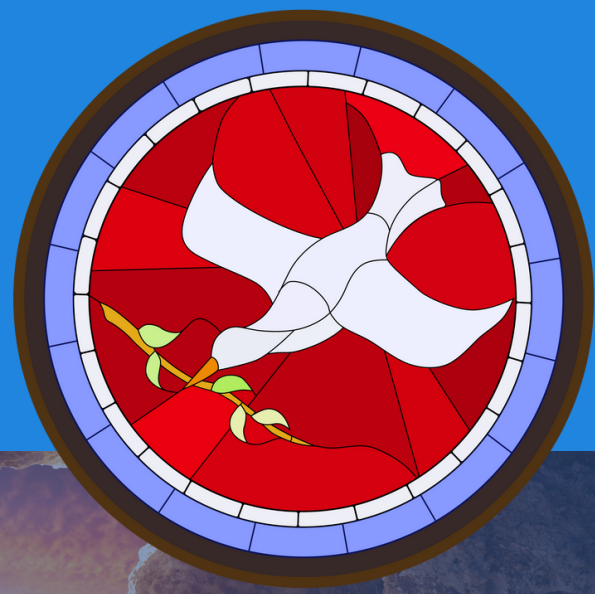


# THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | APRIL 2023



## *The Vision*

*Leading one another into growing relationships with Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit all for the glory of God.*

## *The Mission*

*Reaching upward to God, Growing inward with God,  
Serving outward for God.*

## *Pastor's Pen*

BY PASTOR DAN CLARK

Several years ago, Subaru ran a commercial to communicate unbelievable good news. The commercial begins with a wide angle view of flashing emergency lights beneath a highway overpass that illuminate the remains of a severely damaged car loaded onto the back of a tow truck. The scene changes to reveal a tow truck driver staring at the wreckage and he is visibly amazed when a police officer informs him, "They lived!" Driving into the salvage yard, the smiling tow truck driver stops, and shares the unbelievable good news with a somber faced salvage yard operator, by saying, "They lived!" A verbal message of unexpected good news is shared with unbelievable surprise and joy from one person to the next.

Good news is never meant to be internalized and self-contained. It is intended to be shared. After witnessing what some say is still unbelievable, the Spirit-led Apostle Peter stood before thousands of men

to proclaim unashamedly and boldly: "We are witnesses of everything He did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him from the dead on the third day and caused Him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen-- by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." (Acts 10:39-43)

Peter, an original eye-witness to the resurrection of the One who redefined love, Jesus the Christ, could not hold back from sharing the Good News with whomever he met. Peter's personal story of Good News has been shared for hundreds of years, from generation to generation, to all who might listen. And I suspect that you have heard Peter's story

(CONTINUED ON PG. 5)

## **Sunday Worship Services:**

8:30 am Contemporary  
11:00 am Traditional

## *Inside This Issue*

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# LENT EVENTS

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## *Palm Sunday Worship*

WITH COMMUNION

APRIL 2 | 8:30 & 11:00 AM

## *Scenes of His Ministry: in Concert*

MAUNDY THURSDAY CANTATA | APR. 6 | 7 PM

WITH COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

## *Easter Sunday Services*

APRIL 9 | 8:30 & 11:00 AM

MAIN OFFICE CLOSED

APRIL 7 & 10

*Have a Blessed Good Friday!*



## Fort Cherry Helping Hands Food Collection

Donations of cereal and pasta for the Fort Cherry Helping Hands program are collected on Sundays when Communion is served. Thank you for giving generously to this program. Please place items on the metal rack in the church's main entrance foyer. Next collection date is Sunday, April 2 after 8:30 & 11:00 am services.

## Family Outreach

COMMITTEE: TRACEY FASNACHT & DAVE WILLKENS

The Deacons will be mailing an Easter card and a gift card to the families on our outreach list. This will help them purchase food for their Easter dinner.

## Deacons' Special Projects

COMMITTEE: RICH MOORE & DAVE WILLKENS

Fort Cherry Helping Hands: A huge thank you to all who have donated food items to the FC Helping Hands program. Because of your generosity, the deacons were able to take two containers of food to the school last month.

