

December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

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
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Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris
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Patrice Wesley
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Daily Scripture Readings

Mon., Dec. 15: Psalm 42	Thurs., Dec. 18: Psalm 80:1-7
Tues., Dec. 16: Ezekiel 47:1-12	Fri., Dec. 19: 2 Samuel 7:18-22
Wed., Dec. 17: Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34	Sat., Dec. 20: John 3:31-36

Prayer

O God, I want nothing more than to simply be with you. As I bask in the light of your presence, mold me into Christlikeness so that I can bear your light into the world. Amen.

December 7, 2025

Total Worship Service Attendance: 157
Sunday School Attendance: 43
Offering: \$12,575.17 Online: \$95.68
Please scan the QR code for online giving



Prayer Requests

Church Family **Chap and Nokie Tuttle** **Ronnie Oaten**

The Family of Patty Marks
Jim Barker
The Family of Pilar Perez &
Candido Albino
Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Gary Little
Mary Martin
Don and Linda Wigley
Sam and Rita Leggett
Kathleen Robinson
Brenda Cathey
Claudia Waddell
Pete and Nancy Scercy
Shem Logan
Margaret Norwood
Ron, Sr. and Ron, Jr. Spivey
Lana Freeman

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

Message from Randy Bunnell: Finance Chair

Hi Friends,
We are coming to the close of our fiscal year and unfortunately find ourselves not meeting our budget. I'm praying December is a better month and we can catch up. Thankfully, we are not too far behind with either the General Fund or the Building Fund. The General Fund is approximately \$20,000 behind budget and the Building Fund is approximately \$10,000 behind budget. Therefore, if you are looking to make a donation to balance out your tax season, need to make a donation to honor your annual pledge or just love our Lord and Hickory Grove United Methodist Church, please consider making an end of year donation to the Building Fund or the General Fund. If you can give a little extra to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Please note these donations to the fund you wish to support. God bless you and thank you for all you do for Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Luncheon

Join us for a special Christmas luncheon in the FWC after today's service as we celebrate the season of Christmas!

Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Holy Communion

Join us on Christmas Eve at 4pm in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! We will lift our voices in song and share together in Holy Communion. Come experience the hope, joy, and light of this holy night.

Watch Night Service

Join us for a celebration of ringing in 2026! The service will be Wednesday December 31st at 9pm (FWC)

WECARE: Food Needs

Thank you for your support! Please help us restock the shelves at WeCare: peas, green beans, corn, pork & beans. Our WeCare Food Pantry and Clothing Closet will be closed until January.

Room in the Inn

RITI is about to start again! The basic goal is to keep our neighbors and guests from the Roof Above organization from freezing on cold winter nights. We support this ministry with a variety of different roles while our guests are with us. These roles include drivers, innkeepers (spend the night with our friends), cooks, set up the Gym, provide snacks and clean up the Gym the next morning. The dates we will be hosting our guests this season are December 18th, January 15th, February 19th and March 19th. If you see a role that appeals to you and would like to help us, please contact Randy Bunnell @ 704-905-6177.

Staff Love Offering

From SPRC: It is that time of year when we express our thanks for the staff we have here at HGUMC. Please send in your Love Offering as soon as possible. Mark your gift as "Love Offering." Thanks!

SNACK PACK

The holidays are coming up and Snack Pack needs your help!. It costs \$2000 per holiday, Thanksgiving and Christmas, for a total of \$4,000 that is needed for Snack pack food lion gift cards. It is now more important than ever to help families in need. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520

Vaccination Event

HGUMC and the Mecklenburg County Health Department are teaming up to offer a free vaccination event for the community! If you would like to receive a vaccination for flu or COVID, please come out! The event will take place January 10th, 2026 from 9am to 2pm in the Trinity Room. If you have any questions, contact Pilar Perez at 704-995-1471.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 14

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 Basketball	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

Monday, December 15

7:00PM to 9:00PM	Latino Dance Group Practice	Youth Room
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Tuesday, December 16

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 9:00PM	Latino Dance Group Practice	Youth Room

Wednesday, December 17

9:30AM to 11:30AM	ENLACE	Trinity Room and Foyer
10:00AM to 11:00AM	Insurance Meeting	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, December 18

5:00PM to 9:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
4:00PM to 12:00PM	Room In The Inn	Gym
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
7:00PM to 8:30PM	Therapy of the Soul Rehearsal	FWC

Friday, December 19

5:00PM to 7:00PM	Spirit Seekers Party	Trinity Room
1:00AM to 11:00AM	Room In the Inn	Gym

Saturday, December 20

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
9:00AM to 1:00PM	African Ministry Basketball	Gym
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, December 21

6:00AM to 2:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
8:00AM to 5:00PM	Restoration Community Church	Gym MP
12:00PM to 7:00PM	Latino Ministry Christmas Celebration	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

11AM COMBINED SERVICE

Lighting of the Candles/Encendido de las Velas

Prelude/Preludio Hassan Sankary

Welcome and Announcements/
Bienvenida y Anuncios Rev. Caitlin Lai

Introduction of Cantata and Nativity Play/
Introducción de la Cantata y el Nacimiento Hassan Sankary

*Call to Worship/Llamado a la Adoración: Rev. Colston Morris

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

Congregation: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

Congregation: Holy is God's name!

Líder: Mi alma engrandece al Señor;

Congregación: Mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi Salvador.

Líder: El Poderoso ha hecho grandes cosas.

Congregación: ¡Santo es el nombre de Dios!

Opening Prayer/Rezo Inicia Rev. Colston Morris

*Passing of the Peace/Transmisión de la Paz

Lighting of the Advent Candle/
Encendido de la vela de Adviento Lionel Rivera

O Holy Night: A Christmas Cantata and Nativity Play

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Comfort Ye My People

Behold A Virgin Shall Conceive

O Come, O Come Emanuel

Mary Did You Know

Silent Night, Holy Night

Angels We Have Heard On High

Away In A Manger

Offering/Ofrecimiento Rev. Candido Albino

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Handbells) HGUMC Youth

11AM COMBINED SERVICE

*Doxology/Doxología

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

A Dios, el Padre celestial, al Hijo, nuestro Redentor, al eternal Consolador unidos todos alabad. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer/Oración del Ofertorio Rev. Candido Albino

Credits /Créditos Introduction of the Cast and Crew

Finale/Final O Holy Night

*Benediction/Bendición Rev. Caitlin Lai

*Postlude/Postludio Hassan Sankary

*Please stand, in body or in spirit

*Por favor, póngase de pie, en cuerpo o en espíritu.

Cast List/Lista de Reparto:

Caitlin Lai, Randy Bunnell, Sophina Nimley, Abraham Karva, Deborah Parker, Ed Locklin, Diane Locklin, Maria Portillo, Roger Chavez, Alex Kwiagaye, Isaac Zepu, Angel Mejia, Jackson Gonzalez, Candido Albino, HGUMC Youth and Children

Please join us after the service in the Family Worship Center for a special Christmas luncheon!

¡Únase a nosotros después del servicio en el Centro de Adoración Familiar para un almuerzo especial de Navidad!