



BIRMINGHAM FIRST

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...gathered here for good.™

PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

John Marsh

***HYMN #315**

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The tomb is empty, and the risen Christ is already on the road ahead of us.

People: We have seen the Lord! Alleluia!

Leader: He is walking with us even now — on every road, at every table, in every word that sets our hearts on fire.

People: We have seen the Lord! Alleluia!

Leader: Come, let us break bread together. Let us open the scriptures
Let us tell the story of what God has done.

**All: Our hearts are burning within us! Let us worship with joy!
Alleluia!**

***RESPONSE #2114** *At the Font We Start Our Journey* – vs. 1

**At the font we start our journey, in the Easter faith baptized;
Doubts and fears no longer bind us, by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope held out and realized.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sarah Alexander

ANTHEM (9:30)

Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal

arr. Alice Parker

IXOYC Choir

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

And my soul was stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the City far away.

Those have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blessed.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY

The Glory of Christ
Chancel Choir

K. Lee Scott

You, living Christ, our eyes behold, amid Your church appearing,
All girt about Your breast with gold and bright apparel wearing;
Your countenance is burning light, a sun resplendent in its might:
Lord Christ, we see your glory.

Your glorious feet have sought and found Your own of every nation;
With everlasting voice You sound the call of our salvation;
You search us still with eyes of flame,
You know and call us all by name: Lord Christ, we see your glory.

O risen Christ, today alive, amid Your church abiding,
Who now Your blood and body give,
New life and strength providing,
We join in heavenly company to sing
Your praise triumphantly: Lord Christ, we see your glory!

***DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN #307**

Christ Is Risen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 13-35

MESSAGE

Witnessing to the Faith

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.

***HYMN #77**

How Great Thou Art

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

The Strife is O'er ("Victory")

Alfred Fedak



*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory
of Fanny Randazzo, on the 4th anniversary of her passing, by Trish Olevnik.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God in gratitude
for our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish,
in his service to Birmingham and Berkley First.*



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Thank You!

Thank you to all who became “Partners in Mission” during our March PIM Appeal. While March is when we invite the congregation to support 22 mission projects locally, nationally, and globally - gifts may be made year-round, and we are grateful for your generous response. Your support, including designated gifts, helps meet the needs of our mission teams. You can still show your support by using an offering envelope (noting mark “Partners in Mission”) or by picking up a PIM brochure in the hallway and scanning the QR code.

Cinnamon Rolls and Broadway

Our IXOYC is in the final fund-raising stretch for their England tour, and we've got some great ways you can help! First, stop by Fellowship Hall today to grab a delicious, freshly-baked cinnamon roll. Second, mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3 at 4 pm, for our Musical Theater Review and dinner. All of our choirs, and a very special guest, will bring the greatest hits of musical theater from both sides of the pond to life. Donations will be accepted to help make sure that all our student singers can participate in this transformative choir tour experience.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

Interested in joining the Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement this summer? Come learn more at an informational meeting today at 12:00 p.m. in the Ritter Room (Room 217). The trip will take place July 12–18, 2026. All are welcome to attend and learn more about this meaningful opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Discover First — Find Your Church Home

Are you looking for a church home where you can grow in your faith and feel connected? Discover First is a one-session gathering this evening, Sunday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Thomas Parlor, offering an introduction to Birmingham & Berkley First and the United Methodist Church. This relaxed, welcoming class is a chance to ask questions and learn more about our community. At the end of the session, those who wish may choose to become members.

All Church Hands on Mission

On April 25 from 9-2 p.m. you're invited to take part in this Hands on Mission: Hands with Detroit, hosted by the Greater Detroit District UMC and Cass Community Social Services. This is open to ages 10 and older, giving everyone a chance to serve together! Lunch will be provided. To sign up, or for more information, go to: <https://greaterdetroit.michiganumc.org>.

Make a Difference This Summer: Volunteer Children & Family Ministries

Families, help make this summer special for our kids by volunteering with Children and Family Ministries. We are looking for enthusiastic adults to support Summer Sunday School and the Nursery, offering a fun and meaningful way to connect and give back. Sunday School will follow a relaxed one room format in the Children's Center with a short lesson, activity, snack, and playground time. If you are 18 or older and have a background check on file, you are ready to serve. Connect with Dayna, Megan or Beth from the Children & Family Ministries Team, or sign up at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm.

Spring Rummage Sale

DONATE: We gratefully welcome your donations curbside (please note there will be no truck pickup) on Sunday, April 26 from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Monday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For a list of items we are not able to take, go to www.gatheredhereforgood.org/rummage.

VOLUNTEER: Volunteers are needed April 26 - May 1, and we would love your help. Please contact Jane Carvell at jcarve55@icloud.com or 248-379-2662 or sign up at the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

SHOP: Wednesday, April 29 from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. at regular prices; and Thursday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at regular prices, followed by 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. for Bag Night and 50% off.

Spring Clean-Up

Did you know that Birmingham First sits on 9 acres? While much of that space is home to our buildings, there is still plenty of property to care for. Join us on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to noon as we spruce up the grounds after a long winter. Tasks will include cutting back grasses, pulling weeds, picking up trash and fallen branches, and edging garden beds. Yard waste bags, donuts, and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own gloves, hat, weeding tools, and a bucket. No experience is necessary—just a willingness to help! To volunteer or ask questions, contact Jane Carvell at 248-379-2662 or jcarve55@gmail.com.

Spring Tea with Guest Speaker Rev. Elizabeth Hurd

Celebrate the season of renewal with United Women in Faith at our Spring Tea on Saturday, May 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Berkley Campus. We are delighted to welcome Rev. Elizabeth Hurd as our guest speaker, sharing a message of hope and renewal. This free event is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and community. Bring your mothers, daughters, and friends, and plan to join us for a joyful afternoon together. Please register in advance by going to www.gatheredhereforgood.com or through your fellowship circles.

Blood Drive

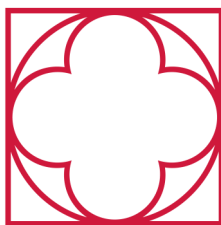
Our next blood drive is Monday, May 11, from 12:30–6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Help make a life-saving difference in our community. Our goal is to collect at least 40 units of blood, with 72 appointment slots available—each one representing a patient in need of care, whether facing surgery, cancer treatment, trauma, or a medical emergency. Sign up today by going to our website www.gatheredhereforgood.org.

Career Fair Volunteers Needed

The Samaritas Refugee Youth Mentorship Program Career Fair on May 16 from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. is seeking adult volunteers to share their career journeys with students in a fun, high-impact setting. Volunteers will speak in small groups about their education and career paths and answer questions from youth eager to learn and grow. Lunch will be provided. All professions are welcome. Contact Rachel Campbell rachelcwaltz@gmail.com.

Sunday Night Dinner

You're invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a time to connect and share a meal. Tonight's menu includes lasagna, garlic toast, salad and dessert. Come hungry and bring a friend!



Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr., Senior Pastor

Rev. Sarah B. Alexander, Associate Pastor

Rev. Rachael M. Dunlap, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish,

Pastor Emeritus, Interim Associate Pastor

Casey Proch, Executive Director

Worship, Music & Operations

Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,

& Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,

Pastors Emeriti

BULLETIN COVER

These two Tracery panels - located on either side of the King Crown medallion at the top of East Transept window - reflect the heart of the resurrection message, echoing the moment when grief turns to recognition and doubt gives way to faith.

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For more information about Birmingham First, or to make an online donation, please visit our website at www.gatheredhereforgood.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera.