

# CANTERBURIAN

FALL 2026

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.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE LIFE WE GIVE  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
KID'S CALENDAR  
CHRISTMAS VILLAGE  
ADVENT CALENDAR



Dear Canterburians,

Every day, I see what it looks like when people give their lives to what matters most. I see it in a child beginning to discover faith, a student finding a place to belong, a friend showing up when someone is hurting, and a volunteer whose quiet service may never be noticed by most of us. I see it when Canterbury reaches beyond its walls with the love and grace of Christ.

Your generosity helps make those moments possible.

A financial commitment to Canterbury is more than support for a budget. It is a way of saying, I believe God is at work here, and I want to be part of what comes next.

As we look toward 2027, I invite you to pray about what you will give. Your pledge is a tangible expression of the life you offer to God, joined with the gifts of others to help Canterbury live out its calling.

Please return your pledge card to the Finance Office or make your commitment online at [www.canterburyumc.org/giving](http://www.canterburyumc.org/giving).

Thank you for all the ways you give yourself to Canterbury. I am deeply grateful to share this church family with you, and I look forward to seeing what God will do through The Life We Give.

Grace and peace,

**Rev. Keith Thompson**

Senior Pastor

[keith.thompson@canterburyumc.org](mailto:keith.thompson@canterburyumc.org)



*Canterbury members Beth Hamer and Jackson McAlister enjoy craft time together this summer at VBS.*



## WAYS TO GIVE

We've made it easy! There are several ways to submit your 2027 Financial Commitment.

- Mail your pledge card to the Finance Office
- Call the Finance Office at 205.874.1553
- Drop your pledge card in the offering plate
- Pledge online at [www.canterburyumc.org/giving](http://www.canterburyumc.org/giving)
- Pledge through the new Canterbury APP
- Pledge by scanning the QR code



### Feeding Our Neighbors: Food is a Ministry of Love

At Canterbury, feeding our neighbors is more than meeting a basic need, it's an opportunity to offer dignity, connection, and care. Week after week, Canterbury members are putting faith into action through several ministries that help ensure our neighbors have access to good, nourishing food.

Almost 100 meals every week are delivered through three **Meals on Wheels** routes, providing not only a meal but a friendly, face-to-face connection with seniors experiencing food insecurity. Canterbury members also deliver meals through East Lake UMC, extending that ministry of care into another community.

Over Labor Day weekend, Canterbury donated \$2,000 worth of nonperishable food to help stock **local food pantries** during a time when many communities experience increased need over a long holiday weekend.

Through the **Beeson Team**, Canterbury also provides funding to four community partners who distribute food boxes to families throughout Jefferson County, helping put groceries on the tables of families who need a little extra support.

And three times each month, Canterbury members and friends serve at **Firehouse Ministries**, preparing and sharing healthy, delicious meals with our neighbors. It's food served with a side of conversation, compassion, and friendship... what one might call "healthy, delicious hugs in the form of good food."

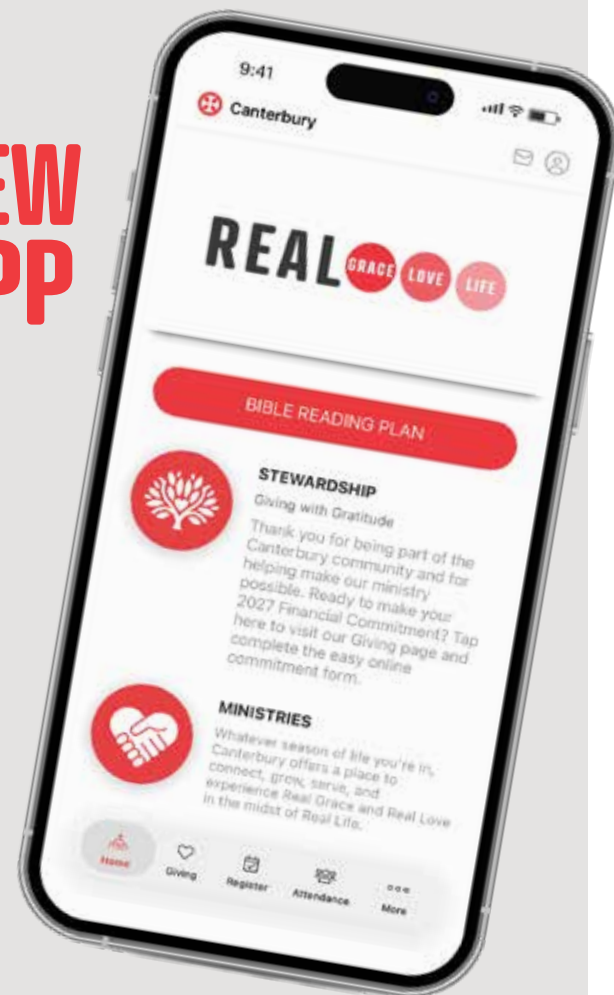
From delivering meals to seniors to stocking food pantries, supporting food boxes, and serving hot meals, Canterbury continues to live out a simple truth: when we feed our neighbors, we nourish more than bodies, we build community and share God's love. ❤️



