



Oh come let us adore Him

CHRISTMAS
AT
CANTERBURY

NEW TRADITIONS
DECEMBER 24, 2025

Merry Christmas and thank you for joining us!

We are so glad to have you as our guest in worship and we would love to connect with you. Let us know you are here by scanning this QR code or by following this link: www.canterburyumc.org/attendance



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

Choirmaster and Organist - Dr. Lester Seigel



Welcome! 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 sight, sounds, and interactions of worship are appropriate for every age. We have worship resources available as you enter the worship space including a Worship Activity bag.

Nursery Care

Excellent nursery care is available to children birth through 4 years old. Nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers for all regularly scheduled worship services on the 2nd floor of the Children's building. We provide a computer check-in system as part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Worship Online

Website | www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online

Facebook | www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch

YouTube | www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC

CONNECT

Next Steps This class is a basic introduction to our church family and a wonderful time for you to continue building connections with other followers of Christ. Since many of us come from different church backgrounds, this class is designed to clearly explain who we are, what we believe, and how you can take the next steps in partnering with us to build the Kingdom of God. After attending these classes, it is our hope you will decide to make Canterbury your new church home. The next session begins on Sunday, January 12. To register, please contact Becky King at becky.king@canterburyumc.org.

MEET WITH ONE OF 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, the United Methodist Church, and anything else you want to talk about. Contact the church office at 205.871.4695 to set that up.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 205.871.4695

To Join: Rev. Matthew Montgomery
matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org
205.868.6590 x2327

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887

CANTERBURYUMC.ORG

Order of Worship

Holy Communion

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Matthew Montgomery

* Hymn 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful vv. 1, 2, 3, 7

ADESTE FIDELIS

Lighting of the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath
Anne and Mike Warren

Leader: As we gather around the Advent wreath on this Christmas Eve, we come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We light the Christ Candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing the culmination of our anticipation and the arrival of the Light of the World.

All: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Let us remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

All: On this holy day, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to bring light, hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, as we celebrate the birth of Your Son, we give thanks for the gift of His presence in our lives. May the light of Christ illuminate our hearts and minds, guiding us in the path of peace and love. Help us to carry the message of Christmas throughout the year, sharing Your grace and mercy with all. Amen.

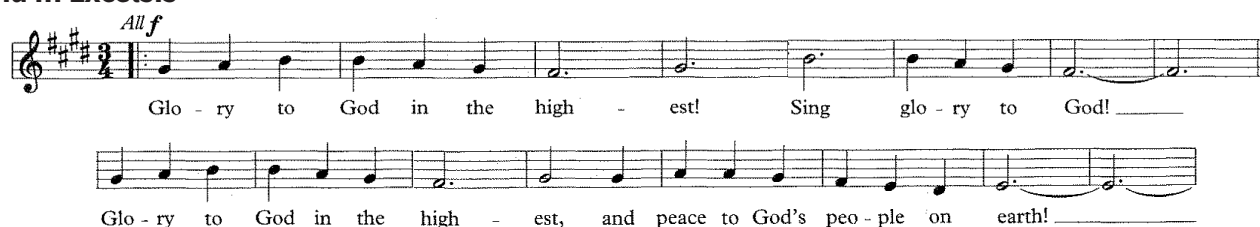
Leader: May the light of Christ continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we worship and praise Him on this Christmas Eve. Amen.

Collect

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gloria In Excelsis



Psalter Lesson

Psalms 96: 1-4, 10-14

Stan Nelson, cantor

O sing to the Lord *a new song; | sing to the Lord, *all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, *bless God's name; | proclaim God's salvation from *day to day.

Declare the Lord's glory a*mong the nations, | the Lord's marvelous works among *all peoples!

For great is the Lord and greatly *to be praised, | to be feared a*bove all gods.

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! | **The Lord has established the world, it shall never be moved. The Lord will judge the peoples with *equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the *earth rejoice; | let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
Let the field exult, and every*thing in it!

**Then all the trees of the wood *sing for joy | before the Lord, who comes to *judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with *righteousness, | and the peoples *with his truth.**

The Word of God for the peo*ple of God. | **Thanks *be to God.**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, those things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Pray in Silence

Kyrie Eleison

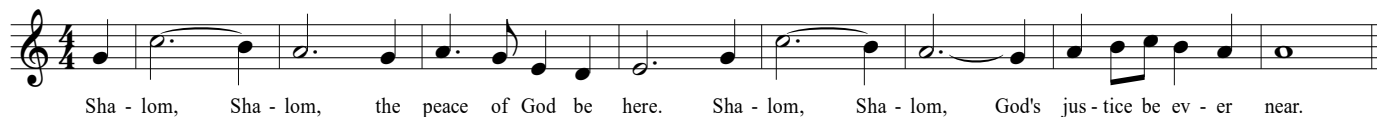
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Words of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. **Glory to God! Amen.**

* The Peace

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, **and also with you.**



*Gospel Alleluia (Sung before and after the Gospel Lesson)



* Gospel Lesson

Luke 2: 1-20

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Rev. Hill Carmichael

Hymn 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

A Virgin Unspotted

William Billings (18th c.)

