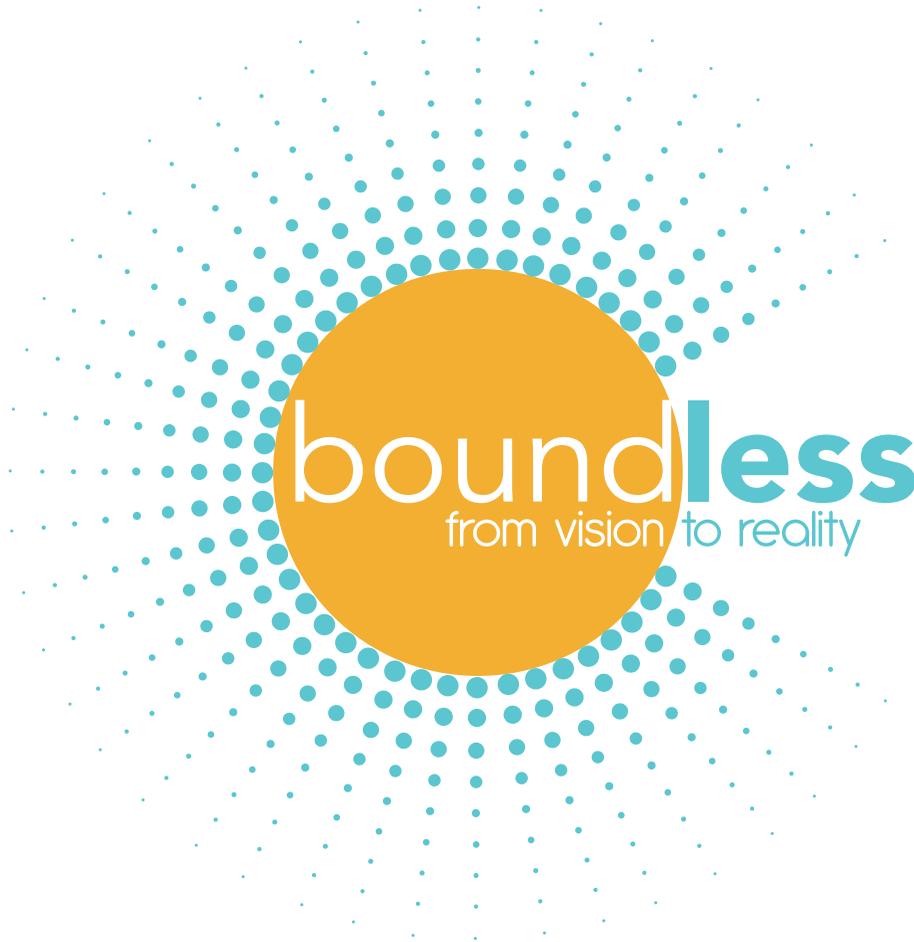


THE MESSENGER

WORSHIP AND NEWS FROM  Christ United Methodist Church



Commitment Sunday **Sunday, November 12, 2017**

Traditional Worship, 8:30am and 11am, Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship, 9am and 11:15am, Fellowship Center

| Love. Grow. Serve.

Welcome to Christ Church! We are a church that embraces people, the community, and the world with the boundless love of God. Our core values are to love God, humanity, and all creation; grow intentionally together in Christlikeness; and serve together in our church, community, and the world. We are so glad to have you with us today and hope you'll feel welcomed at Christ Church and be inspired through worship here.

Guest Information

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please visit the Connection Point Desk, located between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Center. Our volunteers will be happy to help you learn more about the missions and ministries at Christ Church.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School classes for all ages each Sunday, 9:50am–10:50am. Visit the Connection Point Desk to find a class that's right for you.

Children

All children are welcome to stay during our worship services; worship bags for ages 3–12 are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Center.

