

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**April 19, 2026**  
3rd Sunday of Easter

### Sunday, April 19

6:00AM to 2:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
8:00AM to 5:00PM	Restoration Community Church	Gym MP
9:45AM to 10:30AM	Sunday School	FLC/Ed. Bldg.
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

### Monday, April 20

### Tuesday, April 21

2:00PM to 3:00PM	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
5:00PM to 8:30PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
7:00PM to 8:00PM	VBS Planning Meeting	Google Meet

### Wednesday, April 22

10:00AM to 12:00PM	Wednesday Moming Bible Study	Parlors
6:00PM to 8:00PM	Girl Scouts	Wesley Bldg.
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars Basketball	Gym
8:00PM to 9:00PM	Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous	Epworth Building

### Thursday, April 23

5:00PM to 9:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
5:30PM to 8:30PM	Community Sports Night	Gym
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
7:00PM to 8:30PM	Therapy of the Soul Rehearsal	FWC

### Friday, April 24

6:00PM to 7:00PM	Fast and Prayer	Epworth Building
7:00PM to 9:00PM	Historias que Transforman Vidas	Trinity Room

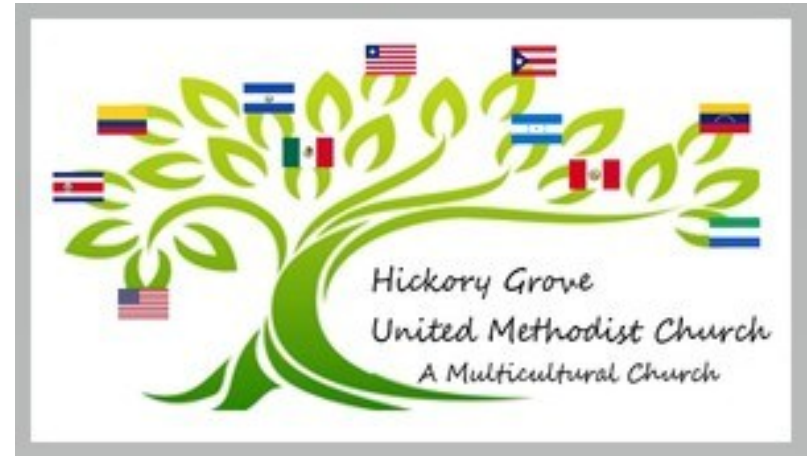
### Saturday, April 25

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
10:00AM to 12:00PM	WeCare Food Pantry	
10:00AM to 2:00PM	Latino Seniors Meeting	Trinity Room
10:00AM to 2:00PM	Girl Scouts	Epworth
12:00PM to 1:00PM	African Ministry Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
12:00PM to 9:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
1:00PM to 3:00PM	Girl Scouts	Susanna Wesley Bldg.

### Sunday, April 26

6:00AM to 2:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
8:00AM to 5:00PM	Restoration Community Church	Gym MP
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

# Hickory Grove United Methodist Church



## **A Multicultural United Methodist Church Spreading the Branches of God's Love**

**6401 Hickory Grove Road ♦ Charlotte, North Carolina 28215**

**Office: 704-537-4686**

**Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am - 12:15pm**

**[www.hickorygroveumc.com](http://www.hickorygroveumc.com)**

**Facebook: Hickory Grove UMC**

Welcome! If you are new or visiting, please fill out a Connection Card located in the back of the pew or chair and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher so we can connect!

***This Order of Worship is subject to change at the  
direction of THE HOLY SPIRIT!***

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional Service: 9:00 AM (Sanctuary)  
Sunday School for all Ages: 10:00 AM (FLC and Education Bldg.)  
Contemporary Service: 11:00 AM (Family Worship Center)  
African Service: 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)  
Afternoon Adult Bible Study (Spanish) : 1:00 PM (FLC 2nd Floor- 203)  
Latino Service: 2:00 PM (Family Worship Center)

## Church Staff

**Rev. Caitlin Lai**  
*Senior Pastor*  
clai@hgumc.com  
704-954-8096

**Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris**  
*Associate & African Ministries Pastor*  
cmorris@hgumc.com  
704-904-8023

