



March 2018

The Grove Echoes

HICKORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SAM

Thank You!

I begin with thank you. Marva and I are in the middle of a week in which we both are experiencing pain. We have been living with these pains for a while. They are part of the aging process and some are hereditary. Thank you for the offers of food, for the prayers, cards, and for allowing us the space so that we could rest, take medications, and heal. We are not feeling as well as we would like, but we are some better. Please continue to hold us in your prayers and your thoughts. As always, I am grateful that we have a staff that is capable of doing what needs to be done, and lay leadership that shares this ministry with us.

Secondly, allow me to share some exciting news with you. You are already benefiting from what is happening. It concerns the ministry of the Communications Team. We are attempting to do a better job of communication with the venues, the congregation, and our community. As we have invited you to participate in multiethnic conversations, I hope that you have noticed the efforts and the work of the Communications Team to present these invitations. I am thankful for their willingness to move into deeper waters and to allow God to use them to reach us with the good news of the gospel and the good

news of how God is working through Hickory Grove UMC. Yes, I am speaking about the testimonies that are being shown during worship. This is a step in what they are doing for us.

They are sharing information with us, now it becomes our responsibility to receive the information. Communication is a two-way street. It has to be given and it has to be received. I hope that you will receive the communications and allow it to inform your behaviors. We are attempting to be intentional about communicating well. This includes both internally and externally. More communications will be forth coming and will come to us in exciting ways.

Finally, when you see members of the Communications Team will you tell them thank you? They are Kim K. Long, Sandy Goodwin, Jessie Oliver, Tom Fox and Ryan Richie.

*Peace,
Sam*

Contact Information

Dr. Moore's Cell: 336-613-2009
Dr. Moore's Parsonage: 980-430-5544
Rev. Dahn's Cell: 704-490-5454
Rev. Albino's Cell: 704-995-2302



NEWS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Multiethnic Conversations

We are having multiethnic conversations as a way to become a more faithful multiethnic United Methodist Church. These conversations will be held in small groups using the book **Multiethnic Conversations**. The cost of the book is \$14.00, and one may order it in English or Spanish. These groups will begin meeting during the week of April 9-15 and ending before June 15. We will have a meal and communion to begin these small group sessions on Sunday, March 25 at 6:00pm. If you would like to participate in a small group please contact the Church Office to sign up and to order your book. March 18 is the deadline for registering.

United Methodist Men

The March United Methodist Men's meeting will be held on Monday, March 26 at 7:00pm in the FLC Trinity Room. Our program will be planning for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast and logistics to attend the WNCC-UMM Rally in May.

From the Board of Trustees

Thank you for your continued contributions to the Building Upgrades and Repairs Fund. Current projects that this fund will help complete include: 1) repairs to Sanctuary roof and to Frances Asbury Building roof, 2) maintenance on Sanctuary drainage system 3) maintenance on boilers and pumps of our 4-pipe HVAC system, 4) waterproofing and painting of walls in Frances Asbury Building and in the Sanctuary, 4) continued deployment of energy efficient LED lights in all campus buildings. Please consider ongoing contributions to this vital fund.

WeCare Food Pantry

The WeCare Food Pantry will be open on Saturdays, March 10 and 24, from 10:00am-12:00pm.

Children and Youth Sunday School

Sunday School classes are offered for children 5-years-old through Senior High School. They begin at 10:20am and conclude at 11am. Please bring your children to participate in these classes. The knowledge they will gain about the Bible is invaluable. Questions? Contact Abbi at awilliams@hgumc.com.

Bereavement Meal Volunteers

If you would be interested in preparing food for a bereavement meal for the family of church members that have passed away please call or text Channing Kirkpatrick (980-875-7443) or email her at ckpat1956@gmail.com. Thank you to all those you have helped with these meals in the past.

Shut-in Visitation Volunteers

If you are interested in being on a team that visits our shut-ins, please call or text Channing Kirkpatrick (980-875-7443) or email her at ckpat1956@gmail.com. If you currently are on a team please let her know if you wish to continue to visit our shut-ins.

Hickory Grove Elementary School EOGs

We have an awesome opportunity to make a difference at Hickory Grove Elementary School! EOGs (end of grade) testing will be given May 29th - June 7th. Schools all over our state need volunteers to help during those days. We have a school right next door to our church campus that can definitely use our help! We may be in the classrooms helping the teachers or assisting in other ways. Please consider sharing the love of Christ and the love of others that makes Hickory Grove UMC so special. Contact Jatana Royster at 704-454-5333 or jatanaroyster@gmail.com to volunteer. More information will be available in April, but please sign up now so the school will know they can count on us!