- **0–24 months:** During all services, a nursery is provided for infants through toddlers in Rooms 111 and 113, and is staffed by trained, professional childcare workers and parent helpers.
- **Ages 2–4:** Children ages 2 through 4 are welcome in the nursery during our early services. During our late services, in room 302, Worship Care provides a short lesson, snack, and playtime.
- **Grades K–5:** During our late worship services, GO! Children's Worship includes drama, storytelling, group competitions, prayer, reflection, and live music. Drop off and pick up your children in the Chapel.

Youth

Our youth group for grades 7–12 meets regularly on Sunday evenings throughout the school year. We also have small groups that meet Wednesday and Thursday evenings. See page 9 for announcements, and visit christgreensboro.org/youth for more information.

Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please email prayer@christgreensboro.org. You may also call the church at 336-299-1571 and ask to speak to Susan Pabon.

Accessibility

The congregation offers large print hymnals and Bibles, a magnifying sheet for use with our bulletins, and hearing assistance devices for our traditional services. Additionally, the 9am Awakening service features American Sign Language and Vietnamese translation. Please speak to an usher if you need assistance. In addition, we broadcast our 11am traditional service live every Sunday on WDFC-FM 101.7.

Traditional Worship

8:30am and 11am, Sanctuary

* *Those who are able, please stand.*

Gathering

We invite you to enter into a spirit of reverence as we prepare for worship through our opening voluntary. To help preserve the sanctity of the service, please silence all electronic devices and refrain from flash photography

Passing of the Peace

Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers using the words Christ spoke to his disciples of "Peace be with you." We offer this greeting to symbolize our unity and to practice God's call to encourage the bonds of peace in our world.

WE GATHER

HYMN REQUESTS (8:30am)

TRINITY CHIMES (11am)

GREETING

VOLUNTARY

Fantasy on: Let All Things Now Living (8:30am) Cathy Moklebust
Let All Things Now Living (11am) arr. Charles Callahan/
Melissa Kalbfleisch

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a time to offer our worship to God.

And thank God for the blessings we've been given!

Come, let us worship the Lord with joy,

And praise God, who is so generous with us!

* OPENING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

THE ASH GROVE

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* SUNG RESPONSE

MORNING HAS BROKEN

Father, providing food for your children, by your wise guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing, with us, all others may know your care.

ANTHEM

I Was Glad

Dennis and Nan Allen

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Acts 20:35b

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Boundless Part 5: The Blessings of a Generous Life

Pastor Morris Brown

WE RESPOND

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO PRAYER

Surely the Presence of the Lord (8:30am)

Lanny Wolfe

Grant Us, Lord, the Grace of Living (11am)

STUTT GART

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy

Here our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

895

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Forever I Will Praise You (8:30am)

Molly Ijames

To God, who makes His goodness known to all and freely puts His kindness on display; to God, who reads the longings of my hearts and hovers close beside me when I pray. To God, who lifts me up each time I fall and sees me when my heart is bowed with pain; to God, who fills my hungry heart with love and raises up my eyes to hope again.

Forever I will praise You, O my King! Forever and forever I will sing! Whenever I reflect on all You do, my grateful heart lifts up a song to you.

To God, who reigns in glorious majesty, whose kingdom stands through everlasting days, whose greatness is beyond my highest thought, to God alone, I will life up my praise! [© 2010 Lorenz Publishing Company]

Have We Any Gift Worth Giving (11am)

Alfred Fedak

Have we any gift worth giving to the Giver of all things? What would please the ever-living, one true God from whom life springs? Not dead gold or merchandise, but a living sacrifice: worship both profound and freeing, serving God with all our being.

*Sermon
Discussion
Questions*

Find questions on
page 8.

Offering Cards

For those who give electronically or by mail but would like to participate in this act of worship, cards for the offering plates are available in the pew pockets.

Ways to Give

You may also give online at christgreensboro.org/giving or by texting CUMC to 73256.

Christ by costly incarnation dwelt in human time and place to reveal to all creation God's redeeming love and grace; so are we in flesh and bone given means of making known through the web of daily living God's own pattern of self-giving.

