

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 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

Monday, October 12

2:00PM to 3:00PM	Group Lydia Meeting	Trinity Room
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Tuesday, October 13

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 District Meeting	Epworth Building
6:30PM to 8:30PM	ESL Class CPCC	Parlors
5:00PM to 9:00PM	CLT Rising Stars	Gym

Wednesday, October 14

9:00AM to 11:30AM	Preschool: Fit Kids	Trinity Room
10:00AM to 12:00PM	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Parlors
6:00PM to 8:00PM	Girl Scouts	Wesley Building
7:00PM to 8:00PM	Defying Gravity Study	Trinity Room
8:00PM to 9:00PM	Candlelight - Narcotics Anonymous	Epworth Building

Thursday, October 15

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 8:00PM	Therapy of the Soul Band Rehearsal	FWC

Friday, October 16

Saturday, October 17

8:00AM to 5:00PM	Quilting Ministry	Wesley Rooms 205-206
9:00AM to 1:00PM	African Venue Basketball	Gym
10:00AM to 2:00PM	Girl Scouts	Epworth
12:00PM to 1:00PM	African Ministry Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
12:00PM to 9:00PM	St. Mary Ethiopian Church	Chapel
12:00PM to 3:00PM	HGUMC Fall Festival	Parking Lot/ FWC
1:00PM to 3:00PM	Girl Scouts	Susanna Wesley Bldg.

Sunday, October 18

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

October 11, 2026
20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Senior Pastor
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Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris

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Patrice Wesley

Financial Secretary
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Daily Scripture Readings

Mon., Oct.12: Psalm 97	Thurs., Oct. 15: Psalm 99
Tues., Oct. 13: Exodus 33:1-6	Fri., Oct. 16: Exodus 31:1-11
Wed., Oct. 14: John 6:25-35	Sat., Oct. 17: Matthew 14:1-12

Prayer

Spirit of God, my soul longs to be with you each moment. Make me whole; make me like you, so I may be lost in your Spirit. Amen.

October 4, 2026

Total Worship Attendance:143

Sunday School Attendance:32

Offering: \$8,699.00

Please scan the QR code for online giving



Prayer Requests

Church Family

Royce Williams

Jean Long
Desmond Turner
Brenda and Ray Cathey
Sandy and Ronnie Oaten
Kathleen Robinson
Chap Tuttle
Gary Little
Mary Martin
Don and Linda Wigley
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 Donna Benson
(Aunt of Jennifer Stribling,
Great Aunt and Uncle of
Elizabeth and Jocelyn
Stribling)**

**The Mbongue Family
(Preschooler Shalom and
Sister Shammoh)**

**The Family of Wayne Freeze
(Preschool Director Sharon
Freeze's Father-In-Law)**

Ed Beaver (Rick Beaver's brother)
Carol Garrett (Rev. Elinor
Heerman's Sister)
Lila Dye (Dianne Horton's
mother)

Additional Announcements

Request from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell

We have an older facility and as all homeowners know, the components do not last a lifetime. We now have had to replace the AC units in the Epworth Building and the Multi Purpose Room in the Gym. In addition, one of our commercial ice makers has had to be replaced. The total cost of these three items total approximately \$27,000. We are asking you, our faithful congregation, to do what you can to assist in the payment of these unanticipated expenses. Anything you can provide 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 AC units and Ice maker. God bless you and thank you again for all you do for Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Festival This Saturday!

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Festival! It will take place THIS SATURDAY October 17th from 12pm-3pm. **We need volunteers!** If you can help, please sign up on the sign up sheets located in the Narthex and on the table in the FWC.

UWF Social Action Unit Meeting

You are invited to our United Women in Faith Social Action Unit Meeting on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 PM in the Trinity Room. Please bring a friend and bring a covered dish to share. Cathy McCauley will share a social action program with us. It will be a great time of fellowship! Drinks will be provided.

Snack Pack

Hickory Grove Elementary started back to school! SNACK Pack needs your HELP! Please prayerfully consider donating to SNACK pack. You will be serving our neighbors and community kids. If you have any questions or would like to donate your time to help, call or text Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520.

Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

This month we celebrate all that our pastors and staff do to make Hickory Grove a special place for all of us and our community. This month church council encourages you to express your appreciation when you see them, through email or hand written notes, or contact Mary English-Tri (843-862-3603 or maryalison.english@gmail.com) to learn how to be involved with other appreciation efforts being made this month.

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 beans, corn, jelly, carrots, pork n beans, all types of other beans, and cake mix. Anything you can give is appreciated!

Back To School Drive for HGES

We are in need of sneakers (small kid's sizes 11-13 & 1-3), uniforms (blue or khaki pants/white or blue short sleeve shirts (Sizes 4 - 10 most needed), Play-Doh, and belts (small sizes). Please put donations in the teal bins in the church office or FWC lobby.

October Series: Defying Gravity

October is Stewardship Month and we will be using now-Bishop Tom Berlin's book Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More as our guide. In addition to Sunday worship, we'll gather in the Trinity Room on Wednesday nights at 7pm to discuss each book chapter which will correspond with the Sunday message from October 7-28. You will also be receiving a letter from the church along with an invitation to make a financial pledge to God through Hickory Grove UMC for 2027. Please reach out to Randy Bunnell (Finance Chair) or Patrice Wesley (Financial Secretary) if you have any questions!

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Caitlin Lai

*Call to Worship

Ed Locklin

From Psalm 106

Leader: The Lord is good!

Congregation: God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn

"O Jesus I Have Promised"

UMH#396

*Passing of the Peace

Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Colston Morris

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

Luke 15:11-32

Message

Breaking Free

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Closing Hymn

"Freely, Freely"

UMH#389

Benediction

Rev. Caitlin Lai

Postlude

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

11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

*Songs "Your Grace Is Enough"
"Rise"

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Caitlin Lai

*Passing of the Peace

*Song "Walk With Jesus"

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Caitlin Lai

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.

*Song "So Much"

Scripture Luke 15:11-32

Message Breaking Free Rev. Caitlin Lai

*Song "Your Love Never Fails"

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 Musu Badio

Praise Song Praise Team

Welcome Rev. Colston Morris

*Opening Prayer/Call to Worship Josee Nimley

From Luke 15:11-32

Leader: Come, let us turn our hearts away from the pull of selfishness and toward the love of our God.

People: Lord, free us from the desire to possess, consume, and control.

Leader: When our blessings become more important than the One who blesses us,

People: Draw us back to You, O God.

Leader: Let us worship the God who welcomes us home with grace, mercy, and love.

All: We come to worship, to surrender, and to remember that everything we have belongs to God. Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH#140

*Joys and Concerns Musu Badio

Call to Prayer/Prayers of the People Daudu Rahman

*Passing of the Peace

Offering

"Lord, I may not have much, but what I have, I give to You. Take it, bless it, break it, and use it for Your glory."

*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 Geraldine Barchue

Praise & Worship Praise Team

Scripture Lesson Luke 15:11-32 Abraham Karva

Selection Choir

Sermon "The Self-Serving Pull Of Financial Gravity" Rev. Colston Wuor-Gabie Morris

Call to Christian Discipleship Rev. Colston Morris

Announcements/Community Concerns Precious Gibson

Closing Song

*Dismissal with Blessing

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

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