### WEEKLY OUTREACH EMAIL

If you'd like to stay up to date on all the Canterbury Outreach happenings and service opportunities, sign up for the weekly email by emailing [jennifer.dunn@canterburyumc.org](mailto:jennifer.dunn@canterburyumc.org).

# NEW APP



### INTRODUCING THE NEW CANTERBURY APP

Stay connected to all that is happening! From worship livestreams and giving, to the church directory and calendar... it's a super helpful tool. Just search Canterbury UMC Birmingham in the App Store or Google Play to download it for free. Look for our red logo box!



## KIDS Calendar

- 11/1** Faith Milestone: 1st grade
- 11/11** CanterburyChella
- 11/15** Calm Before The Stork
- 12/6** Faith Milestone: Baby
- 12/21** Gingerbread Nativities
- 1/18** MLK Day Montgomery Trip
- 1/24** Faith Milestone: 4th grade
- 1/29** Wonderfully Made (1/29-1/30)



## Joyful Noise

**Wednesday Nights | 6-6:30 PM**

*"Joyful Noise has been such a special part of our week. I love that my little one is learning to sing, move, and worship at such a young age and that she's doing it in a place where she feels loved, welcomed, and known! It's truly a gift to have a program that helps our babies and toddlers experience the joy of music and faith from the very beginning."*

**Questions?** Email Eleanor Christiansen at [eleanor.christiansen@canterburyumc.org](mailto:eleanor.christiansen@canterburyumc.org).

**CANTERBURYCHELLA**  
**November 11**  
 10 AM - 11 AM | Canterbury Hall  
 with Huck & Lily

kids @ Canterbury

## Journey Retreat | November 20-22

Each fall, our YACs journey together to Shocco Springs in Talladega, Alabama. The Journey Retreat is a full weekend retreat for students in grades 7-12. It is an incredible week-end of amazing worship and music, great talks, meaningful experiences, games and a whole lot of fun! Journey Retreat is also a great time to invite friends to discover YAC and to spend time together away from all the busy everyday things that demand attention. Each year, Journey proves to be a deeply meaningful retreat - and we hope your student will be there!

**Questions?** Contact Eleanor Kerr at [eleanor.kerr@canterburyumc.org](mailto:eleanor.kerr@canterburyumc.org).

### Register:

[www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth/#events](http://www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth/#events)

### What's happening at YAC?

Scan the QR code to see weekly events and info!



## Christmas Chili Cookoff

### Wednesday Night | December 9

Join us for a fun and festive evening at Canterbury's Christmas Chili Cookoff! Enjoy a hearty spread of homemade chilis while celebrating the season with friends, games and great food! Gather a team and enter your best chili to compete for fun prizes!

SCAN TO ENTER  
\$20 entry fee



*sweaters, spice and everything nice*



# Wonder

CHRISTMAS AT CANTERBURY

## The first Sunday of Advent is November 29.

Make note of these special events and services.  
We look forward to sharing this season with you!