Let us shun the selfish merit worldly wisdom has defined, but renewed by God's own Spirit be transformed in heart and mind; by past mercies taught and led, let us seek the path ahead, trusting that, like those before us, God will guide us and restore us.

[Text ©1995 Hope Publishing Co., Music ©1995, 2015 Selah Publishing Co.]

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer ourselves to you this day, trusting in your grace.
May these gifts honor you, as they continue your work of
offering the world a living hope. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH

* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

What Gift Can We Bring

87

ANNIVERSARY SONG

[You are invited to bring forward your Boundless Commitment card at this time.]

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought,
Bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in thy hand.**

* TRINITY CHIMES (11am)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rise, Shine You People

David Cherwein

Ministry of Worship

Participating Pastors: Morris Brown, Virginia Reynolds
Crucifer and Acolytes: Drew Dodson, Kathleen Whitener, Mark Wallace

Ushers: Thomas Graham, Dan Ledbetter (8:30am)

Britt Blaylock, Kathie Barker, Bill Britt, Steve Danford, Judy Dulberg,
Byron Ritter, Bill Trivette, Greg Whitfield (11am)

Musicians: Celebration Ringers, New Covenant Choir (8:30am)

Youth Choir; Chancel Choir (11am)

Senior Director of Worship and Arts: Cathy West

Organist and Director of Children's Music: Chris Dederer

*Closing
Voluntary*

Traditionally, in classical worship, the service is not considered to be over until the voluntary has concluded. Those who wish to hear the closing voluntary are invited to remain in their pews; those who need to exit are asked to do so quietly.

Contemporary Worship

Awakening (9am) and Spark (11:15am), Fellowship Center

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH

We're so glad you're here! Please feel free to grab a cup of coffee as you gather.

WE SING AND PRAISE GOD TOGETHER

I Saw The Light (9am)

Open Skies; Amen (Because He Lives) (11:15am)

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

RESPONSE SONG

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Simply Nothing

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

WE PRACTICE GENEROSITY

OFFERING

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD AND APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Acts 20:35b

SERMON

Boundless Part 5: The Blessings of a Generous Life

Pastor Morris Brown

WE SING TOGETHER THEN GO TO SERVE THE WORLD

BLESSING

Ways to Give
You may also give
online at
christgreensboro.
org/giving or by
texting CUMC to
73256.

*Sermon
Discussion
Questions*
See page 8.

Ministry of Worship

Participating Pastors: Morris Brown, Louis Timberlake
Director of Contemporary Worship: Matt Gravely

| This Sunday at Christ Church

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Kieth Wright on his birthday by Dr. Judie Wright.

Veteran's Day: Today we have placed the American and Christian flags in our worship spaces in recognition of our veterans.

Youth Pancake Breakfast: Celebrate Commitment Sunday with pancakes and Neese's sausage this Sunday, November 12, from 9:30am-1pm in the Gym. All donations go to support the families our youth adopt at Christmas time.

Third Grade Bible Club: Third Grade Bible Club will meet this Sunday, November 12, from 11am-12:15pm in Room 207. Bring your Bible and \$3 for lunch. Register at christgreensboro.org/events.

| This Week at Christ Church

View the full calendar at christgreensboro.org/calendar.

Welcome Wednesday: Join us for dinner at 5:30pm on Wednesday, November 15, followed by classes beginning at 6:30pm. On the menu this week is beef stroganoff with egg noodles and steamed broccoli, with hot dogs and mac-and-cheese for the kids and grilled chicken salads available upon request. Make a reservation and see all fall classes at christgreensboro.org/welcomewednesday.

Baby Boomer Happy Hour: Meet us at Natty Greene's in Downtown Greensboro on Thursday, November 16, from 6pm-9pm for drinks, appetizers, dessert, and entertainment provided by CUMC's own Wildwood Band. Cost is \$15 and space is limited to the first 60 people to register and pay. Make your reservation at christgreensboro.org/events.

