find yourself more in a season of rest or growth, or both?

**Monday:** What practices help you find rest?

**Tuesday:** What makes you feel most grounded?

**Wednesday:** What things do you need to feel nourished and ready for growth?

**Thursday:** Do you believe rest is productive?

**Friday:** When was the last time you experienced growing pains?

**Saturday:** What are your growing edges?



Fig Leafing  
by Hannah Garrity  
*Paper lace with watercolor*

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# Slow Growth

**T**here's a vine in the South that covers everything.  
It chokes out the light. Grows up to twelve inches per day.  
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.

If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.

If you saw it from the passenger seat, you'd weep at what it covers.

Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.

*Who can blame them? We're all impatient.*

But if it's fruit you want—

the tart cherry,

the sticky sweet kumquat,

the soft side of a peach,

the crisp bite of an apple—

then bless the rain.

Thank the sun.

Put your hands in the dirt,

and wait. It's one thing to speak of the Divine. It's another

to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,

to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,

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

# Beneath the Soil

WINCHESTER OLD | WORDS: Anna Strickland; © 2024 Anna Strickland, Commissioned by A Sanctified Art  
| MUSIC: George Kirbye | Used with permission.

Beneath the soil in the dark  
There's growth too slow to see  
A transformation not displayed  
In branches, fruit, and leaves

Remember when the world demands  
More than you can produce  
We each grow at a different pace  
And growth starts in the roots

The rest and nurture we receive  
Will turn to fruit in time  
For God made us to grow and change  
As toward the sky we climb

In every season of our lives  
The Spirit is at work  
To nurture us to bear good fruit  
While rooted in the earth