

Dear friends of Hickory Grove,

One of my favorite aspects of our church is that we are made up of generations of Charlotteans, folks who have relocated from another town/state, and people who are immigrants to this country. Our church is a blessing and beacon of light that so many different kinds of people feel safe and a sense of belonging in your love of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful for you and all those past and present who have cultivated our church to what it is today.

I invite you to read [this pastoral letter from Bishop Carter](#), shared with us last Friday. Since this letter, the racial profiling and aggression from border control and ICE agents in Charlotte has stoked great fear among members of Christ's body and our wider community. Their behavior is morally wrong and does not make our communities (or church!) safe. In addition to our own congregation and our WeCare Ministry, we are partners in ministry with Charlotte Bilingual Preschool and Hickory Grove Elementary school. We have many families who are concerned, scared, and struggling right now.

One of our [core values](#) as people of Hickory Grove UMC is to cross borders and boundaries with the love of Jesus, seeking to serve all. It's one way we choose to follow Jesus living out his greatest commandment: to love God and to love our neighbor (Matt. 22: 37-39), and so here are practical ways you can help share the love and light of Christ with our neighbors this week:

***Thursday, November 20 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM @ Charlotte Bilingual Preschool**

- Assemble school supply bags
- Create cards with encouraging messages for families to go with food boxes

***Friday, November 21 | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM @ Charlotte Bilingual Preschool**

- Food delivery arrives at noon (collaboration with Nourish Up)
- Hand out food boxes
- Prepare logistics for Saturday deliveries
- Create cards with encouraging messages for families to go with food boxes

***Saturday, November 22 @ Charlotte Bilingual Preschool**

- Deliver food directly to families

Please complete the sign-in form if volunteering Saturday

*****Important Reminders for volunteering with Charlotte Bilingual Preschool:**

- Bring a photo ID
- Sign in through the Raptor Visitor Management System
- Complete a liability form

- Any questions, please contact Iggy@bilingualpreschool.org

***Sponsor an Angel, provide food, and volunteer your time through our WeCare Ministry:** <https://www.hickorygroveumc.com/wecare-client-facing>

***Support Hickory Grove Elementary school families by donating to SnackPack for Food Lion Gift Cards:**
<https://www.hickorygroveumc.com/give>

***Be Trained & Volunteer with Advocacy Groups in our Area to Protect our Neighbors:** <https://defendandrecruit.org/charlotte/>

Know there are many opportunities bubbling up beyond this list. Please reach out to me for more ways to get involved and support our immigrant community. Lastly but not least in importance: I invite you to pray and then pray with your hands and feet. We are people of the resurrection!

Gratefully,
Pastor Caitlin

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Pledge Cards are due!

In October we reflected upon Wesley's Three Simple Rules for Money: to earn, save, and give as much as we can. Don't forget to turn in your pledge cards, your 2026 financial commitment to God through Hickory Grove UMC! Lost your pledge card? Please contact Patrice Wesley, our Finance Secretary.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday November 27th and Friday November 28th in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

African Ministry Planning for Christmas and the New Year

Please join us November 23rd after the service.

We'll be gathering to plan our Christmas gathering and to set goals for the upcoming year. Come ready to share ideas as we prepare for a joyful and purposeful season ahead.

Please bring a dish or some food to share with everyone. Thank you for your continued support and understanding!

WeCare Angel Tree

The WeCare Angel Tree is up and located in the lobby of the FWC. Please take an angel or angels and help put a smile on a child's face this Christmas.

Additionally, some angels have been added to Signup Genius for those who like to shop online. Instructions explain how to get your gift(s) to WeCare. All gifts are due to WeCare November 30

Select your angel at:



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!

Christmas Luncheon

Join us for a special Christmas luncheon in the FWC as we celebrate the season on Sunday December 14th following our combined service Christmas Cantata!

Pie for Thanksgiving!

Home Made Pies – Just in time for Thanksgiving. The Spirit Seeker/Pathfinders is taking orders for homemade pies in the FLC or on the website. Last day to order online is 11/20. Pick up Saturday November 22 at 5:00pm or Sunday November 23 in FLC lobby. Pie types are Pecan, Pumpkin, Apple, Sweet Potato, and Coconut. Make checks payable to Pathfinders Class.



WECARE: Food Needs

Please help us restock the shelves at WeCare: peas, green beans, corn . Our WeCare Food Pantry and Clothing Closet will be open on Saturday November 22nd from 10am-12pm.

SNACK Pack

The holiday months are coming up and Snack Pack needs your help! During Thanksgiving time, each family that is a part of our program gets a 50 dollar Food Lion gift card to help with Thanksgiving dinner. It costs \$2000 per holiday, Thanksgiving and Christmas, for a total of \$4,000 that is needed for Snack pack food lion gift cards. It is now more important than ever to help families in need. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520

WeCare Christmas

Help is needed to pack clothing, toys and food for the sponsored families for Christmas. Opportunities are available four days a week beginning November 3rd. All packing is done at the Hyland house (6315 Market Street) down at the garage or in the kitchen. Monday 6:30-8:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-3:00 PM, Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-Noon

Decorate the Church for Advent!

Help "hang the greens" Sunday November 23 from 3pm-5pm in the FLC & Sanctuary.

5th Sunday Combined Service

Celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent and Thanksgiving weekend through a combined worship service together, starting at 11am on Sunday November 30th.

Combined Service Christmas Cantata

You will not want to miss it! December 14 at 11am in the Sanctuary

Combined Christmas Eve service

Let's worship as one church as we await the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The service will start at 4pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday December 24th.

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.