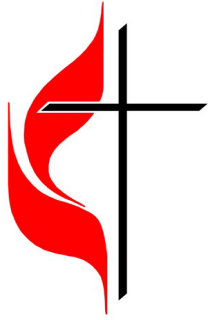


2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GRACE UPON GRACE	02
STORY FOUND IN SCRIPTURE	03
PUMPKIN PATCH NEWS	04
CONNECT CLUB/UWIF	06
COASTAL CAROLINA EMMAUS	07
SPECIAL DAYS TO REMEMBER	08

September Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

From the Pastor

As I write this, it is only the second day of September, and I am already excited about all that is taking shape at HUMC this fall—and even into the coming year!

This Sunday we begin our next preaching adventure, **Grace Upon Grace: The Story We Find in Scripture**. During September, we'll begin with **Beginnings**, traveling through the first eleven chapters of Genesis—from Creation and the Garden through Cain and Noah to Babel. You'll find a map of the journey elsewhere in this newsletter, and you'll soon see it taking shape on banners in our sanctuary as we make our way through the story together.

And there is plenty more ahead! **Power Kids and Youth will start back on Sunday, September 13**, and plans are also taking shape for a new **elementary-age choir**. Our Pumpkin Patch cleanup day is **September 19**, with our first pumpkin toss on **September 26**. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for more Patch plans, including two **Holy Ghost Winnie Roasts**, both with acoustic music from some of our Coastal Music Festival musicians, and a **Bible Character Trunk-or-Treat** to close out the Patch on Halloween.

We're already planning a special **Kidsgiving worship service on November 22**, and Christmas will bring something especially exciting: a combined Christmas cantata with HUMC, Faith Harbor, and Wesleyan Chapel, featuring approximately **45–50 singers and a 15-piece orchestra**. If you'd like to sing, please let Johnathan know—we'd love to have you be part of it!

I'm also working on a couple of **Coffee with the Pastor** opportunities, and there will be plenty more to come.

All of this takes many hands. As you look toward the fall, I hope you'll think creatively about how you—or a group you're part of—might participate. In past years, groups have added yard sales, baked goods, plate dinners, and other activities to the life of the Pumpkin Patch. This is a season when every volunteer hour and every contribution helps. **Pray about where your gifts, time, ideas, or resources might become part of what God is doing among us.**

There is a lot ahead. I am grateful that we get to make the journey together.

Grace upon grace!

Pastor Debbie



Grace Upon Grace: The Story We Find in Scripture

Over the coming year, we'll follow the great movements of the biblical story and begin noticing the connections between them. We'll begin with Creation and some of the foundational stories of the Old Testament, journey through God's promises and the people God forms, and then enter the story of Jesus—his life, death and resurrection—and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.

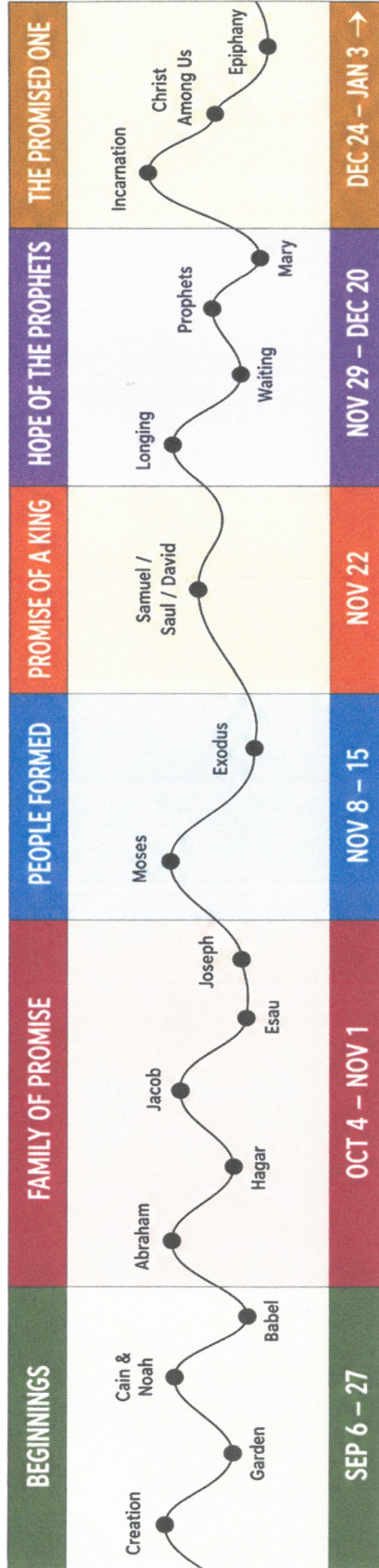
Our hope is not simply to know more Bible stories, but to know the story well enough that its words, images, promises, and patterns begin to shape the way we understand God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Along the way, we'll listen for the echoes: the ways later stories remember earlier ones, old promises take on new meaning, and grace keeps appearing in places we might not expect.

