

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the Weekly E-News.

Prayer Requests

<u>Church Family</u>	<u>Family and Friends</u>
Jean Long Hayne Baucom Desmond Turner Jennifer Scoggins Brenda and Ray Cathey Sandy and Ronnie Oaten Kathleen Robinson Chap 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 *Bold lettering: Prayer Request added/updated this week.	Donna and Bill Benson (Aunt and Uncle of Jennifer Stribling, Great Aunt and Uncle of Elizabeth and Jocelyn Stribling) 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)

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Request from Finance Chair, Randy Bunnell

Hello friends,

Once again, we have had unexpected expenses arise. We have an older facility and as all homeowners know, the components do not last a lifetime. We now have had to replace the AC units in the Epworth Building and the Multi Purpose Room in the Gym. In addition, one of our commercial ice makers has had to be replaced. The total cost of these three items total approximately \$27,000.

We are asking you, our faithful congregation, to do what you can to assist in the payment of these unanticipated expenses. Anything you can provide 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 AC units and Ice maker.

God bless you and thank you again for all you do for Hickory Grove United Methodist Church.

Back to School Jamboree

Please join the African Ministry, in collaboration with LIBAC (Liberian Community Association in Charlotte) on Sunday August 23rd from 2pm to 4pm for a Back to School Jamboree. There will be music, school supplies, games, and prayer. Join Us!



UWF Craft Day

You are invited to an afternoon of fellowship and crafts. On Saturday, August 29 from 1-3pm in the Trinity Room, a group will meet to make about 20 "prayer quilts" as Christmas gifts for Hickory Grove's shut-ins and any others you feel would like to have one. The prayer quilts are about 5 by 5 inches and you hold it while you pray. We will have sewing machines and If you have some thread or cloth you want to bring and a pair of scissors, any of those could be used. Even if you are not skilled at sewing, we will come together to see what each of us can do to help complete this project!

VBS Photos

Please click the link to see photos from our Vacation Bible School that took place August 3rd through the 5th. Thank you to Tom Fox for being our unofficial church photographer! <https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-wwZNxH>

Niner United: Death by Chocolate

On Wednesday, August 19, Niner United at UNC Charlotte is welcoming over 200 UNC Charlotte students to campus with a worship service and our annual "Death by

Chocolate” celebration. We are asked to help by donating chocolate desserts (cookies, brownies, or any kind of dessert) that is either made with chocolate or could be dipped in chocolate. Desserts can be dropped off at Niner United Campus Ministry Center, located at Advent Lutheran Church, 8840 University City Blvd, Monday through Wednesday of that week during regular business hours.

Light in the Darkness Women’s Retreat

UWF is excited to invite the women of HGUMC to join for Light in the Darkness: A Women’s Retreat for Healing, Hope, and Renewal, held September 25–27, 2026, at Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The retreat will be facilitated by Gayle Smith, founder of Dahlia Grove, speaker, author, advocate, and church musician with a 35-year career in ministry, and Sandy Harthan, local pastor and LCSWA, who brings wisdom, compassion, and practical tools for spiritual growth and emotional healing. Register at the QR code below!



The poster for the "Light in the Darkness" Women's Retreat features a central image of a wooden cross on a hill at sunset, with the text "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. — JOHN 1:5" to the right. The title "LIGHT IN THE Darkness" is at the top, followed by "A WOMEN'S RETREAT FOR HEALING, HOPE, AND RENEWAL". The dates "SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026" and location "LAKE JUNALUSKA CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA" are listed. Below this is a section titled "Step Into the Light" with a description of the retreat's purpose. To the left, "RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS" lists activities like morning prayer, small groups, and a worship service. To the right, "WHO SHOULD ATTEND?" lists those seeking healing, spiritual growth, and a deeper understanding of faith. Further right, the "RETREAT SCHEDULE" lists daily activities from Friday to Sunday. At the bottom, "FEATURED FACILITATORS" introduces Gayle Smith and Sandy Harthan. A "FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER" section includes a QR code and a "Register here" link. The bottom of the poster features the "LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS" logo and the tagline "Come discover the light that shines even in the darkest seasons."

Light in the Darkness
A WOMEN'S RETREAT
FOR HEALING, HOPE, AND RENEWAL

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026
LAKE JUNALUSKA
CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER
LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

Step Into the Light

In every life there are seasons of darkness - grief, loss, uncertainty, transition, disappointment, and fear. You come to the darkest moments, the light of hope, love, faith, and resilience continues to shine.

