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Avondale **The Heartbeat**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH **Newsletter**

A publication of Avondale United Methodist Church, Jacksonville Florida

What's INSIDE

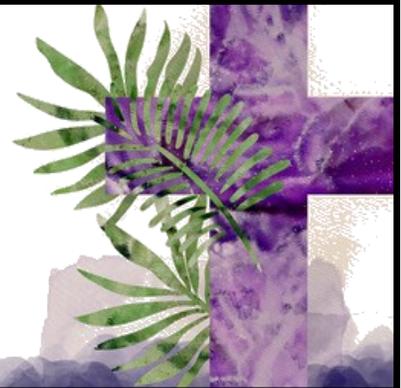
- 2 Pastor's Pen**
- 3 Ministry Info**
- 4 Ministry Info**
- 5 Get Connected**
- 6 Church Calendar**

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
With Kid's Palm Procession
March 24th—10:00am

Good Friday Chancel Choir Cantata
March 27th- at Sunset -

Easter Sunday Service
With a Youth & Kids Performance
March 31st - 10:00am



Easter Candy

We Need Easter Candy!

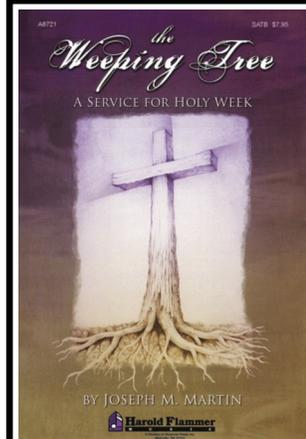
We need individually wrapped Easter Candy that will fit inside a plastic Easter Egg. This is for our annual Kid's Easter Egg hunt!

We also need help stuffing the eggs. We will have bins in the lobby to drop off candy and filled eggs.

Please contact Trudy for info:
trudycorrieri@gmail.com

Chancel Choir Cantata

Our Chancel Choir, conducted by Ted Munn, will be performing "The Weeping Tree" a Good Friday Cantata, Friday, March 29 at Sunset (7:44 pm). The Weeping Tree, watered by a thousand tears, her sylvan branches once held a perfect harvest, for heaven had chosen her rugged frame to be the bearer of grace. There in her crooked and twisted arms she cradled Jesus, the Hope of the world. She who was cut and fashioned by hatred and violence because a tree of life for the world.



JASMYN: Strides for Pride

JASMYN, a wonderful organization that works with LGBTQ+ youth who are increasingly at-risk in our community. will host their fund annual 5k/1m walk on **April 21st at 8:00 am.**

We are registering as a team!

Please go to www.jasmyn.org/strides-for-pride to register and join our Avondale Walking Team to and to learn more about Jasmyn! **Contact Pastor Jerry Hill for info: jbo.1fisher@gmail.com**



Dear Avondale Folks,

My favorite holiday comes this month... I LOVE Easter!!!! But this year, I'm coming around to seeing Easter a different way. I've always thought about Christmas, Lent, Good Friday, and Easter as separate events. But as I get older, I am becoming more and more fascinated with the notion that God is more than a loving Being who was, is and will be. I'm gradually coming around to seeing that since God is not constrained by time the way we are, God was and is and will be simultaneously. So, Christmas, Lent, Good Friday and Easter are becoming progressively more connected – even intermingled – in my mind.



Christmas means nothing special without the resurrection. The resurrection doesn't mean as much without Lent and Good Friday. Birth, suffering, death and rebirth are all connected in God's continuum of love. Okay—it's fun to contemplate the mysteries of theology, but what does all that mean in everyday life?

I think it means that my own birth, suffering, death and rebirth are all connected too. Even in my hardest moments of suffering, even in the loss of loved ones, I am reminded of their rebirth, their victory over death, and that gives me comfort. And I am also reminded of my own rebirth in this life—the expansion of my own heart and soul to be more merciful and loving. The promise has proven true and built my faith for the future.