Ten Thousand Villages Fundraiser for Guatemala: Shop at Ten Thousand Villages (1564 Highwoods Boulevard) on Thursday, November 16, from 6pm-8pm, and 15 percent of your sales will support our next trip to Guatemala with Curamericas Global. Supporters are welcome to shop any time on November 15, 16, or 17.

Music for a Great Space Featuring Trio 180: On Friday, November 17, at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary, join us for Music for a Great Space featuring Trio 180. Church members are eligible for the group rate of \$15 each; these may be purchased at the door. Any adult purchasing a ticket may bring up to two people under the age of 16 with them for free.

UMCOR Emergency Response Training: There will be an UMCOR Early Response Team Training on Saturday, November 18 from 9am-5pm at Christ Church. ERTs enter disaster zones at the invitation of local emergency management officials and provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of the disaster. Register at bit.ly/2vPjJae.

| Sermon Discussion Questions

1. In what way do you see generosity as reciprocal?
2. Does generosity bring joy and physical health? How have you seen this in others?
3. How does your giving make a difference—both in your life and in the life of someone else?
4. Give some examples of how giving improves relationships.
5. When we give here in the Triad, how may this have a “butterfly effect”—the phenomenon whereby a minute, localized change in a complex system can have a large effect elsewhere—on the rest of the world?

| Prayer Ministry and Congregational Care

Our deepest sympathy to Ken Overbey on the death of his father, James D. Overbey, Jr., on November 7; and to Marie Wilson’s family, husband Jack Wilson, daughter and son-in-law Anne and Steve Fleming, and friends on her death on November 7.

| General Announcements

Weekly Attendance: The attendance for Sunday, November 5, was 690. Sunday school attendance was 345.

Photo Submissions Needed for New Directory: Ever wish you had the latest directory to look up someone’s address or to put a name with a face you see at church? We are creating a church directory for CUMC in a new way. Please submit a casual photo of your household to photos@christgreensboro.org by December 1. The new directory will be available digitally and in print in January 2018.

Poinsettias and Luminaries: Honor or remember loved ones with poinsettias or luminaries this season of Advent. Red poinsettias will be placed in our worship services beginning December 10; cost is \$12 each and orders are due December 4. Luminaries will be placed outside the church following our Candlelight Service on December 17; cost is \$5 and orders are due December 10. Order forms are available at the Connection Point desk and in the Church Office, or you can order online at christgreensboro.org/poinsettia-luminaries.

Meet Kara Harvey, Our New Director of Children’s Discipleship: Parents and others are invited to a Q&A and sharing time with Kara Harvey on Sunday, November 19, from 9:50-10:50am in the Parlor and Disciple Room. Children will go to their own Sunday school classes during this time.

Columbarium Improvements: A recent anonymous gift provided for some wonderful improvements to our Columbarium, ensuring that it will be a dignified, peaceful place of rest for our loved ones and their visitors for many years to come. Please take a moment to walk through it and see the changes. For more information about purchasing a niche in the columbarium, contact Mark Ledford (mledford@christgreensboro.org).

| ChristLife Adult Ministry

Prime Timers: Prime Timers will meet Tuesday, November 21, at 5:30pm for dinner (\$6). Our program will be “Cordially Yours,” a barbershop quartet with four-part harmony a cappella. Please make your reservation by noon on Monday, November 20, at christgreensboro.org/events or by contacting the Reservation Line. The Bus will pick up at WhiteStone at 5pm and Friends Homes West at 5:15pm. In this season of giving thanks, we will have a cart available in the Fellowship Center if you would like to bring in canned goods, macaroni and cheese, or peanut butter for the Out of the Garden backpack ministry.

