2026 October Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

Notes From the Pastor

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October: A Month of Connection

October is shaping up to be a month full of opportunities to connect — with God, with one another, and with our community.

We begin the month with **World Communion Sunday**, gathering around Christ's table with Christians all over the world. It is a beautiful reminder that the church is always bigger than the people in one room, one congregation, or even one denomination. We belong to Christ, and because we belong to Christ, we belong to one another.

That same spirit of connection carries through the rest of the month.

Our **Pumpkin Patch** may look like a fundraiser from the road, but it is also one of the best front porches our church has. People stop by who may never have been inside our sanctuary. Children pick out pumpkins. Teenagers volunteer. Neighbors linger and talk. Church members meet people they otherwise might never know.

And sometimes the connections happen in even more ordinary ways.

They happen when the women gather to sell baked goods, when the men make Brunswick stew, and when people stand around a campfire singing hymns while hot dogs and marshmallows roast over the fire.



They happen through **Connect Club**, where children spend time with caring adults from our church. They happen when we gather to prepare **Meals on Wheels**, serving people in our community who may need not only food, but also a friendly face and a reminder that they are not forgotten.

Those moments may look small, but they matter.

Mission is not always a big trip or a major project. Sometimes mission is simply showing up, sharing what we have, noticing who is in front of us, and making room for relationship.

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Notes From the Pastor Continued...

That is one of the things I have been thinking about a lot lately: a church should not simply offer activities. We should help people find **the next point of connection**.
A worship service can lead to a conversation.
A pumpkin purchase can lead to a relationship.
A child who comes for one event may discover adults who know their name and are glad to see them.
A service project can connect us with a neighbor we might otherwise never meet.
A shared meal can become a place where someone begins to feel that they belong.

And when those connections begin to grow, mission grows too.

We begin to see one another differently.
We become more aware of needs around us.
We discover gifts we can share.
And we begin to understand that God has not gathered us simply for ourselves, but so that grace can keep moving outward.

So as October unfolds, I hope we will pay attention not only to what is on the calendar, but also to the people God puts in our path.



Who is new?

Who is standing alone?

Who needs an invitation?

Who could use a little help?

Who might be looking for a place to belong?

And how might God use something as ordinary as a pumpkin, a pan of brownies, a pot of Brunswick stew, a meal delivered to a neighbor, a child's afternoon activity, or a hymn sung around a campfire to open the door to something more?

May October be a month when we keep making those connections — and when, through them, we see grace upon grace.

HUMC Pumpkin Patch

NEW Pumpkin Patch Volunteer Sign-Ups!

Our Pumpkin Patch is underway, and we still need helping hands throughout the season. To make volunteer scheduling easier we are using Signup Genius. Visit the website to sign up (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D45AEAC29AAF9C52-66291686-humcs) or via the **NEW QR Code**:

If you previously signed up, please sign up again using the new Signup Genius. We need to have at least one adult when serving with our youth.

- **Pumpkin Patch Hours:** The Patch is open through October 31st!! Patch hours of operation are **Monday** through **Thursdays, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Friday** and **Saturdays 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM,** and **Sundays 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**

- **Pumpkin Toss #2:** Our second Pumpkin Toss is this **Saturday, October 10th** at **9:00 AM**. Volunteers are needed to help with the unloading of the pumpkins. Come be a part of our giant assembly line and help this worthy cause!



MEDIA & MUSIC
MINISTRY UPDATE

WORSHIP · SERVE · CREATE · CONNECT



CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY!

I am excited to share that our first Christmas Cantata rehearsal, held Sunday, September 20 at Wesleyan Chapel, was a great success! It was wonderful to see singers coming together as we begin preparing for this special celebration of the Christmas season.

There is still room for more voices!

We currently have open choir positions, with a particular need for **tenors and basses**. If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of the music ministry at HUMC, we would love to hear from you.

JOIN THE MEDIA MINISTRY

You don't have to sing to be part of what happens on Sunday mornings! Our Media Ministry is also looking for volunteers interested in serving behind the scenes.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Slideshow Builders
Help prepare and organize the slides used during worship.

Sound Technicians
Help provide clear, balanced audio for our congregation and online audience.

Interested in serving?

Contact **Johnathan** at **910-789-9179** to learn more about choir or media opportunities.

JOHNATHAN R. MILLER
Director of Media & Music

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HUMC's Children's Choir



Dominique Bates and Laura Bibby will be leading a Children's Choir, beginning in a few weeks! Open to children in grades K-8, with rehearsals on select Sundays (see dates below). Children participating in both Power Kids and Choir will transition from the FLC to the Sanctuary for practice on Sundays.

Our first performance will take place during our Kidsgiving Service on November 22 at 10am. We are also planning on performing during a Lessons and Carols Service on December 13.
2026 Children's Choir Meeting Dates:

Sunday, 10/4: Choir Practice from 5-6pm. Location: Sanctuary (Power Kids/Youth will NOT meet this day)
Sunday, 10/11: Choir Practice from 5:30-6pm. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 11/8: Choir Practice from 5:30-6pm. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 11/15: Choir Practice from 5:30-6pm. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 11/22: Kidsgiving PERFORMANCE at 10am. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 11/29: Choir Practice from 5:30-6pm. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 12/6: Choir Practice from 5:30-6pm. Location: Sanctuary
Sunday, 12/13: Christmas and Carols PERFORMANCE at 10am. Location: Sanctuary
Practice and performance information for 2027 will be provided after the New Year.



HUMC Youth Ministries

Our Youth and Powerkids explored a new sense of belonging by jumping wholeheartedly into a taste of our incoming children's choir led by Dominique Bates. Our older high school Youth have begun regularly meeting on Wednesday at rotating locations. Please reach out to Pastor Brooks for the latest information.

