

NPC NO MORE



HIGH SCORE
2026



BIRMINGHAM FIRST

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...gathered here for good!™

PRELUDE

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Alfred Fedak

CHORAL INTROIT

Camp Songs

*HYMN #3152

Welcome

Mark Miller

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace.

Singing welcome, welcome to this place, you're invited to come
and know God's grace, all are welcome, the love of God to share,
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray.

Singing welcome ...

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

Singing welcome ...

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who have ever felt unseen.

People: God has called us here by name.

Leader: Come, all who have stood at the edge of the crowd.

People: God has made room for us at the center.

Leader: The One who stopped beneath the tree, who sat at the well in the
heat of the day, who heard the voice the crowd tried to silence—

People: that same God knows our names, and calls us forward.

Leader: In the story God is telling, there are no background characters.

People: We were never background. We were never alone.

Leader: So lift your voices—young and old, together.

People: Let us worship the God who sees us, stays with us and sends us out.

All: We come as we are—fully known and fully loved. Let us worship God!

*RESPONSE

Child of God – vs. 1

No matter what people say, say or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.
And there is nothing, or no one who can separate,
They can't separate you from the truth that you're someone.
You are family, you are meant to be a child, a child of God!
You are a child, a child of God!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

God Calls All of Us
Covenant Choir

Mark Burrows

One day God called Jeremiah when he was just a kid.
But Jeremiah felt unworthy. He nearly ran and hid.
'Til God said, "Do not be afraid, for I will be with you.
I'll help you know what words to say, I'll show you what to do."

He was called, he was called. Just the way he was, he was called.
He was called, he was called. At one time or another, God calls us all!

Mary and her sister Martha were at their house one day.
When Jesus came and Mary listened to what He had to say.
But Martha cooked and ran about. She thought her way was best,
'Til Jesus calmly called to her to sit and learn and rest.

They were called, they were called. Just the way they were, they were called.
They were called, they were called. At one time or another, God calls us all!

SPEAKER

Reagan Hoomaian

ANTHEM

Rock-a My Soul
Genesis Choir

Linda Spevacek

I come here this night to sing and pray, to drive the blues away.
Before I stay down and out all day, I'd sing myself and rock myself away.
Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham, O rock-a my soul.

When I went down to the valley to pray, my soul got happy and I stayed all day.
When I was a mourner just like you, I mourned and mourned 'til I came
through. Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham, O rock-a my soul.

Come on and rock, rock my soul. I'm gonna pray and never stop, 'til I reach the
mountaintop. O rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham. Alleluia, rock my soul!

SPEAKER

Quentin Pierre

PASTORAL PRAYER

SPEAKER

Olivia Handzel

ANTHEM

You Do Not Walk Alone
IXOYC Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Casey Proch

OFFERTORY

Love Sees Through
Combined Choirs

Doris Hall & Casey Proch

Wave. Turn. Cross to the bucket. Turn. Wave. Collect the fees.
Same day follows, day after day, running the script of who I'm supposed to be.
Then the Teacher stops my loop today— then Love looked at me.

Love sees through the junk of the world to the one in the corner,
to the one fitting in. Love doesn't ask you to change, doesn't ask you to earn it.
Love sees you. Love sees you.

Up. A tree. I want to see. To the well. No one sees me.
Doing my job while my neighbors pay, hiding my story from the heat of the day.
Then the Teacher looks up—calls me by name—then Love looked at me.

Love sees through ... Love sees you.

Walk. Just walk. Step by step. On a dusty road.
I gave it my hope and it ended in tears, So I'm walking away from the person
I'd hoped I would be. Then a Stranger falls in step, and asks me why—
and somehow He already knows, 'cause... then Love looked at me.

Love sees through ... Love sees you.

When Love's looked in your eyes, when it's called you by name,
You take your place in the game, you take a stand for a change.

Love sees through the junk of the world to the one in the corner,
to the one fitting in. Love doesn't ask you to change, doesn't ask you to earn it.
Love sees you. Love sees you.

***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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:1

MESSAGE *NPC No More* Rev. Chad Oyer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The 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.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

*HYMN #593 *Here I Am, Lord*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *When In Our Music God Is Glorified* Robert Hobby



The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Rose-Marie and Tom Venier's 33rd wedding anniversary on August 3.

The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God and in celebration of another successful week of Choir Camp!



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Dr. Boayue in Liberia

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. is currently in Liberia and will be away for the next few weeks, returning to Birmingham First for worship on Sunday, August 23. Please keep Dr. Boayue, his travels, and the ongoing mission work in Liberia in your prayers during this time. While he is away, Pastor Chad Oyer is available for pastoral care by email at coyer@fumcbirmingham.org or by phone 248-646-6407 ext. 3164. For other congregational needs, please contact the church office at 248-646-1200.