The joy of Easter is not just the shallow happiness of the Bunny (although I love the Bunny and will tolerate no criticism of children's Easter fun!). Easter is also the culmination of suffering and hard times in a way that makes the joy of Easter more all-consuming. Jesus' resurrection is not only about the vanquishing of death for a single man—it's about the vanquishing of death for all who will choose God's love in humankind. Of course, I don't know exactly how that all works on the other side, after we have breathed our last. But I know it puts joy and hope in my heart in the here and now. It has bailed out my broken heart in the past. And I can only imagine the joy of my ultimate future with my loving God.

So let's celebrate with full hearts- now and always – He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Blessings,

Pastor Clare

Jesus said: “I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ~John 14:18-19



Maryanne & Cliff Hinton

In the Spotlight



By Pastor Clare

Maryanne Hinton, according to her own description, has been a Methobaptirian. She was brought up as a Methodist, but her daddy was a Baptist. She attended a Presbyterian church for a while and came back to the good old United Methodists at Avondale in 2019. Cliff Hinton was brought up in both non-denominational and Pentecostal churches, and attended Presbyterian churches as an adult. Cliff and Maryanne met and married in the public schools in South Carolina, where they were both faculty members. They have a wonderful son, Jamie, who graduated from Stanford and is now writing a dissertation for his PhD on political and economic struggles in Uganda. The Hintsons ask for prayers for Cliff's continued health and for Jamie's safety in Uganda, where he is studying right now.

Maryanne was born in Florence, SC, and graduated from Francis Marion College there. Cliff was born in Greenville, SC and graduated from Furman with a Bachelor's degree and from University of SC with a Master's in Library Science. Maryanne and Cliff joined Avondale because of "the Love, the welcoming, caring and supportive people. We feel the joy of God in our church." Maryanne taught English in all levels of high school, with a focus on British Literature. Cliff started out teaching music, with a focus on strings, and then was a school media specialist.

Now you may be looking at their family picture below and thinking, "Wait a minute—these folks have been part of our church since 2019??? I don't recognize them! You are not going crazy... Cliff and Maryanne rarely attend in person due to Cliff's chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. He has been beating back that devil Cancer for years now, and recent treatments have really improved his prognosis. But Cliff and Maryanne are online with us every week and have participated in my Thursday evening LifeGroup since the pandemic took us to Zoom. Cliff says, "The people of this group have been our connection to the outside world for the four and a half years we've been here. They have supported us with their prayers, friendships, and social-distanced picnics, and that has meant so much to us!"

Maryanne and Cliff both volunteer with projects they can do home. They are active in our prayer ministries; they send cards to isolated folks, and they have read scripture, Advent candle readings and will soon narrate our Good Friday Cantata—all by video. They praise God that Cliff has been able to be "chemo-free" for several months now, and pray that this freedom will continue!

**AUMC Kid's and Youth
Easter**



Skit Practice for Youth and Kids

Attention Parents of our AUMC Youth and Kids! We will be having rehearsals for an Easter Sunday performance after the Sunday School hour each week from 11:50 a.m. to a bit after 12:00 p.m. We are excited for this opportunity to showcase our kids here at Avondale UMC. **Please contact Pastor Michelle for more info 904-564-0396**



We Accept Deliveries!

You can have canned food items for our Little Free Panty, or books for our Little Free Diverse Library delivered to the church Mon-Thurs, 11am to 3pm. Pop-top and eat-now items preferred, canned meat, Chef Boyardee, cup soup. Contact the office for details: **office@aumcjax.org or 904-389-1175**



Missions Meeting

Do you have a desire to help others in our community, country, and world? Have you been wanting to get more involved at church but weren't sure how? Then hook up with AUMC Missions Team! Our next meeting will be on **March 24th at 9:00am** in the Meeting Place, directly before our Sunday Worship Service. We are planning our strategies for many projects in our community. Everyone is welcome to bring their input, ideas, and support. We are active in serving our neighbors in our community and in the world; come and see!
Contact Rev. Jerry Hill at 864-320-3165 or jbo.1fisher@gmail.com for info.



