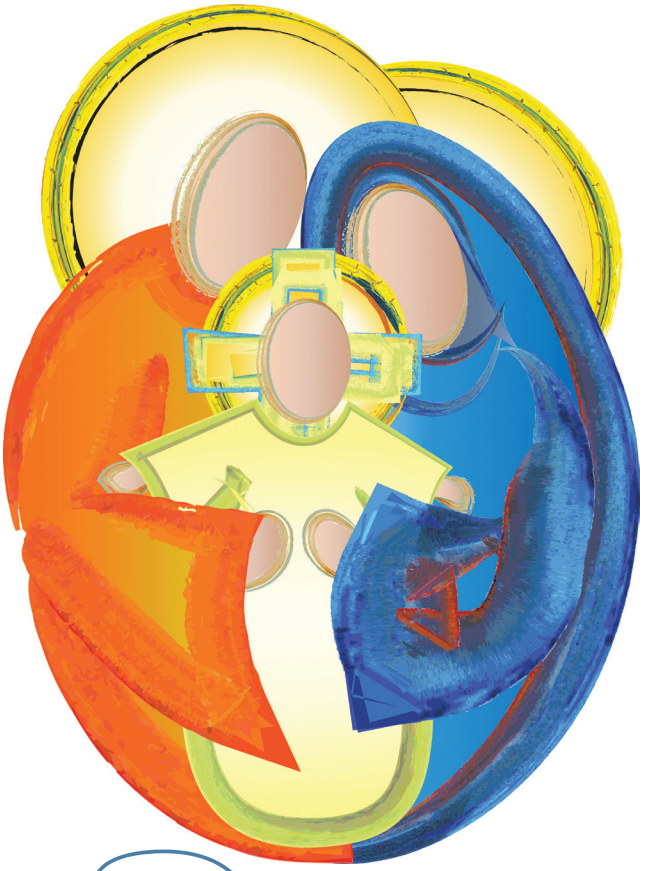


and yet...

New Traditions

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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. Sheryl Thornton
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

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.

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 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. Excellent nursery care is also 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. Nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers for all regularly scheduled worship services. Nursery for other activities and church events can be provided. Please feel free to contact Selena Pitsch at selena.pitsch@canterburyumc.org with any questions about nursery. Canterbury uses a computer check-in system as part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy..

Help us to celebrate the new life in our congregation by sharing the exciting news with us! We need you to let us know when your family is welcoming a new baby and hope you will contact linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org so that we can all celebrate another child in our midst.

Worship Online We strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us! All worship services are available through:
Website:
www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch
YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC

CONNECT

Next Steps Class 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. For more information, 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: matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org 205.868.6590 x2327
Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

*** Hymn 196** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

Lighting of the Advent Candle Ralph and Becky Sorrell

As we gather around the Advent wreath, we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. Peace is the gift that Christ brings, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Let us remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them."

In the midst of chaos and turmoil, we look to the Prince of Peace to bring harmony and reconciliation to our world.

Let us Pray.

Gracious and merciful God, in this season of Advent, we long for the peace that only you can bring. May your presence fill us with a deep sense of peace, as we wait for the birth of your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

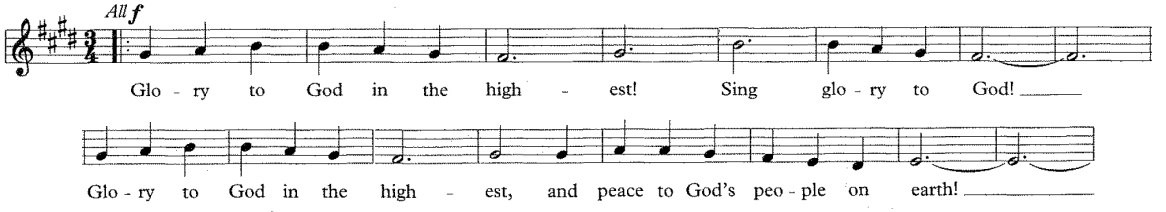
May the light of Peace continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Amen.

