

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the Weekly E-News.

### **Prayer Requests**

| <b><u>Church Family</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b><u>Family and Friends</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jean Long<br>Hayne Baucom<br>Desmond Turner<br>Jennifer Scoggins<br>Brenda and Ray Cathey<br>Sandy and Ronnie Oaten<br>Kathleen Robinson<br>Chap Tuttle<br>Gary Little<br>Mary Martin<br>Don and Linda Wigley<br>Sam and Rita Leggett<br>Claudia Waddell<br>Pete and Nancy Scercy<br>Shem Logan<br>Margaret Norwood<br>Ron, Sr. and Ron, Jr. Spivey<br><br><b>*Bold lettering: Prayer Request<br/>added/updated this week.</b> | The Family and Friends of Rick Frye<br>(Brother of Sandy Oaten)<br>Donna and Bill Benson<br>(Aunt and Uncle of Jennifer Stribling,<br>Great Aunt and Uncle of Elizabeth and<br>Jocelyn Stribling)<br>Ed Beaver (Rick Beaver's brother)<br>Carol Garrett (Rev. Elinor Heerman's<br>Sister)<br>Lila Dye (Dianne Horton's mother) |

### **WEEKLY E-NEWS**

#### **Worship this Sunday**

This Sunday, August 30th will be a regular Sunday Schedule. Our next combined worship service will be September 27th.

#### **Snack Pack**

Hickory Grove Elementary started back to school this week! SNACK Pack needs your HELP! Their account was at zero the end of July. The program has about \$1,000 now to

start the school year. One shopping trip to Sam's Club can cost around \$700 and that might last roughly 3 weeks. The prices of food items continue to rise. Every week 48 kids are sent home with 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 dinner items and 4 snacks. Please pray fully consider donating to SNACK pack this week. You will be serving our neighbors and community kids. If you have any questions or would like to donate your time to help call or text Jennifer Stribling at 704-617-2520.



### **Children/Youth Lunch**

There will be a children/youth lunch on September 20th from 12:30pm-2pm in the Parlors and the Trinity Room.

### **Fall Festival**

Mark your calendars for our annual Fall Festival! It will take place on Saturday October 17th from 12pm-3pm. Our next planning meeting will be September 8 at 7pm via Google Meet. You can access the meeting via the church calendar or the link below:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/udj-gwfq-dix>

Or dial: (US) +1 570-810-2358 PIN: 484 875 555#

### **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.

## Children/Youth Lunch

There will be a children/youth lunch on September 20th from 12:30pm-2pm in the Parlors and the Trinity Room.

## 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>

## 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!

**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

*The light  
shines in the  
darkness, and  
the darkness has  
not overcome it.*  
— JOHN 1:5

**Step Into the Light**  
In every life there are seasons of darkness – grief, loss, uncertainty, transition, disappointment, and fear. Yet even in our darkest moments, the light of hope, faith, love, and community beckons us on.  
Join us when there is a transformative weekend of reflection, healing, creativity, spiritual renewal, and a sense of connection. Together, we will explore how light emerges through life's challenges and discover practical tools for living with purpose, courage, and hope.

**RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Spirituality, creative, and personal growth
- Guided devotion and spiritual practices
- Morning daily encouragement
- Creative healing and expression
- Fellowship and shared experiences
- Encouragement and support
- Time for rest, renewal, and connection
- Refreshing mountain and lake surroundings

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Women of all ages
- Single women and women
- Single women
- Women in transition
- Women seeking connection
- A deeper understanding of our own faith

**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

- 1. **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
Check-in Begins: 1:00 pm  
Welcome Gathering & Opening Prayers
- 2. **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
Workshops, Devotions, Healing Arts, and Community Building
- 3. **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**  
Closing Worship and Communion  
Retreat Concludes

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER**  
[Register here](#)

**FEATURED FACILITATORS**

**Gayle Smith**  
Founder of Dahlia Grove, author, speaker, and church musician with a 35-year career in ministry. Gayle is a passionate advocate for women's spiritual growth and emotional healing.

**Sandy Harthan**  
Local pastor and LCSWA, Sandy brings wisdom, compassion, and practical tools for spiritual growth and emotional healing. She is a dedicated servant of the church and community.

**Come discover the light  
that shines even in the darkest seasons.**

**LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**  
A Retreat for the Journey  
A Light for the Road

## HGUMC Food Sale



## UWF Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 12 - WNCC UWFaith Annual Celebration at St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC. Online registration closes tomorrow.

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



**Western North Carolina Conference**  
**United Women in Faith**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> 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

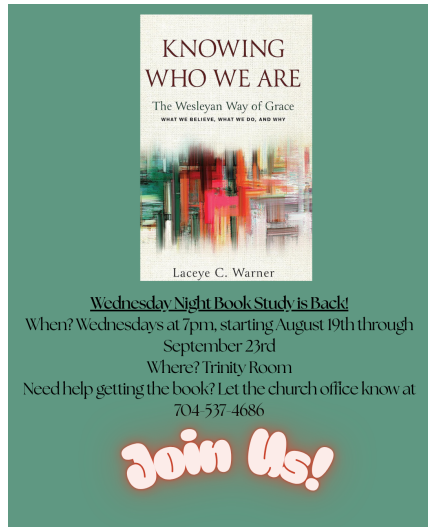


- Worship and praise God through beautiful music led by Hunter Jamison and Makayla Astalos.
- Engage in Inspiring Social Action Workshops.
- Celebrate our Districts' 2025 Accomplishments.
- Elect our 2027 Officers.
- Honor the recipient of our 2026 Program Book—announced at the event.
- Enjoy rich fellowship 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://umcmision.org/resources/umcor-menstrual-hygiene-kit-instructions>  
Register on-line at <https://wnccumw.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. Participants are expected to read the third chapter before our next session.



## **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

## **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](http://hickorygroveumc.com/give) and complete the online giving form. All transactions are secure.