



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4th Sunday of Easter ▪ April 21, 2024 ▪ 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation Class

Campbell Carothers
daughter of Susan and Rob Carothers

Ellie March Dodd
daughter of Alease and Chris Dodd

Sally Dodson
daughter of Natalie and Charlie Dodson

Julia Dugan
daughter of Kristy Waldron and Cole Dugan

Annie Law
daughter of Beth and Jonathon Law

Parker Leatherbury
daughter of Elizabeth and Gregory Leatherbury

Haidan Prine
daughter of Angela and Bill Prine

— WE GATHER —

WELCOME and PARISH NOTICES

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

PRELUDE

Aria
Alicia Luttrell

Handel

❖ OPENING PRAYER *Together let us center our hearts and minds for worship*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

George Hardesty

❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (verses 1-4)

UMH 57

❖ PASSING OF THE PEACE *Before taking your seat, please pass the Peace of Christ to those around you.*

❖ Please Stand in body or spirit, **Bold** - Congregation Reads Aloud

— WE LISTEN —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life, your Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of scripture. Your Spirit draws us to Christ and helps us to recognize and acknowledge him as Lord. We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.

PSALTER READING *Psalm 46*

UMH 780

❖ **HYMN OF PREPARATION** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (verses 1, 2, 6)

UMH 138

† During the hymn, children in 2nd grade and under may go to the Nursery. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.

EPISTLE LESSON I John 3:16-20

⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

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

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE

Lead Me On!
Chancel Choir

McDonald

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:11-18

¹¹ ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

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

HOMILY

Table Talk: Breakfast Table

Dr. Sterling Boykin

— WE RESPOND —

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Please refer to the insert

Campbell Carothers, Ellie March Dodd, Sally Dodson,
Julia Dugan, Annie Law, Parker Leatherbury, Haidan Prine

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Sanborn

♪ 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

The Church's One Foundation (verses 1 and 5)

UMH 545

— WE GO FORTH —

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

arr. Mason

✠ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are to the glory of God and in celebration of the life of Sue Reed, whose memorial service was held yesterday in our Sanctuary. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Tim, her daughters Kim and Becky, her friends, and prayer shawl ministry partners.



A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR:

Welcome to Ashland Place United Methodist Church. We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope you find a warm welcome and an experience with the One true God this Easter Season as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. If you are visiting for the first time, on behalf of the congregation, I welcome you and encourage you to come again! Use your camera to complete a Connect card using the QR Code below, or fill out a physical card to give us your contact information or ask any questions you have about getting involved with Ashland Place.



CONNECT

Peace in Our Risen Christ,
Sterling

CIRCLE OF CONCERN:

Please hold these members in your prayers: Ken Akin (Jeanne Hunt Akin's husband), John Allen, Ina Boykin (Sterling's mother), Jean Brown and son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Richard Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Ruffin Graham, Bill Higgs, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Tee Hope, Andrew Irby, Freddie Jones, family of Sue Reed, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Burton Roton, Mary Davis Rutledge, Alan Smith (Maria Coleman's brother), *Joann Smith, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), family of Bob Thomson, Joan Waldron, Kathryn Willingham (**new prayer concern this week*)

MEET OUR STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Sterling Boykin – Senior Pastor
Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright – Associate Pastor
Alicia Luttrell – Traditional Music
Lee Ann Boykin – Youth and Communication
Mary Hunter Fuller – Preschool
Jon Miller – Ascension Music/ Media
Joseph Griggs – Sunday Morning Technology

Upcoming Opportunities

Today: Youth Group, 6:00pm (FP)
Monday: Ladies Bible Study, 10am (WP)
Tuesday: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10am (FP)
Wednesday: Administrative Board at Noon (FP),
Handbells, 5pm; Choir, 6pm
Thursday: Men's Bible Study, 7am (WP)

[WP-Wisteria Parlor, FP-Fellowship Parlor]

Registration Open for VBS & Service Squad, June 10-13th

Registration for VBS & Service Squad is OPEN for current 4-yr old Preschoolers through current 6th graders. Adults and youth (in 7th grade this year) are invited to sign up to volunteer. A nursery will be provided for younger children of volunteers. (Adults - Contact Rev. Kristen Wright to volunteer at kwight@apumc.com; youth contact Lee Ann at 251-272-0721, or LAboykin@apumc.com) Questions? Call 251-478-6356.

Easter Sermon Series

Our Sermon Series, "Table Talk", will continue through May 5th. Through the series we will consider our faith traditions in light of the United Methodist Church General Conference. Last week we "set the table", and this week we sit at the breakfast table to look forward to the work ahead. General Conference begins on April 23rd. There will be 862 clergy and lay delegates from all around the world meeting in Charlotte, NC from April 23rd to May 3rd. They will discuss over 1,000 pieces of legislation. Please be in prayer for the delegates and the work that is done in committees beginning this week. Delegates from our Annual Conference are: (clergy) Rev. Emily Kincaid, Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Dr. Cory Smith and Rev. Richard Williams; (laity) Robert Brooks, Celeste Eubanks, Clara Ester, and Pat Luna. This delegation, along with those who will attend the Jurisdictional Conference met in Pensacola in early March and were challenged by Dr. Darren McClellan (General alternate delegate and Jurisdictional delegate) to be actively listening to the Holy Spirit as they do their work. The "Live Video Stream" can be accessed through our Alabama West Florida Conference website, and links will be provided in our E-News.

Financial Update

YTD 2024 Needed: \$253,920; YTD Received: \$197,012
Needed Weekly: \$15,870 Offering Received 4/14: \$9,037

MUSIC FOR April 21st

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is UMH 138

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
6. And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

The Church's One Foundation UMH 545

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Confirmation

INTRODUCTION & PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Campbell Carothers, Ellie March Dodd, Sally Dodson,
Julia Dugan, Annie Law, Parker Leatherbury, Haidan Prine

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH *Candidates come to the altar rail together*

On behalf of the whole church I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

The pastor addresses the parents and congregation:

Will you support and encourage these candidates in their Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.

We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness,

that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.

We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

The pastor addresses students:

Do you believe in God the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments? **I do.**

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Let us join together in professing the Christian faith*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**universal*

♪ **GLORIA PATRI** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men. A-men.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND CONFIRMATION

Candidates and their parents come forward to the kneeler individually

Remember* your baptism and be thankful. **Amen**

(reaffirm, re-claim for yourself)*

_____, the Lord defend you with his heavenly grace and by his Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP *Candidates stand and face the congregation*

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? **I will.**

As members of this congregation will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? **I will.**

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

**As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church

by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,

that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.