This retreat has been designed for a transformative weekend of reflection, healing, creativity, spiritual renewal, and authentic connection. Together, we will explore how light emerges through the challenges and discover practical tools for living with purpose, courage, and hope.

RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

- Morning prayer presentations
- Small groups and conversations
- Interactive faith conversations
- Creative writing and journaling
- Guided meditation experiences
- Spiritual music and worship
- Time for rest, laughter, and connection
- Breakfast, lunch, and late afternoon

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Healing and renewal
- Creative expression and writing
- Spiritual growth
- Community and connection
- Faith in difficult seasons
- A deeper understanding of our own inner "light"

RETREAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- Check-in begins, 5:00 p.m.
- Welcome Gathering & Opening Services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- Workshops, Devotions, Healing Arts, and Community Building

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- Closing Worship and Communion

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

[Register here](#)

FEATURED FACILITATORS

Gayle Smith
Founder of Dahlia Grove, speaker, author, advocate, and church musician with a 35-year career in ministry.

Sandy Harthan
Local pastor and LCSWA, who brings wisdom, compassion, and practical tools for spiritual growth and emotional healing.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS
A retreat for the journey
A light for the soul.

UWF Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 12 - WNCC UWFaith Annual Celebration at St. Luke’s UMC, Hickory, NC. Online registration is now open.

<https://wnccumw.org/annual-celebration-2026/>



Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

53rd Annual Celebration

Celebrating 157 Years in Mission

Saturday, September 12, 2026

St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC

52 16th Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601

Check-in 9:00-9:45 a.m. • Gathering Music 9:45-10:00 a.m.
Program Sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. & end at 4:30-ish p.m.



GUEST SPEAKER

Emily Jones

National UWFaith
Executive for Racial Justice



- Worship and praise God through beautiful music led by Hunter Jamison and Makayla Astalos.
- Engage in inspiring Social Action Workshops.
- Celebrate our Districts' 2025 Accomplishments.
- Elect our 2027 Officers.
- Honor the recipient of our 2026 Program Book—announced at the event.
- Enjoy rich fellowship with your UWFaith Sisters—reconnect with long-lasting friends and meet new ones.

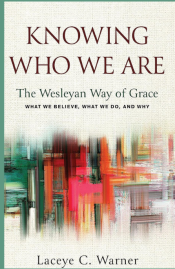
Hands-on Missions for this event: MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS for UMCOR
See List of Items for Kits at Link Below and don't forget to include \$2 per kit for shipping!
<https://umcmmission.org/resources/umcor-menstrual-hygiene-kit-instructions>

Register on-line at <https://wncumw.org>

Cost is \$25 including a sandwich lunch; \$15 if you prefer to bring your own lunch.
Registration is open through August 28.

Book Study: "Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace"

Join Pastor Caitlin and friends on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Trinity room to study "Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace" by Lacey Warner from August 19-September 23 to gain a deeper understanding of Wesleyan Christianity. Participants may purchase the book on their own on Cokesbury or Amazon, and are expected to read the first chapter before our first session on August 19th. If you need assistance in purchasing the book, please contact the church office.



KNOWING WHO WE ARE
The Wesleyan Way of Grace
WHAT WE BELIEVE, WHAT WE DO, AND WHY

Lacey C. Warner

Wednesday Night Book Study is Back!
When? Wednesdays at 7pm, starting August 19th through September 23rd
Where? Trinity Room
Need help getting the book? Let the church office know at 704-537-4686

Join Us!

Back To School Drive for HGES

The Back To School Drive is about to begin. 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.



Donations for Hickory Grove Elementary School

- Sneakers-small kid's sizes 11-13 & 1-3
- Uniforms-blue or khaki pants/white or blue short sleeve collared shirts (Sizes 4 - 10 most needed)
- Play-Doh
- Belts- small sizes

Snack Pack

It may be summer, but your monetary donations are welcome year-round for our Snack pack program. We always like to be ready right after Labor Day to send over our first set of bags. Thanks to all who help keep this ministry going.

S. T. Nagbe UMC Distant Members Gathering for 2026

The African Ministries warmly welcomes our sisters and brothers of the S. T. Nagbe Distant Members Fellowship in the Americas and Other Regions to HGUMC for their Fellowship Gathering, September 4-6, 2026. The weekend's activities will begin on Friday with assisting with the WeCare ministry from 9:00am to 10:30am. The day will conclude with an evening of praise and worship in the FWC from 7:00–10:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Fellowship will hold its business session and election of officers, followed by an evening banquet. The celebration will come to a climax on Sunday with a divine worship service at 11:00 a.m.

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!

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.

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.