



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
7th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
July 12, 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.***

7th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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

Even when the Lord seems far away and our faith is sorely tested,

we will put our trust in God's steadfast love.

Even when our souls bear the pain of earthly trials

and our strength seems to slip away,

we will trust God's goodness and mercy.

Even when we question God's presence in our lives

and our hearts feel heavy with fear,

we will live in faith of God's promises.

Let us place our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

Our hearts rejoice in God's salvation, today and every day.

HYMN # 660 God is Here

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, you have planted your word in our hearts as an expression of your faith, hope, and love in us as your children. Save us from hardness of heart, where your word cannot take root because of our stubborn insistence on our own way. Save us from shallowness of mind, where your word withers away because we are unwilling to consider new possibilities. Save us from the deceitfulness of riches, where your word is choked by every day cares and our unwillingness to let go of control. Gracious Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil, where your word flourishes and yields a harvest, bringing salvation to ourselves and all people. Nurture your word in us as we worship today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 25:19-34 *The birthrights of Jacob and Esau*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ³ And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.

³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalms 119:105-112 *The word of God lights our way* (Please respond with the words in bold)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

**Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.**

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Romans 8:1-11 *Life in the Spirit*

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *The Parable of the Sower and the Seed* (Please stand as you are able.)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or

persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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.)

Loving God, Caretaker of our Souls, you tend us in steadfast love, unending mercy, and eternal faithfulness; you cultivate true relationship with you through boundless forgiveness. In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts. But even you cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sin that crowds out seedlings of truth planted with divine compassion. God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy. You change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunbeams of mercy. You change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy. May we receive your gifts and grow with integrity, with grace, and with generosity. May our wilted, choked, and parched lives find new life in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

We are the people of God, forgiven in Christ, empowered by the Spirit. We are free to forgive and live as we have been forgiven and offered new life.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and freed to grow and thrive in the way of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS UMH 38

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM UMH 39

Charles Dutch Dice

Jack Chiles Dice

Blessing of Baptism--Wade Dice Smidebush

HYMN #611 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

OFFERTORY Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

Living God, you meet us this day with grace that frees and a Spirit that gives life. You tell us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we cling to that good news with grateful hearts. As we bring these gifts, we set our minds on you—not on fear or self-interest, but on the life and peace you promise. Shape us by your Spirit to live generously, to seek the good of our neighbors, and to share in your work of healing and reconciliation. Receive these offerings as signs of our attention being fixed on Christ and our lives opened to your renewing power. We give thanks; we give ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to lead us into abundant life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #707 Hymn of Promise

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer Bobbie Moore
Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice, Randall Galloway

We extend our Christian sympathy to Anne Young and family
in the sudden death of Bruce Young.

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: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Usher: Mike Taylor

Liturgist: Cynthia Wood

Coffee Hour: John & Judy Lefler

Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and re:Worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God by Judy Lefler in celebration of John Lefler's 80th birthday.

Today we celebrate the Baptisms of Charles Dutch Dice and Jack Chiles Dice, sons of Marianne and Geoff Dice. Grandparents are Elizabeth and Kevin Dice and Nancy and James McGee.

We also bless the baptism of Wade Dice Smidebush, son of Meaghan and Matt Smidebush. Grandparents are Elizabeth and Kevin Dice and Jackie and Dave Smidebush.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Benjamin Czarnota as our guest musician in worship. Dr. Czarnota is a voice teacher and educator as well as performer. He holds degrees from Baldwin Wallace Conservatory and Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He and his family are visiting Katherine Jeter with whom he made a friendship many years ago as a student at The Brevard Music Center.

Memorial Prayer Garden Preview Presentation—during coffee hour today after church. The memorial garden is funded and plans are well underway. Come learn more about the plans and see drawings. We are excited to see this project come to fruition.

We look forward to our celebration worship and lunch next Sunday, July 19th as we consecrate our organ upgrades and celebrate the music ministry of Bob Kintner. Osteria will be providing the main dishes and salad. We do need a close count so please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com. You may also sign up to bring a dessert if you like. We are looking forward to sharing this special day with everyone.

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, facilitates this group.

Website Revamp—Photos of the church, activities, and ministries are requested. Please send the JPG photo link to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com. We appreciate your submissions as we continue our work to update and refresh our LTUMC website.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month **at 3:00PM. Note the change of time.** 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 4-6 PM.