

# HAYESBARTON

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# OUTREACH MINISTRY

APRIL, 2026 NEWSLETTER



### Rise Against Hunger – A Family Affair

The following reflection was written by Dianne Jones, who shares the story of her family's long connection with Rise Against Hunger and the role service has played in their life together.

"We have always believed **a critical part of spiritual formation in our family is involvement with community outreach and service to others.** It began in the early 90's with setting up rooms for families participating in the Family Promise program. We would take our children to church on a Sunday afternoon to set up rooms for the families we were hosting at Hayes Barton UMC.

All of our children became active participants and leaders in youth mission trips such as ASP, disaster recovery trips to Gulfport after Hurricane Katrina, and various other church sponsored youth mission activities. In 2008, David joined the Outreach Committee and assumed responsibility as shepherd of the Stop Hunger Now/Uganda partnership. **That is also the first year HBUMC began hosting meal packaging events with what is now Rise Against Hunger.**

We encouraged our children to join us in these events at our church; and as our family grew, our children would bring their significant others to help with meal packaging events. When our grandchildren came along, they too would come with their parents and enjoy being the runners, taking the sealed bags to the table where they would be packed in the boxes. **At the most recent Rise Against Hunger event, the grandkids, ages 3-12, were able to be the sealers, weighers, pack boxes, and work the stations to fill the bags.** This multi-generational mission experience was extremely rewarding for the whole family, and indeed very uplifting for "Didi" and "Pop Pop".

Since 2008 Hayes Barton United Methodist Church has hosted or participated in 31 meal packaging events and **packaged over 495,000 meals for our 'neighbors' in need around the world.** Rise Against Hunger events are a wonderful service opportunity at HBUMC for the entire family, of all ages.



We are grateful for Dianne's story and for the many families who continue to serve through this important ministry. If you missed our most recent Rise Against Hunger event, **another meal packaging opportunity is planned for November.** We hope you'll consider joining us for this meaningful time of service.

## Immigration 101: Learning Together as a Family of Faith

In alignment with the church's recent visioning process, the Outreach Committee seeks to have greater impact by focusing on a few key issues. On March 8, John Drescher and Anna Neal Blanchard shared in all three worship services that immigration has been selected as a key area of focus and that an Immigration Team has been formed. We invite you to read their full announcement below and to attend the Immigration Team's kickoff event, **Immigration 101 on April 15.**

International dinner  
(5:00–6:30 pm)

Guest speaker from the U.S.  
Committee for Refugees and  
Immigrants  
(program begins at 6:30 pm)

Children's programming

[Register Here for Dinner](#)

- ▶ What's the difference between an immigrant, a refugee and an asylum seeker?
- ▶ How many refugees are there in the world?
- ▶ How many refugees and asylum seekers are in Raleigh?
- ▶ What are the ways one can be in this country without documentation?
- ▶ Are all undocumented immigrants criminals?
- ▶ Do undocumented immigrants pay taxes and/or get Medicaid benefits?
- ▶ What contributions do immigrants make to the community?
- ▶ What's the difference between a green card holder and a lawful permanent resident?

**Immigration is a hot topic now.** The word itself can evoke strong emotions and opinions. Sometimes, we feel like we shouldn't even mention the word for fear of the conversations that will follow and the differing opinions we will hear. But if we cannot have these types of conversations in the loving spaces of our church, knowing that we are all members of the Body of Christ trying to live out our faith as best we can, then where can we have them? And if we do not have them, then how can the very broken U.S. Immigration system be fixed? **How can we live into God's mandate to "welcome the stranger" with hospitality while still maintaining the safety of our country and ensuring laws are followed?**

These are the questions the Immigration Team at Hayes Barton is hoping to grapple with - alongside you. We'll learn from non-partisan field experts the definitions, facts, and policies that have shaped our immigration system. **We'll learn about the immigrant population in Raleigh and how we can extend hospitality to them.** By learning the facts, we'll be able to advocate for our community to treat immigrants with love and respect

**Many of us have already formed opinions about immigration, but are they informed opinions?** Can you answer the questions above? We hope that you'll join us for our Immigration Team's Kickoff event *Immigration 101* on Wednesday, April 15th.

## Picking Up the Needles Again

More than twenty years ago, a small group of women at Hayes Barton began meeting once a month with yarn in their hands and prayer on their hearts.

**They gathered to knit and crochet. Before long, what started as a small gathering began touching lives far beyond the group.**

Over the years, they made prayer shawls, chemo caps, baby caps, and scarves for foster care graduates and returning soldiers. After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, shawls were sent as quiet reminders that someone, somewhere, was praying.