**Sharon Freeze**  
*Preschool Director*  
preschool@hgumc.com  
704-537-4658

**Elizabeth Stribling**  
*Office Administrator*  
estribling@hgumc.com  
704-537-4686

**Rev. Candido Albino**  
*Assistant & Latino Ministries Pastor*  
calbino@hgumc.com  
704-995-2302

**Hassan Sankary**  
*Director of Music & Organist*  
HSankary@hgumc.com  
704-517-1056

**Matthew Baucom**  
*Maintenance*  
maintenance@hgumc.com  
704-537-4686

**Patrice Wesley**  
*Financial Secretary*  
pwesley@hgumc.com  
704-537-4686

## Daily Scripture Readings

Mon., April 20: Psalm 134      Thurs., April 23: Psalm 23  
Tues., April 21: Proverbs 8:32-9:6      Fri., April 24: Exodus 3:16-22,  
Wed., April 22: John 21:1-14      Sat., April 25: Luke 15:1-7

## Prayer

Creator God, as you draw us closer to you, draw us closer to each other.  
Amen.

**April 12, 2026**

Total Worship Attendance: 142

Sunday School Attendance: 37

Offering: \$20,312.50

*Please scan the QR code for online giving*



## Prayer Requests

### **Church Family**

Ray and Brenda Cathey  
Sandy and Ronnie Oaten  
Kathleen Robinson  
The Family of Floyd Sistrunk  
Chap and Nokie Tuttle  
Gary Little  
Mary Martin  
Don and Linda Wigley  
Sam and Rita Leggett  
Claudia Waddell  
Pete and Nancy Scercy  
Shem Logan  
Margaret Norwood  
Ron, Sr. and Ron, Jr. Spivey

**\*Bold lettering: Prayer Request added/updated this week.**

### **Family and Friends**

Ryan Edwards  
(Son of Jennifer Stribling's friend,  
Elizabeth Edwards)  
Rick Frye  
(Brother of Sandy Oaten)  
Carol Garrett  
(Rev. Elinor Heerman's  
Sister)  
Lila Dye,  
(Dianne Horton's mother)

## Additional Announcement

### **Financial Need: Note from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell**

Hi Friends, Unfortunately, we have had a couple of unexpected expenses arise. We had to replace the windows in the Parsonage. I know it seems like the house was built just a few years ago, but it was 1991. It was time to replace and not continue to repair. The cost to replace is \$29,985. In addition, we had to replace an AC unit in the Preschool building. Again, time to replace and not repair. The cost is \$20,900. So now we could use some additional financial assistance. These were not anticipated expenses and they were not in our budget. If you can give a little extra to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Please note these donations to the "Building Repair and Maintenance" fund. If you desire, you can also note the donation is for the Parsonage Windows or AC Unit. God bless you and thank you for all you do for HGUMC.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2026 Graduates!

We will be celebrating our 2026 graduates on Sunday June 7th. Please send us the name, school, a photo and post-grad plans, if available by May 20th to the church office. These students will also be shared in our June edition of Grove Echoes.

### VBS Planning Meeting

The VBS Planning Meeting will be Tuesday April 21st at 7pm via Google Meet. If you need the link, please contact Pastor Caitlin.

### Save the Date!

Monday August 3 - Wednesday August 5 for Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School!

### Next Children & Youth Lunch

Mark your calendars for lunch on Sunday May 3 in the Parlors! Youth will be meeting with special guest Liz Holloway, the therapist that meets right here on our campus, for Mental Health Awareness Month. Children will have a separate lesson about emotions and feelings. Reach out to the church office or Lori Kodikara with any questions.

### Monthly Fasting & Prayer Gathering

We are excited to announce the return of our Monthly Fasting and Prayer, hosted by the African Ministry. We warmly invite everyone to join us for this special time of seeking God together, beginning at 12:00 AM on April 24, 2026, and concluding at 7:00 PM. The fast will culminate in a powerful time of prayer and thanksgiving at 7:00 PM in the Epworth Building.

