



*Oh
Light*

Contemporary Worship

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We are so glad you are here, and we would love to connect with you. Let us know you are here by scanning this QR code or by visiting:

www.canterburyumc.org/attendance

We look forward to connecting with you!

Senior Pastor - Rev. Keith Thompson

Pastor - Rev. Hill Carmichael

Pastor - Rev. Tori Hastings

Pastor - Dr. Bill Morgan

Pastor - Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Pastor - Dr. Rick Owen

Youth Pastor - Rev. Gann Waters - Wright

Bishop in Residence - Dr. Mike Watson

Director of Contemporary Music - Natalie Moon



Who Are We

As people of the church, we are committed to following Jesus with an authentic faith. We seek to be real and authentic in every part of our lives because we believe that Jesus wants to know us. We also believe that Jesus wants to meet us wherever we are in life. At Canterbury United Methodist Church, this is what it means to be in relationship with Christ. Jesus said the most important thing we can do is to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love our neighbor as our self. This simple yet profound statement represents the real grace and real love Jesus has for all people, particularly those whom the rest of the world often overlooks. This statement from Jesus also represents the very nature of who God is. Through sharing real grace and real love with people, Jesus brought healing into their lives. At Canterbury, we seek to follow Jesus' example, striving to share and experience real grace and real love in our real life.

Real Grace

Grace stands as a central tenant to our community. It is at the very core of who we are as children of God because it is part of our lives before we are even aware of it. We confess that we are each imperfect, regularly falling short of our own standards and God's. God loves us anyway just as we are. God initiates every relationship with us through grace. God's grace can never be earned, it is all gift. We, as God's children, strive to do the same with each other. We start with grace given to us by God. We live offering the same grace to ourselves and one another.

Real Love

In a world where people are sometimes criticized for being different, the people of the church are called to be intentionally different. Our Holy Scriptures remind us that we are all created in the image of God; and, if God is Love, then we are created in the image of love. God as revealed in Jesus Christ is what real love looks like. When we are most true to who we are created to be, we are loving. At Canterbury, we seek to embody that love is patient and kind ... and we particularly like it best when it is a verb.

Real Life

God constantly invites us into a life of full connection with God and others through Jesus Christ. This is the real life we are created for. Nothing but relationship with God and each other will truly satisfy the longing inside us. We believe this is the path to real, abundant life. Our desire is to walk this path together.

Welcome to Canterbury

We are so glad you chose to worship with us today!

We want you to feel at home. Through close relationships, the study of scripture, education, and caring for others, our goal is to connect you to God, each other, and His world in a real and meaningful way. We want to be a place where you will meet Jesus exactly where you are. You will find a community of real people, led by leaders who express their real experiences to help renew and empower you to follow Him. So no matter where you are in life, we invite you to come as you are and to live for something greater. If you need help finding your way around, we have welcome guides located at our main entrances and outside the worship areas. We look forward to connecting with you!

WORSHIP:

Children in Worship All children are welcome in worship! The sights, sounds, and interactions of worship are appropriate for every age. Worship Activity bags, Sensory bags, and other resources are available as you enter. If you have a child with sensory challenges who might need a break from worship, we have a Sensory Room located on the 2nd floor of the Children's Building. Excellent nursery care is available to children through 4 years.

- *Make sure your children get a worship activity pack from the wall when entering Canterbury Center.*
- *The Children's Comfort Room is in the back hallway.*

Worship Online We strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us! All worship services are available online:

Website:

www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC

NEXT STEPS

If you are new to Canterbury, this is a great class for those who want to learn more about our church. Held on Sunday mornings, it provides an overview of what makes Canterbury thrive. You can find out more about the church, ask questions, and make personal connections. Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM in the Dining Room. For questions or to sign up for the next session, please contact Becky King at becky.king@canterburyumc.org.

MEET WITH OUR PASTORS:

Our pastors would love to meet with you over coffee and get to know you. You can bring any questions you might have and get to know a little more about Canterbury, and anything else you want to talk about. Contact Matthew Montgomery at matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org or 205-868-6588, to set that up.

CONTACT US:

Church Office: 205-871-4695

To Join: matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org
205-868-6590 x 2327

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205-999-4887

canterburyumc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS AN AWARENESS AND EXPRESSION OF GOD'S PRESENCE LIVED OUT MOMENT BY MOMENT

We Gather In God's Presence

I Thank God

Welcome & Greeting

Children's Moment

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We Prepare Our Hearts With Song

Hark Hallelujah

God With Us

We Respond To God

God's People Pray

God's People Give

He Is

We Listen For God's Voice

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Light of Peace

We Gather Around God's Table

Holy Communion

Everlasting Light

We Go To Live Like Jesus

Reminder of God's Promises

A Challenge to Live Like Jesus

SERMON NOTES:

CHRISTMAS MISSION OUTREACH OFFERING

The Mission Outreach United Appeal Fund (MOR) Offering has benefited Canterbury and other ministries for many years. Your generous gift this Christmas will benefit the following ministries in 2026:

- CANTERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - RISE AGAINST HUNGER
- CANTERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - MISSIONARY SUPPORT
- AVONDALE SAMARITAN PLACE

We will receive this Christmas offering in all of our Christmas Eve services. Please drop your gift in the offering plate. You may also choose to mail your offering to the Finance Office. Make your check payable to the Mission Outreach United Appeal Fund. This is a wonderful way to show our gratitude for the gift that we all receive at Christmas!