A virgin unspotted by Prophet foretold, should bring forth a Savior which now we behold,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, which Adam's transgressions involved us in.
(Refrain): Then let us be merry, put sorrow away, our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day!
God sent forth an angel from heaven on high, to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lie,
And made them no longer in sorrow to stay, because that our Savior was born on this day. (Refrain)
To teach us humility all this was done, to learn us from hence naught pride for to shun.
The manger His cradle, who came from above, the great God of mercy, of peace and of love. (Refrain)

The Great Thanksgiving

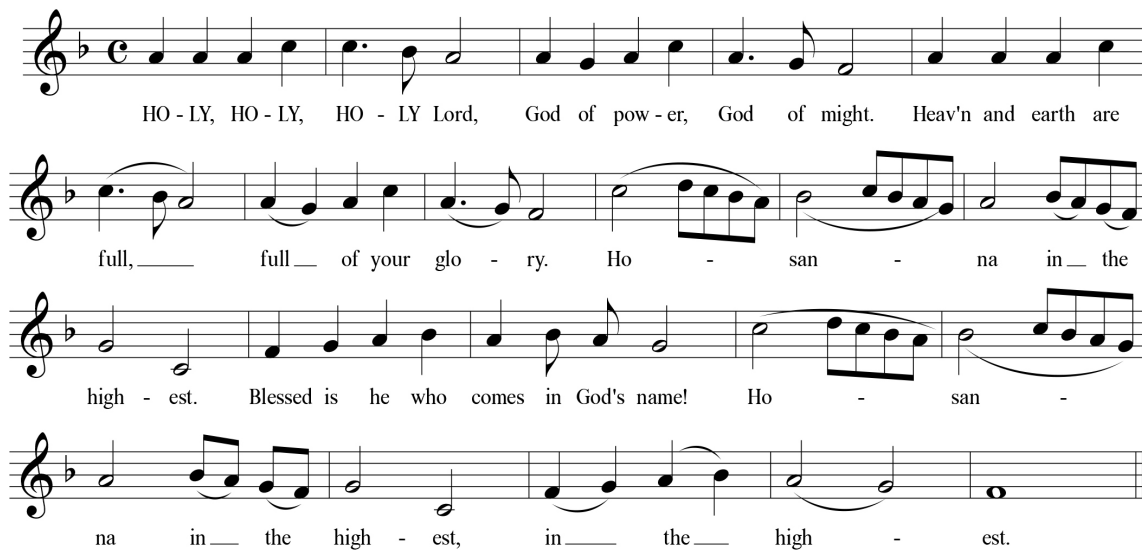
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



HO - LY, HO - LY, HO - LY Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are
full, ____ full ____ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in ____ the
high - est. Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Ho - san -
na in ____ the high - est, in ____ the ____ high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; ____ Christ is ris - en; Christ ____ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer (Chanted)

Cantor

As our Savior Christ has taught us, let us pray:

All

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, become one as we partake of it. Is not the breaking of this bread a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Is not the cup a means of sharing in the blood of Christ?

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei

BELL AGNUS

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

All are welcome to receive the sacrament. You do not have to be a member of Canterbury or of the United Methodist Church. It is the Lord's table and all of God's children are welcome. Ushers will guide you.

Music During Communion

The White Dove

Johannes Brahms

Bring a Torch

FRENCH CAROL

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May we be transformed into your image. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Receiving the Light that Represents the Good News of the Savior's Birth

The first candle in each pew of the aisle will be lit.

As worshipers receive the light, they will pass it to their neighbors.

Candle Safety: Lighted candle remains vertical. Tilt the unlit candle toward the candle already burning.