## UPCOMING COMMUNIONS:

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 2**  
**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 6**  
**7:00 PM**



## THANK YOU DONORS!

**84**  
**LIVES**  
**IMPACTED**

vitalant<sup>®</sup>

## BLOOD DRIVE

**28** DONATIONS  
RECIEVED!

**STAY TUNED FOR**  
**2024!**

## 2023 Deacons:

*Moderator - Mary Jordan*

*Vice Moderator - Deb Rea*

*Secretary - Tracey Fasnacht*

*Treasurer - Deb Rea*

*Lisa Alexander*

*Ken Alrutz*

*Tracey Fasnacht*

*Janet Green*

*Mary Jordan*

*Sandy Martinek*

*Rich Moore*

*Deb Rea*

*Bob Spencer*

*Dave Willkens*

## A Deacon's Role in the EPC:

According to Scripture, those who bear the office of Deacon should especially exhibit the spiritual qualities of the Christian and should be steady and reliable. The first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service, and together the Board of Deacons carries out the ministry of compassion. As the law of love places certain duties upon each Christian, the Deacon is especially bound to fulfill those duties and to be an example to all.

*Ref: The Ordination and Installation of Deacons Book of Government 14-1E.*



# MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

about a God-man named Jesus, who died on the cross, was buried, but was unbelievably raised from the dead three days later. It is a story you either believe or you don't. And for those who say they believe the unbelievable, each is obligated to answer a few questions. If you have received Christ in your heart, is the truth of the Good News burning within you? If it is not, you must ask yourself, why? But, if it is, with whom have you recently shared the Good news? If you think about it, it may be possible that you are

a distant recipient of Peter's testimony concerning the Good News. By faith in Jesus Christ, you too, are a witness to the resurrection. Let us call upon the same Spirit that enabled Peter to proclaim the unbelievable Good News without fear, shame, or hesitation. Let us be bold. Let us be confident. Let us trust in the power and presence of the Spirit to share with the people, that "On the third day, He rose again! He lives!"

Blessings, Dan



**SMILE,**  
*it's Picture Day!*

**DIRECTORY PHOTO DATES:**  
**APRIL 2, 9, 16 & 20**

**VBS 2023**

**Babylon**  
Daniel's Courage in Captivity™

**June 25- 29**  
SUN 4pm - 7pm | M-TH 9am - Noon

**REGISTER ONLINE STARTING APRIL 1:**  
[vbspro.events/p/hickory](https://vbspro.events/p/hickory)

**AGES:** Completion of 3 year old preschool - 5th grade

**VBS VOLUNTEERS**  
**SUN. APRIL 23 | 6:30pm**  
Info Meeting & Desserts

**Babylon**  
Daniel's Courage in Captivity™

Details coming soon! [vbspro.events/p/hickory](https://vbspro.events/p/hickory)



## *Rise Up & Pray!*

BY MERRI CLARK

Women of Hickory, you are called! Are you carrying a burden on your heart to pray for your child, grandchild, niece or nephew? Looking for guidance on how to pray Scripture over your family? God's power is unleashed through our prayers!

Come Rise Up & Pray! Join us in hymn song, learn how to pray more effectively, and hear guest speakers Ashley Strnisa and Moms in Prayer State Coordinator, Diane Ippolito.

Bring your neighbors, friends, sisters or even your own mom! All are welcome for this free event on April 26th from 1-2:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



## *Rise Up & Pray Hickory*

**Wednesday, April 26**

**1-2:30 pm**

Hickory Church Sanctuary

210 Main Street, Hickory PA 15340

- Join women of all ages from across western PA.
- Learn more about Moms in Prayer
- Pray for our children and our schools
- Be encouraged to rise up and pray!

### **Questions? Contact:**

Merri: 240.434.6236 | [clarkwwmd@msn.com](mailto:clarkwwmd@msn.com)

Ashley: 724.480.8803



## *Mission*

Moms in Prayer International impacts children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers to pray.