Adult Fellowship Trip to Asheville: Join us on Thursday, November 30, for a trip to the Grove Park Inn to experience the National Gingerbread House Exhibit and enjoy a fabulous buffet lunch at the Inn. After, we’ll tour The Cove, Billy Graham’s retreat and training center. Cost is \$50 and includes buffet lunch, tip, and travel. We will depart the church at 7:45 am and return at 7:30pm. Register by Sunday, November 26, at christgreensboro.org/events or by returning a form (available at the Connection Point desk) to the Church Office.

New Adult Sunday School Studies: Aldersgate (Room 213) is studying Acts; Faith and Family (Disciple Room) is studying the Parables of Jesus; and Journeys 2.0 (Parlor) is beginning a three-week study on the biblical basis for thanksgiving, tithing, and fasting. For more information about all of our Sunday school classes, visit the Connection Point desk or christgreensboro.org/sundayschool.

UMW Circle 4: Circle 4 will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 10:30am in the Living Room at Friends Homes West. Our program speaker will be Morris Jeffreys, one of the pioneering forces behind establishing and growing our Christ Church Radio Ministry, WDFC 101.7 FM. Please contact Carol Harris (336-282-8618; cvlkharris@aol.com) with questions.

UMW Circle 7: Circle 7 will meet on November 14 at 10:30am in the Parlor. The program will be on Fraud Prevention and Awareness.

| ChristYouth (Grades 7-12)

Youth Group This Week: Rake and Run for junior and senior high youth is this Sunday, November 12, after church from 12:15pm-2:30pm. Bring a change of clothes, money for McDonald’s, and a rake, and meet us in the Gathering Space. Sunday night, junior and senior high will make college care packages from 6pm-7:30pm. Bring money for snack supper and a few items for the care packages (candy, small toys, pens or post-its, etc.).

Youth T-Shirts: T-shirts featuring the benediction our youth say every Sunday are now available for a donation, which will go to support the families our youth adopt at Christmas. Contact Katey Blaylock (kblaylock@christgreensboro.org) for more information.

| ChristKids (Infants-Grade 6)

Advent Workshop: Kick off the season at our annual Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 3, from 2pm-4:30pm. This year's crafts will center around the theme "Celebrate the Family" and will include hand puppets, miniature nativity sets, homemade pancake mix, paper chain Advent calendars, the traditional Advent wreath, and more. Learn more and register at christgreensboro.org/adventworkshop.

| Missions and Outreach

Angel Tree: We are once again partnering with the Salvation Army and collecting toys, bikes, and coats for 125 children. Prayerfully consider stopping by our tree in the Gathering Space and participating in this mission. Deadline for returning gifts is Sunday, December 3. Contact Donita Cooper (336-449-9876; donitacooer@icloud.com) with questions.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: Visit our stands in the Gathering Space this Sunday to sign up for a two-hour shift to ring the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell. We will ring daily from Friday, November 24, through December 23, at the Macy's entrance facing Belk at Friendly Center. For more information, contact Paula Trivette (336-580-1795).

Thanks for Giving Double Donation Drive: We are partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Goodwill to host the first ever Double Donation Drive during the Thanksgiving season. Collection trailers from both organizations will be in our parking lot on Saturday, November 18, from 8am-5pm and on Sunday, November 19, from 8am-4pm. Habitat is receiving donations of building supplies and furniture, while Goodwill is receiving clothing and housewares.

Greensboro Urban Ministry Honor Cards: The 30th Anniversary Bill Mangum Honor Card supporting Greensboro Urban Ministry will be available in the Holy Grounds each Sunday and in the Church Office during the week beginning this Sunday, November 12. Please contact Judy Goodman (336-292-2018) with questions.

Weaver House Winter Shelter: The Weaver House winter shelter at West Market Church (formerly West Market Street UMC) will begin December 11 and run through March 2018. Volunteers are needed to provide meals to the homeless guests each Friday beginning December 15. Please contact Beth Taylor (b76taylor@gmail.com; 336- 202-8726) for more details and to volunteer.