One Sunday morning, more than fifty shawls were laid across the altar and prayed over. By the end of the service, they were gone. Each one carried into the community by someone who knew a person in need of hope.

**The ministry did more than provide warmth. It built friendships.** Eight to ten women met faithfully, sharing patterns, tips, and life stories. The rhythm of knitting became the rhythm of connection.

[Sign Up for Scattered to Serve](#)

Like many ministries, it slowed during Covid and never quite found its footing again.

**But good things have a way of resurfacing. In 2026, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will return.**

No experience is required. If you enjoy making something with your hands and blessing someone who could use encouragement, this is for you. This is an intergenerational ministry. **Bring your child. Come alone. Invite a friend. Those who have done this for years are eager to teach.**

**The first gathering will take place during our church-wide day of service, Scattered to Serve, on Saturday, April 25.** We will begin with worship at 8:00 am, share breakfast together, and then meet to learn about the ministry, practice crocheting, and explore what it might look like moving forward.

**If you've ever wanted to learn, or if you simply enjoy making something with your hands, you are invited to join us.**

For more information, **contact Patti Young** at [pyoung422@gmail.com](mailto:pyoung422@gmail.com) or **Jason Trice** at [jtrice@hbumc.org](mailto:jtrice@hbumc.org).

## Did You Know?



Through your faithful giving, Hayes Barton UMC is able to open our building and support more than 25 outside organizations throughout the year. Some groups meet weekly, others monthly, and some annually.

# Scattered to Serve

## April 25, 2026

Scattered to Serve is Hayes Barton's annual day of service where members head into the community to volunteer with local nonprofit organizations across the Raleigh area.

Fil Stidham recently shared this reflection about his experience with Scattered to Serve and how one day of service grew into something much more.

For the past few years, I've been one of the many HBUMC volunteers who participate in our church's annual Scattered to Serve day. This large Saturday event always begins with a short worship service in the sanctuary, followed by fellowship over a Chick-fil-A biscuit. **It's a great time to sit with your team, talk through the morning's project, and maybe even meet a new church friend.**

After breakfast, we head out into the community to serve as God's hands and feet. Working alongside other church members and offering just a few hours of our time to benefit others really does feel good.

Almost three years ago, I was part of a Scattered to Serve team volunteering with an

organization of which I was not familiar. I knew Wake County faced a significant homelessness challenge, but I didn't realize there was an organization specifically focused on helping families who have recently lost housing.

**Families Together is doing this important work right here in our community.**

That particular Saturday helped begin an even closer relationship between HBUMC, Families Together, and myself. **There are several organizations, many you may be unfamiliar with, doing wonderful work throughout our area.** These organizations benefit from groups like HBUMC offering help, and we in turn benefit from our time with them.

**I encourage you to find a project that fits you and volunteer your time and talents alongside others from our church.**

This year, we will once again be serving with Families Together along with several other organizations doing great work throughout the Raleigh area. Like Fil's experience three years ago, we pray this opportunity will be the beginning of many meaningful connections between our members and these wonderful organizations.

**Sign up for a project by clicking or scanning the QR code.**



# OUTREACH EVENTS

APRIL 2026

## April 15 – Immigration 101

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Immigration 101, the kickoff event of our newly formed Immigration Team. This will be an opportunity to learn together as we explore the realities of immigration through a non-partisan, fact-based presentation and consider how we can faithfully respond as a church.

Dinner will be served from 5:00–6:30 PM, and the program will begin at 6:30 PM. Children's programming will be available from 6:30–7:30 PM.

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[Register Here for Dinner](#)

## April 25 – Scattered to Serve

Scattered to Serve is a cherished annual tradition at Hayes Barton UMC, where hundreds of church members step out into the community to serve alongside local organizations. The day begins with worship in the sanctuary at 8:00 AM, followed by a Chick-fil-A breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (courtesy of Dave Butts). After breakfast, teams will scatter across Raleigh to serve.

There are opportunities for all ages and abilities, including landscaping, cooking, cleaning, crocheting, and more.

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[Sign Up Here](#)

## April 29 – Habitat Baffle Night

Wednesday, April 29 will be our final dinner of the spring semester, and we're excited to welcome Habitat for Humanity as our program partner for the evening. The menu will be provided by our United Methodist Men - don't miss the Chickin Pickin!

Children will take part in a hands-on Baffle Project, writing encouraging verses and prayers on baffles that will be installed in future Habitat homes.

While the children are working, adults are invited to a special presentation on housing, featuring:

- A fun trivia contest
- A conversation about the housing crisis
- Ways Hayes Barton members can get involved with Habitat

We will close the evening together as the children share their baffles and we take time to bless them before they are placed in their new homes.

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[Register Here for Dinner](#)