Sunday evening youth and Powerkids is on hiatus for October 4 but be ready to return with gusto on October 11. Until then, please consider spending some time at our pumpkin patch to support the Youth and Powerkids.

Join the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is seeking new members to assist in preparing the sanctuary for Sunday worship. Opportunities include such things as preparing and cleaning up communion, washing and ironing communion linens and changing paraments for special seasons. We are also in need of altar designers and as well as volunteers to prepare arrangements for our flower ministry. **The upcoming Advent season is especially busy** with many bits and pieces to bring our sanctuary alive from erecting and **decorating the chrismon tree** to preparing candles for candlelight service. If you are interested in any aspect of worship preparation please contact Dee Colenda at deecolenda@gmail.com.



HUM Women In Faith News

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 10 a.m. in Room 5/6. But in the meantime, we plan to hold a BAKE SALE on October 9th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.at the Pumpkin Patch. Proceeds to go to the Youth. This is also the day of the Plant Sale, so come buy some goodies to help the Youth!!! Our Meeting program will be presented by Diane McKagan, who will also provide the Prayer and Devotion. This meeting is open to all women of church, and we hope to see you there. For any questions or for more information, please call or text Cheryle Shaffer at 910-620-5904.

Blessings,
Cheryle Shaffer
Call or text: 910-620-5904

2026 Charge Conference

Hampstead UMC will host a cluster Charge Conference on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. for Faith Harbor, The Edge, Wesleyan Chapel, First UMC (Sneads Ferry), at Hampstead UMC. Our paperwork will be due October 12, so we'll begin preparing for that over the next couple of months.

Children's' Church News

GOOD NEWS!! Rebecca Alberti has agreed to be HUMC's new Children's Church Coordinator, and we will be having some new Teachers help us during the Children's Church time. We will continue to teach about the Old Testament and around Christmas the Life and Missions of Jesus Christ. We are looking to have your child join us and thank you to all of those who have stepped up to teach your children about God's wonderful love and wisdom. We will be meeting in Room 17 of the Preschool area and we are there for children 3 yrs. to 5th grade.



Here is a picture of one of our recent classes. For any questions please contact Becky Alberti, call or text, at 443-975-9793.

Blessings, Cheryle Shaffer

HUMC Connect Club



Thursdays Connect Club

What fun the YMCA After-school kids have been experiencing with learning “Pop Goes the Weasel”! Our music instructor, Laura Beth Payne has the five and six year old children holding onto a small parachute and “popping” a stuffed toy weasel up into the air! They also enjoyed listening to a stories and playing a “rattle” at appropriate words. One sweet boy who was shaking at other times! said “I just can’t help myself”!

In the **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **M**athematics room the latest STEM project was to build a structure with spaghetti sticks, and marshmallows which took cooperation and learning how to work as a team. The second and third graders learned to design first on paper and share your ideas with teammates.

Mean while in the gym energetic fourth and fifth grade boys were having fun seeing how many different body parts they could use to keep a balloon up in the air. They also practiced skills with bean bags and tossing into a target.

It’s been a fantastic first two sessions on Thursdays for the eight HUMC volunteers who give of their time, talents and love for these children.

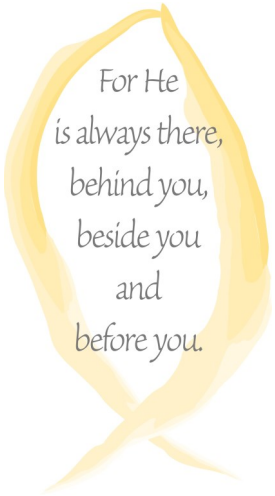
Interested contact: Peggy Harris @ 910-547-6581



Thank You!

Thank you to Greg Gibson, Walt Lewis, Al Smith, and Ed Dunn who helped install a wheel-chair ramp for Bonnie and Clarence Lewis! There was a need and you answered the call!







Anniversaries...

Andrew & Laura Bibby	October 01
Sean & Lori Walker	October 03
Brandyn & Genie Miller	October 05
John & Kay Phelps	October 07
Steve & Robin Dunthorn	October 24
Patrick Miller & Alice Cavin	October 30

love one another

Altar Flowers...



Date	Dedication
October 4	Drew & Lacy Quehl... *"In celebration of Bill Russell's 85th birthday."*
October 11	Andrew & Laura Bibby... *"In celebration of our 10th wedding anniversary."*
October 18	Conne Schwarz... *"In loving memory of Dave Robinson for our wedding anniversary."*
October 25	Debbie Musolino... *"In loving memory of my mother Wandaline Jones 102nd birthday on October 31st."*

Birthdays...

Name	Date
Drew Quehl	October 01
Bill Russell	October 04
Madi Barnes	October 05
Dianne McKagan	October 05
Tara Robinson	October 05
Foster Johnson	October 06
Jennifer Mowrey	October 06
Mike Mowrey	October 06
Jyl Shirley	October 06
Reid Williams	October 06
Cooper Leemhuis	October 07
Kelsey Swain	October 07
Dixie Hampel	October 09
Lori Pridgen	October 10
David Williams	October 12
Lorelei Rosenberg	October 13
John Harris	October 15
Connie Witmer	October 15
Jamie Finch	October 17
Miles Finch	October 17
Kylie Doyle	October 18
Mary Ann Parks	October 19
Donna Nichols	October 19
Carolyn Sear	October 20
Judy Carter	October 21
Barbara Jerrow	October 22
Diane Lane	October 22
Brandon Bolin	October 23
Jerry Rodney	October 25
Ellie Mahne	October 26
Trudy Wilder	October 29
Nate Leemhuis	October 31
Shaun Leemhuis	October 31
Ethan Thomas	October 31