## *Vision*

Our vision is that every school in the world will be covered with prayer.

## *Purpose*

To stand in the gap for our children through prayer

To pray that our children will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, then stand boldly in their faith

To pray for teachers and school staff

To pray that teachers, administrators, staff and students would come to faith in Jesus Christ

To pray that our schools will be directed by biblical values and high moral standards

To be an encouragement and positive support to our schools

To provide support and encouragement to moms who carry heavy burdens for their children



# HAVE A **HEART** FOR HAITI: LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION

**Dearest friends in the Lord and partners in God's ministry,**

Greetings in the Holy Name of our Almighty Redeemer Jesus Christ! Hope everything is going well with you. Happy as soon as heaven gives me the opportunity to write to you again. What can I share with you today about Haiti and Lacroix mission? In spite of the problems we have in Haiti. God is overflowing us by His grace. God continue to protect us, our schools, and the ministry. The main guideline of this update is the sewing class. Two of the students explain the importance of the vocational school in their lives.



## **MISSION'S SCHOOLS**

First all, we want to let you know that the different schools of the mission are working perfectly well. The students are taking quarterly exams. This school year has been a very special one, as the doors of the schools all over the country have been opened late. Teachers, parents and students have made sacrifices to save the school year. Unfortunately, the Haitian government played a minor role in opening the schools and even cannot secure the students.

### **VOCATIONAL STUDENT SCHOOL – Sadeline Prospere**

I am Sadeline Prospere, a student of the sewing class in LaCroix. I am glad to find the privilege to write a few lines to talk a little about my goal in life. I was born in a poor family of 5 children and I am the second child. With the help of the LaCroix mission I was able to finish my classical studies. Since my childhood I had the goal to become a great dressmaker. A professional school in LaCroix? I think it is more than necessary for all young people like me to have this opportunity. My dream came true last year when I was enrolled in the sewing classes. Now I am in my second year; I feel so happy every day that I want to go further and further. I thank the staff of the mission and all the people who have supported this vision so that the young people can have a good future here in LaCroix, Haiti. Thank you, God bless you all!



### **VOCATIONAL STUDENT SCHOOL – Cindy PHILIPPE**

My name is Cindy Philippe; I have two brothers and three sisters. I grew up in a Christian family; I attend New Testament Church. I like the church very much. I finished my secondary school last year. I chose to go to the mission vocational school to learn a trade. I fell in love with sewing. I think everyone should learn this trade. I like to learn, but my main vision is to learn to sew well to earn money. I thank God for this vision. I know Success doesn't just come from what you learn, but also from your relationship with God. Thank you – Blessings!

**Thank you for continually praying for us. We appreciate your financial support to God's ministry. We would not do it without help. We are together for a good cause.**



## Upcoming Calendar Events

**April 3:  
Pre-K 4's AM Easter Party  
10:00-11:30 AM**

**April 4:  
Pre-K 3's AM Easter Party  
10:00-11:30 am**

**Pre-K 4's PM Easter Party  
1:30-3:00 pm**

**April 5-11:  
Closed for Spring Break!**

### *Family Night Fun!*

BY MARIA MOORE

A great big "THANK YOU" to Hickory United EPC's Women's ministry Team and congregation for hosting Family Night for Hickory Christian Preschool. We enjoyed our time together and appreciate the time and effort that went in to planning this event! The pizza was yummy, the games were fun, and our Resurrection Egg craft will help us to remember the real story of Easter!