* Candlelight Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

* Benediction

CHRISTMAS 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

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

Given in Loving Memory of

Henry & Dora Sisson
Lu & Maizie Roper
Howard & Peggy Sisson
Hon. Robert H. Smith
by Jane & Lester Seigel

James H. Lott, Jr. "Jim"
by Joyce & Family

Mary Lynn Baynes
by Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Robert Edward Moorer
by Carole Ann, Mary Virginia &
Carrington

Patricia Welch
by Kyle & Lynn Bass

Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Jackson, Sr.
by Dan & Teri Bundy

Barbara R. Jackson
by Dan & Teri Bundy

Goodloe Rutland
by The Mallette Family

Morris & Lucille Grainger
by Suzanne & Kyle DeLoach

James C. Gray, Jr. "Jim"
by Mary Dean Gray & Family

Mimi & Jim Yarbrow
by Susan & Mike Yarbrow

Sammie & Bill Bailey
by Susan & Mike Yarbrow

L. Murray Alley, Jr. & Patricia B. Alley
by Gary, Debbie, Dylan and
Yeager Smith

Jeanne Lollar
by Charles, Amy, Charlie, Sam &
Whitmore Smith

Oren Smith
by Charles, Amy, Charlie, Sam &
Whitmore Smith

Mr. Robert Dabal
by The Dabal Family

Sam Jr., Jerry & Shelba
by The Donnell Family

Smith, Sara & Don Bouley
by Lisa Bailey

Anne & George Thompson
by Valerie Boyd, Caroline Bundy,
Maggie & Tom Bundy,
Will Bundy

Harry J. Littleton
by His Family

Daniel Lassiter Greene Pitts
by Susan Greene Pitts &
James Randall Pitts, Jr.

Dorris Lassiter Greene
by Susan Greene Pitts &
James Randall Pitts, Jr.

Martha Ann & Jerry Sisson
Joe Alexander
by Leigh Ann & Tommy Sisson
and Family

Dolly Stevenson
by Sally & Ralph Yeilding &
Molly Walker

Harriett & Manly Yeilding
by Ralph & Sally Yeilding

Earle Baker
by His Family

Nanna Berte
by Children & Grandchildren

Chandler F. Cox
by Chan & Anna Cox

Dr. W. H. Cooper, III
by Chan & Anna Cox

Ruth & Gene Maxwell
by Diane & Jim Richardson Family

Sara & Randolph Richardson
by Diane & Jim Richardson Family

Nelle & Morris Walton
Hermolyne & John Liles
by Anne & Paul Liles

**Jayne Ogilvie, Peggy Walton &
Kathleen Liles**
by Anne & Paul Liles

Michael Brendan Flowers
by Barbara & Stephen Flowers

Calvin & Virginia Gaddis
by Barbara & Stephen Flowers

JoAnn & Jimmy Greer
by The George O'Rear Family

Margaret & Rollins Tindell
by Elizabeth McCollum

Sara Warren Reeves
Allen MacDonald
by Her Family

Patti Donaldson Summerford
by Her Family

Harry C. Thompson, Jr.
by Lana, Brent, Martha & Lowery

Jean & Archie Carmichael
by Jim & Carol Dickinson

Elise & Joe Nall
by Karen Waldheim

Sam & Frances Cole
by Their Family

Mary & Leon Hilyer
by Leigh Isbell & Family

Barry Carroll
by The Deville Family

Harriet Carroll
by The Deville Family

Raymond, Mark & Kelli
by Janette Waddelow

Sam Donnell, Jr.
by Bede Donnell & Family

Lee Trammell Morris
by His Family

Betty & Jim Best
by Ann Best

Modesta & Pat Logan
by Their Family

Louis J. LeVaughn
Barbara P. Hawkins
John P. Allison
James Ernest Grisham, Jr.
by Frances Allison & Dale Turnbough

Dr. & Mrs. Donald Slaphey, Jr.
by Their Family

Violet & Click Brumback
by Their Family

Kathy & Sidney Roebuck
by Amy Roebuck Cullen &
Steven Cullen

Keith Arendall, Jr.
by The DeBuys Family

Bill & Florence West
by Their Family

Millie & Pridge Skinner
by The Noojin Family

Ray Oscar Noojin, Jr.
Dr. Ray & Martha Noojin
Barbara Noojin Walthall
by The Noojin Family

Judy Fitzpatrick
by The Noojin Family

Annie & Powers McLeod
Carolyn & Bill Warren
by Anne & Mike Warren

Sam Nance Farlow
by Susan Farlow & Family

Vann & Ann Henagan
by Elizabeth Arnold & Susan Logan

Betty June Beall & Betsy Beall Huff
by Their Family

Keith Baker Arendall, Jr.
by His Family

Erna H. Coltharp
by The Coltharp Family

Eddie M. Coltharp
by The Coltharp Family

Harriett & Joseph Bishop
by The Coltharp Family

James C. Inzer, Jr.
by The Coltharp Family

Justin R. Hunter
by The Coltharp Family

C. Wes Burton, Jr.
by The Coltharp Family

Poinsettias and Wreaths

Given in Honor of

Carolyn Neiman
by Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Philip C. Jackson, Jr.
by Dan & Teri Bundy

The Crawford Owen Bible Class
Teachers: Wayne Gillis, Thad Long,
Tom Roberts, Bishop Mike Watson
by The Crawford Owen Bible Class