Next Sunday in Worship

Join us next Sunday, August 9, as guest preacher Rev. Bob Fuchs shares the message, *"You Go on Ahead Without Me, I'll Catch Up!"* based on Matthew 14:22-33. As followers of Jesus, we can become so focused on reaching the goal before us that, when challenges arise, we rely on our own strength and persistence and forget why we were sent and by whom. This familiar story reminds us to turn to God in prayer and worship, trusting in God's presence and power. Pastor Bob is a retired Licensed Local Pastor who served as Lead Pastor of Downriver Church UMC in Taylor and as Associate and Campus Pastor at First UMC in Brighton and Whitmore Lake, where he currently attends with his wife, Sue.

Christian Life Center August Closure

The Christian Life Center will be closed for the month of August, reopening on Monday, September 14. This scheduled closure will allow time for deep cleaning and much-needed updates throughout the facility. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

August Nursery & Sunday School Volunteers Needed

Help make Sundays special for our children this August! Volunteers are needed in both the Nursery and Sunday School, and new volunteers are always welcome. Whether you can serve one Sunday or several, your time makes a difference in creating a safe, welcoming, and joyful place for our children to grow in faith. See Dana Ratliff for more information, sign up at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm.

45C Summer Mission Day

Children entering 4th and 5th grades are invited to join us for a 45C Summer Mission Day on Thursday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. We'll begin the day serving our Redford Brightmoor Initiative mission partners by filling backpacks with school supplies, enjoy lunch together, and then head to Whoa Zone at Bald Mountain for an afternoon on the floating obstacle course. Cost is \$10 per child. Registration is due Monday, August 10. Younger siblings may attend only if a parent is volunteering. Register at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm.

Leading a Group This Fall? We Need Your Information!

If you will be leading a Journey Group, Bible study, small group, or other ministry group this fall, please make sure your meeting dates are on the church calendar and your facility space is reserved. Our building fills up quickly in the fall, and we want to make sure your group has the room and resources it needs. To confirm your dates and reserve your space, contact Dorothy Duensing at office@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-1200. If you would like to add your group to the Journey Group handout and webpage, contact Adrienne Trupiano at atrupiano@fumcbirmingham.org.

Sign Up for Scouting This Fall

Looking for a great way for your child or teen to build friendships, develop leadership skills, serve others, and grow in confidence? Scouting at Birmingham First welcomes new members this fall. Cub Scouting (kindergarten through fifth grade) and Scouts BSA (youth ages 11–17) meet on Wednesdays evenings. Our Scouting programs offer opportunities for adventure, service, learning, and fun while encouraging the values of faith and leadership. Learn more and get connected at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/1032scouts.

Pickleball with a Purpose

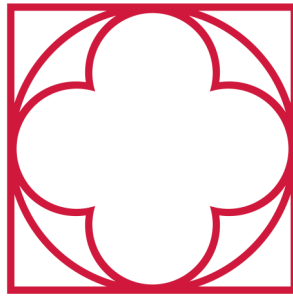
Serve Kindness! Smash Hunger! Don't miss the Hunger Ministry Pickleball Mixer Fundraiser on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Join us for a fun day of pickleball, fellowship, and friendly competition, while raising funds to support the Hunger Ministry and its work serving our neighbors. More information can be found at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/pickleball.

Voice of Hope

Need a little encouragement? Call our *Voice of Hope* line at 248-646-6407 and press 2 to hear an uplifting message recorded just for you. Whether you're seeking comfort, inspiration, or a gentle reminder of God's love, take a moment to listen. New messages are shared each week—don't miss your moment of hope today.

Featured at the Circuit Rider Bookstore

Available today after worship in the Circuit Rider Bookstore: *Rhythms of Renewal: Trading Stress and Anxiety for a Life of Peace and Purpose* by Rebekah Lyons. Drawing from her own experiences with depression and anxiety, Lyons shares four life-giving rhythms designed to quiet the chaos of everyday life, create space for God's peace, and help readers move toward a more flourishing, purpose-filled life.



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

Rev. Chad Oyer, Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Hurd, Associate Pastor

Casey Proch, Executive Director

Worship, Music & Operations

Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,

Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish, & Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,

Pastors Emeriti

BULLETIN COVER

Choirs are powerhouses of connection and acceptance, bringing different peoples together, finding community and common purpose. When we sing together, a bond is created that unites us unlike any other activity.

“That first breath that a choir takes together, a breath filled with focus, intention and emotion, a breath unified for no other reason than to make something beautiful together in praise to God... that is the reason we do what we do.”



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.

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