Feed My Sheep: March 9th

Rolling on the River has changed its name to "*Feed My Sheep.*" We will still be heading out on the **2nd Saturday of every month**. What we need are volunteers for:

- * Sandwich makers and lunch packers at 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen
- * Drivers (at least 2)
- * Hander-outers to ride along and hand out the lunches and manna bags
- * Donations toward the supplies for the lunches and manna bags
- * Hats, gloves, sleeping bags, sweaters, and jackets as the weather cools down

We're usually back at the church by 10:30 or 11. Lots of these folks are in temporary struggles and on waiting lists for community services. If you find it in your heart to join us **PLEASE email Pastor Betsy at pastorbetsyc@gmail.com so we know we have enough people to go!**



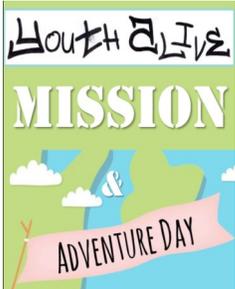
Tai-Chi Wednesdays

Starting Wednesday, February 28th we will be having *Tai-Chi with Elizabeth* every **Wednesday at 1:00pm**. Elizabeth has over 20 years of experience as a certified Tai-Chi instructor. She leads a very gentle and easy to follow class. For more information and sign up, please contact **Dr. Mary Robinson at 904-891-8816 or maryarrg21@gmail.com.**

Church Finances	Money Invested	Money Spent	Differential	Explanation: ~\$ 11K on the building, ~\$20K on staff, ~\$10K on Child's Day Out and ~\$6K on mission and administration. February got off to a better start... we are hopeful. We can't, You Can, Guide us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
January 2024	\$ 25,555	\$ 47,543	- \$21,987	
Year-to-date, 01/31/2024	\$ 25,555	\$ 47,543	- \$21,987	

Team	Description	Contact Person	Email	Phone
Missions	This is the core of the church. Help feed the poor, welcome refugees and more!	Pastor Jerry Hill & Pastor Betsy Clark	jbo.1fisher@gmail.com PastorBetsyC@gmail.com	864-320-3165 904-389-1175
Children's Ministry	Kid's Church & Sunday School	Trudy Corrieri	trudycorrieri@yahoo.com	904-389-1175
Youth Ministry	Youth Alive! Help our kids know God!	Michelle Sahrphillips	michellesahrphillips@yahoo.com	904-564-0396
Older Adult Ministry	Homebound mailings, visits, calls & other activities	Pastor Betsy Clark & Pastor Laurence Coles	PastorBetsyC@gmail.com coles.laurence@comcast.net	904-438-0001 904-693-3497
Music Ministry	Chancel Choir, Bell Choir & more	Ted Munn	ted.munn@me.com	904-635-3337
Praise Band	Play an instrument? We need you!	Mason Manion	masonmanion@gmail.com	904-591-5039
Tech Team	Learn the soundboard, video, slides!	Ted Munn	ted.munn@me.com	252-717-0874
Hospitality	Serve in the kitchen and buffet	Debbie Ocaña	debbieocana1962@gmail.com	904-622-8420
Welcome Team	Welcome new folks!	Winnette Sandlin	w.sandlin@comcast.net	904-631-4323
Ushers	Make our worship services welcoming	Sandy Arts	abilty@bellsouth.net	904-318-7341
Through the Bible	Reading through the Bible a chapter at a time and discussing how it applies today	Laura Grieve & David Peek	laura.grieve@comcast.net davidhpeek@comcast.net	904-389-7038 904-219-4544
Faithful Friends	Sermons, lessons, and songs in a traditional format	Pastor Laurence Coles & Roxanne Daniels	coles.laurence@comcast.net terroxdan@comcast.net	904-693-3497 904-838-9548
Breakfast Club	Sunday morning discussion group	Katie Sahrphillips	ksahrphillips@gmail.com	904-338-7755
Practicing the Presence	Sunday school and contemplative prayer	Pastor Dennis Myers Jr.	aumcdennis@gmail.com	904-514-1676
Tuesday Book Study	Book Study and discussion via ZOOM	Pastor Betsy Clark	PastorBetsyC@gmail.com	904-438-0001
Dietary Divergent	Life Group for those with dietary restrictions	Myra Freeman	thrallherd@aol.com	904-576-2895
Thursday Life Group	Book studies and Christian life discussion	Pastor Clare Chance	clarewc@gmail.com	904-389-1175