**DECEMBER 4** | Birmingham-Southern Alumni Choir's  
89th year of Lessons & Carols

**DECEMBER 9** | Christmas Chili Cookoff

**DECEMBER 20** | Lessons & Carols Service (Sanctuary)

**DECEMBER 21** | Longest Night Service (Chapel)

**DECEMBER 24** | Christmas Eve Services

8:15 AM – New Traditions

11:00 AM – Storybook Christmas

3:00 PM – Sanctuary

3:00 PM – Contemporary

5:30 PM – Sanctuary



## Christmas Village Toy Collection

It's that time of year!

Help us make Christmas Village magical for over 400 local children! You may shop locally at Snoozy's - they deliver to Canterbury! You may also use our Amazon Wish List (scan QR code below) to ship directly to Canterbury. Thank you for making this the best Christmas Village ever! The event will be held at ASP on December 2 & 3.

BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED GIFTS TO CANTERBURY BY

# NOVEMBER 22

Shop at your favorite local toy store or purchase gifts from our Amazon wish list.



SCAN FOR WISH LIST

• ENCOURAGERS •

### Let's Encourage One Another

The 2026-2027 Encouragers program is now underway with 110 Canterbury women participating this year! The Kickoff Dinner was held on September 24 and author Kathryn Tortorici was the guest speaker. Participants found out their new Encourager group and had a chance to meet new friends and fellowship with old friends.



Encouragers is an intergenerational ministry designed to connect women of all ages through faith and friendship. Through small groups they build meaningful relationships and support each other through life.



• UNITED METHODIST WOMEN •

### Annual UMW Dinner



**Save the Date for a Special Evening of Food, Fellowship, and Inspiration!**

Mark your calendar for the Women's Dinner, sponsored by UMW, on Thursday, January 28 at 6 PM in Canterbury Hall.

We're delighted to welcome Anne Byrn, *New York Times* bestselling food writer and author, as our special guest. Anne has written 16 cookbooks, which have sold more than 32 million copies, and she is a contributor to *Southern Living* and *The Bitter Southerner*.

Her message, "The Power of the Table," will invite us during the evening to reflect on the ways gathering around a table can nourish not only our bodies, but also our friendships, families, faith, and community.

We hope you'll join us for this special evening together!

Registration information coming soon:

[www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women](http://www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women)




---

## ENCORE

---



### Friendsgiving Lunch

**November 23** Encore friends and family will kickoff Thanksgiving week with their annual Friendsgiving lunch on November 23!

### Side By Side Chorus Christmas Concert

**December 8** One of the best events of the season! All are invited to come enjoy a fun and festive afternoon of great holiday music in Canterbury Hall. Donations at the door will support the Encore Family Fund.

**Questions?** Email Patti Williams at [encorepatti@gmail.com](mailto:encorepatti@gmail.com)



Follow along on Instagram at:  
[encorerespitebham](https://www.instagram.com/encorerespitebham)





Canterbury  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

350 Overbrook Road  
P.O. Box 130699  
Birmingham, Alabama 35213-0699

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Birmingham AL  
Permit No 2514



**CANTERBURIAN**

205.871.4695 | [www.canterburyumc.org](http://www.canterburyumc.org)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### NOVEMBER

- November 4 Session 3 Wednesday Night Studies Begin
- November 11 Kids CanterburyChella
- November 16 EngAGE Luncheon
- November 20 Youth Journey Retreat (20-22)
- November 22 Christmas Village Gifts Due
- November 23 Encore Friendsgiving
- November 26 Thanksgiving Day
- November 27 Church Office Closed
- November 29 First Sunday of Advent

### DECEMBER

- December 2 Christmas Village at ASP (2nd & 3rd)
- December 4 BSC Alumni Choir Lessons & Carols
- December 7 UMW General Meeting
- December 8 Side by Side Christmas Concert
- December 9 Chili Cookoff
- December 15 Staff Sing-Along & Legacy Luncheon
- December 20 Lessons and Carols Service
- December 21 Longest Night Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services
- December 27 One Worship Service (10:30 AM Canterbury Center)

