



everything [in] between

grief & hope

EVERY SUNDAY: SMALL GROUPS @ 9 A.M. | WORSHIP @ 10:10 A.M. IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM

Easter @ Avondale United Methodist Church | 04.20.25

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Easter Song

Mike Slavik

Gathering

* Call to Worship

* Song of Faith

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

UMH 302

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.

Scripture

Luke 24:1-12

Song of Faith

Up from the Grave He Arose

UMH 322

Message

everything [in] between: grief & hope

Affirmation of Faith

THANKSGIVING

Call to the Table

He Is Lord

UMH 177

Gathering at the Table of Christ

As you come forward to receive communion you are invited to place your tithes, offerings, and Connections Card in the plate. Everyone is invited to the Feast of Grace. Gluten-Free crackers and a dedicated Gluten-Free cup are available to the pastor's left. If, for any reason, you are not able to partake of the bread and cup, know that you are still welcome to celebrate with us. Simply come forward with arms crossed over your chest and the pastor will be honored to offer a blessing for you.



Call to Confession | Confession | Words of Forgiveness | Invitation to the Table | The Great Thanksgiving | The Lord's Prayer | Breaking the Bread | Sharing the Feast | Music for Feasting | Returning Thanks

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

The Strife Is O'er the Battle Done

UMH 306

* Blessing

Parting Music

The Strife Is O'er the Battle Done

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Ministers: The People

Music Director: Kevin Hershberger

Worship Leader: Jason Wimberley

Guest Musician: Mike Slavik

Tech Team: Brent Henry & Stephanie Johnson

Candle Lighters: Our Youth



AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

As 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 grief & hope

The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb:

Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

This Week's Centering Practice for everything [in] between

| Center

yourself in scripture. Read Luke 24:1-12 a few times through. Read it in several translations.

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

| Sunday:

Have you ever felt grief and hope at the same time? |

Monday:

What are the constants that give you hope? |

Tuesday:

Have you ever received news that felt too good to be true? |

Wednesday:

How can you be kind to yourself and others in the midst of grief? |

Thursday:

This Easter, do you feel like running to the tomb, or staying back in grief and disbelief?

Easter Prayer

Incarnate God, it is so good to know that even when you knew how it would end, you wept. Even knowing that it would all turn out okay, you grieved what had to be done. Help me to hold my grief gently, and give me real hope, gritty hope, a hope that persists in the midst of it all. Humbly I pray, amen.



Fill My Cup | by Steve Prince | Pen and ink on paper

In the Direction of Hope

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for
the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my
pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my
speed.
So tell God when you see them—

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.

It's one thing to speak of love. It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith. It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

Poetry by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org

A Prayer for everything [in] between

God meets us in the night—
before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure.

God meets us in the light—
where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the
sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.

God meets us in between—

at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.

And if God meets us in all those places,
then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge, at the start of something
new,
after the baptism, and before the call.
We are not alone. God is all around.
In our daily lives may all we do and say be a
sign that we worship the God of
everything.