Youth Mission Charity Food Distribution Needs Volunteers



Come out to **Hanna Park at 8am on Saturday, 3/23**, and help our Youth work to distribute food with Catholic Charities! The Youth have been doing this every month since July, and over 400 needy people will be helped. We NEED adult volunteers, and you need to be blessed by doing this Jesus work!

Call Rev Jerry, 864-320-3165 to get the details. Youth please contact Pastor Michelle for permission slips and info: 904-564-0396

Youth and Kids Easter Party

Youth Alive and Kid's Church will be having a combined Easter Party during the Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday, March 31st. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the kids, with the youth hiding the eggs, snacks, friends, fun and most of all Jesus! There will be candy, so parents, please let **Pastor Michelle - 904-564-0396** or **Pastor Trudy - 904-305-7768** know of any dietary restrictions or allergies.



Craft Night

Do you knit, crochet, decoupage, paint, or just like to color? Come to craft night Monday nights at 7:00 and everybody is welcome! you can bring your crafts to work on or learn a new one from someone else as we spend some creative time together. We are also open to learning new crafts!

Drop in any Monday and share in the fun

For info email Pastor B at pastorbetsyc@gmail.com



March 2024

March Weekly Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 am Online and In-Person Worship 11 am Sunday School & Small Group Hour	4 Craft Night 7pm	5 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm	6 Tai Chi 1 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm Dietary Divergent 7pm	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7am Pastor Clare's Life Group 6pm Pastor Betsy's Book Study 7pm	8	9 Feed My Sheep 8am
10 10:00 am Online and In-Person Worship 11 am Sunday School & Small Group Hour	11 Craft Night 7pm	12 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm	13 Tai Chi 1 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm Dietary Divergent 7pm	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7am Pastor Clare's Life Group 6pm Pastor Betsy's Book Study 7pm	15	16
17 10:00 am Online and In-Person Worship 11 am Sunday School & Small Group Hour 	18 Craft Night 7pm	19 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm	20 Tai Chi 1 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm Dietary Divergent 7pm	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7am Pastor Clare's Life Group 6pm Pastor Betsy's Book Study 7pm	22	23 8:00 am Youth Hanna Park Mission
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Missions Meeting 10:00 am Online and In-Person Worship 11 am Sunday School & Small Group Hour	25 Craft Night 7pm	26 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm	27 Tai Chi 1 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm Dietary Divergent 7pm	28 Maundy Thursday Men's Prayer Breakfast 7am Pastor Clare's Life Group 6pm Pastor Betsy's Book Study 7pm	29 Good Friday Choir Tenebrae Cantata at Sundown 7:44 pm	30
31 He Is Risen! 10:00 am Online and In-Person Worship 11 am Youth & Kids Easter Party! Sunday School & Small Group Hour						

Sunday

10:00am In-Person Worship Service & Livestreamed on YouTube (Recorded to be viewed anytime)
11:00am Sunday School & Small Group Hour

Monday

7:00pm Craft Night

Tuesday

6:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
6:00pm Pastor Clare's Life Group

Need To Contact Us?

Church Office:
(904) 389-1175

office@aumcjax.org

Hours: 11am-3pm
Monday - Thursday

We're on the
Interwebs!

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www.aumcjax.org

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for
AUMCJAX

