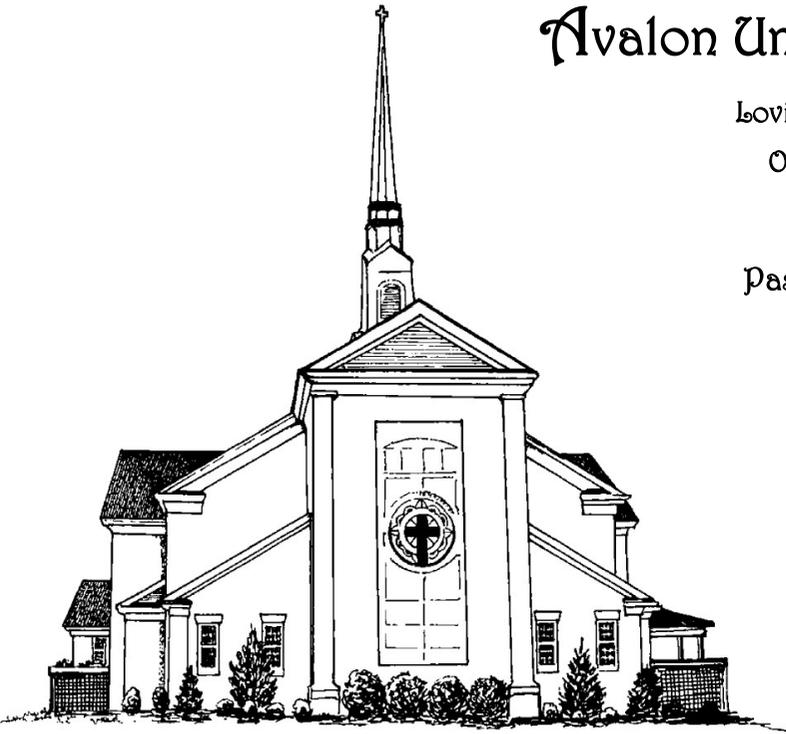


Avalon United Methodist Church

Loving God, Loving People
On Our Christian Journey

Pastor Debbie Cong

March 1, 2020



YOU ARE CHOSEN

“You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts And said to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.” (Isaiah 41:9)

God chose Israel through Abraham because He wanted to, not because the people deserved it. We as His children are chosen by Him...hand-picked. That should make you feel special and wanted. Sometimes it is hard for us to believe that He chose us because we know ourselves so well...we feel so inadequate to be called by Him. We need to let go of what we think about ourselves and become who we are in Him!

Because He first chose us, it should be our one desire to choose Him and choose to follow Him in all our ways. He has chosen you and will never reject you...it doesn't matter who has rejected you in the past or how many people have rejected you, He never will! He can't! It's totally against His nature!

We must let His acceptance of us compensate for any rejection that we have ever felt! When others reject you, let God accept you. He is singing over you. He knows your name. He loves you with an everlasting love. May we grasp how deep the Father's love for us really is! He loves you simply because He has chosen to do so. He loves you when you don't feel lovely. He loves you when no one else does. He IS love and He has chosen to lavish it all on you if you will allow Him to! May we all run to the love of the Savior and get our fill! After all, you can't love others until you have first drawn from the endless supply!

Pastor Debbie

Musical Notes from the Choir

Easter Cantata will be 4/10 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Bring a friend or come sing with us!!!

The season of Lent has arrived once again, it is time for us to challenge ourselves and a closer walk with God. What are you giving up? I'm giving up writing long music history articles for the newsletter! (just kidding, it'll be back next month)

Whatever you are giving up, you will, no doubt, be feeling temptation over the next 40 days. Temptation is something we all struggle with at one time or another. Like a tough guy, temptation can beat us down and feel too powerful to overcome.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus faced temptation and overcame by His trust in God.. Though He made it look easy, He has shown us the way to overcome our own temptations, no matter how tough it may be. This year, instead of listening to that temptation, try letting go and giving it to God. Let Him do His work and carry you through, instead of trying to shoulder that burden on your own. If you're giving up chocolate and you really want to eat a piece, say no and let God carry you through. If you're giving up TV, but it's been 3 days and you're incredibly bored, say no and let God carry you through that one too. If you gave up Diet Coke but you're sick and tired of water and just can't take it any longer, too bad-say no and let God carry you through. Hey, nobody ever said it would be easy...