Sung Response: Love divine, all loves excelling, peace from heaven to earth come down.

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria In Excelsis



The Canticle of Zechariah (Chanted) Luke 1: 68-79, selected Stan Nelson, cantor

Blessed be the Lord, the *God of Israel, | who has come to set the chosen *people free.
The Lord has raised *up for us | a mighty Savior from the *house of David.
Through the holy prophets, God pro*mised of old | to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of *all who hate us;
to show mercy *to our forebears | and to remember the holy *covenant.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of *the Most High, |
for you will go before the Lord to pre*pare the way,
to give God's people knowledge *of salvation | by the forgiveness *of their sins.
In the tender compassion *of our God | the dawn from on high shall break *upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the sha*dow of death, |
and to guide our feet into the *way of peace.**

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

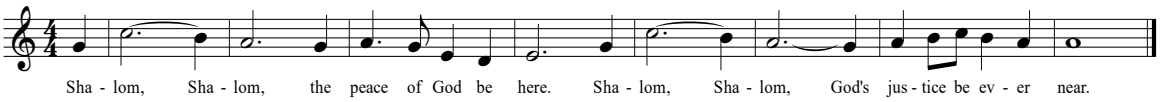
Kyrie 482

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.**



The Lesson Isaiah 32: 16-20
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon And Yet...Peace Rev. Hill Carmichael

Hymn 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, vv. 1, 3 HOUSTON

Prayers of the People Come, Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem Thou Shalt Know Him — Mark Strett
Jessie Mayne, solo

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or
by his gown, but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony
which his coming makes in thee.

*** Doxology & Wesley's Grace** OLD 100th

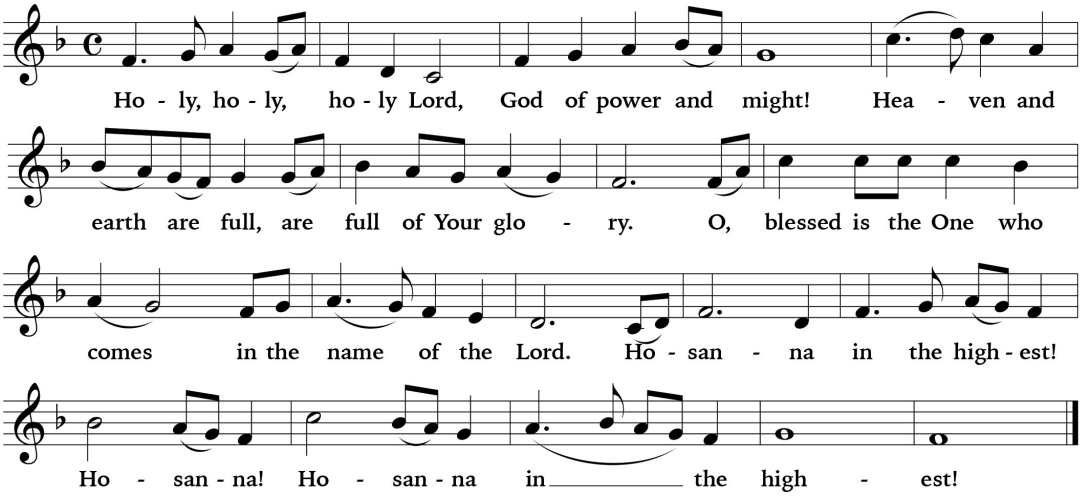
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Be present at our table, Lord;
be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we
may feast in paradise with Thee.

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.**

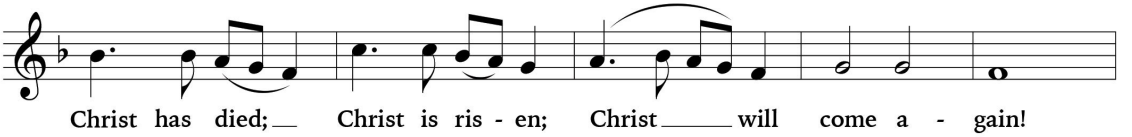
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity,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



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.

