

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 16

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

### Monday, August 17

### Tuesday, August 18

|                  |                        |                      |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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              |

### Wednesday, August 19

|                    |                                   |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 10:00AM to 12:00PM | Wednesday Morning Bible Study     | Parlors          |
| 6:00PM to 8:00PM   | Girl Scouts                       | Wesley Building  |
| 8:00PM to 9:00PM   | Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous | Epworth Building |

### Thursday, August 20

|                  |                                    |                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 8:00PM | Therapy of the Soul Band Rehearsal | FWC                  |

### Friday, August 21

|                  |                      |              |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 7:00PM to 9:00PM | Latino Men's Meeting | Trinity Room |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------|

### Saturday, August 22

|                   |                                  |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8:00AM to 5:00PM  | Quilting Ministry                | Wesley Rooms 205-206 |
| 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. |
| 5:30PM to 11:00PM | Private Event                    | Gym, Gym Kitchen     |

### Sunday, August 23

|                  |                              |                  |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 6:00AM to 2:00PM | St. Mary Ethiopian Church    | Chapel           |
| 8:00AM to 5:00PM | Restoration Community Church | Gym MP           |
| 2:00PM to 4:00PM | Back to School Jamboree      | Gym, Gym Kitchen |
| 7:00PM to 8:00PM | Alcoholics Anonymous         | Epworth Building |

### UWF Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 12 - WNCC UWFaith Annual Celebration at St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC. Online registration is now open. Check out the Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith website for details and registration.

**August 16, 2026**  
12th Sunday after Pentecost

# 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**

**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*  
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### **Sharon Freeze**

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### **Elizabeth Stribling**

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### **Rev. Candido Albino**

*Assistant & Latino Ministries Pastor*  
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### **Hassan Sankary**

*Director of Music & Organist*  
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### **Matthew Baucom**

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### **Patrice Wesley**

*Financial Secretary*  
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704-537-4686

## Daily Scripture Readings

|                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mon., Aug. 17: Psalm 130        | Thurs., Aug. 20: Psalm 124         |
| Tues., Aug. 18: Genesis 44:1-34 | Fri., Aug. 21: Genesis 49:29-50:14 |
| Wed., Aug. 19: Matthew 8:1-13   | Sat., Aug. 22: Matthew 16:5-12     |

## Prayer

God of abundance, you provide us with so many good things. Let us be good stewards of our resources so that we can not only have a taste of your abundance, but share it with others. Amen.

**August 9, 2026**

Total Worship Attendance: 154

Sunday School Attendance: 40

Offering: \$7,318.00

*Please scan the QR code for online giving*



## Prayer Requests

### Church Family

#### **Jean Long**

Hayne Baucom  
Desmond Turner  
Jennifer Scoggins  
Brenda and Ray Cathey  
Sandy and Ronnie Oaten  
Kathleen Robinson  
Chap 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**

### Family and Friends

Donna and Bill Benson  
(Aunt and Uncle of Jennifer Stribling, Great Aunt and Uncle of Elizabeth and Jocelyn Stribling)  
Ed Beaver (Rick Beaver's brother)  
Rick Frye (Brother of Sandy Oaten)  
Carol Garrett (Rev. Elinor Heerman's Sister)  
Lila Dye (Dianne Horton's mother)

## Additional Announcements

### Request from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell

Hello friends, Once again, we have had unexpected expenses arise. We have an older facility and as all homeowners know, the components do not last a lifetime. We now have had to replace the AC units in the Epworth Building and the Multi Purpose Room in the Gym. In addition, one of our commercial ice makers has had to be replaced. The total cost of these three items total approximately \$27,000. We are asking you, our faithful congregation, to do what you can to assist in the payment of these unanticipated expenses. Anything you can provide 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 AC units and Ice maker. God bless you and thank you again for all you do for Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

### Snack Pack

It may be summer, but your monetary donations are welcome year-round for our Snack pack program. We always like to be ready right after Labor Day to send over our first set of bags. Thanks to all who help keep this ministry going.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Book Study: "Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace"

Join Pastor Caitlin and friends on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Trinity room to study "Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace" by Lacey Warner from August 19-September 23 to gain a deeper understanding of Wesleyan Christianity. Participants may purchase the book on their own on Cokesbury or Amazon, and are expected to read the first chapter before our first session on August 19th. If you need assistance in purchasing the book, please contact the church office.