***FAMILY  
NIGHT***

*Thank you to our Volunteers!*





# APRIL CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>4/1</b> VBS Online Registration Opens   | <b>4/10</b> Office Closed                                     |
| <b>4/2</b> <b>Palm Sunday &amp; Communion 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am (S)</b><br>Church Directory Photo Sessions (P) | <b>4/16</b> Church Directory Photo Sessions (P)               |
| <b>4/5</b> Preschool Closed for Spring Break 4/5-4/11  | <b>4/18</b> Tax Day   |
| <b>4/6</b> <b>Maundy Thursday &amp; Communion by Intinction</b><br>Choir Cantata & Service 7:00 pm (S)       | <b>4/20</b> Church Directory Photo Sessions 6:00-8:00 pm (P)  |
| <b>4/7</b> <b>Good Friday - Office Closed</b>  | <b>4/23</b> VBS Volunteer Informational Meeting 6:30 pm       |
| <b>4/9</b> <b>Easter Sunday Service 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am (S)</b><br>Church Directory Photo Sessions (P)       | <b>4/24</b> May Newsletter Deadline                           |
|  | <b>4/26</b> <b>Rise Up &amp; Pray Event 1:00-2:30 pm (S)</b>  |
|  | <b>5/6</b> <b>Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-10:30 am (CC)</b> |

## RECURRING WEEKLY MEETINGS/CLASSES/GATHERINGS

### SUNDAYS

- Worship Service | 8:30 am Contemporary & 11:00 am Traditional (S)
- Sunday School - Adults | 9:45 - 10:45 am (Various Locations)
- Hickory Kids (Pre-K - 5th grade) | 9:45 - 10:45 am (Various Locations)
- IGNITE (6th-12th grade) | 9:45 am (L)

### MONDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (CC)
- Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)

### TUESDAYS

- Staff Meeting (Every Other Week) | 10:00 am (Parlor)
- KidVenture | 6:00-7:15 pm (L)
- Boy Scout Meeting | 7:00 pm (CC)

### WEDNESDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (CC)
- Praise Band Practice | 7:00 pm (S)
- Cub Scouts | 7:00 pm | (CC)

### THURSDAY

- Handbells | 6:30 PM (CR)
- Competitive Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)
- Choir | 7:30 pm (CR)

### FRIDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (CC)

### SATURDAYS

- Men's Breakfast & Book Study Small Group | 7:30 am (CC Kitchen) - *Ends April 22*
- Yoga | TBD - *please check the online church calendar for when meetings resume*

## RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

- Building & Property Meeting | 7:00 pm (P) | Every 2nd Wednesday
- Discipleship Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | (P) - Every 2nd Monday
- Deacons Meeting | 7:00 pm (P) | Every 4th Monday
- Outreach Committee Meeting | 6:30 pm (P) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Prayer Shawl Ministry | 12:00 pm (CC) | Every 2nd Wednesday
- Preschool Team Meeting | 12:30 pm (FH) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Security Team Meeting | (P) Every 1st Tuesday
- Session Meeting | 6:30 pm (P) | Every 3rd Wednesday
- Stewardship Meeting | 6:30 pm (P) | Every 1st Monday **after** 1st Wednesday of the month
- Women's Ministry Meeting | 12:15 pm (P) | *Monthly meetings are fluid, please check the online church calendar*

(CC) Covenant Center (CR) Choir Room (FH) Fellowship Hall (L) Loft (LB) Library (P) Parlor (S) Sanctuary





HICKORY UNITED EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Pastoral & Ministry

Pastor Dan Clark | [dan.clark@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:dan.clark@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Lay Pastor, Lou Templeton | (724) 356-7835

Director of Music Ministry, Tim VanNasdale | [tim.vannasdale@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:tim.vannasdale@hickoryunitedepc.org)

## Administrative / Support

Office Manager, Paula Steele | [paula.steele@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:paula.steele@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Communication Coordinator, Lynn VanNasdale | [communications@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:communications@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Financial Director, Linda Carter | [linda.carter@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:linda.carter@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Assistant Treasurer, Melissa Fluharty | [melissa.fluharty@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:melissa.fluharty@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Audio Visual Technician, David Sykut | [david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org)

## Hickory Christian Preschool

School Director, Maria Moore | (724) 356-7337 | [hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org)

## Facilities

Sexton, Eugene Short | (724) 356-4424 | [eugene.short@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:eugene.short@hickoryunitedepc.org)

Facilities Assistant Housekeeper, Will Smith | (724) 356-4424

## Prayer Tree

Phone Requests: Sharon Mechtel | (412) 496-9147

Email Requests: Sharon Merckle | [sharon.merckle@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon.merckle@yahoo.com)

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