Hello Church Family!

Thank you for all of the prayers and support that we have received following the birth of our sweet Maisie girl. We are truly enjoying being parents of two girls! Life is great!

The Youth had a blast at their Super Bowl Party on February 4 and enjoyed hearing all about Connie Wood's time spent in Africa doing mission work on February 18. They will be hearing from Cathy McCauley soon about her trips to Mexico as well.

Mini Church has been going well! The children are learning about the Bible and even singing songs about Bible stories. There's still room for extra hands and helpers! If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, or the Youth ministry to teenagers, contact me at awilliams@hgumc.com.

The Great Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Easter Saturday, March 31 at 2 PM. We will be handing out treat bags in exchange for the children's' eggs they collect. I will get those bags to individual Sunday school classes and small groups. If you would like to fill some on your own or give of your time at this event please let me know!

There are some wonderful people who have been filling in for me while I've been away. If you are one of these people: THANK YOU!

Happy early St. Patrick's Day!

Abbi

P R E S C H O O L

February was a really fun month at Preschool and we enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day with all of our friends and showing love to our community by collecting over 190 items for the Snack Pack program.

We are looking forward to the month of March and more "spring-like" weather. In addition to our Bible Stories, Storyteller, Music class and Fitkids classes we will begin talking about Easter. We will celebrate Easter with classroom parties and hearing the story of the Risen Christ. You will likely see us hunting for Easter eggs in the courtyard and our 3's class will be walking the campus, searching for crosses. The preschool will be closed for Spring break March 30 – April 6.

Registration for the 2018/19 school year will begin on Monday, April 9. All forms will be on the HGUMC website or can be picked up from the wall packet by the Preschool office. Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our school!

Our Bible Memory Verse for March is *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me"* (Mark 1:17).

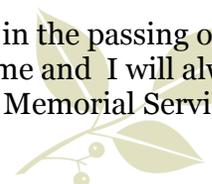
Sharon Freeze, Preschool Director



N O T E S O F A P P R E C I A T I O N

Thank you so much for all the prayers and support you gave during my husband's, Gene, illness. He was greatly comforted by your support. *Sandra Russell*

Thank you for your many expressions of sympathy and love that you extended to me in the passing of my husband, Morris. Each phone call, card, visit, text message and email was special to me and I will always remember your thoughtfulness. It was also comforting to see some of you at Morris' Memorial Service. I am blessed to be a part of your church family. *Gail Reynolds*



MUSIC & FINE ARTS

New life is springing up at every turn of the head. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year (minus the annual sinus infection!). As we move through this Lenten time of reflection and waiting I hope you are preparing yourself for Holy Week and the service opportunities we have at HGUMC. You will find the Holy Week schedule listed on the next page.

It's not too late to join with the Sanctuary Choir as a "seasonal member". Rehearsals are Thursday's at 6:45pm in the Choir Room. All venues are encouraged to participate. We will present a service of Word and Music on Good Friday at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Volunteers are always needed for the many worship aspects we offer: sound tech, acolyte, usher, greeter, choir member, instrumentalist, scripture reader, communion server.... Speak to me if you have an interest in assisting with any of these opportunities.

I hope you get a chance to introduce yourself to Janice Barnett (see her introduction article on the next page). We are excited to have Janice join our team and look forward to reviving the Children and Youth Choirs. Look for additional announcements regarding rehearsal times.

Peace, Lance

A MESSAGE FROM MYER DAHN

The African Ministry and Liberian Community of Charlotte experienced more deaths of family members during the months of January and February this year than ever before. We lost six members of our community back to back. Most of the funeral services were held at Hickory Grove UMC. We want to express many thanks and appreciation to the Trustee Committee that worked with the African Ministry in extending radical hospitality to our Liberian community.

On a positive note, the many funeral services held on our campus really helped expose our church to the greater Liberian community of Charlotte—some who are now beginning to attend the African Ministry services. Moreover, we are beginning to see signs of community and church relationship development.

Relating to the African Ministry activities, I am grateful for signs of fruitful ministry. The regular attendance is on the increase from 75 to 125 on the average Sunday morning. In addition to the attendance, we are taking in 4 to 5 new members every Sunday since January of this year and we want to keep it that way.

One last thing! I am asking for your assistance for the Spring Soccer program beginning April 7 through May 31. For detailed information on how you can help, please check the church bulletin and website. If you have any questions, please contact me- mdahn@hgumc.com or 704-490-5454.

