

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 18

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, January 19

2:00PM to 3:00PM	Group Lydia Meeting	Trinity Room
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### Tuesday, January 20

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, January 21

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
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Grounded in Gratitude	Trinity Room
8:00PM to 9:00PM	Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous	Epworth Building

### Thursday, January 22

5:00PM to 9:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
7:00PM to 8:30PM	Therapy of the Soul Rehearsal	FWC
5:30PM to 7:00PM	Habitat for Humanity Community Meeting	Epworth Building

### Friday, January 23

### Saturday, January 24

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
9:00AM to 1:00PM	African Ministry Basketball	Gym
10:00AM to 11:00AM	Memorial Service for Linda Logan	Sanctuary
11:00AM to 12:00PM	Visitation for Linda Logan	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, January 25

6:00AM to 2:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
8:00AM to 5:00PM	Restoration Community Church	Gym MP
2:00PM to 4:30PM	Equip and Connect Training	Forest Hill UMC
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

**January 18, 2026**

Human Relations Sunday

# 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)

**January 11th, 2026**

Total Worship Service Attendance: 144

Sunday School Attendance: 37

Offering: \$5,902.87

*Please scan the QR code for online giving*



## **Prayer Requests**

### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Caitlin Lai**

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

**Rev. Candido Albino**

*Assistant & Latino Ministries Pastor*  
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**Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris**

*Associate & African Ministries Pastor*  
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**Hassan Sankary**

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**Sharon Freeze**

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**Matthew Baucom**

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**Elizabeth Stribling**

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**Patrice Wesley**

*Financial Secretary*  
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704-537-4686

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Mon., Jan. 19: Psalm 40:6-17	Thurs., Jan. 22: Psalm 27:1-6
Tues., Jan. 20: Isaiah 53:1-12	Fri., Jan. 23: 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8
Wed., Jan. 21: Matthew 9:14-17	Sat., Jan. 24: Luke 5:27-32

### **Prayer**

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors and all your creation, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Church Family**

The Family and Friends of Linda Logan  
Jacob Southern  
The Family of Ruth Perry  
Chap and Nokie Tuttle  
Ronnie Oaten  
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**

**Barbara Frye**

**(Mother of Sandy Oaten)**

Juda Stone (Great Grandson of Jim Barker)

(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.**

### **Metro District Deep South Pilgrimage**

The second annual Metro District Deep South Pilgrimage will take place April 9–12, 2026. You are invited to join us for this meaningful and inspiring trip. The cost is \$250 per person, which includes bus transportation, hotel accommodations, entrance fees to all sites, and a ticket to the play.

Itinerary Highlights: The Edmund Pettus Bridge, All three Equal Justice Initiative sites: The Legacy Museum, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and The Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, The Rosa Parks Museum, Lowndes Interpretive Center, The Civil Rights Memorial Park, Dexter Avenue Church and Parsonage, the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Monroeville

If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to the church office at office@hgumc.com or 704-537-4686 by Thursday January 22nd.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MLK Office Closure

The Church office will be closed on Monday January 19th in observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### Grounded in Gratitude: A 5 Week Study (Jan 14 - Feb 11)

Start the new year in a posture of gratitude with Pastor Caitlin in the Trinity Room on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Using scripture, emotions, questions, and personal stories, this study is designed to expand our understanding of gratitude, exploring how we may find elements to value even in the most difficult situations.

### Upper Room Devotional Update

Many have been asking about the Upper Room Devotional Guides for the months of January/ February. We have been having some issues getting in touch with the company about the current shipment and will most likely not be receiving them this month. Thank you for your understanding.

### Youth and Children Valentine's Event

The youth and children will have a Valentine's Day event on Sunday February 8th from 12:30 to 1:45. Lunch will be provided. Children will meet in the Trinity Room and Youth will meet in the Parlors.

### 2026 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Commemorative Service

Join the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church for Standing Strong and Moving Forward, our 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program. This special gathering will be a time of worship, reflection, and recommitment to the work of justice, love, and hope. Together, as followers of Christ and heirs of Dr. King's legacy, we will honor his life and renew our dedication to creating a better world. The service will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at University City UMC, Charlotte, NC

### Equip and Connect Training

Equip & Connect is designed for and open to all local church leaders serving as Lay Leaders, or on Church Councils, Trustees, Pastor Parish Relations Committees (PPRCs), or Finance Committees. Metro and Uwharrie's District Training will be January 25, 2026 from 2:00PM to 4:30PM at Forest Hill UMC in Concord. Connect with other leaders across your district and learn about roles, best practices, and new ideas for ministry! Please contact Pastor Caitlin if you have questions.

### Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times (Feb 18-Apr 1)

Join Pastor Caitlin in the Trinity Room on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Trinity Room. We'll be using Magrey DeVega's book "Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times" as our guide. You are invited to purchase the book in advance via amazon, or contact the church office if you need assistance. Participants are expected to read the first chapter before our first session on February 18th.

## 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

\*Call to Worship

Deborah Parker

**Leader:** Sing a new song, a song of thanks and praise,

**Congregation: for God has done wondrous deeds, and is great beyond compare!**

\*Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn

"Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

UMH#500

\*Apostles Creed

UMH #881

\*Gloria Patri

UMH #70

\*Passing of the Peace

Joys and Concerns

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 Corinthians 1:1-9

Message

Christian Relations

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Closing Hymn

"O Jesus I Have Promised"

UMH#396

Benediction

Postlude

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

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*Songs	“Goodness Of God” “Lead Me To The Cross”	
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Caitlin Lai
*Passing of the Peace		
*Song	“This I Believe”	
Joys and Concerns		
Prayers of the People		
*Song	“It Is Well”	
Scripture	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	
Message	Christian Relations	Rev. Caitlin Lai
*Song	“Miracle Child”	
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.***

### Contemporary Service Task Force

Pastor Caitlin is looking for partners in ministry to dream, offer input or feedback, and try new things for our 11am contemporary worship service. Is God calling you to serve our church in this way? Please reach out to Pastor Caitlin if you feel God's nudge!

## 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		Arlette Nimley
Praise Song		Praise Team
Welcome		Pastor Morris
*Opening Prayer and Call to Worship		Iseman Rupheme Yates
<b>Leader:</b> Children of God, who has God called you to be?		
<b>People: A light to all the nations!</b>		
<b>Leader:</b> When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?		
<b>People: A light to all the nations!</b>		
<b>Leader:</b> When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?		
<b>People: A light to all the nations!</b>		
<b>Leader:</b> When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?		
<b>People: A light to all the nations!</b>		
<b>Leader:</b> Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!		
<b>All: We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.</b>		
*Opening Hymn	“Trust And Obey”	UMH #467
*Apostles Creed		UMH #881
*Gloria Patri		UMH #70
Joys and Concerns		Alfred Nimley
Call to Prayer/ Prayers of the People		Kaniis Morris
*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		Davina Early
Praise & Worship		Praise Team
Scripture Lesson	Isaiah 49:1-7	Mya Roberts
Selection		Choir

Sermon	"Your Purpose"	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		