

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the Weekly E-News.

Prayer Requests

<u>Church Family</u>	<u>Family and Friends</u>
The Family of Travis Bunn Brenda and Ray Cathey Sandy and Ronnie Oaten Kathleen Robinson Chap and Nokie Tuttle Gary Little Mary Martin Don and Linda Wigley Sam and Rita Leggett Claudia Waddell Pete and Nancy Scercy Shem Logan Margaret Norwood Ron, Sr. and Ron, Jr. Spivey	The Family of Harold Overcash (Father of Sharon Freeze) Ed Beaver (Rick Beaver's brother) Rick Frye (Brother of Sandy Oaten) Carol Garrett (Rev. Elinor Heerman's Sister) Lila Dye (Dianne Horton's mother)
*Bold lettering: Prayer Request added/updated this week.	

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Financial Need: Note from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell

Hi Friends, Unfortunately, we have had a couple of unexpected expenses arise. We had to replace the windows in the Parsonage. I know it seems like the house was built just a few years ago, but it was 1991. It was time to replace and not continue to repair. The cost to replace, it is \$29,985. In addition, we had to replace an AC unit in the preschool building. Again, time to replace and not repair. The cost is \$20,900. So now we could use some additional financial assistance. These were not anticipated expenses and they were not in our budget. If you can give a little extra to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Please note these donations to the "Building Repair and Maintenance" fund. If you desire, you can also note the donation is for the Parsonage Windows or AC Unit. God bless you and thank you for all you do for HGUMC.

Admin Council Meeting

Next Admin Council meeting is Tuesday May 19th via Zoom. All are welcome!

Renewal Leave

Reminder: Pastor Caitlin will begin her renewal leave on Wednesday May 27th and return on July 20th. Rev. De Hillyer will be joining us at our Traditional and Contemporary services starting on June 14th. Please see the FAQs in the latest May Grove echoes newsletter or Mary English-Tri if you have any questions.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday May 24th marks Pentecost, when we recall the birth of the church in Acts. You are invited to wear red, which symbolizes the tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles.

UWF Sunday

Join us as the United Women in Faith lead worship on May 31st at 11am in the Sanctuary!

Call to Prayer Luncheon for Women

Join the United Women in Faith after the UWF combined service on May 31st for a call to prayer luncheon. All women are invited to bring a cover dish and a friend!

Memorial Day Closure

The church office will be closed Monday May 25th in observation of the Memorial Day holiday.

Upper Rooms and Grove Echoes

May-June Upper Room Daily Devotional are available, as well as the May edition of the Grove Echoes on the information tables. Grab yours!

Youth Confirmation Retreat

"Confirmation" is an act by which persons who were baptized as infants/young children make their first public profession of faith. In a sense, they confirm their faith and are received into full membership at Hickory Grove UMC. Our 2026 Youth Confirmation Retreat (required for all confirmands!) will be Saturday May 16th from 10am-6pm at the church. Lunch and snacks provided. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lori Kodikara or the church office.

2026 Graduates!

We will be celebrating our 2026 graduates on Sunday June 7th. Please send us the name, school, a photo and post-grad plans, if available **by May 20th** to the church office. These students will also be shared in our June edition of Grove Echoes.

Update on Potential Hood Rd. Data Center

Charlotte City Council will hear public comment on a 40,000 sq ft data center planned near Reedy Creek Park on Monday May 18th at 5pm at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (600 E 4th St.). This is the main chance for residents to speak for or against it. No final vote is expected that night.

Save the Date!

Monday August 3 - Wednesday August 5 for Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School!

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.

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>

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 peas, cereal, and oatmeal . Anything you can give is appreciated!

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