

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 30

|                  |                              |                  |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 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, September 1

### Tuesday, September 2

|                  |                        |                      |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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, September 3

|                  |                                   |                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 6:00PM to 8:00PM | Girl Scouts                       | Wesley Building  |
| 7:00PM to 8:00PM | Knowing Who We Are Study          | Trinity Room     |
| 8:00PM to 9:00PM | Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous | Epworth Building |

### Thursday, September 4

|                   |                                    |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8:30AM to 12:30PM | Preschool Open House               | Preschool Hallway    |
| 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, September 5

|                   |                          |     |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 4:00PM to 10:00PM | S.T. Nagbe UMC and HGUMC | FWC |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----|

### Saturday, September 6

|                   |                                  |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8:00AM to 5:00PM  | Quilting Ministry                | Wesley Rooms 205-206 |
| 9:00AM to 1:00PM  | African Venue Basketball         | Gym                  |
| 9:00AM to 2:00PM  | S.T. Nagbe UMC and HGUMC         | FWC                  |
| 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, September 2

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

**August 30, 2026**  
14th 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](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*  
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704-537-4658

### **Elizabeth Stribling**

*Office Administrator*  
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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*  
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704-537-4686

### **Patrice Wesley**

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

## **Daily Scripture Readings**

Mon., Aug. 31: Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18    Thurs., Sept 3: Psalm 149  
Tues., Sept. 1: Exodus 5:1-6:13    Fri., Sept. 4: Exodus 10:21-29  
Wed., Sept. 2: Matthew 12:22-32    Sat., Sept. 5: Matthew 23:29-36

## **Prayer**

Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is your power and your understanding is beyond measure. Amen. — Augustine (Inspired by Psalm 145 & 147)

**August 23, 2026**

Total Worship Attendance: 162

Sunday School Attendance: 31

Offering: \$3,526.00

*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**

The Family and Friends of Rick Frye (Brother of Sandy Oaten)  
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)  
Carol Garrett (Rev. Elinor Heerman's Sister)  
Lila Dye (Dianne Horton's mother)

## **Additional Announcement**

### **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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Snack Pack

Hickory Grove Elementary started back to school this week! SNACK Pack needs your HELP! Their account was at zero the end of July. The program has about \$1,000 now to start the school year. One shopping trip to Sam's Club can cost around \$700 and that might last roughly 3 weeks. The prices of food items continue to rise. Every week 48 kids are sent home with 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 dinner items and 4 snacks. Please pray fully consider donating to SNACK pack this week. You will be serving our neighbors and community kids. If you have any questions or would like to donate your time to help call or text Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520.

### 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. Participants are expected to read the third chapter before our next session.

### Children/Youth Lunch

There will be a children/youth lunch on September 20th from 12:30pm-2pm in the Parlors and the Trinity Room.

### 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.

### Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Festival! It will take place on Saturday October 17th from 12pm-3pm. Our next planning meeting will be September 8 at 7pm via Google Meet. You can access the meeting via the church calendar or the weekly email.

## 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Call to Worship

Fred Parker

*From Psalm 26*

**Leader:** Sing a song of thanksgiving.

**Congregation: Declare God's wondrous deeds.**

**Leader:** for the Lord dwells among the people;

**Congregation: the glory of God abides with us.**

\*Opening Prayer

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Opening Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH#577

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 16: 21-28

Message

Closing Hymn

"I am Thine, O Lord"

Rev. Caitlin Lai

UMH#419

Benediction

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Postlude

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

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

\*Songs "How Great is Our God"  
 "Your Love Never Fails" Rev. Caitlin Lai

Welcome and Announcements

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Song "My Reward"

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 "Good, Good Father"

Scripture Matthew 16: 21-28 Rev. Caitlin Lai

Message

\*Song "Everlasting God"

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

### Praise and Worship Service

Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Hassan Sankary

Liturgist Musu Badio

Praise Song Praise Team

Welcome Pastor Morris

\*Opening Prayer/Call to Worship Lily Kamara

*From Psalm 105*

**Leader:** Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His name!

**People: We will make known His mighty works and praise His holy name!**

**Leader:** Let us remember all that God has done for us.

**People: We will rejoice in the Lord and worship Him with grateful hearts!**

**All: O Lord, we seek Your presence today. Be glorified in our worship. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn "What A Friend We have In Jesus" UMH#526

\*Joys and Concerns Rosee Nimley

Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People Dauda Rhaman

\*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 Musu Badio

Praise & Worship Praise Team

Scripture Lesson Matthew 16:21-28 Nathalie Ejogu-Smart

Praise and Worship

Call to Christian Discipleship Pastor Morris

Announcements/Community Concerns Musu Badio

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.***