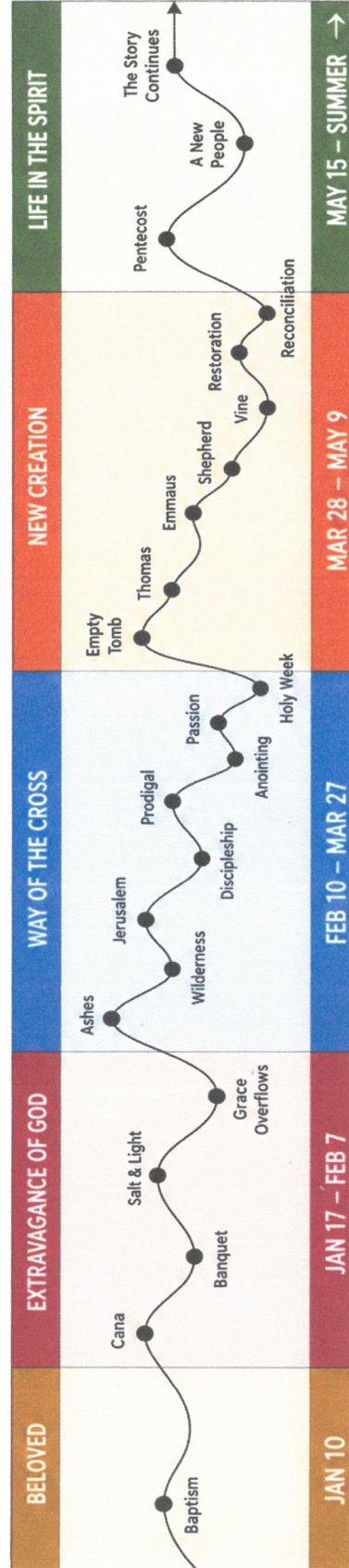
The two timelines on the other side of this card will also become large banners in our sanctuary. A "WE ARE HERE" marker will move along the path as we make our way through the year, helping us see where we are in the larger story. From time to time, we'll add other markers and notes to the banners as our worship and life together intersect with the journey.

Each worship gathering will be another stop along the way. Together, we'll discover the story we find in Scripture—and perhaps begin to recognize how deeply we find ourselves within it.

GRACE UPON GRACE: THE STORY WE FIND IN SCRIPTURE I 2026



GRACE UPON GRACE: THE STORY WE FIND IN SCRIPTURE I 2027



hampstead
united methodist church

One story. Many stops along the way. We journey together.

HAMPSTEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

PUMPKIN PATCH '26



SEPTEMBER 26 -
OCTOBER 31, 2026

PUMPKIN PATCH HOURS

MON - FRI
10AM-7PM

SAT
10AM-8PM

SUN
11AM-7PM

SPECIAL SATURDAY EVENTS



SATURDAY
OCT 17 & 24
6:00-7:30PM

SATURDAY
OCT 31
6:00-7:30PM

HAMPSTEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15395 US HWY 17
HAMPSTEAD, NC 28443

FOR MORE INFO:
events@hampsteadumc.org
www.hampsteadumc.org
[@hampsteadumc](https://www.instagram.com/hampsteadumc)

IMPORTANT DATES

PATCH CLEAN UP

9/19/26

10AM

FIRST PUMPKIN TOSS

9/26/2026

9AM

SECOND PUMPKIN TOSS

10/10/2026

9AM

HUMC Connect Club



Hampstead **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**hurch volunteers +
YMCA After-school Kids and YMCA counselors = FUN!

Each Thursday afternoon beginning September 10th from 3:30-4:30pm HUMC volunteers will be connecting with the YMCA After-school kids from South Topsail and Topsail An-nandale Elementary Schools.

The wonders of Movement in the Gym will help get the “wiggles out” as we do indoor games, races and other activities.

STEM projects in classroom A with Mrs. Susan Robins will get children creating, observing and having “hands-on” experiences with everyday materials. They will learn to work co-cooperatively with their peers to experience the fun of **S**cience and **T**echnology, **E**ngi-neering, and **M**ath.

Music/movement is in classroom B with Mrs. Laura Beth Payne (daughter of Larry and Darlene David), she will show kids how much fun music can be creating sounds with tone bells and other instruments.

The twenty-eight children grouped by grade levels Kindergarten/First Grade, Second/Third grade boys, Third grade girls, Fourth and Fifth Graders will be blessed by the volunteers from HUMC who give of their time and talents each week. It’s not too late for “Safer Sanctuary” training and a background check to join our club.

Questions: Peggy Harris 910-547-6581

Congregations 4 Children co-coordinator

United Women In Faith

Our first yearly meeting of HUMWIF will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 10 AM in room 5/6. Judy Cummings will present the program, prayer and devotion. The circle is open to all women of the Church and we would love to have you join us. For any questions, please call or text Cheryle Shaffer at 910-620-5904.

Blessings, *Cheryle Shaffer*

Seekers Sunday School Class

The Seekers adult Sunday School will return to Room 9 on September 6th at 9 am. We study and discuss the books of the Bible that we have chosen by the group. It's an interesting way to learn, not only from the Bible, but from others. Join us and 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...

Tom & Pat Skipper	September 03
Mal & Elaine Myers	September 06
Paul & Karen Saari	September 10
Alex & Melody Doyle	September 16
Henry & Beverly Batton	September 16
Roger & Jody Pooch	September 22
Jerry & Jane Smals	September 24



Birthdays...

Alyssa McBride	September 03
Danielle Spain	September 03
John James	September 04
Lori Walker	September 04
Kyle Carlson	September 05
Patti Rouse	September 05
Al Smith	September 07
Eric Tracy	September 08
Tom McLamb	September 11
Bob Wells	September 12
Lilly Zsadanyi	September 14
Judy Lane	September 15
Ollie Leemhuis	September 16
Liza Martin	September 16
Vicki Russell	September 16
Liam Olson	September 18
Ray Thompson	September 19
Linda Dunn	September 20
Sylvia Waterston	September 20
Ginger Wells	September 20
CJ Britt	September 23
Laurie Vitale	September 26
Anna Marie Bates	September 29

Altar Flowers...



Date

Dedication

September 6	Given by Twila Jones... <i>"Happy birthday to Alyssa and Jen, and happy anniversary to my daughter and son-in-law."</i>
September 13	Given by Drew & Lacy Quehl... <i>"In celebration of Vicki Russell's 81st birthday."</i>
September 20	Given by John & Peggy Harris... <i>"In honor of Ed & Linda Dunn, and in celebration of Linda's birthday."</i>
September 20	Given by Ginger Wells... <i>"To the glory of God and in appreciation of our choir and their dedication ."</i>
September 27	Given by Dianne McKagan... <i>"In loving memory of my mother, Dixie Gurley"</i>

