

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 7

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.
12:00PM to 1:00PM	Children and Youth Meeting	FWC
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars Basketball	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

### Monday, December 8

1:00PM to 3:00PM	Group Lydia Meeting	Offsite
6:30PM to 8:00PM	WeCare Christmas Distribution	WeCare House
7:00PM to 9:00PM	Latino Dance Group Practice	Youth Room

### Tuesday, December 9

2:00PM to 3:00PM	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
5:00PM to 8:30PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
6:00PM to 8:00PM	Girl Scout Meck 7 Meeting	Epworth Building
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
7:00PM to 9:00PM	Latino Dance Group Practice	Youth Room

### Wednesday, December 10

9:00AM to 11:00AM	Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal	FWC
10:00AM to 12:00PM	Wednesday Morning 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, December 11

12:00PM to 4:00PM	Cokesbury/ Epworth Christmas Party	Trinity Room
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, December 12

9:00AM to 11:00AM	Preschool Christmas Program	FWC
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### Saturday, December 13

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.
3:00PM to 9:00PM	Birthday Party	Gym

### Sunday, December 14

6:00AM to 2:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
8:00AM to 5:00PM	Restoration Community Church	Gym MP
12:00PM to 1:00PM	Christmas Luncheon	FWC
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars Basketball	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

**December 7, 2025**  
2nd 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](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)  
Afternoon Children's Bible Study: 1:00 PM (Asbury 2nd Floor—205)  
Afternoon Youth Bible Study: 1:00 PM (Asbury 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - 209)  
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*  
maintenance@hgumc.com  
704-537-4686

### **Patrice Wesley**

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

## **Daily Scripture Readings**

Mon., Dec. 8: Psalm 21      Thurs., Dec. 11: Psalm 146:5-10  
Tues., Dec. 9: Isaiah 41:14-20      Fri., Dec. 12: Ruth 4:13-17  
Wed., Dec. 10: Matthew 12:33-37      Sat., Dec. 13: Luke 3:1-18

## **Prayer**

God you are with us. You come to us exposed and vulnerable, but you still live with us in the dark, hollow, and terrifying places. We find our strength in your willingness to be weak with us. Give us the courage to share our own weakness with others. Amen.

**November 30, 2025**

Total Worship Service Attendance: 105  
Offering: \$10,427.01  
*Please scan the QR code for online giving*



## **Prayer Requests**

### **Church Family**

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  
Ronnie Oaten  
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**

### **Combined Service Christmas Cantata**

You will not want to miss it! December 14 at 11am in the Sanctuary.

### **Children and Youth Meeting**

Children and youth are meeting after church TODAY for Christmas Play rehearsal and pizza. Please plan on attending. We will have another rehearsal on Saturday 12/13 at 11am. See you there!

### **Combined Christmas Eve service**

Let's worship as one church as we await the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The service will start at 4pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday December 24th.

### **Christmas Luncheon**

Join us for a special Christmas luncheon in the FWC as we celebrate the season on Sunday December 14th following our combined service Christmas Cantata!

### **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**

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.

### **WeCare Christmas Distribution**

WeCare will be distributing the WeCare Christmas boxes Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30. If you are able to help take boxes to cars, please come to the WeCare house on one of those days!

### **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

## **9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Call to Worship

Channing Kirkpatrick

**Leader:** Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place.

**Congregation: As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.**

\*Opening Hymn

"Come Thou Almighty King"

UMH#61

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Glenn and Susan Bailey

Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Message

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Holy Communion

UMH 12-15

Invitation, Confession and Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this Holy Mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of Your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

\*Closing Hymn

"Bread Of The World"

UMH#624

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

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

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

\*Songs "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman"  
"Love Came Down At Christmas"

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle Mary English-Tri and Family

\*Song "Mary Did You Know"

Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 11: 1-10

Message Rev. Caitlin Lai

Holy Communion UMH 12-15

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup "God Is With Us"

\*Song "O Come All Ye Faithful"

\*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

Holy Communion

Ofrenda

\*Benedición

## 11:00 AM AFRICAN SERVICE

Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Hassan Sankary

Liturgist Alex Jon Kwiagaye

Praise Song Praise Team

Welcome Pastor Morris

\*Opening Prayer and Call to Worship Bonice Teeta Cooper

**Leader:** Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place.

**Congregation: As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy**

\*Opening Hymn "Wonderful Words Of Life" UMH#600

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Morris Family

Joys and Concerns Alex Jon Kwiagaye

Call to Prayer/Pastoral Prayer Alex Jon Kwiagaye

\*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 Lily Kamara

Praise & Worship Praise Team

Scripture Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 Mya Roberts

Selection Choir

Sermon "Prepare The Way For Peace" Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris

Holy Communion UMH 12-15

Call to Christian Discipleship Pastor Morris

Announcements/Community Concerns Geraldine Barchue

Closing Song Praise Team

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude Hassan Sankary

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