~Myer Dahn

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to *Peggy Cleaton* on the birth of her great grandson, Henry Joshua Posten, born on February 6, 2018!

Hickory Grove UMC welcomes Janice Barnett

We welcome Janice as the new Associate Director of Music. She will direct the Sanctuary Choir at the 9:15 venue and will lead the Children and Youth Choirs. We are delighted that Ed has joined the Sanctuary Choir!

Janice has served churches in the Charlotte metro area for over 35 years. She retired from Matthews UMC as Music Ministry Associate, where she was the coordinator for children and youth music, conducted the senior adult choir (Melody Makers), and previously served as handbell director and organist. Since retirement, Janice has been in interim music ministry serving as Director of Music, pianist and organist in area churches. She and her husband, Ed are the parents of two children, and grandparents to five (4 boys and 1 girl). Janice and Ed are excited to be in ministry at Hickory Grove UMC, and are grateful for the opportunity to serve God with you. Feel free to contact Janice at jbarnett@hgumc.com.



HGUMG Ministry Spotlight

United Methodist Men – This is one of our long standing ministries. These fabulous men continue to support our community in so many ways through their service. This past year they donated 16 uniforms and 10 book bags to Hickory Grove Elementary School. They made a donation for a student’s mission trip to the Dominican Republic. They sent funds to the WNCC/UMM for storm relief. They made a contribution to our church’s general fund. They support the Trustees of the church by showing up to lend a hand on campus work days. These men serve us breakfast Easter morning after the Sunrise Service and entertain us annually with the Blue Grass Festival. **If you are a Man at HGUMC, there is a spot waiting for you.** Their next meeting will be a dinner meeting on Monday, March 26th, at 7:00pm in the Trinity Room of the Family Life Center.

Prayer Breakfast - This Tuesday morning ministry has been together 40+ years and meets weekly. It is a wonderful way to kick off your Tuesday morning with breakfast, prayer and fellowship. They meet in the Epworth building. Folks start gathering around 6:40am. Breakfast is served at 7:05 followed by announcements, sharing of the prayer list, music, devotions and prayers. Please consider joining our Prayer Breakfast Ministry—they have a place at the table reserved for you.

Palm Sunday, March 25

Regular Sunday worship service schedule

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 5:00-7:00 pm

Drop In Communion | Chapel

Good Friday, March 30, 7:00 pm

A service of Word and Music | Sanctuary

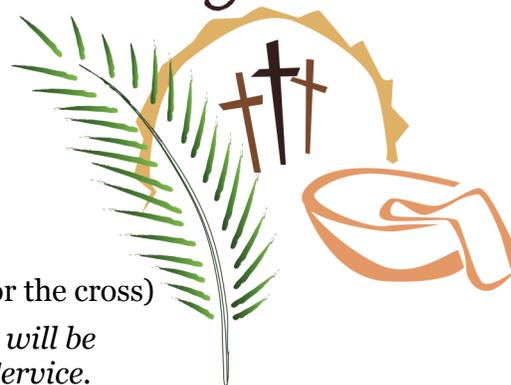
Easter Sunday, April 1, 7:10 am

Sunrise Service | Courtyard (please bring flowers for the cross)

**Breakfast prepared by the United Methodist Men will be served in the Trinity Room following the Sunrise Service.*

Regular Sunday worship service schedule

Holy Week



Metro District Lay Servant Training

Lay Servant Training will be offered on three weekends throughout the Metro District this year. Basic and Advanced courses will be offered at all locations.

****The Basic Course in Spanish will be offered at the Central UMC (Charlotte) location only.****

Registration AND Payment MUST be submitted online.

You must have your pastor's approval to participate!

Please be sure you have this prior to registering. Once your registration has been submitted, an email will be sent to your pastor confirming approval.

COST: \$30 (Includes light lunch on Saturday)

DATES & TIMES:

ALL Saturday classes 8:30am - 4:00pm

ALL Sunday classes 2:00pm - 6:45pm

April 7 & 8 – North Davidson UMC

(1025 E. 36th Street, Charlotte, NC)

April 14 & 15 – Pineville UMC

(110 S. Polk Street, Pineville, NC)

April 28 & 29 – Central UMC

(6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC)

Register at:

<https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/MetroDistrictLayServantTraining>

AVAILABLE COURSES:

(You may choose one. Class size is limited to 18 participants.)

BASIC – Lay Speaking Ministries. *The required beginning course for local lay servant certification.*

Course topics: Leading, caring, communication, serving. This course offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and outlines a number of ministries in which lay servants may assume roles.