When you do this, you put your trust in God. Your actions say that He, not the world, will be enough to get you through your temptations. You trust that no matter how hungry or bored or whatever you get, you will be able to overcome. Once you start confronting those temptations, you may find yourself confronting deeper issues that are driving negative or unfavorable behaviors in your life. And once you start facing those, room will appear for the progress and experiences He has in store for you. As uncomfortable as it may get, these temptations are often the very things holding us back in life. So this year, don't be afraid. Face your temptations head on, and don't worry. You have God on your side.

In Christ,
Andrew Bode

Mission Opportunity

In October, 2019, Reverend Samuel Magumba visited Avalon on Wednesday night to inform and to provide us with an opportunity to join with him in support for his ministry in Uganda. The Finance Committee and the Missions Committee will also be combining support in addition to individual members' pledges.

Brother Samuel and his wife, Prossy, are directors of 4 Greater Christian Schools, an Orphan Home, and the Greater Love Medical Center in addition to their affiliation with the Community Methodist Church Initiative with a mission to reach the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The greatest current need for this community is a roof for their church with an estimated cost of \$40,000. Avalon members who feel the Lord's call to support this ministry can note on a personal check to direct gifts to "Uganda Church Roof." You can contact Rev. Magumba at email: smagumba@yahoo.com

Need more Nursery Volunteers. Must have Safe Sanctuary training. Call Elaine in church office, 436-2056.

Communion Offering for March is designated for UMCOR. March 1, Communion Sunday.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study "Book of Ephesians" every Wednesday at 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the Young Adults Class Room, on the west side of Celebration Hall. Open to everyone.

Memorials for February

Martha Brown	Floyd & Mary Herman
Ellie Pruitt	Guy Spindle
Ed Ennis	June Edwards Guy Spindle Mildred Ennis Norma Cline Kenneth Keadler Sam & Heather Graham Tommy & Cindy Wilcox Martha Darsey

**Joint service with Elfaro UMC ,
Sunday, March 22, 3pm in Sanctuary.
Meal & games after service.**

Imagine water flowing down rocks to a stream, then to a river, and ultimately flowing out into the ocean. In a similar way, everything flows out of God's provision for us. When God gives us abilities or other blessings, it's not an accident, a product of our own hard work, or the result of good genes. Our God is a God who knows what He is doing—and He specifically and intentionally gives us each different gifts, at times just for the benefit of others.

If you have particular skills, strengths, or financial blessings, give Him thanks. The purpose of our gifts isn't to make us feel better about ourselves or improve the way other people see us. God's gifts are an opportunity for us to know Him better and participate in building His kingdom. Through them, and in obedience to him, we fulfill His mission.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." - Peter 4:10

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgement, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." - Romans 12:3, Philippians 2:3.

Throughout Scripture, we are called to responsibly care for the different gifts we receive from God. As we read above, we should use our gifts so we can be "good stewards of God's varied grace." What do you think that means in today's culture?

How do you feel when you consider that He gifts us differently on purpose?

Charles Stanley

In Touch Ministries



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

United Methodist Women will be hosting, Friday March 6, 2020 in the chapel of Porterfield UMC.

2020 Leadership Chairpersons

SPR Committee—Jim Glass	UMM Lloyd Mears
Trustees— Vickie Cirone	Usher Lloyd Mears
Finance— Kim Glass	Homebound Cheryl Laughlin
Missions—Carolyn Rentz	Lay Leader—Sheila Creel
S S Superintendent— Richard Griffin	Evangelism—Ann Owen
UMW—Mona Faye Williams	Council—John Tracy
Worship—Jenni Bode & Debbie Zuern	Youth—Mike Dollar
Memorial Katy Reed	

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Wednesday Family Night Fellowship (FNF)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS

March Menus

FNF Begins at 6PM

Mar. 4—Meat loaf, Mashed potatoes, Butterbeans, Dessert.