### Financial Secretary Opening

HGUMC is looking for a part-time Financial Secretary as Patrice moves on to pursue her accounting career. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Mary English-Tri at maryalison.english@gmail.com or 843-862-3603.

### Call to Action: Potential Data Center in East Charlotte

American Tower Corporation, a multibillion-dollar real estate firm, wants to build a 50,000 sq ft data center off Hood Road in East Charlotte. Data centers are industrial projects that drive up utility bills, strain infrastructure, and pollute the surrounding neighborhood. As United Methodist Christians, we seek to protect God's good creation and seek the flourishing of all of our neighbors (Jer. 29:7). You can make your voice heard by joining the upcoming City Council zoning meeting to speak out against the data center at 5pm on Monday April 20th at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center and/or sign the online petition.

## 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Call to Worship

Channing Kirkpatrick

**Leader:** Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

**Congregation: Alleluia!**

**Leader:** By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

**Congregation: Alleluia!**

**Leader:** By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

**Congregation: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn

“The Old Rugged Cross”

UMH#504

\*Apostles Creed

UMH #881

\*Gloria Patri

UMH #70

\*Passing of the Peace

Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

\*Doxology

UMH#95

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

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem

Choir

Scripture

1 Peter 1:17-19

Message

Closing Hymn

“Because He Lives”

Rev. Caitlin Lai

UMH#364

Benediction

Postlude

\*please stand as you are able, in body and spirit

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*Songs	“Stand In Your Love” “I Will Follow”	
Welcome and Announcements		Jennifer Scoggins
*Passing of the Peace		
*Song	“Jesus I’m On My Way”	
Joys and Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Caitlin Lai
*Song	“It is Well”	
Scripture	1 Peter 1:17-19	
Message		Rev. Caitlin Lai
*Song	“Open The Eyes Of My Heart”	
Benediction		
*Dismissal with Blessing		

\*Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit

***You are invited to respond to God financially by giving back to God a portion of what God has given to you. Please place your offering in the plate by the FWC entrance and talk to a pastor on how you can serve. Blank Offering Envelopes are available in the foyer.***

## 2:00 PM LATINO SERVICE

Bienvenida y Anuncios	
Salmo	
*Alabanza y Adoración	
Escritura	
Sermon y Invitación a Cristo	Rev. Candido Albino
Ofrenda	
*Benedición	

## 11:00 AM AFRICAN SERVICE

Lighting of the Candles		
Prelude		Hassan Sankary
Liturgist		Precious Gibson
Praise Song		Praise Team
Welcome		Pastor Morris
*Opening Prayer and Call to Worship		Kaniis Morris
<b>Leader:</b>	On the road of life, we are never alone.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>For even when we do not recognize Him, Christ walks beside us.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	In moments of doubt, confusion, and weariness—	
<b>People:</b>	<b>He draws near and speaks peace to our hearts.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	When our eyes are blinded by grief or uncertainty—	
<b>People:</b>	<b>He reveals Himself in ways that stir our souls.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked with us along the way?	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Yes! Our hearts are awakened by His presence and His Word.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Come, let us walk with Him in this moment of worship.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>We will open our hearts, that we may see Him clearly.</b>	
<b>All:</b>	<b>For this is a walk we will never forget—A walk filled with revelation, renewal, and resurrection power!</b>	
*Opening Hymn	“Because He Lives”	UMH #364
*Apostles Creed		UMH #881
*Gloria Patri		UMH #70
Joys and Concerns		Mya Roberts
Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People		Mya Roberts
*Passing of the Peace		
Offering		
*Doxology		UMH#95
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
Offertory Prayer		Blessing Tyler
Praise & Worship		Praise Team
Scripture Lesson	Luke 12:13-35	Blessing Tyler
Selection		Choir
Sermon	“A Walk To Remember”	Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris
Call to Christian Discipleship		Pastor Morris
Announcements/Community Concerns		Precious Gibson
Closing Song		Praise Team
*Dismissal with Blessing		
Postlude		Hassan Sankary