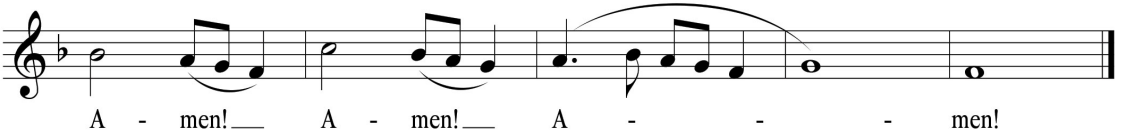
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us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

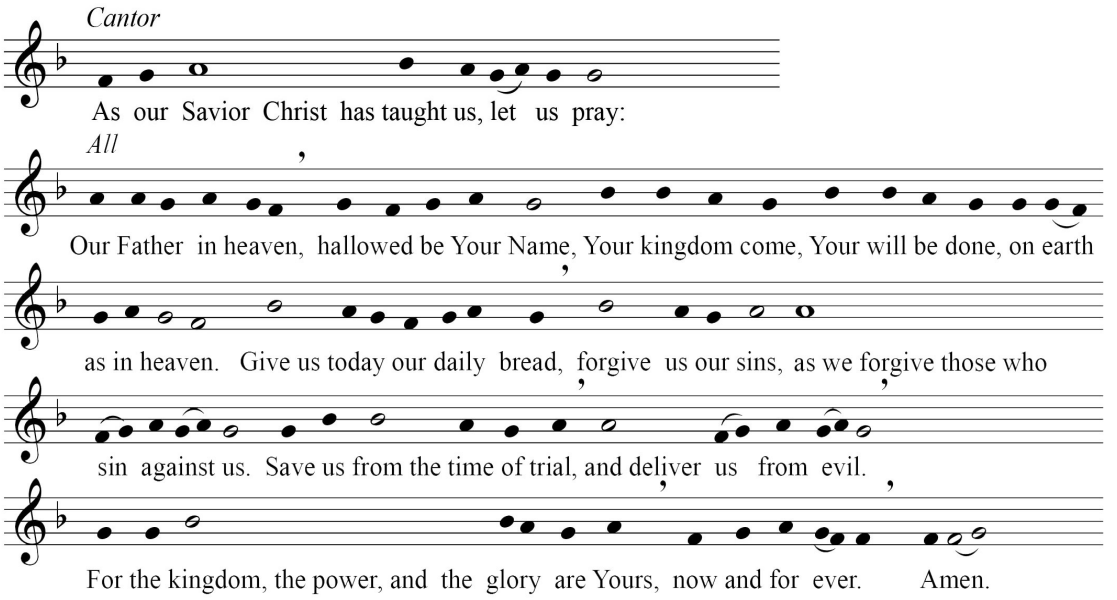
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, 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:

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)

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.

Communion Anthem Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People 16th c. melody

Comfort, comfort ye, my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
Calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

*** 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.

*** Benediction**

*** Choral Response**

Flowers in the chapel

Are in honor of Courtney Allee Hildreth & Robert Ethan Harris who were united in holy matrimony on December 7, 2024.

Congratulations to

David & Caitlin Hutchins, the proud parents of a baby boy, George Henry Hutchins, born on November 30, 2024.

Lauren & Matt Smith, the proud parents of a baby boy, Thomas Allen Smith, born on December 3, 2024.

