

Good afternoon,

Please see the Weekly E-news below:

Prayer Requests

<u>Church Family</u>	<u>Family and Friends</u>
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.	The Family of Donna Benson(Aunt of Jennifer Stribling, Great Aunt 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)

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Update from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell

I wanted to keep the church posted on where we stand with our payment of unexpected expenses this year. We have replaced windows @ the parsonage, the HVAC control board, 2 AC units, a commercial ice maker and a refrigerator. Those expenses total ~ \$80,000. You have graciously designated ~\$50,000 towards those needs. Thank you so much - thank you so much !! I can't thank you enough. However, the simple math tells us we are still ~\$30,000 short of the goal. Anything you can do to assist in minimizing this deficit would be greatly appreciated. Please note these donations to the "Building Repair and Maintenance" fund. God bless you and thank you again for all you do for Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

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.

Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Festival! It will take place THIS Saturday October 17th from 12pm-3pm. If you are coming to help set up for the fall festival, you will need to arrive by **10am**. If you are just helping during the event, please arrive by **11:30am**. Volunteers, please park in the gym parking lot, if you are able.

Family Wellness Day

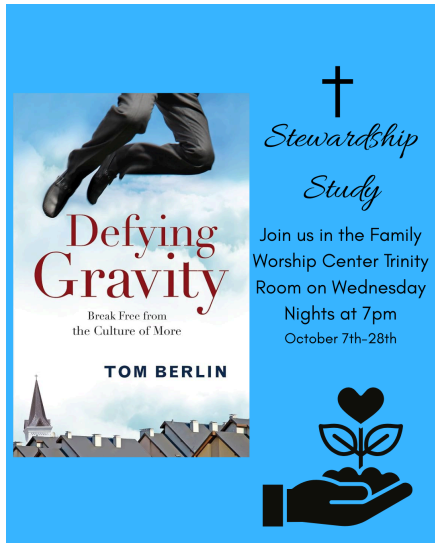
Hickory Grove Elementary School is hosting a family wellness day on December 12th, from 10am to 1pm. It is a completely free interactive community event designed to empower families to take control of their collective well-being by addressing physical, mental, and financial health under one roof. Inspiring guest speakers will share expert insight, hands-on interactive wellness activities, and various other valuable resources. There will be free blood pressure & diabetes screenings, a mental health seminar, a financial planning lesson, as well as a brief Yoga class. Plus, excitement and engagement will be kept high with free fun giveaways and raffles throughout the day. If you have any items and/or services you wish to contribute to the raffle/giveaway, please let Jennifer Stribling (704-617-2520) know.

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.

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 are gathering in the Trinity Room on Wednesday nights at 7pm to discuss each book chapter which will correspond with the Sunday message. You are invited to make a financial pledge to God through Hickory Grove UMC for 2027 using the pledge cards found in the Sanctuary Narthex and FWC. Please reach out to Randy Bunnell (Finance Chair) or Patrice Wesley (Financial Secretary) if you have any questions!



Support CMS Students

Want to volunteer your time working with kids of all ages? First you must renew or complete Your CMS Volunteer Profile. All new and returning volunteers must register or renew their profile annually through the cmsvolunteers.com Volunteer Portal by opening the renewal email or requesting renewal by sending an email to volunteers@cms.k12.nc.us.

Ways to Help:

- CMS nonprofit partner Heart Math Tutoring is currently looking for volunteer tutors to provide 1:1 tutoring to help students build foundational math skills and confidence! Sign up to volunteer at <https://heartmathtutoring.org/volunteers/become-a-volunteer/> and email volunteer@heartmathtutoring.org
- Augustine Literacy Project (ALP) is dedicated to improving the reading, writing, and spelling skills of young, aspiring readers in under-resourced communities. ALP provides students with free, long-term, one-on-one literacy instruction from trained tutors. ALP trains and supports volunteer tutors who deliver effective, research-based literacy instruction twice a week throughout the school year to the same student, either in person or remotely. If interested, visit alpcharlotte.org

Snack Pack

Hickory Grove Elementary is back to school! SNACK Pack needs your HELP! 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.

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.

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!

Giving Options

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