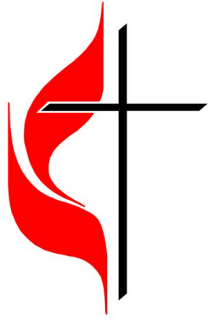


2026



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July Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

Growing Grace, Growing Community

Welcome to July!

June was a wonderful month of worship, learning, and renewal.

I had the privilege of joining clergy and lay members from across North Carolina at our Annual Conference in Greenville. Together we worshiped, celebrated God's work across our conference, welcomed and ordained new clergy, and prayerfully made decisions about the ministry we share. Throughout the gathering, Bishop Connie Shelton reminded us that Christian joy is more than a feeling—it creates connection, belonging, and community.

Following Annual Conference, I was blessed to spend a few days with my daughters along the North Carolina coast. We explored the Harkers Island area, visited Cape Lookout National Seashore, paddled kayaks through quiet waters, took a skiff over to Beaufort, watched the wild horses on Shackelford Banks and Carrot Island, and—most importantly—simply enjoyed being together.



Time away has a way of restoring perspective. Walking the boardwalks, watching the tides, the marshes, the wildlife, and even a single wildflower blooming among the grasses reminded me that God is always at work in ways we often overlook.

Tiny seeds become blossoms. Quiet acts of faith become lives transformed. The kingdom grows—often long before we notice. That seems like the perfect beginning to our July worship series.



Worship Series: “Seeds of the Kingdom”

Growing Grace, Growing Community

Throughout June we explored how God calls ordinary people into an extraordinary story.

July's theme is: God's Kingdom Grows — Imagine

Together we'll discover that God's kingdom often grows in surprising ways—through seeds scattered generously, mustard shrubs that become places of shelter, yeast working quietly beneath the surface, and ordinary people who choose to stay connected to Christ.

July Worship Schedule

July 5

Hitched to Jesus

Matthew 11:28-30

July 12

The Extravagance of God

The Parable of the Sower — Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

A Glorious Mess

The Wheat and the Weeds

July 26

The Kingdom Is Like...

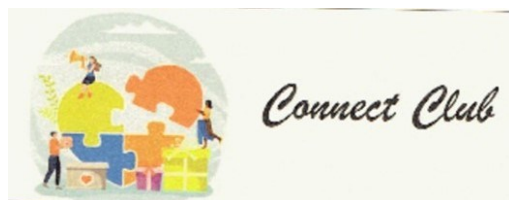
The Mustard Seed, Yeast & Hidden Treasure

Looking ahead, our August sermons will explore how God forms us into a people who participate in Christ's mission, and this fall we'll begin a new series in Matthew 18: Living as the Community of Jesus.

Connect Club

We are currently planning for the September through May 2027 school year activities for the enrichment of our Kindergarten thru Fifth graders in YMCA After-School care. Some possibilities will be Bids, Butterflies, Sea creatures, Dinosaurs, Dogs and a Christmas Craft. All suggestions are welcome, especially if you know of some other available resources on these topics. Volunteers gather around 3:00pm and stay 'til around 4:45pm once a week. The day of the week is yet to be determined. Qualifications are a compassionate heart to show God's Love through your service.

Questions: Peggy Harris 910-547-6581



Worker Bees Waiting to
Collect Pollen

Mother's Day Gifts



Celebration with the
Balloon Man

Construction Update: Building for the Future

If you've driven around our campus recently, you've probably noticed that things are changing. The original cedar shakes on the preschool wing have been removed and replaced. Right now, the new siding is only primed, so it appears yellow, but it will soon be painted to match the rest of the building. If you've looked toward the youth building, you've probably also noticed a rather impressive pile of broken concrete. That was once the floor of the building where many of us worshiped after Hurricane Florence damaged our sanctuary in 2018.



Those visible changes are signs of something even more important happening beneath the surface.

For several years, our children and youth ministries have made do with shared space in the Family Life Center while the YMCA has expanded its wonderful ministry on our campus. We are grateful for that partnership, but it has also reminded us how important it is for our own young people to have a place they can truly call home. That is why our Trustees recommended this project.

The youth building is being completely renewed—not to create something flashy or extravagant, but to provide a safe, welcoming, and permanent home for our youth ministry. It will be a place where Power Kids and United Methodist Youth Fellowship can gather, build friendships, ask hard questions, grow in faith, and discover what it means to follow Jesus together.

Our youth will also have a voice in decorating and furnishing the space. We want this building to reflect that it belongs to them. While we will continue to be good stewards by allowing other church groups to use the building when it is available, its primary purpose will always be ministry with our young people.

Construction Update: Building for the Future Continued...

This project has also been an encouraging reminder of how a healthy church works. The Trustees recommended moving forward with these repairs after careful planning and consultation. They appointed an ad hoc Building Committee to oversee the work, chaired by Hiram Williams, with Ed Dunn, Jaime Alberti, Nancy Davis, and John Harris serving alongside him. This committee is working closely with our contractor to ensure that the project is completed faithfully and responsibly. We are blessed by leaders who willingly share their gifts for the good of the whole church.

