

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, May 17

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

### Monday, May 18

8:00AM to 1:00PM	Preschool Water Fun Days	Courtyard
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### Tuesday, May 19

8:00AM to 1:00PM	Preschool Water Fun Days	Courtyard
2:00PM to 3:00PM	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Admin Council Meeting	Virtual
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	Historias que Transforman Vidas	Trinity Room

### Wednesday, May 20

8:00AM to 1:00PM	Preschool Water Fun Days	Courtyard
10:00AM to 12:00PM	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Parlors
6:00PM to 8:00PM	Girl Scouts	Wesley Building
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars Basketball	Gym
8:00PM to 9:00PM	Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous	Epworth Building

### Thursday, May 21

8:00AM to 1:00PM	Preschool Water Fun Days	Courtyard
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, May 22

3:00PM to 7:00PM	Wedding Reception Setup	Gym
7:00PM to 10:00PM	Wedding Rehearsal;	Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 23

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
12:00PM to 5:00PM	Wedding	Sanctuary
5:00PM to 10:00PM	Wedding Reception	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, May 24

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

May 17, 2026

7th Sunday of Easter, Ascension 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)

## Church Staff

**Rev. Caitlin Lai**  
*Senior Pastor*  
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**Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris**  
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**Rev. Candido Albino**  
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**Hassan Sankary**  
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**Patrice Wesley**  
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704-537-4686

## Daily Scripture Readings

Mon., May 18: Psalm 99  
Tues., May 19: Numbers 16:41-50  
Wed., May 20: John 3:31-36  
Thurs., May 21: Psalm 33:12-22  
Fri., May 22: Exodus 19:16-25  
Sat., May 23: Matthew 5:1-12

## Prayer

God, in you all things are loved. When I see myself, may I see your love for me. When I see my neighbor, may I see your love for them. May I learn to love all beings as much as you do. Amen.

**May 10, 2026**

Total Worship Attendance: 139  
Sunday School Attendance: 36  
Offering: \$2,417.34



*Please scan the QR code for online giving*

## Prayer Requests

### **Church Family**

The Family of Travis Bunn  
Ray and Brenda Cathey  
Sandy and Ronnie Oaten  
Kathleen Robinson  
Chap and Nokie 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 added/updated this week.**

### **Family and Friends**

**The Family of Harold Overcash (Father of Sharon Freeze)**  
**Ed Beaver (Rick Beaver's brother)**  
Rick Frye  
(Brother of Sandy Oaten)  
Carol Garrett  
(Rev. Elinor Heerman's Sister)  
Lila Dye,  
(Dianne Horton's mother)

## Additional Announcements

### **Financial Need: Note from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell**

Hi Friends, Unfortunately, we have had a couple of unexpected expenses arise. We had to replace the windows in the Parsonage. I know it seems like the house was built just a few years ago, but it was 1991. It was time to replace and not continue to repair. The cost to replace is \$29,985. In addition, we had to replace an AC unit in the Preschool building. Again, time to replace and not repair. The cost is \$20,900. So now we could use some additional financial assistance. These were not anticipated expenses and they were not in our budget. If you can give a little extra to help, it 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 the Parsonage Windows or AC Unit. God bless you and thank you for all you do for HGUMC.

### **Memorial Day Closure**

The church office will be closed Monday May 25th in observation of the Memorial Day holiday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Appointments 2026-2027

The Church Council is pleased to share that Pastor Caitlin, Pastor Candido, and Pastor Colston will all be returning to Hickory Grove this upcoming year. We are also excited to have Pastor Colston joining us full-time, returning to continue presiding over our African Service of worship, while taking on additional Associate Pastor responsibilities within the Church. Thank you to our pastors who care so deeply for our congregation, Church, and community. We look forward to another year under your guidance and stewardship.

### 2026 Graduates!

We will be celebrating our 2026 graduates on Sunday June 7th. Please send us the name, school, a photo and post-grad plans, if available by May 20th to the church office. These students will also be shared in our June edition of Grove Echoes.

### Save the Date!

Monday August 3 - Wednesday August 5 for Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School!

### 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 peas, cereal, and oatmeal. Anything you can give is appreciated!

### 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.

### UWF Sunday

Join us as the United Women in Faith lead worship on May 31st at 11am in the Sanctuary! There will be a women's luncheon after the service. Bring a covered dish and a friend!

### Admin Council Meeting

Next Admin Council meeting is Tuesday May 19th via Zoom. All are welcome!

### Renewal Leave

Reminder: Pastor Caitlin will begin her renewal leave on Wednesday May 27th and return on July 20th. Rev. De Hillyer will be joining us at our Traditional and Contemporary services starting on June 14th. Please see the FAQs in the latest May Grove echoes newsletter or Mary English-Tri if you have any questions.

### Pentecost Sunday

Sunday May 24th marks Pentecost, when we recall the birth of the church in Acts. You are invited to wear red, which symbolizes the tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles.

## 9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Channing Kirkpatrick

\*Call to Worship

Channing Kirkpatrick

**Leader:** Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,

**Congregation: for God reigns over all the earth!**

**Leader:** God has gone up with a shout!

**Congregation: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**

\*Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn "All Hail The Power Of Jesus's Name"

UMH#154

\*Apostles Creed

UMH #881

\*Gloria Patri

UMH #70

\*Passing of the Peace

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

Jamie Horton

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

Acts 1: 6-14

Message

Spreading Love Without Limits

Rev. Justin Robins

Closing Hymn

"Christ Whose Glory Fills The Sky"

UMH#173

Benediction

Rev. Justin Robins

Postlude

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

## 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*Songs	“Rise” “So Much”	
Welcome and Announcements		Jennifer Stribling
*Passing of the Peace		
*Song	“My Reward”	
Joys and Concerns		
Prayers of the People		Fred Floyd
*Song	“Yes I Will”	
Scripture	Acts 1: 6-14	
Message		Rev. Justin Robins
*Song	“I Know A Name”	
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

Lighting of the Candles	
Prelude	Hassan Sankary
Liturgist	Arlette Nimley
Praise Song	Praise Team
Welcome	Pastor Morris
*Opening Prayer	Deontee Weh
*Call to Worship	Davina Early
<b>Leader:</b> Come, let us gather in the unity of Christ.	
<b>People: We come as one body, joined together in faith and love.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b> Jesus prayed that we may be one, just as He and the Father are one.	
<b>People: Lord, unite our hearts in peace, purpose, and compassion.</b>	
<b>All: Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth.</b>	
*Opening Hymn	“All Hail The Power Of Jesus’s Name” UMH#154
*Apostles Creed	UMH #881
*Gloria Patri	UMH #70
*Joys and Concerns	Arlette Nimley
Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People	Christine Kwahmie
*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	Josee Nimley
Praise & Worship	Praise Team
Scripture Lesson	John 17:1-11 Samuel Cooper
Selection	Choir
Sermon	“So That They Be One” Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris
Call to Christian Discipleship	Pastor Morris
Announcements/Community Concerns	Blessing Tyler
Closing Song	Praise Team
*Dismissal with Blessing	
Postlude	Hassan Sankary
*please stand as you are able, in body and spirit	