• **BASIC – SPANISH (For Spanish Speaking Participants) OFFERED ONLY ON APRIL 28 & 29**

• **ADVANCED – TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM** - This course leads participants to learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism. They will discover that evangelism involves not only sharing our faith with others but also welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith.

ADVANCED – TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY - This course teaches the Wesleyan way to form missional communities and congregations. It is based on the conviction that just as holiness of heart leads to holiness of life, it is communities of holy love that participate in God's mission in the world.

Register at: <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/MetroDistrictLayServantTraining>

If you have questions please call **Star Howell** at 704-455-3089 or email at starhowell@gmail.com.

Giving	Jan. 28	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25
Total Received	\$8,378.74	\$17,577.81	\$12,559.54	\$10,772.12	\$13,122.18
Received for General	\$6,738.24	\$13,506.81	\$9,658.43	\$7,690.12	\$10,510.18
Needed for General Budget (per week)	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00
Received for Building	\$1,470.50	\$3,736.00	\$2,221.11	\$1,228.00	\$2110.00
Needed for Building Budget (per week)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Specials	\$150.00	\$279.00	\$280.00	\$1,454.00	\$477.00
Apportionments	\$20.00	\$56.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$25.00

Attendance

9:15 Traditional	103	72	111	105	105
11:11 Contemporary	51	54	58	56	56
African	102	70	101	92	106
Hispanic	60	50	70	61	NA
Total	316	246	340	314	267
Sunday School	105	86	96	94	96

MEMORIALS

Milton Burgess

Backpack: Sandra Burgess

June Dulin Winkler

General: Mr. & Mrs. William Smith

Dessie Simpson

Cemetery Fund: Bud and Susan Fisher

Cemetery Fund: Lisa Edwards

Cemetery Fund: Leon and Anne Joyner

Cemetery Fund: William and Shirley Saine

Snack Pack: Jeff and Sharon Marks

Fay Barfield

HONORARIUMS

Von Weathers

General: Cokesbury Class

Shirley Griffin

General: Cokesbury Class

Sam Moore

General: Mark Bell and Katelyn Patrick

Neil & Shirley Carnes

WeCare: Betty Cox

Marva Moore

Snack Pack: Jeff and Sharon Marks

Joyce Dulin

Cemetery Fund: Leon & Anne Joyner

Trey Adams

Prison Ministry: Jan and Elinor Hermans

Anne Wilson

General: Claude and Colleen Monday

Joe Knotts

General: Epworth Class

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Sunday Schedule Traditional: 9:15 AM Sunday School: 10:20 AM Contemporary: 11:11 AM African Ministry: 11:11 AM Latino Service: 11:11 AM					
4 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	5 6:30 Sign Language Class	6 10:00 am Tues. Morning Study Group 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 American Legion Post 400 Meeting	7 10:00 Bible Study 6:15 Lenten Study 6:30 Latino Venue Bible Study 7:30 African Venue Bible Study	8 6:45 Easter Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	10 10:00 WeCare Food Pantry
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 5:00 Finance Committee 6:00 Administrative Council 8:00 Alcoholics Anon.	12 2:00 Group Lydia 6:30 Sign Language Class	13 10:00 am Tues. Morning Study Group 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts 6:00 Quilting Ministry	14 10:00 Bible Study 6:15 Lenten Study 6:30 Latino Bible Study 7:30 African Bible Study	15 6:45 Easter Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	17 8:00 Quilting Ministry 1:00 PM Repass (AV)
18 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	19 6:30 Sign Language Class	20 Spring begins 10:00 am Tues. Morning Study Group 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts	21 10:00 Bible Study 6:15 Lenten Study 6:30 Latino Bible Study 7:30 African Bible Study	22 6:45 Easter Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	24 10:00 WeCare Food Pantry
25 Palm Sunday 5:00 Youth Group 5:00 Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 Multicultural Meal 8:00 Alcoholics Anon.	26 6:00 United Methodist Men 6:30 Sign Language Class	27 10:00 am Tues. Morning Study Group 7:00 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 Arts & Crafts	28 10:00 Bible Study 6:15 Lenten Study 6:30 Latino Bible Study 7:30 African Bible Study	29 Maundy Thursday 5:00-7:00 PM Drop in Communion (Chapel) 6:45 Easter Choir 7:00 Praise Band 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	30 Good Friday 7:00 GF Service 7:30 Latino Venue Prayer Night	31 2:00 Easter Egg Hunt