Thanksgiving for the lives of

William "Bill" Battle (Mary Battle's husband).....November 27, 2024
Bobbie Bailey (Laura Bailey Rhodes' mother).....November 28, 2024
Patty Peatrey (Ann Vaughan's sister-in-law).....December 1, 2024
Helen Abele (Martha Chen's granddaughter).....December 2, 2024

Happening at Canterbury

Charge Conference | December 9 | 6:30 PM
The Church Council meeting tomorrow evening will be a Charge Conference. Wesley Hall, 6:30 PM

Side-by-Side Chorus Christmas Concert | December 10 | 2 PM
What better way to enjoy the holiday season than with a fun and festive Christmas concert from an 80-voice chorus and band! The Side-by-Side Community Chorus is made up of folks from our Encore community who love to sing and be with friends! This year's concert will benefit the Encore Family Fund. No tickets are required, donations accepted at the door! Plans to shop for unique holiday gifts before and after the event.

Outreach

Christmas MOR 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 2025:

- EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS (formerly United Methodist Children's Home)
- AVONDALE SAMARITAN PLACE
- DISASTER RELIEF

We will receive this offering in our worship services on December 22 and in our Christmas Eve services. You may also choose to deliver your offering to the Finance Office. Please 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!

SAGE

Legacy Luncheon | December 17 | 12 Noon
Join the Canterbury Staff in Canterbury Hall for fun fellowship, lunch, and a Christmas carol singalong led by Rev. Keith Thompson! Lunch is $5. Please RSVP to Valerie at valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

Help Spread Christmas Joy | Beginning December 17
We need a few helpful elves to deliver joy and love to our at home church members. The gifts will be at the round desk along with the information on where to deliver. To sign up, please contact Valerie at 205.874.1523 or valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

United Methodist Women

Women's Dinner Event & Speaker Sophie Hudson | January 30 | 6 PM
All ages are invited to join us for a special intergenerational dinner featuring author and popular speaker Sophie Hudson. Make plans to join us on Thursday, January 30, at 6 PM to enjoy a fun night of stories and learn ways to find encouragement and hope in the everyday, joy-filled moments of life. Nursery available. Tickets are $25. Purchase online: www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women

Kids@Canterbury

Baby Faith Milestone | December 15 | 9:15 AM

Our babies will have their first faith milestone on December 15 during the Sunday School hour. We will talk about how faith begins at home. Please RSVP at www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children so that we will be prepared with materials for your family.

Gingerbread Nativities | December 23 | 10 AM

Mark your calendar and make sure to bring your children to participate in this sweet and fun morning activity! We will read the nativity story and create our own unique gingerbread nativities to take home. Fun for kids of all ages! Registration not required.

Youth@Canterbury

YAC Christmas Party | December 8 | 5 PM

We're celebrating Christmas at YAC TONIGHT! It'll be a fun night filled with all of our favorite things. This will be our last MYF of the year, so make sure to join us!

Men's Ministry

Winter Retreat | January 31-February 2

Don't miss this retreat at Willow Point Golf and Country Club Villas featuring renowned author and speaker Dr. Leonard Sweet. This year's theme is "Smoke and Fire," exploring the power and transformative nature of God's presence in our lives. In addition to Dr. Sweet's teachings, the retreat will include outdoor activities, group discussions, and times of reflection. It's a great opportunity to grow spiritually, connect with other men in the church, and rejuvenate your faith. Register now at: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

Men's Breakfast | January 16 | 6:30 AM

Make plans to join us for a great breakfast, wonderful fellowship, and a time of inspiration on January 16. To register: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-breakfast

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 a copy of this form to the church office no later than Monday, December 9

CHRISTMAS
at canterbury

The Longest Night | 12.19
This special service will be held at 6 PM in the Chapel on Thursday, December 19 – in a sacred space to reflect and accept where we really are, as we hold out for peace, healing and hope this season.
* Service to be livestreamed

A Storybook Christmas | 12.24
New this year! A casual, early afternoon communion service designed for families with children. Come experience a unique telling of the nativity story, wonderful music, communion and candlelight.

Chrsitmas Eve Services

New Traditions Service | 8:15 AM *

A Storybook Christmas | 1 PM *

Contemporary Service | 3 PM *

Sanctuary Service | 3 PM

Sanctuary Service | 5 PM *

* Services to be livestreamed

For a full list of Christmas events and special services:
www.canterburyumc.org/worship/advent