### Back to School Jamboree

Please join the African Ministries, in collaboration with LIBAC (Liberian Community Association in Charlotte) on Sunday August 23rd from 2pm to 4pm for a Back to School Jamboree. There will be music, school supplies, games, and prayer. Join Us!

### UWF Craft Day

You are invited to an afternoon of fellowship and crafts. On Saturday, August 29 from 1-3pm in the Trinity Room, a group will meet to make about 20 "prayer quilts" as Christmas gifts for Hickory Grove's shut-ins and any others you feel would like to have one. The prayer quilts are about 5 by 5 inches and you hold it while you pray. We will have sewing machines and if you have some thread or cloth you want to bring and a pair of scissors, any of those could be used. Even if you are not skilled at sewing, we will come together to see what each of us can do to help complete this project!

### Serve at WeCare

Grow in the spiritual discipline of service by volunteering at our WeCare Food Pantry & Clothing closet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10am -12pm. **Please make sure your donations are non-perishable.** They are in need of green beans, corn, jelly, carrots, pork n beans, all types of other beans, and cake mix. Anything you can give is appreciated!

### Back To School Drive for HGES

The Back To School Drive is about to begin. We are in need of sneakers (small kid's sizes 11-13 & 1-3), uniforms (blue or khaki pants/white or blue short sleeve shirts (Sizes 4 - 10 most needed), Play-Doh, and belts (small sizes). Please put donations in the teal bins in the church office or FWC lobby.

### S. T. Nagbe UMC Distant Members Gathering for 2026

The African Ministries warmly welcomes our sisters and brothers of the S. T. Nagbe Distant Members Fellowship in the Americas and Other Regions to HGUMC for their Fellowship Gathering, September 4-6, 2026. The weekend's activities will begin on Friday with assisting with the WeCare ministry from 9:00am to 10:30am. The day will conclude with an evening of praise and worship in the FWC from 7:00-10:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Fellowship will hold its business session and election of officers, followed by an evening banquet. The celebration will come to a climax on Sunday with a divine worship service at 11:00 a.m.

## 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Call to Worship

Bob Young

*From Isaiah 56*

**Leader:** Through the prophet Isaiah, God declares "My house share be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

\*Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

UMH#545

\*Apostles Creed

UMH#881

\*Gloria Patri

UMH#70

\*Passing of the Peace

Joys And Concerns

Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Colston Morris

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

Matthew 15: 10-28

Message

Closing Hymn

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Benediction

UMH#57 (v. 1-5)

Postlude

Rev. Caitlin Lai

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

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

\*Songs "Refiners Fire"  
"Breathe" Rev. Caitlin Lai

Welcome and Announcements

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Song "What Faith Can Do"

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Caitlin Lai

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.

\*Song "Ever Be"

Scripture Matthew 15: 10-28

Message Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Song "I Speak Jesus"

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 Davina Early

Call to Worship Blessing Tyler

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the God who knows us completely and sees beyond what others see.

**People: We come before God with open and honest hearts.**

**Leader:** Jesus reminds us that what comes from within us reveals what is in our hearts.

**People: Lord, search our hearts and make us clean.**

**Leader:** Let us lay down our pride, our anger, our unforgiveness, and everything that keeps us from fully trusting God.

**People: Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Leader:** And like the woman who came to Jesus with persistent faith, let us come believing that God is able.

**People: We come with faith, humility, and expectation.**

**Leader:** Come, church, let us worship the Lord with all our hearts!

**People: We will worship the Lord with our whole hearts!**

\*Opening Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" UMH#89

\*Apostles Creed UMH#881

\*Gloria Patri UMH#70

\*Joys and Concerns Arlette Nimley

Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People Arlette Nimley

\*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

Praise & Worship

Scripture Lesson Matthew 15:10-28

Selection

Sermon "What's In Your Heart" 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

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

***You are invited to respond to God financially by giving back to God a portion of what God has given to us. Blank Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.***