Special thanks also go to Hiram, who not only chairs the committee but climbed into his Bobcat and, with the help of several workers, removed the old concrete floor from the youth building. Sometimes stewardship looks like committee meetings—and sometimes it looks like driving heavy equipment!



It is exciting to watch construction progress, but what excites me even more is what these buildings represent. Buildings are never the mission. They are tools for the mission.

Every board that is replaced, every wall that is repaired, and every room that is renewed is ultimately about creating places where children, youth, and families can encounter God's love, build lasting relationships, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your continued support as we invest in the next generation. We look forward to the day when we gather in these renewed spaces and give thanks for all that God is doing among us.

Vacation Bible School

2026 Vacation Bible School!

Rain Forest Falls!

****July 27 — July 31****

Hampstead UMC is About to Transform into

RainForest Falls!



Our VBS staff and volunteers are gearing up to transform Hampstead United Methodist Church into RainForest Falls For an unforgettable week of Vacation Bible School!

VBS: July 27–31

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

As we prepare, all VBS Station Leaders and Crew Leaders are invited to join us For an important planning meeting:

Monday, July 6th at 6:00 PM in room 5/6.

We're still looking For additional volunteers to serve in our Preschool area and as Crew Leaders. If you have a heart For children and would like to help create a Fun, safe, and Faith-Filled experience, we'd love to have you join the team.

Come prepared to serve with joy, purpose, and excitement as we work together to transform HUMC into RainForest Falls!

Martha's Kitchen

Happy Summer everyone!

Martha's Kitchen and Bereavement groups are still active but we need your help! We are having a memorial service on July 11th for Bob Patrick. We will need people to help set up tables, serve, and also to clean up and break down the FLC afterwards. We may ask you to bring cookies or a dessert, if needed. Please consider helping out.

Also, Martha's Kitchen is still helping out with food. Thank you to those of who have provided. Again, if you know of someone who could use a meal, or just a little something, please let us know: Loretta Greenough, Kathy McKinnon and myself. New volunteers are ALWAYS welcome. God bless!

Coastal Carolina Emmaus



Fall Walk Schedule Men and Women attend separate weekends.

Women's Walk #128 October 8-11, 2026

Men's Walk #129 October 22-25, 2026

A sponsor is identified to host you for the weekend. He or she picks you up on Thursday afternoon and takes you out to dinner. You then go to the Salt and Light Retreat Center on North Topsail Island. There you meet the other "Pilgrims" who will be first-timers on the walk.

You spend 72 hours in a short course on Christianity. You listen to fifteen talks given by lay and clergy members on the team. These talks are themed on God's grace and disciplines of Christian discipleship. You enjoy three meals a day as well as multiple snacks. Musicians engage the conference room in song and your assigned table may develop life-time friendships.

Other Christians from eastern North Carolina who seek to renew their relationship with God, and grow spiritually will be in attendance. Your Sponsor returns you home on Sunday afternoon.

For more information contact:

Rev. Dr. Debbie Matthis John Harris (910-520-4042) or Peggy Harris (910-547-6581) to help identify a sponsor.

Anniversaries...



Name	Date
Mel & Dixie Gibson	July 01
Josh & Jaime Finch	July 02
Paul & Jeannie Fisher	July 04
David & Maria Thomas	July 10
Allan & Traci Bramlett	July 18
Al & Karen Smith	July 20
Dal & Diane Tomlinson	July 22
Andrew & Victoria Yates	July 23
Dennis & Carolyn Southerland	July 30
Gary & Janet Redinger	July 31



Altar Flowers...



Date	Dedication
July 5	Fred Phillips... <i>"In loving memory of Beverly Phillips, for her birthday."</i>
July 12	From the Cape Cod Sisters... <i>"In loving memory of Bob Patrick."</i>
July 18	Alice Cavin... <i>"In celebration of my sister, Nancy. Happy birthday!"</i>
July 26	Robbin, Steve, Spencer & Dalton Dunthorn... <i>"In loving memory of Sara Long Spencer, remembering her 96th birthday on August 6th."</i>

Birthdays...

Craig Carlsen	July 01
Bill Ellerman	July 03
Juliana Lane	July 03
Richard Sear	July 03
Jeff James	July 04
David Thomas	July 04
Carolyn Southerland	July 06
Lillian Alberti	July 07
Porter Cockrum	July 07
Jean Carlson	July 08
Kathy Flowers	July 08
Paul Fisher	July 11
Lu Ellen Huntley	July 12
Lauren Sear	July 12
Nancy Steiler	July 14
Anna Williams	July 15
Beau Gibson	July 16
Lacy Quehl	July 16
Helen Scaletti	July 16
Michelle Wells	July 17
Andrew Yates	July 17
Kelsey LaBree	July 18
Nancy Zsadyani	July 18
Pete Long	July 21
Sammie Parks	July 22
Carson Webb	July 22
Marie Lu Schmid	July 23
Joseph Batton	July 25
Laura Kiyabu	July 25
Karen Smith	July 25
Lauren Tracy	July 26
Roger Pooch	July 27
Brandon Williams	July 29
Keane Bellamy	July 28
Poppy King	July 28
Carrie Johnson	July 29
Janis Warwick	July 29
Heather Mueller	July 31