

**BIRMINGHAM FIRST**

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*...gathered here for good.™*

**PRELUDE**                    *Partita on "Thine Be the Glory"*                    Anders Börgesson

**\*HYMN #126**                    *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Lift up your troubled hearts — the heavy ones, the hopeful ones, the ones you almost left at the door.

**People: We bring them all. We bring them here.**

Leader: The road is long, but the One who walks ahead of us has already made a path through the dark.

**People: He is the way. He is the truth. He is the life.**

Leader: He is the door flung wide, the lamp on the threshold, the voice that calls us home before we knew we were wandering.

**People: Then let us follow. Let us trust. Let us rise.**

**\*RESPONSE #347**                    *Spirit Song – vs. 1*

**O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.  
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you, and his spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**                    Rev. Sarah Alexander

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY**                    *I Love to Tell the Story*                    Benjamin Kornelis  
Chancel Choir

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; will be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory, I sang the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

\*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 #369 *Blessed Assurance*

SCRIPTURE John 14:1-14

MESSAGE *Knowing the Way* Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.

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 #529 *How Firm a Foundation*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Finale on "Thine Be the Glory"* Anders Börgesson



*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Forrest, Gertrude, and Kim Fox by Kerry Fox.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God and in gratitude for our Sunday School and Nursery Care volunteers, whose kindness and care help nurture our youngest members in love and faith.*



## FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### **Thank You for a great Rummage Sale Week**

The United Women in Faith thank everyone who donated, volunteered, and shopped at the Spring Rummage Sale for Missions. More than 700 volunteers gave thousands of hours, filling the church with energy and generosity. Donations also supported local charities with clothing, linens, dishes, and furniture. Because of this collective effort, we created a mission field within our walls and raised funds to support women, children, and families locally, nationally, and around the world.

### **First Nurses Blood Pressure Checks in Fellowship Hall**

Your health matters. First Nurses will be available in Fellowship Hall to check blood pressure between services today and on the first Sunday of each month. Track and compare your monthly results to be sure you're staying on top of your health. This free and friendly service is open to all, no appointment needed.

### **Musical Theater Revue & England Choir Tour Fundraiser**

Join us this afternoon, Sunday, May 3, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for an afternoon of showstoppers from the best of American and British musical theater, performed by our choirs as we prepare for this summer's England Choir Tour. You won't want to miss our very special guest taking the stage. A freewill donation will be collected at the door to help ensure every singer can participate in the tour. Stay afterward for a dinner celebration with the choirs.

### **2nd Annual Legacy Society Reception**

You are warmly invited to the 2nd Annual Legacy Society Reception on Thursday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr., 1019 Chesterfield Ave., Birmingham. Join us for an evening of gratitude as we celebrate you and the strong foundation you help provide for the future of our church. Shuttle transportation via the Endowment Express will be available beginning at 5:45 p.m. from the church parking lot. Please RSVP by this evening to Karen Murphy at [kmurphy@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:kmurphy@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248.646.1200 ext. 3155.

### **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 through the events page on our website or through your fellowship circles.

### **Spring Food and Supply Drive**

The Hunger Committee invites you to participate in the Spring Food and Supply Drive, supporting local agencies including Gleaners Food Bank, Hope Shelter, Baldwin Center, Freedom House, Cass Community Social Services, Lighthouse, and the Berkley Food Pantry. Donation bags with a list of needed items will be distributed on Sunday, May 10, and collected on Sunday, May 17. Volunteers are needed to help distribute bags, sort donations, and assist with pickup. Sign up at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org).

### **Blood Drive**

Our next blood drive is Monday, May 11, from 12:30 to 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 at [www.gatheredhereforgood.org](http://www.gatheredhereforgood.org)

### **Celebrate the Heart of Baldwin**

The Baldwin Center, one of our 22 mission partners, invites you to be a difference maker by attending the Baldwin Center Gala on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Grande Banquet Facility in Pontiac. This special evening supports vital services, including hot meals, warm coats, showers, after-school programs, and more for our neighbors in need. Guests will enjoy a strolling supper, silent auction, awards, entertainment, and meaningful opportunities to give. For tickets, visit [www.baldwincenter.org](http://www.baldwincenter.org).

### **The Liberian Mission Team Thanks You**

The Liberian Mission Team extends its sincere appreciation for the generous donations of socks, underwear, sandals, shoes, and financial gifts designated for the purchase of rice. Because of your kindness, children and seniors in Liberia received these much-needed items with great joy and gratitude. Your support is making a meaningful difference in their daily lives.

### **Shop the Circuit Rider Bookstore Today in Fellowship Hall**

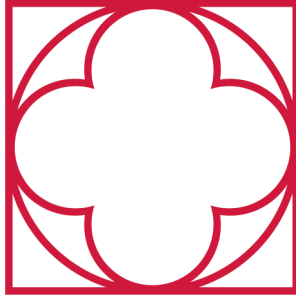
We are pleased to offer several titles by our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter, including *Closing Arguments from the Pulpit*. This fourth collection of sermons and speeches reflects a lifetime of ministry and teaching, thoughtfully addressing the challenges of our time, including division, difficult decisions, and truths that test our faith. With his unmistakable voice, Dr. Ritter weaves together scripture, storytelling, and insight, offering messages of tolerance, hope, forgiveness, and common sense that speak directly to today's world.

### **Name Badges Help Us Connect**

You are encouraged to order your church name badge if you do not already have one. This will help Rev. Chad Oyer and Rev. Elizabeth Hurd, our incoming pastors, learn our names. You may place your order at the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

### **BULLETIN COVER**

The Hand of God symbolizes divine intervention, authority, protection, guidance, and creative power. It serves as a reminder of God's active presence in the world, God's care for humanity, and the ways in which believers can participate in His work. This symbol encourages trust in God's sovereignty, reliance on His guidance, and recognition of God's transformative power in both individual lives and in the world. (located in the upper panel of the left lancet, altar window)



**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

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