

Good afternoon, church,

The new war in the Middle East is growing, and so I urge you to pray – for families grieving the loss of loved ones, for our military personnel and families, for innocent civilians lost in the crossfire of a conflict they did not ask for. In the United Methodist Church, we affirm: *“The church deplures war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. We reject the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy and insist that every peaceful and diplomatic means of resolution be exhausted before the start of armed conflicts...”* (Source: UMC Revised Social Principles, <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>). In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaims “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matt. 5:9). How can we be peacemakers as human beings experience violence? How can we encourage our leaders to deescalate and pursue paths of justice and reconciliation as innocent lives are at stake?

Let us pray...

*“Remember, Prince of Peace, the peoples of the world divided into many nations and tongues. Deliver us from every evil that obstructs your saving purpose, and fulfill your promises of old to establish your kingdom of peace.*

*From the curse of war and all that creates it,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From believing and speaking lies against other nations,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From narrow loyalties and selfish isolation,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From fear and distrust of other nations, from all false pride, vainglory, and self-conceit,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From the lust of the mighty for riches, that drives peaceful people to slaughter,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From putting our trust in weapons of war, and from want of faith in the power and justice and good will,*

***O Lord, deliver us.***

*From every thought, word, and seed that divides the human family and separates us from the perfect realization of your love,*

***O Lord, deliver us. Amen.***

(From England, 20<sup>th</sup> Cent., Alt. from The United Methodist Church Book of Worship, 520)

Pastor Caitlin

## **WEEKLY E-NEWS**

### **Room Above (Room in the Inn) Needs**

Room Above needs your help. The next Room Above date is March 19th and the African Ministry is hosting. The program could use a volunteer to be an innkeeper, people to help with set up, to provide snacks, lunches, breakfast and clean up after the event. Please contact Randy Bunnell, Pastor Morris, or the church office if you are willing to help in any way!

### **Contemporary Service Task Force & Worship Leadership Workshop**

Stay after the contemporary service March 8th as we continue to dream and discern what future contemporary worship at HGUMC could look like! We will reflect on homework from session 1 and spend time exploring leadership in worship. Lunch (sandwiches) will be provided!

### **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@dahliagrove.org](mailto:Corrie@dahliagrove.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, those next dates are March 14, and March 28. They are in need of boxes of teabags, coffee, and cake mix. Anything you can give is appreciated!

### **Building Futures Affordable Housing Symposium**

Each year, Habitat Charlotte Region brings the community together to hear from industry experts and local panelists who shed light on the ongoing affordable housing crisis impacting our part of North Carolina and the communities nationwide. The 2026 Building Futures Symposium will take place at Central Piedmont Community College's Parr Center on Wednesday March 11th at 6:30pm with Natasha Reid Rice, Vice

President of Global Housing Opportunities & Mission Engagement for Habitat for Humanity International, offering the Keynote speech.

## 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.brtapp.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.

## 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**

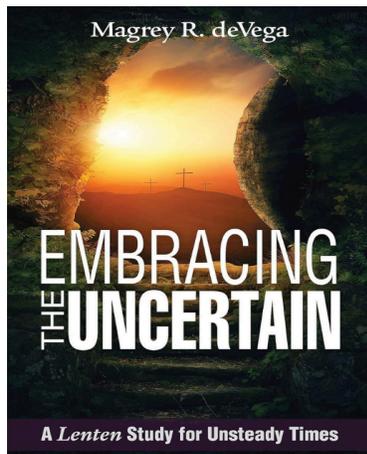
You are invited to our Tenebrae service starting at 7pm on Friday April 3, when we will reflect upon Jesus' death on the cross and conclude in silence and darkness.

**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!

**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'll be 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 second chapter before our next session on March 4th.



*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](http://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](#).