

The Grove Echoes

November 2025

HICKORY GROVE UMC



Every year on All Saints Sunday (November 2 this year!), we pause to remember and give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. We light candles, read names of members, and celebrate the lives of those who have shaped our faith and loved us well. It's one of the most meaningful Sundays of the year—a day filled with gratitude, memories, grief, and hope.

As we honor the saints, it's also an opportunity to think about the legacy each of us will leave behind. One loving gift you can give to your family is to make your funeral and end-of-life arrangements ahead of time.



That might sound uncomfortable at first (most of us would rather not talk about death!), but I encourage you to think of it as a gift. When we take time to plan, to clearly write down our wishes, we relieve our loved ones of difficult decisions during a hard and emotional period. Additionally, you would get to shape a service that reflects your faith—a service that tells the story of God's grace in your life. You can choose favorite songs, Scriptures, or special memories you want shared. In doing so, you leave behind a testimony of faith and hope.

Making funeral plans in advance isn't about being morbid—it's one way to be prepared and faithful. It's one way to say, "I trust in the resurrection! I trust in God's promises."

As All Saints Sunday approaches, I invite you to prayerfully consider creating or updating your end-of-life/funeral plans, and discuss them with your loved ones. If you need resources to guide you, please contact the church office.

May this season of remembrance also be a season of preparation—an act of love for those who will one day celebrate your life and your faith.

Gratefully,

Pastor Caitlin

Hickory Grove United Methodist Church

6401 Hickory Grove Road ♦ Charlotte, NC 28215 ♦ 704-537-4686

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 12:15pm

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 (Asbury 2nd Floor -212)

Afternoon Children's Bible Study: 1:00 PM (Asbury 2nd Floor—205)

Afternoon Youth Bible Study: 1:00 PM (Asbury 2nd Floor - 209)

Latino Service: 2:00 PM (Sanctuary)

Church Staff

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African Ministry

Greetings, my dear friends,

I am so grateful to God for God's blessings that allow us to enter the beautiful month of November. I pray that all is well with you and your family.

To all who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month, Rhema and I extend our heartfelt wishes for joy, good health, and long life. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary!

November is a wonderful month, filled with meaningful memories and gatherings of family and friends. We begin by honoring All Saints Day, remembering those who have faithfully gone before us, and we close with Thanksgiving, a time to reflect on God's goodness and the blessings we share with loved ones.

As you celebrate and fellowship throughout this month, please remember your church in your prayers, and let us continue to lift up our nation before God.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make our Fall Festival such a special event. Your dedication, commitment, and joyful spirit made it truly memorable. Thank you for all you do—may God richly bless you!

With gratitude and blessings,

Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris



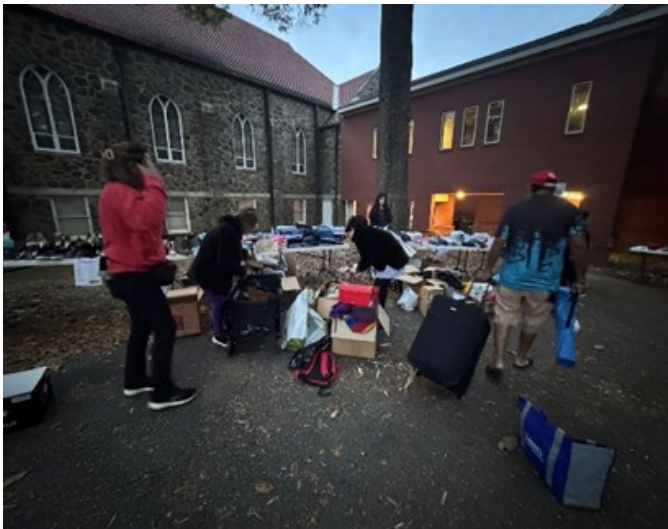
Latino Ministry

As we enter the month of November, we are invited to pause and reflect on gratitude. It's easy to focus on what we lack, on the challenges we face, or on the prayers that remain unanswered. But when we look through the eyes of faith, we discover that each day is filled with both small and great blessings that reveal God's love and faithfulness. We give thanks to the Lord for the success for the Yard Sale fundraiser hosted by HGUMC Latino.

I was able to see unity, hard work and dedication. Congratulations to all that work for it! Also, I like to recognize Jackson Gonzales the recipient of the Laity Service Award 2025.

Let us thank God for life, for family, for the church, for the challenges that make us grow, and above all, for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who never leaves us.

With pastoral love,
Rev. Candido Albino



Preschool News

Preschoolers have had a busy October and are gearing up for Fall! This month we will have our annual “We are Thankful” service project where we will collect winter hats, gloves and socks that will be given to our We Care ministry for distribution. The children continue to enjoy having Music classes, Bible Stories, FitKids and Science Kids each month.

During October we asked our parents to join us for a Fall Party Parade in the Family Life Center on October 31 where they hosted a form of Trunk or Treat.

We will have our annual Preschool Thanksgiving Feast on Monday, November 24. The children will make special decorations and placemats for this event and get to take those home to use for their own Thanksgiving feast.

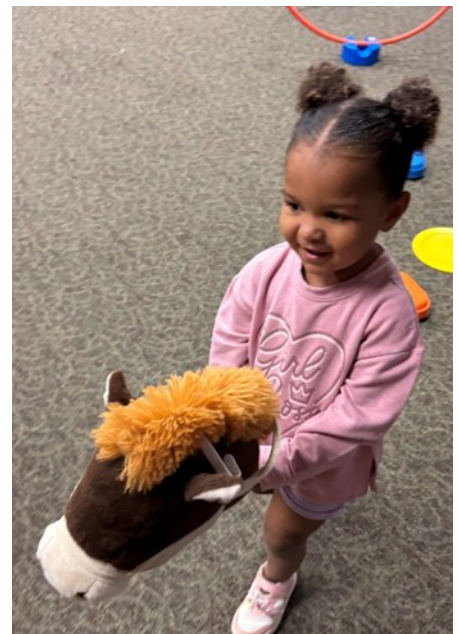
Our scripture memory verse for November is “Let the children come to me.” Luke 18:16

Please feel free to contact me for more information on any preschool event.

Sharon Freeze, Preschool Director

704-537-4658

preschool@hgumc.com





Congratulations to Fred Floyd, Jackson Gonzalez, and Abraham Karva for receiving the laity service award at the Metro District Worship Service!



Memorials and Honorariums

(received in the office by October 28th).

If we receive your donation after that date, the Memorial/Honorarium will be listed in the December Grove Echoes.

Memorials:

Bailey Hamrick

Snack Pack: Channing and Jeff Kirkpatrick



On Veteran's Day Sunday, November 9th, we will be having a Blessing of the Quilts at the 9:00 am Traditional Service. The Blessing will be for some beautiful quilts made especially for our wonderful Veterans during the Hickory Grove Quilting Ministry's 15th Annual Wounded Warrior Weekend held this last summer.

The gorgeous quilts will be displayed in the Sanctuary during the service. Once blessed, the Quilts will be given to the Charlotte Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a small token of appreciation for their service and their sacrifices for our freedoms.

Please join us as we bless these quilts together.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, AND your witness in hosting our Fall Festival. We look forward to next year!