Hampton Gift Bag Ministry: This Christmas season, our church will provide each of the 340 students at Hampton Elementary School with a gift bag that they will take home as they leave for their winter break. This ministry will be in place of Operation Christmas Child. Stop by our table in the Gathering Space for instructions on filling a gift bag. If you would like to choose a monetary gift, rather than shopping, please bring a check to the Church Office marked for Hampton Gift Bag Ministry. Contact Kate Hayes (336-601-6553; katehayes1@yahoo.com) for more information.

Ministry Spotlight:

Becoming *Boundless: From Vision to Reality*

Over the past several weeks, we've been talking about what it means for Christ Church to be Boundless. This initiative is grounded in our vision to become a church that embraces people, the community, and the world with the boundless love of God. But, for that vision to become a reality, it needs to be resourced. Through Boundless, we have three goals:

- To fully fund our annual operating budget for the next two years (2018 and 2019), including an increased 10% annual commitment to missions through our budget.
- To retire around \$250,000 in debt on the Fellowship Center and surrounding spaces
- To complete facilities enhancements, including restructuring our spaces to create a dedicated, secure area for our children and better spaces for adults, improving hospitality and worship technology, and addressing major maintenance needs.

During Boundless, we've dreamed together about God's hopes for Christ Church and what it means for us to live generously as people and as a church. Pastor Morris talked about abundant generosity and shared some scripturally based techniques for managing our finances so that we may live out of an attitude of abundance. Pastor Louis talked about acknowledging our giftedness and how managing our energy and cultivating those gifts enables us to be the church at its best. Finally, Pastor Morris shared some compelling reasons to invest your treasure in Christ Church, while we celebrated the contributions of those saints who have gone before us.

This Sunday, November 12, is Commitment Sunday. While it marks the end of our Boundless worship series, it is really just the beginning of discovering what it means for us to become Boundless as a church. As a part of our Advance Commitment Challenge, more than 70 families have already made commitments to Boundless. While individual commitments always remain confidential, our business office has shared some anonymous examples of how God is working in the hearts of the people of Christ Church.

- One family is increasing their giving by 100%, going from \$2,000 a year to \$8,000 in the next two years for Boundless (\$4,000 a year).
- Another is increasing their giving 300%, going from \$12,000 a year to \$96,000 over the next two years for Boundless (\$24,000 a year and a \$48,000 one-time gift).
- And yet one more family is increasing their giving by 50%, going from \$5,000 a year to \$15,000 in the next two years for Boundless (\$7,500 a year).

As we approach Commitment Sunday, we encourage you to continue to be in prayer for Boundless. If you have already decided what your commitment will be, thank you for partnering with us as we take the next step towards realizing God's vision for Christ Church. If you are still in the process of discernment, please prayerfully consider how God is prompting you to join your church community in becoming Boundless. There are a number of resources available online at christgreensboro.org/boundless. On Sunday, we will gather for worship and make our commitments together. Please join us for this celebration of all that God continues to do through our church as we take the next step towards becoming Boundless!

Christ United Methodist Church
410 North Holden Road
Greensboro, NC 27410

Christ United Methodist Church

410 North Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
christgreensboro.org | Facebook.com/ChristGreensboro

Christ Church on the Radio: 101.7 WDFC-FM (*11am service broadcast live on Sundays*)

Interested in joining the church? Please contact Susan Pabon, Clergy Administrative Assistant (spabon@christgreensboro.org), in the Church Office for more information.

Office Hours 9am–4pm, Monday – Friday

Church Phone (336) 299-1571 | **Church Fax** (336) 299-7866

Reservation Line (336) 299-1571 ext. 333

Pastoral Care Emergency Line (After office hours and weekends)

(336) 337-5633

Pastoral Staff

Morris Brown, Senior Pastor

Louis Timberlake, Executive Pastor

Virginia Reynolds, Associate Pastor

Alice Kunka, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation

Mark Vickers, Associate Pastor and Lead Pastor at St. Timothy's UMC