

WHAT MATTERS MOST



Sanctuary Worship
September 20, 2026

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

Children's Pastor - Rev. Eleanor Christiansen

Bishop in Residence - Dr. Mike Watson

Choirmaster and Organist - Dr. Lester Seigel

Crucifer - Leigh Anne Precise

Acolytes - Charlie Brandenburg & Evelyn Bradenburg



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. Here 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 activity bags available as you enter the worship space. 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. Canterbury uses a computer check-in system as part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy. Please email Breana Stallings at breana.stallings@canterburyumc.org with any questions about the nursery.

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 email linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org so that we can all celebrate another child in our midst.

Things to Know - *Ask an usher for assistance!*

- *Listen Everywhere*, a bluetooth hearing app, is available as well as other hearing assist devices.
- The Children's Comfort Room is located adjacent to the Narthex, a quiet place for you and your child.

Worship Online We strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us! Sunday 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 quarterly 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. To set that up, contact the church office at 205-871-4695.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 205.871.4695

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

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887

Order of Worship

Voluntary

Air

Gerre Hancock

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Rick Owen

*** Processional Hymn 62** All Creatures of Our God and King, vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

ST DENIO

*** Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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

Children's Moment

Maddie Moravek

Baptism

Peter Burton Murray

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Our Lord has expressly given to little children a place among the people of God, which holy privilege must not be denied them. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, how He said, "*Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.*"

To the parents

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you; Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people everywhere? **We do.**

Will you nurture Peter Burton in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**

To the congregation

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this family now before you in your care?

With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Peter Burton, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

The Baptism

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother into the body of Christ.

**Through baptism we are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.**

Choral Response

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTT GART

Child of blessing, Child of promise baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Call to Prayer

I Will Arise

Sacred Harp, arr. Parker/Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it; mount of thy redeeming love. Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy praise! Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise!

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

Geistliche Lied (Spiritual Song), Op. 30

Johannes Brahms

Let nothing cause you sorrow, take comfort: what God has willed, so let my heart be willing.
Why brood today over tomorrow? The Most High forever stands and grants you what you merit.
Be steadfast in your labors; what God ordains is always for your welfare. Amen.

* Doxology

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. Amen.

* Gospel Procession 142

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee, v. 1

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6: 25-34

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

* Gospel Procession 183

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee, v. 3

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Sermon

What Matters Most: Seek First

Rev. Gann Waters-Wright

* Closing Hymn 403

Seek Ye First

SEEK YE

* Dismissal & Blessing

* Recessional Prayer

Ted Clark, cantor

Postlude

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the altar are placed in loving memory of Elaine Clanton by the Clanton Family.

PRESENTED FOR HOLY BAPTISM

PETER BURTON MURRAY

May 27, 2026

Parents: Ally & Matt Murray

Grandparents: Jenny & Jimmy Barkley, Andrea & Kent Murray

Happening at Canterbury

Daily Bible Reading Plan | Genesis

This fall, we are journeying through the Book of Genesis together. Each Sunday evening, you will receive an email outlining the readings for the week. You can also follow along by visiting: www.canterburyumc.org/2026-reading-plan

Men's Breakfast | September 24 | 6:30 AM

Wake up early and come for breakfast and hear from Hill Carmichael. He'll share about the Kenya Mission trip and Canterbury's impactful partnerships there. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

Encouragers Kickoff | September 24 | 6 PM

This ministry is designed to connect women of all ages through faith and friendship. To sign up for a group and to register for the Kickoff Dinner, visit: www.canterburyumc.org/community/encouragers

4K Faith Milestone | October 4 | 9:15 AM

We're excited to see you and your 4K child on October 4 at 9:15 in the Covenant Room. We will be learning about prayer and how it helps us feel connected to God's heart. Please RSVP so that we will be prepared with materials for your family. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

Soup Day | October 15 | 10 AM-7 PM

This year at Christmas Village, we'll be giving quarts of homemade soup to the families who come shop at the village....and we need YOUR help!

You can support this effort in three ways:

- 1) **DONATE** canned goods through our Amazon link. Items will be shipped directly to Canterbury.
- 2) **DROP OFF** canned items in the Chaos Storage Room located next to Rachel's office.

We need: canned corn, Rotel, Great Northern beans, Black beans, Kidney beans

- 3) **MAKE** the soup!

Scan the QR code to sign up for a shift on October 15!



Dad & Me Legion Soccer | October 18 | 4 PM

Join us for a special night out with your dad, grandpa, favorite uncle or another important guy! We'll cheer on the Legion as they take on Loudon FC during Fan Appreciation Night. \$20 per person. The first 22 kids to register will be Junior Captains and walk onto the field with the players during the national anthem!

Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

RISE Connect Retreat | October 23-24

4th-6th grades! Join us for a 24-hour overnight retreat at Camp Sumatanga with friends from area UMCs! We'll worship, hike, play, and hang out as we connect with one another and God. \$150. Registration Deadlines:

- October 1 for Canterbury priority
- October 10 for the final deadline

Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

YAC Journey Retreat | November 20-22

Journey will be held November 20-22 at Shocco Springs in Talladega. This retreat is for all 7th-12th graders (friends are welcome!). It's an awesome weekend filled with meaningful talks, amazing worship, fun games, and more! All students are encouraged to join us for this incredible retreat!

Sign up before the price increase on October 1.

Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth



www.canterburyumc.org