

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 4

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	Take Down Christmas Decorations	Sanctuary/ FWC
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars Basketball	Gym
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Epworth Building

Monday, January 5

7:00PM to 9:00PM	Latino Dance Group Practice	Youth Room
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Tuesday, January 6

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, January 7

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, January 8

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

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
9:00AM to 1:00PM	African Ministry Basketball	Gym
9:00AM to 2:00PM	Vaccination Event	Trinity Room and Foyer
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 11

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

January 4, 2025
2nd Sunday after Christmas

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
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Daily Scripture Readings

Mon., Jan. 5: Psalm 72	Thurs., Jan. 8: Psalm 29
Tues., Jan. 6: Ephesians 3:1-12	Fri., Jan. 9: 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a
Wed., Jan. 7: 1 Kings 10:1-13	Sat., Jan. 10: Acts 9:19b-31

Prayer

Creator God, Give me wisdom to learn from the blessings, stresses, and sorrows of all that lies behind, and give me the strength and hope to press on to what lies ahead.

December 24, 2025

Total Worship Service Attendance: 56
Offering: \$515.00

December 28, 2025

Total Worship Service Attendance: 125
Sunday School Attendance: 27
Offering: \$4,691.86



Prayer Requests

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
Juda Stone (Great Grandson of Jim Barker)
Melvin Adams(RITI)
Alan Bodenheimer and Family (RITI)
Tim McCluney(RITI)
Don Moore(RITI)
Mark Taylor (RITI)
Albert Wright(RITI)
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.**

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 Monday January 29th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Undecorate the Church!

Plan to stay after the Contemporary and African services, or arrive early before the Latino service to take down the Advent/Christmas decorations. We will start immediately after morning services TODAY!

SNACK Pack

Please consider making a financial donation to the SNACK pack program to help 48 Hickory Grove Elementary School students. We are also in need of regular sized plastic bags/grocery bags. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520.

WE CARE: Thank You!

Thank you to all who supported WeCare this year whether it was with your time, food donations or monetary donations. Your generous donations allowed us to provide food throughout the year and provide Christmas to 136 families. Thank you to all who donated their time, services, and donations into making WeCare a success during this season of uncertainty. God Bless!

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 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.

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.

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.

Out of the Office - Pastor Caitlin

Pastor Caitlin will be away this week for time with family. She will be back in the office on Monday January 12th. If you have an emergency and need a pastor, please contact Pastor Colston, Pastor Candido, or contact the church office.

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

*Call to Worship

Karen Richie

Leader: Grace to you and peace in this new year.

Congregation: We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Leader: In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

Congregation: We have been redeemed as God's own people.

Praise be to God!

*Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

UMH#189

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

Choir

Scripture

John 1: 1-18

Message

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Reaffirmation of Baptism

UMH#50-53

*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 of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

As you come forward to receive the elements, you are invited to touch the water in the baptismal font and make a sign of the cross on your forehead. Remember your baptism, and be renewed in the waters of God's grace.

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

"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

UMH#384

Benediction

Postlude

11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Caitlin Lai
*Songs	“Even So Come” “Everlasting God”
Joy and Concerns	
Pastoral Prayer	
*Song	“I Know A Name”
Scripture	John 1: 1-18
Message	
Reaffirmation of Baptism	
*Passing of the Peace	
The Great Thanksgiving	
The Lord's Prayer	
Breaking of the Bread	
Giving the Bread and Cup	“My Reward”
*Song	“The Lord Will Provide”
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
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	Alex-Jon Kwiagaye
Leader: Grace to you and peace in this new year.	
Congregation: We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.	
Leader: In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.	
Congregation: We have been redeemed as God's own people. Praise be to God!	
*Opening Hymn	“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” UMH#89
Call to Prayer/ Pastoral Prayer	Pastor 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	Alex-Jon Kwiagaye
Praise & Worship	Praise Team
Scripture Lesson	Ephesians 2:8-9 Bonice Teeta Cooper
Selection	Choir
Sermon "Your Grace and Mercy, Brought Me Through"	Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris
Holy Communion	UMH 12-15
Call to Christian Discipleship	Pastor Morris
Announcements/Community Concerns	Alex-Jon Kwiagaye
Closing Song	Praise Team
*Dismissal with Blessing	
Postlude	Hassan Sankary
*please stand as you are able, in body and spirit	