

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the Weekly E-News.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Palm Sunday Cantata & Potluck

Come together as one church for a combined worship service at 11am on March 29th in the sanctuary as our choirs present a cantata for Palm/Passion Sunday! All are invited to join the choir for this special presentation. Choir practice is on Tuesdays at 2pm in the choir room. Talk to Hassan for details! A potluck will follow in the Family Life Center. Bring a friend and a dish to share!



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

You are invited to a collaborative Good Friday service of Tenebrae at Cokesbury UMC at 7pm on Friday April 3. If anyone would like to be part of the joint choir, rehearsals are on Mondays at 7pm and Thursday at 2pm at Cokesbury UMC, as well as Tuesdays at 2pm at Hickory Grove UMC. All are welcome!

Easter Sunday

Celebrate Christ's resurrection at 7am with a sunrise service in the HGUMC courtyard or our combined service with Holy Communion at 11am in the Sanctuary!

Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Please join us after the Easter sunrise service for a breakfast with the church family. There will be breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice and coffee.

Habitat Collegiate Challenge: Thank You

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your steadfast hospitality. This past week has meant more to us than words can express - from meeting community members in

the Habitat Restore, to working on Habitat sites, to bonding and reflecting here in your beautiful church. Thank you for all that y'all do, and we can't wait to return back to Charlotte soon! With much love, Boston College APPA 2026

Paypal Giving

As of March 9th, we will no longer be using Paypal as a giving service. Please switch your giving over to Realm or visit the church website to give online.

Children and Youth Event

There will be a lunch event for children and youth held March 22 in the parlor - 12:30 to 1:45.

“It’s a Party” Event



Join Matthews UMC for a morning of inspiration, connection, and empowerment at our Women’s Brunch!

March 21, 2026 from 9:30AM – 12:00PM (*Free Childcare for Age 12 & Under*)

Guest Speaker: Charlie Conder

To [RSVP](#) or ask questions, please contact **Kim Layton** at Kim@matthewsumc.org or connect with a member of our Age-Level Ministry Staff Team.

WNCC Young Adult Retreat

United Methodist Young Adults Ages 18-25 are invited to retreat together May 29-30th in Huntersville, NC! Lodging and meals are included for just a \$25 registration fee.

Come for a time of connection, reflection, and imagination:
<https://wnc-reg.brapp.com/WNCCUMCYoungAdultRetreat>



Bishop Carter announces new Metro DS

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. has announced a leadership transition within the Appointive Cabinet. Beginning July 1, 2026, Rev. David Hockett will be appointed as the Metro District Superintendent. Rev. Dr. Dan Pezet, who has served as Metro District Superintendent since 2021, will return to local church ministry. See the full announcement at this link:

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-carter-announces-upcoming-cabinet-changes-19647635>

Climate Summit: “For Such a Time as This”

Bishop Carter invites all clergy and laity for the Bishop’s Climate Summit on Saturday April 18 from 9am-4pm at Maple Springs UMC in Winston Salem. This summit will explore how the Church can respond faithfully to the challenges of climate change through scripture, theology, and practical action in our local churches and communities. You may register at this link:

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/youre-invited-to-the-bishops-climate-summit-a-pril-18-19652443>

Contemporary Service Task Force

Stay after the contemporary service March 22th as we continue to dream and discern what future contemporary worship at HGUMC could look like! We will reflect on homework and spend time exploring leadership in worship.

A Faithful Public Witness

Nearly 1,000 United Methodists from across Western North Carolina are offering a public witness on behalf of people harmed by current immigration enforcement policies. Those who have signed do so as individual United Methodists, offering a shared witness of faith and conscience. This statement does not speak for all United Methodists or for

The United Methodist Church as a whole. You may read the statement and if you feel so led, add your signature **here**:

Dahlia Grove Golf Tournament

Monday April 27th at Olde Sycamore Golf Club. The tournament has sponsorship opportunities. Get your friends together, play some golf, and support a good cause. Email Corrie@dahliagroove.org for more information.

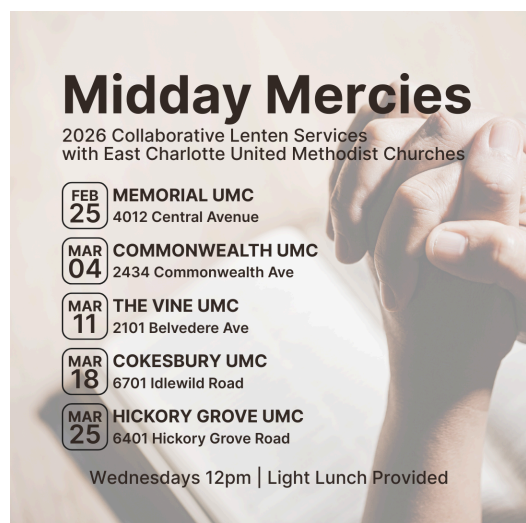
Serve at WeCare

Grow in the spiritual discipline of service by volunteering at our WeCare Food Pantry & Clothing closet throughout Lent on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10am-12pm. During Lent, the next date is March 28. They are in need of boxes of teabags, coffee, and cake mix. Anything you can give is appreciated!

2026 Metro District Lay Servant Training

Basic and Advanced Lay Servant trainings will take place on Saturday March 28 from 9am-4pm and Sunday March 29 from 2pm-6pm at Pineville UMC. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$15 and you will need to purchase the book on your own. You can find more information and register at this link:

<https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/2026MetroDistrictLayServantTraining717171>

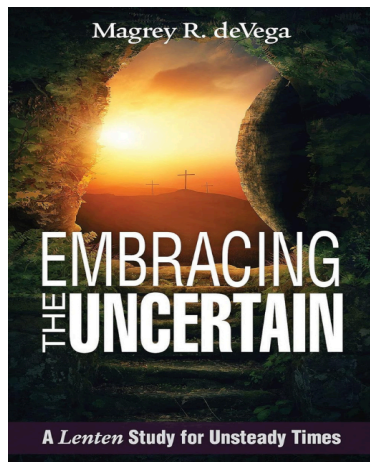


Join United Methodists around East Charlotte for *Midday Mercies*, a traveling 20-30 minute worship service that will meet at different churches in our area each Wednesday throughout Lent. The service will begin at 12pm with a light lunch to follow.

Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times (Feb 25-Apr 1)

Join Pastor Caitlin in the Trinity Room on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Trinity Room. We are using Magrey DeVega's book "Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study

for Unsteady Times" as our guide. You are invited to purchase the book in advance via amazon, or contact the church office if you need assistance. Participants are expected to read the fifth chapter before our next session on March 25th.



Lenten Study

Join us in the Family
Worship Center
Trinity Room

Feb. 25, Mar. 4, Mar.11,
Mar. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 1
at 7:00PM

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.

2026 Leadership Gathering of the Council of Bishops

The UMC will host *three churchwide webinars* in order to help us discern our Wesleyan identity and new vision: January 24, 2026, 10am-11:30am eastern: Wesleyan Theology, "Love Boldly;" February 21, 2026, 10am-11:30am eastern: Wesleyan Mission, "Serve Joyfully;" and March 21, 2026, 10am-11:30am eastern: Wesleyan Leadership, "Lead Courageously." You may access the webinars at this [link](#).