



HICKORY RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Bulletin
September 10, 2023

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023**

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pilgrims on the way, when we feel lost and ask for a sign to show us the way out of our confusion,

**We remember that when we gather to worship,
we find God in our midst.**

When we face obstacles and barriers that keep us from the life God has called us to,

**We remember that God is always at work among us,
protecting and tending our well-being.**

When cannot find our way out of conflict and discord,

**We remember that God calls and equips us
for the work of reconciliation.**

When we struggle to pay attention to how God is at work all around us,

**We remember God's call to sit, eat,
and tell one another the stories of God's faithfulness.**

Pilgrims on the way,

when we watch for signs of God among us,

**Let us remember that we too are signs of God's presence for
others! Amen.**

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

UMH 185

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

Silent Prayer

**Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit,
so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day
into the image of Christ.**

(Continued)

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

**We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do.
Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERATORY PRAYER & OFFERATORY

Each Sunday we collect loose change that will be given to a designated mission. The mission for this month is Back to School supplies for Gibson Elementary School. Please contribute if you feel led.

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
- 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
- 36 Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me^[a] according to your word.
- 38 Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
- 40 See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.
- 41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
your salvation according to your promise.
- 42 Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me,
for I trust in your word.
- 43 Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your ordinances.
- 44 I will keep your law continually,
forever and ever.
- 45 I shall walk at liberty,
for I have sought your precepts.
- 46 I will also speak of your decrees before kings
and shall not be put to shame;
- 47 I find my delight in your commandments
because I love them.
- 48 I revere your commandments, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Romans 13:8-10

Love for One Another

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

ALL: The Word of God for the People of God.

RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “The Commandments and Love” Pastor Craig

*HYMN *Where Charity and Love Prevail* UMH 549

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Focus for September: People in the community with mental health needs, including thoughts of suicide.

Bible verses to remember: Philippians 4:6,7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The United Women in Faith are collecting school supplies for Gibson Elementary School until September 14. There is a “school bus” in the vestibule for donations.

Copies of the updated Church directory are available in the vestibule.

The church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes are available on the table in the vestibule.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chicken Pie Making, Monday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. Pie orders must be turned in to Sallie Crouse by Sunday, September 3.

1. Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.
2. Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good,' <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>. Used with permission.
3. <https://prayerist.com/prayer/illuminationumc>

PRAYER REQUESTS

All Military Personnel and All First Responders

The people in Ukraine

Iris Bennett	Sister-in-law to Kay Huneycutt
Joe Bennett	Cancer Treatment
Melissa Brown	Daughter of Maria Rogers
James Brunk	Friend to Billy and Margie Gordy
Cathy Childress	5703 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown 27040
Athelene Fulton	Aunt to Margie Gordy
Cathy Hrestak	Cousin to Joe Bennett
Chris and Dawn Jones	Friends to Margie Gordy
Scott Lane	Son to Janice Lane
Janice Lane	
Wanda Lingle	Cancer Treatments
David Linville	Friend to Harold Kincaid
Kristy Long	Daughter to Clara Long
Freddie Masencup	Friend to Sara Overton
Irene Mayo	Sister-in-law to Sara Overton
Sharon McGrath	Friend to Margie Gordy
Mary Ruth Neeley	Sister to Margie Gordy
Keith Overton	Treatment
Stephanie	Friend to Dianne Raynor
Donald and Sylvia Stewart	Friends to Sara Overton
Richard and Becky Thomas	Cousin to Lawson Family
Angie Toth	Cancer Treatments
Robin Willard	Broken arm and shoulder
Christian Willard and family	

Shut-ins

Martha Collins, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150, Clemmons 27012

Ron Fulp, Holiday Forsyth Court, 2945 Reynolda Road—Apt. 142

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Clara Long, 1905 Emorywood Road, Rural Hall, 27045

Betty Martin, Mallard Ridge, 9420 N NC Hwy 150, Clemmons 27012

Judy Scudder, Bradford Village, 602 Piney Grove Rd, Kernersville 27284

Barbara White, 1294 Priddy Road, King, NC 27021

WELCOME FROM HICKORY RIDGE

We've been waiting for you! We believe that every person who comes into this special fellowship is sent by God, himself. Above all else, we want to express Christ's love for you with genuine, heartfelt warmth. We are eager to know you, and we are excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church and in our lives. It will not take long to discover that this is truly a family, rich in the relationships that matter most. Our hearts, our doors, and our minds are open. If you have been thinking, praying, searching for a place to belong, we say to you, "Welcome home!"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At Hickory Ridge United Methodist Church, our purpose is to communicate God's Word through evangelism, to provide fellowship and community to believers, to educate God's people through discipleship, to demonstrate God's love through service, and to celebrate God's presence in worship.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Hickory Ridge United Methodist Church
6012 Germanton Road, Winston Salem, NC 27105
www.hickoryridgeumc.org
Office: (336) 767-0380

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Craig Toth, Pastor
Mobile: (336) 500-1767
Email: craigmtoth@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 12:00-3:00 p.m.