



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
June 14, 2026



*We have the closed hearing loop system.
You may be able to turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.*

***To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service,
please observe silence during the prelude.***

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE There Is A Balm in Gilead Arr. Alan Louis Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please respond with words in bold)*

God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze on a hot day.

God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.

God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.

God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.

Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.

HYMN #100 God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us

OPENING PRAYER

God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality, meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives. Open our minds to recognize your presence among us; open our hearts to receive your promises; open our arms to embrace your miraculous works with joy, wonder, and laughter. As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope, the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you as you fulfill your promises for abundant life for all creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 *God's promise to Abraham and Sarah*

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant." ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

21 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me. ⁷ And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 UMH 837 *Offering to God for blessings*
(Please respond with the words in bold)

Romans 5:1-8 *Justified by faith*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35—10:13 *Disciples are sent out serve*
(Please stand as you are able.)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'—Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

We love you, O God, and we yearn to rest in your steadfast love and trust in the way in which you call us. Forgive us when we hesitate or falter in our responses to your gifts and call. When we are restless, calm our human spirits with your Holy Spirit. When we are lost, guide us back to you. When we are threatened, be our confidence and protector. We can't go this alone, O God. Be with us, and remind us of your presence. Help us to believe, even where we have not seen, that your loving promises may bless our lives and guide our steps. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." This is God's final promise to us in Christ. We are never alone. And in spite of ourselves, we are enabled, empowered, commissioned and called to be faithful followers and beloved children of the one, true God.

In the name of God, our Creator, or Redeemer, our Sustainer, we are known, forgiven and called. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #881 The Apostles' Creed

(Please stand as you are able)

GLORIA PATRI #70

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.

HYMN #133 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

OFFERTORY

Canaan's Land

Arr. Alan Louis Smith

OFFERING <https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

DOXOLOGY #95

(Please stand as you are able)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Joyful Giver of Miracles, we come to you with hearts open to the unexpected, for you are the God who surprises us with joy, even in seasons of waiting and even through our disbelief. You meet us in the ordinariness of a welcome, and you plant seeds of laughter that bloom into life. As Abraham and Sarah offered their hospitality and received the promise of new life, as the disciples went out to serve at Christ's call into unknown places, so we offer our gifts in trust and gratitude. Bless these gifts, O God, that they may bear witness to your goodness and extend joy, hope, and welcome to the world you so love. May our giving be a reflection of our faith, and may our faith be full of joy. We pray in the name Jesus our Lord, who brings life out of impossibility. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #569 We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Walk Together Children Arr. Moses Hogan
(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Randy & Susie Rush.

We are blessed to welcome Rev. Shelly Webb as our guest preacher today while Marcus and Kim are celebrating their son's marriage this weekend. Shelly is from WNC and is an ordained elder in the WNCUMC serving at several churches including St. Timothy in Brevard. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Sharing House, a position she has held for 13 years as well as having active involvement in community and ecumenical partnerships. She is a graduate of Wofford College and Duke Divinity School. In her free time, she loves hiking, wildflower photography and has participated in a number of 5k and longer races. We are grateful for her presence today.

We welcome Doug Grimm as our guest musician today. Described as a "handsome-voiced baritone" by *Voix des Arts*, Doug has worked in both theatrical and operatic stage productions for almost 20 years, most recently playing *Sam* in Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, and premiering the role of *Mallarmé* in Daniel Swartz's opera *The Flower Cries Blue*. A passionate supporter of the arts, Doug is also the Founding Executive Director of Proximity Arts, an arts nonprofit promoting the performing arts through alternative educational methods. He believes that wherever two or more gather, there too should be the arts. When not on stage, Doug can be found in a kayak, at the pickleball court, or spending time with his family and amazing friends.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting is scheduled for this Friday, June 19 at 10:00am. All council members are encouraged to attend as we make decisions about upcoming business and ministries. Church members are welcome to be present as non-voting observers.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45am in the Minnich Conference room on Sundays, prior to worship. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided. Don Henderson, bacpac@comporium.net, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp—If you have any photos of the church, fellowship hall, the church grounds or church events, please send the JPG photo link to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com with information if needed We appreciate your submissions as we work to update and refresh our LTUMC website.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Prayer requests may be mailed to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meets Every Thursday Night at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00-6:00 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Adam Prusiecki, Richard Lehman,-brother of Beth Holimon,
Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Marti Hughes, Sally Steinmeyer,
Grady Price, Randall Galloway, Vandy Vanderford,
Katie Monkus-daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,
Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com
Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128
Audio/Visual & Livestream: Scott Walter 314-374-2969
Ushers: Mike Taylor
Worship Assistant: Scott Walter
Scripture Reader: Amanda Stahl
Coffee Hour: Nancy Henderson
Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and Pres-Outlook.org.