Poinsettias and Wreaths

To place a poinsettia or wreath in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, please complete this form:

Poinsettia _____ Wreath _____

Placed in Honor _____ Memory____ of _____

By _____ Phone# _____

Make your check (\$25 per poinsettia or \$50 per wreath) payable to Canterbury UMC and return it with this completed form to the church office no later than December 14.

Happening at Canterbury

Charge Conference | December 8 | 6:30 PM

A Charge Conference will be held at the Church Council meeting on December 8 at 6:30 PM in Wesley Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Side-by-Side Concert | December 9 | 2 PM

Enjoy a festive Christmas concert with the 80-voice Side-by-Side Community Chorus and band! Made up of singers from our Encore community, this joyful event in Canterbury Hall benefits the Encore Family Fund. Admission is free, with donations accepted at the door. Come early or stay after to shop for unique holiday gifts!

Delivery Volunteers Needed | December 10-20

Help us share Christmas cheer with members who can't get out. Between December 10-20, volunteers can pick up a small gift and instructions from the round desk, then make a short visit or door-step delivery. To volunteer, please email valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

Allen Levi, Author Event | December 10 | 6 PM

Canterbury is serving as the host venue for Little Professor's event featuring Allen Levi, author of the popular novel *Theo of Golden*. This in-person event has officially sold out but Canterburyans can attend via simulcast in Canterbury Hall for \$25 per ticket. Purchase online: <https://bit.ly/4pd2haF>

Legacy Luncheon & Holiday Sing-Along December 16 | 12 PM

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and join the Canterbury Staff for the annual Christmas carol sing-along! All are invited for festive fellowship and a great lunch! (\$5) Please RSVP by December 11 by emailing valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

Chili Cookoff | December 17 | 5:30-7 PM

Calling all cooks! Enter your chili now by scanning the QR code. Make plans to join us for a fun evening at Canterbury's Christmas Chili Cookoff! Enjoy a hearty spread of homemade chilis and grilled cheese while celebrating the season with friends, games and great food! Proceeds will benefit the Jackson Olin High School feeding program. All ages are invited to come share in the cheer and make a difference! [\$10 adults | \$7 kids & youth | \$30 family max] Deadline to enter is December 10.



Kids Cookie Connection | December 22 | 10 AM

Mark your calendar and make sure to bring your children to participate in this sweet and fun morning activity! Join us at 10 AM in Canterbury Hall to decorate Christmas cookies to pack up and take to our homebound friends. Fun for kids of all ages!

Iron City Men's Event | January 10

Register now for a morning of inspiration and fellowship at the Men's Ministry gathering on Saturday, January 10 from 9 AM to Noon at TopGolf. This event features two dynamic speakers, Jerry Pate, U.S. Open Champion and Alabama Hall of Fame golfer, and Aaron Feld, renowned strength coach from the University of Oregon and University of Miami. Enjoy great conversation and connection with men from across the community. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today: \$50 per person or \$25 for college students. Register now: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

THANK YOU, CANTERBURY!

Christmas Village was held at ASP this week and because of your generosity over 350 children will have a very Merry Christmas! Thanks to those who shopped for gifts, supplied casseroles and yummy baked goods. The spirit of Christmas is certainly alive!



The Longest Night Service

December 21 | 6 PM | Chapel

You are invited to a special Winter Solstice Service for a sacred space of reflection, comfort and renewal. This quiet, contemplative time of worship on the longest night before Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 6 PM in the Chapel.

Together, we will acknowledge the darkness and difficulty that can accompany this season, while holding on to the promise of peace, healing, and hope that the coming Light brings.

~ The service will be livestreamed for those joining from home.



A Storybook CHRISTMAS

December 24 | 1 PM | Canterbury Center

Bring the whole family and celebrate Christmas Eve with us in Canterbury Center! This casual, kid-friendly service features a fun and creative retelling of the Nativity story, joyful Christmas music, Communion, and the magical glow of candlelight. It's a special way for families with young children to come together, make memories, and experience the wonder of Christmas.

~ The service will be livestreamed for those joining from home.

For a full list of Christmas events and special services:

www.canterburyumc.org/worship/advent



Oh come let us adore Him

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

NEW TRADITIONS SERVICE

11 AM | Chapel

A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS

1 PM | Canterbury Center

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

3 PM | Canterbury Center

SANCTUARY SERVICE

3 PM | Sanctuary

SANCTUARY SERVICE

5 PM | Sanctuary