



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
10th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship and Communion Service
August 2, 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.***

10th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

O Light of Life!

Mack Wilberg

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

God's love and grace welcome us here.

Christ's bounty feeds us at his table.

When our faith falters,

our God stays faithfully at our side.

When we are battered and bruised, tired and rebellious,

our God will not abandon us.

When our bellies are empty, and our souls are thirsty,

we trust in God's provision and find that we have all we need.

We seek your blessing, O God, as we gather in this time of worship.

We seek you today, God of life, believing you are here.

HYMN #674 See the Morning Sun Ascending

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, the eyes of all look to you in hope and you give them what they need. You open your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. In this hour, we turn to you again, longing to be filled—to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from your life-giving streams, to taste your goodness. May the time we spend together in your presence nourish our hearts and minds, strengthen our relationship with you, and renew our commitment to live in this world as your faithful disciples. For you are our God, the Source and Sustainer of life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31 *Jacob wrestles with God*

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Psalms 17:1-7, 15 UMH 749 *Seek God and God will be there* (Please respond with the words in bold.)

Romans 9:1-5 *God's people*

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21 *Feeding the multitudes*

(Please stand as you are able.)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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.)

Merciful God, you have called us into a whole-hearted relationship with you. You have asked us to live out our faith with passion and integrity. We revel in the deep love you have shown toward us. Forgive us for taking our relationship with you for granted, for allowing the fire of our early commitment to cool, and prioritizing our own whims and preferences. Give us wisdom and strength to hold on to you throughout the journey of life, with all its twists and turns. Give us courage to wrestle honestly with the things we don't understand, to continually work out our salvation with fear and trembling, and the willingness to grapple daily with what it means to faithfully follow you. We are Your people, chosen and named by you. Grant us your blessing and mark us with your love as we seek to live as Your disciples in the world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of God's love: In Christ, we are offered sustenance and strength for the journey and are fed by God's gracious hand. We are forgiven and blessed to continue our journey and experience abundant life.

In Christ, we are forgiven. The burden of sin is lifted and we can rest in knowing that we are not alone in our journey. Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

STATEMENT OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed UMH 881

(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. Amen.

OFFERTORY Let me Hide Myself in Thee Setting by Craig Courtney

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

Holy God, source of compassion and grace, all we have is yours, the gifts of your life and blessing. May your blessing of us become a blessing to all the world. May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger. May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid. Help us share our abundance with those in want, that the world may be fed and made whole again. We make these offerings in the name and example of Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #599 Break Thou the Bread of Life

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Please respond with words in bold)

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.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, concluding:

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: "...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 risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: "...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever." **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

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

CLOSING HYMN #156 I Love to Tell the Story

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated.)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Carl Shealey, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer,
Bobbie Moore, Randall Galloway, Ed Byrd

We extend our Christian sympathy to Lori & Steve Delaney on the death of Steve's mother, Mary Delaney on July 25th.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Matt Grommesh on the death of his wife, Saunders Grommesh on July 29th. Saunders served as the LTUMC church administrator for many years. If you wish to make a gift in her memory, Matt suggests God's Way Food Pantry in Balsam Grove or Bound for Glory Camp in Brevard.

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

Ushers: Lysa Riggs, Joe Haraschak

Liturgist: Tom Blackstock

Coffee Hour: Louise Spencer and Lee Cowan

Liturgical selections are partially adapted from umcdiscipleship, re:worship, and ministrymatters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome back Bart Gilleland as our guest musician in worship.

An accomplished baritone vocalist with performance credits from around the world, Bart has also been a music educator and choral conductor and has served as section leader, soloist, or cantor for numerous congregations, currently serving as cantor for Brevard's Jewish community. He was educated at Baylor University completing his master's and doctoral studies at The Ohio State University. He is also a swim coach, husband, father, and dog-dad. We are pleased to have him join us today.

Name Tags--If any church attendees need a name tag, please contact Fred Markert at 828-553-3303 or let him know when you see him.

Scholarship Ministry--Through its mission committee, the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church is proud to support twenty-four higher education students seeking degrees and/or certifications, dedicating more than \$55,000.00 in 2026/2027 outreach dollars to this vital mission. Our supportive congregation and the Scholarship Team are true blessings. Thank you all.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45am on Sundays. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided.

The Prayer Ministry meets every Sunday after church at 11:30 in the Minnich conference room.

Anyone is invited to join us on any given week as we lift up the prayer concerns of our community. 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.