Mar. 11—Hamburger steaks, Rice & gravy, Blackeyed peas, Dessert.

Mar. 18—Baked spaghetti, Green beans, Salad, Dessert.

Mar. 25—Fried chicken, Broccoli casserole, Butter peas, Dessert.

Server Rotation: Volunteers

Please be mindful that if your reservations are not cancelled by noon on Tuesday, you are responsible for payment.

Cost: Adults-----\$6.50

Children under 12 years- - \$3.50

Take outs----- \$.50 extra

Pastor—Rev. Debbie Cone
Music Director—Andrew Bode
Pianist/Oranist— Vickie Wilburn

Secretary—Elaine Tarpley
Finance—Eugenia Harrington
Youth Director—

3018 Gillionville Rd., Albany, GA 31721-2908

Pastor's Home Number: 229- 432-2266

Church : Tel: 229-436-2056

Fax: 229-436-2011

Email: avalonumc@gmail.com

Website: www.avalonumchurch.org

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:45am Sunday School **11am** Morning Worship **6pm** Evening Worship

THOSE WHO SERVE

Offering Stewards Mar. 1—Jenny Collins/Sheila Creel
Mar. 8—John Tracy/Jim Glass
Mar. 15—Ann Owen/Lynne Haggerty
Mar. 22—Dee Barronton/James Ivey
Mar. 29—Ben Glass/Ellen Branch

Ushers: Mar. 1—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, John Creel,
Bruce Jackson, Bobby Bruner
Mar. 8—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, John Creel,
Bruce Jackson, Bobby Bruner.
Mar. 15—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, John Creel,
Bruce Jackson, Bobby Bruner.
Mar. 22—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, John Creel,
Bruce Jackson , Bobby Bruner
Mar. 29— Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, John Creel,
Bruce Jackson , Bobby Bruner

Prayer Room: Mar. 1—Homer Milliner Mar. 8— John Tracy Mar. 15—Carolyn Rentz
Mar. 22—Mona Faye Williams Mar. 29—Sherri Tracy

Nursery: Mar. 1—Dollie Dollar Mar. 8—Nancy Newman Mar.15—Kim Glass
Mar. 22—Katye Reed Mar. 29—Diane Barronton

Sound Technician: Bob Smith

Trustee of the Month for March: Neal Stevens

If Trustee is unable to be at an event your month it is your responsibility to get someone to fill in for you. Buildings need to be locked after an event.

Circle Of Concern:

Nikki Daniel, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Dorothy Griffin, Ursula Gaydosh, Mike Ling, Rebekah Fowler Griffin, Gail Mears, Wendy McLeod, Beverly Reese (Bobby Bruner's daughter), David Michels (Brother of Cheryl Laughlin), Glenn Stanford, (Son of Jan Beard,) Jim Warner, Phyl Strawbridge, Jane Everett (sister of Debra Harris), Murray Blackstock, Bob Smith and family, Jerry & Cathy Lang, Patty Stone (Margaret Bruner's sister-in-law), Lola Moreland, Charlie & Faye Tallent, Cindy Lawrence, (friend of Katye Reed,) Martha Darsey, Wilda Rutland, Aubrey McClain, Bobby Bruner, Mary Butler, Agnes McCorkle, Jennianne Scroggins family, Bethany (Rita hall's granddaughter , family of Ed Ennis, Martha Nichelson.

If you know of anyone that needs to be added or removed please call the church office.

Home Bound – Please join us in this ministry to these members:

Barry & Nikki Daniel, Ann Dollar, Nelle Ennis, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Gay Sheffield, Joyce Waters, Kitty Tomlinson, Bill Coward, Cora Dasher, Lola Moreland, George Anderson, Wilda Rutland, Phyl Strawbridge, Jim Warner, Charlie Tallent, Martha Darsey.