Nina Reeves
by The Donnell Family

Jim & Lois Caldwell
by Dr. Kevin Alexander Family

Bill Fuller
by His Family

Lois & Jim Caldwell, Laura Sisson
by Leigh Ann & Tommy Sisson
& Family

Annie & Caroline King
by Margaret & Mitchell King

Granddaddy Berte
by Children & Grandchildren

Lester Seigel & Church Choir
by Suzanne & Jack Payne

Kay Littleton "Meme"
by Her Children, Grandchildren
& Great Grandchildren

Missy Cunningham
by James, Charlotte, Louisa & Pierce

Caroline Davis
by Her Children

Julie Blount
by Her Children

Betty Gunn
by Her Family

Henry Michael Yarbro
by Susan & Mike Yarbro

Happening at Canterbury

Help Us Prepare the Manger: Diaper Drive with Bundles of Hope

During this sacred season, we remember Mary preparing a manger for the arrival of Jesus, doing all she could to welcome new life with love, hope, and care. In that same spirit, our January 25th Serve Day kids project invites you to help other mothers in our community prepare for their little ones. Kids@Canterbury is partnering with Bundles of Hope to host a special Diaper Drive, and we'd love for you to participate!

A manger outside the Kids Check-In Station serves as our collection point, reminding us of the humble place where Christ first lay and of the simple things that can make a big difference for families today. We will gratefully accept:

- New packages of disposable diapers
- Opened, outgrown, or partial packages
- Sizes: Newborn through size 6
- Biggest need: Newborn, 5 & 6

Your generosity helps ease the burden for parents and wraps their little ones in comfort and care. Let's fill the manger together!



Combined Worship | December 28

- The 10:30 AM services will combine in Canterbury Center.
- The New Traditions service will not be held.

YAC Parent Gathering | January 4

If you are the parent of a youth, you will want to join us on January 4 from 3-5 PM in the Youth area for a special gathering. You'll gain insight and learn details on what is happening at YAC in 2026! Questions? Email eleanor.kerr@canterburyumc.org.

Winter Studies | Begin January 7

Join us on January 7 when Wednesday dinner returns along with Winter studies. This semester, our pastors will be teaching topics from their favorite seminary classes. Some of the offerings include:

- Lessons from the Minor Prophets, Hill Carmichael
- The Book of Esther, Eleanor Christiansen
- Intro to Christian Theology, Tori Hastings
- Many more!

Register now: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults

NEXT STEPS Begins February 1

This Sunday morning class is a basic introduction to our church family and a wonderful time for you to connect with others. If you are interested in making Canterbury your church home, please join us on 2/1, 2/8 and 2/15 at 9:15 AM. To register, email becky.king@canterburyumc.org.

Kids@Canterbury | Summer Dates 2026

Summer is just around the corner! Visit our website to explore all of our camps and summer events, and be sure to mark your calendars for everything we have planned for your kids: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children




SERVE DAY RETURNS 01.25.26

Canterbury Serve Day January 25 | 10:30 AM

After such an incredible experience last year, we can't wait to come together again to serve our neighbors and community. Make plans to join us for this special Sunday of hands-on ministry, impace, and fellowship. Sign up for your project now by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.canterburyumc.org/outreach




Happening at Canterbury




IRON CITY
FORGING UNITED METHODIST MEN

FEATURED SPEAKERS:




JERRY PATE | Pro Golfer
[U.S. Open Champion, Alabama Hall of Fame]




AARON FELD | Strength Coach
[University of Oregon & University of Miami]

JANUARY 10, 2026 | 9 AM-NOON
TOP GOLF
LIMITED SEATING. RESERVE NOW.



Scan the QR code to register or visit: <http://bit.ly/4nE3ZRq>





Iron City Men's Event January 10 | 9 AM-12 PM

Don't miss 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 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. Questions? Contact Rick Owen at rick.owen@canterburyumc.org. Scan the QR code to register or visit: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

Join us for the annual Women's Dinner

JANUARY 29
6 PM • Canterbury Hall
\$25 per person

A special evening with Ashley Mac



Annual Women's Dinner January 29 | 6 PM

You're invited to an evening of food, fellowship, and inspiration at the UMW sponsored Women's Dinner on Thursday, January 29 at 6 PM. Enjoy a delicious meal and hear from Ashley McMakin, owner and founder of Ashley Mac's, as she shares her story of faith, family, and building a beloved local business. Tickets are \$25. Come be encouraged and connect with women across our church community... we can't wait to see you there! Register now by scanning the QR code.

Homily

Rev. Hill Carmichael

Liturgist

Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Organist and Choirmaster

Dr. Lester Seigel



www.canterburyumc.org