



*Thank you for joining us today!*

# ALWAYS

*praying*

*seeking*

*growing*

***Contemporary Worship***

**OCTOBER 22, 2023**



### THANK YOU FOR VISITING CANTERBURY!

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](http://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. Sheryl Thornton
- Pastor** - Rev. Sam Williamson
- Pastor** - Rev. Matthew Montgomery
- Children's Pastor** - Rev. Ruth Grissom
- Youth Pastor** - Rev. Seth Moon
- High School Pastor** - Rev. Gann Waters - Wright
- Bishop in Residence** - Dr. Mike Watson
- Director of Contemporary Music** - Natalie Moon

# REAL GRACE LOVE LIFE

### 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.

# ALWAYS *canterbury*

Canterbury is seeking to ALWAYS live a life of faith filled with real grace and real love in the midst of real life. Yes, ALWAYS is a big word, but that's what Canterburians do! Whether it's praying together, seeking Christ together, sharing our faith with others, or growing in our faith, we are ALWAYS doing this life, together.

In addition, the people of Canterbury are ALWAYS generously giving of their time and resources so that we live out our collective prayer 'thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.'

During the month of October, we ask that you be in prayer about what your time and monetary commitment will be for Canterbury's ministries in 2024. We also ask that you join us in worship on Commitment Sunday, October 29, when we will make our commitments together as a church and look with hope to where God is leading Canterbury in the coming year.

When you make that prayerful decision, you may return a pledge card found in the pew racks to the Finance Office, enter your 2024 financial commitment online at [canterburyumc.org/giving](http://canterburyumc.org/giving), or scan this QR code:



Thank you, Canterbury, for ALWAYS supporting your church and its mission through your faith and generosity.



*"There is something for everyone at Canterbury and it's exciting to see all that's going on in the life of the church. Making this church a priority and seeing our faith grow as a family has been a blessing."*  
- Rob Herndon



*"When we seek God, he listens and guides us on the right path. At Canterbury I seek God through worship and at RISE. I get to be with friends and learn about God's teachings anhis plans for me!"*  
- Mimi Willings

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

### **We Gather In God's Presence**

#### ***Everlasting Light***

Welcome & Greeting

Children's Moment

### **We Prepare Our Hearts With Song**

#### ***All About You***

#### ***Starlight***

### **We Respond To God**

God's People Pray

God's People Give

#### ***Hold On To Me***

### **We Listen For God's Voice**

Matthew 7: 7-12

Always...Seeking

#### ***Firm Foundation (He Won't)***

### **We Go To Live Like Jesus**

Reminder of God's Promises

A Challenge to Live Like Jesus

### **SERMON NOTES:**

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# Happening at Canterbury

## Legacy Luncheon | October 24 | 12 Noon

Please join us and welcome Canterbury member Ralph Yielding and his Litter Getter Crew and learn all the wonderful things they are doing to clean up the city of Birmingham. See something, do something! Come and enjoy great fellowship and lunch (\$5) in Canterbury Hall. Please RSVP to Valerie Boyd at [valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org](mailto:valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org).

## Flower Guild Workshop | October 29 | 1-4 PM

Love flowers? Bring a friend and come learn new flower arranging skills with the Canterbury Flower Guild. On Sunday, October 29 from 1-4 PM in the dining room, Janet Jackson, former co-owner of Flowerbuds, will lead a workshop! You'll learn everything from soaking oasis, conditioning flowers and building an arrangement. You will also get to take home the arrangement you make. (\$20 materials fee). Reply to Laurie Bullington at [laurie.bullington@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.bullington@gmail.com) by October 22. We hope you'll consider learning more about the Flower Guild!

## Info Meeting for Passages of the Bible Cruise 2024 | October 29 | 11:30 AM

Join Rev. Tori Hastings and Guest Speaker Rev. Brian Erickson for a 10-night Mediterranean Cruise aboard Norwegian Getaway on the Passages of the Bible Cruise October 7, 2024. You will see the Sea of Galilee, stand on the Mount of Beatitudes, Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Old City, Pool of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Alexandria, Egypt (Cairo), Giza Pyramids, Athens, Corinth, Athens, Propylea, Parthenon, Erectheum, and more! For more info on this travel opportunity, plan to attend the Info Meeting on October 29 immediately after worship at 11:30 AM in Wesley Hall. For complete trip details, pick up a brochure at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Contact Tori at [tori.hastings@canterburyumc.org](mailto:tori.hastings@canterburyumc.org).

## Samaritan Place Market: A Christmas Village | November 1 - November 27

Once again, Canterbury is hosting a "pop-up" store for parents in the Avondale area to shop for new Christmas toys for their children at affordable prices. This Christmas shopping event takes place annually at Avondale Samaritan Place. Gifts need to be purchased and delivered to either Avondale UMC or Canterbury UMC by November 27. You are encouraged to shop local or from the easy and convenient Amazon Wish List. Financial donations are also welcome. Questions? Contact Jennifer Dunn at [jennifer.dunn@canterburyumc.org](mailto:jennifer.dunn@canterburyumc.org).

## Journey Retreat | November 17-19

Youth@Canterbury's Fall retreat, called the Journey, is November 17-19. This is a retreat for all 7th-12th grade students, and friends are welcome! The weekend is full of sessions with awesome worship & talks, lots of games, small groups, and a whole lot of fun! This is a weekend that your student will not want to miss, so invite your friends and join us! Register today: [www.canterburyumc.org/youth#journey](http://www.canterburyumc.org/youth#journey)

## Brookdale Drivers Needed

Want to brighten up your Sunday with smiles and laughs that will warm your heart? Well, we have just the thing! We are in need of drivers to pick up our members at Brookdale with our Canterbury bus and bring them to Sunday School. This great volunteer opportunity will be one Sunday a quarter or as much as you would like. For more info and to sign up, please contact Valerie at [valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org](mailto:valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org).

# 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 that is staffed with knowledgeable caregivers. Excellent nursery care is available to children through 4 years old, however we love having all ages worshipping together and look forward to the ways they can help us worship God.

**Watch Online** We understand the challenges you face and we strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us. Our Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship services are available on our website.

## Things to Know:

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

## 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 Matthew Montgomery at [matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org](mailto:matthew.montgomery@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](mailto: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](mailto:matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org)  
205-868-6588

**Pastoral Care Response Line:** 205-999-4887

[canterburyumc.org](http://canterburyumc.org)