

Good afternoon, church,

The church office closed at 12:15pm today and will reopen on Monday January 5th in observance of the New Year holiday.

Tomorrow, Wednesday December 31st we will pray into the new year with our Watch Night service in the Sanctuary starting at 10pm and concluding after midnight!

This Sunday January 4th we will have a regular worship schedule with Holy Communion. I invite you to stay after the contemporary & African services, or arrive early for the Latino service to help take down Christmas decorations in the FWC and Sanctuary. Many hands make light work!

Praying for you all to have a safe and happy new year!

Gratefully,
Pastor Caitlin

WEEKLY E-NEWS

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 worship on Sunday January 4th.

Watch Night Service

Join us for a celebration of ringing in 2026! The service will be Wednesday December 31st from 10pm to 12am(FWC)

A Note of Thanks from Sanctuary Counseling

Dear Friends of Hickory Grove UMC, Thank you for partnering with us to help individuals find healing. Your belief in our mission makes lasting change possible.

Merry Christmas! - Brian Mateer, Sanctuary Counseling Group Board Member.

**Didn't know we have a Therapist on site? Learn more via our website:

<https://www.hickorygroveumc.com/counseling7b232941>

WECARE: 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!

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 from 9am-2pm in the Trinity Room. If you have any questions, contact Pilar Perez at 704-995-1471.

Admin Council Meeting

The next Administrative Council meeting will take place at 7pm Tuesday January 13th via zoom. Please contact Ron Royster, council chair, for the zoom link.

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.

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

Metro District Deep South Pilgrimage

You are invited to this meaningful and inspiring trip that will take place on April 9-12, 2026. The cost is \$250 per person, and 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 Rosa Parks Museum, To Kill a Mockingbird (play) and more! Please RSVP to the church office if you are interested by Monday January 29th.

1946 Documentary @ Light of Christ UMC

The WNC LGBTQ+ Inclusion Team invites you to a free community dinner and special documentary screening on Monday, January 26 at 6 PM in Light of Christ United Methodist Church's sanctuary. The evening begins with a complimentary, catered meal, followed by a screening of the documentary 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture at 6:45 PM. The film follows a team of researchers uncovering how a single Bible mistranslation helped shape the modern anti-gay movement within Christianity. A facilitated conversation with panelists from the Western North Carolina Annual Conference will follow. This event is FREE and open to all—whether you're exploring faith, care about justice, or are simply curious to learn more. Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot today

[.https://lightofchrist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3338423](https://lightofchrist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3338423)

Support Businesses in East Charlotte!

Local businesses in East Charlotte are suffering due to the increased presence of ICE and Border Patrol in the area. If you're planning to shop or dine out, please consider supporting one (or more!) of these businesses. You find a directory (9 pages) by clicking the link:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG5wobI3tU/UkRye9ON4P9ou_476LpdoA/view?utm_content=DAG5wobI3tU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h3679edeofa

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!

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.

New Giving Options

Text to Give - text HGUMCGIVE to 73256 or use the Online giving from HGUMC website. Go to hickorygroveumc.com/give and complete the online giving form. All transactions are secure.

