



HICKORY UNITED EPC | APRIL 2026

THE HICKORY MESSENGER

Pastor's Pen

BY PASTOR CLAYTON LAPOSTA

With the beginning of April just around the corner, this means that we are entering into a new season. No, not Spring...baseball season! As I sit at my computer, the new Pirate, Brandon Lowe has just hit a 2 run home run and once again I have a renewed sense of hope for our Pittsburgh Pirates. Even though they have not made it to the playoffs in the last 10 years, it never fails that every spring I have hope that this may be our year.

Being that in just a week's time we will be celebrating Easter once again, the Pirates aren't the only thing that brings me hope. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. It's the remembrance of an event that has changed the world! On Easter though, our Lord's resurrection isn't the only resurrection we celebrate. We also celebrate ours. Since we have died with the Lord through faith, we will also be raised to new life with him. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." On Easter we celebrate the hope that everyone in Christ, even though they have died, will one day be fully raised to life again. This is our great hope. And not just those dear saints, our families are full of them, but we will as well!

The difference between these two hopes is that one is absolutely secure. The Pirates may not, and let's be honest probably will not, make the playoffs. That is a blind hope. This promise of a future resurrection though is secure. It has been achieved and promised to us by the same God whose Word never fails. I hope you see this great hope during this season and every season of your life.

With love,
Pastor Clayton

WORSHIP:

Sundays | 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sundays | 8:45 am

THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Pen | cover

Misc. News | 2-4

Holy Week | 5

Kids Ministry | 6

Harvest Youth | 7

Calendar | 8

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.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Deacon's CORNER



April Communion will be held at the Maundy Thursday evening service @ 7 pm in Covenant Center. Gluten free wafers available! There will be no Communion on Easter Sunday.

Fort Cherry Helping Hands

Donations of cereal, canned meat, fruits and vegetables, ready to make meals like Hamburger Helper and Mac and Cheese for the Fort Cherry Helping Hands program are collected Sundays when Communion is served. Financial contributions are also appreciated. Thank you for giving generously to this program. Please place your items on the collection shelf in the greeting area foyer. Thank you for remembering the families in the Fort Cherry Helping Hands program.

Bereavement Meals

Thanks so much to all who brought food to our recent bereavement meal. That is serving at it's best and so appreciated by our families.

Blood Drive

Blessings and thanks to all who donated blood in March. Giving blood is a lifesaving gift!

Meals on Wheels

This program could not exist without our drivers. We salute them! They not only deliver the meals, but they brighten each recipient's day with a smile and kind words. This means so much to those living alone. We welcome more drivers. Contact the church office for more information.

NOTES OF Thanks

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus. We are very thankful and grateful for all your prayers along with your financial support that keeps the ministry going. Thanks for check #22651 in the amount of \$2,500 issued on 3/5/2026. Thank you for providing food for our children and families. What a blessing! We will make sure you get pictures. All continues to go well at the mission. School is going well and many children are fed. Many blessings!

~ERMITHE & PIERRE

From all of us at City Mission, thank you for your generous gift of \$625.00 on March 9, 2026. We acknowledge no goods or services were exchanged for this donation. Because of YOU, we can provide hope to men, women and children who come to us. We offer them a hand up rather than a handout by preparing them for independence and purposeful lives. Every day they see Christ in action - through the staff, donors and volunteers. You really do make a difference, and we pray you continue to partner with us. We continue to focus on John 15:12, "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." I pray that God will continue to bless you for your ongoing friendship and commitment to the homeless men, women and children we serve.

~DIANA IREY VAUGHAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

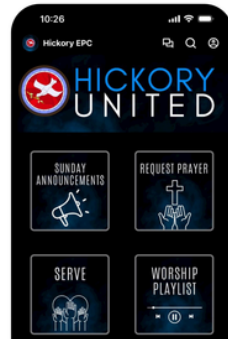
Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Our U.S. disaster volunteers have been hard at work serving hundreds of homeowners devastated by a winter storm that struck the Southeast. One Oxford, Mississippi, family of eight with extensive tree damage on their property especially appreciated our help clearing debris. Even more importantly, the mother, Talitha, put her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She now treasures the Bible we gave her. Talitha was so grateful for the team who worked on her property and told them, "You may not see it every day, but you guys do change lives." At every opportunity, we tell people that "we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe" (1 Timothy 4:10). God bless you!

~FRANKLIN GRAHAM, PRESIDENT

We are so completely humbled by your very generous donation of \$1,000. Your continued support guarantees that we can offer home cooked meals to our Seniors every day! Thank you so much! Our numbers continue to grow but thanks to the amazing kindness of people such as you, we can meet the challenge!

~ MCDONALD MEALS ON WHEELS

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS



we love a good glow up.



DOWNLOAD TODAY
<https://get.theapp.co/ybr4>



united gear is here.

20% of item proceeds support Hickory United! Order online, ship direct.

A promotional graphic for Hickory United merchandise. It shows a grey t-shirt with the Hickory United logo, a black baseball cap, and a blue messenger bag. A QR code is provided for more information. The text "united gear is here." is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, it says "20% of item proceeds support Hickory United! Order online, ship direct."

EASTER FLOWERS

Pickup after Easter Services April 5

A graphic for Easter flowers. It features a large, vibrant white lily flower with pink and yellow accents, set against a dark background. The text "EASTER FLOWERS" is written in a large, yellow, serif font at the top. Below the flower, it says "Pickup after Easter Services April 5" in a white, cursive font.

HICKORY CHRISTIAN *Preschool*

Spring Field Trip Recap

BY ASHLEY LEWIS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Our preschool students had a wonderful time on our spring field trip to the Trolley Museum with Miss Mary. We enjoyed a trolley ride, explored various trolley models, and tried out the driving simulators. It was a beautiful day filled with joy and learning, and we look forward to visiting again in the future.

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, we feel truly blessed to have had your love and support. Thank you again to everyone who participated in the Sarris fundraiser as well as donations and contributing to our Amazon wishlist! Have a blessed month everyone!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1 | Easter Party
- April 2-7 | Easter Break
- April 30 | Teacher In-Service
- May 1 | Teacher In-Service

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Flea Market Recap

Early March saw significant storms and high winds that knocked out power in Hickory and the surrounding areas for several days. Thankfully for the Annual Flea market, there was plenty of natural light in Covenant Center and the event proceeded as planned. Lack of power did not deter the crowd! Power was restored later that day, Praise the Lord, and the Flea raised a little over \$5,000 in profit for ministry and mission work at Hickory United. Thanks to everyone who was involved in set-up, served at the Flea, provided baked goods and donated items. God bless you!



“BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES BECAUSE THEY SEE, AND YOUR EARS BECAUSE THEY HEAR.”
MATTHEW 13:16

HAITI FOOD DISTRIBUTION
YOUR DONATIONS FEED HAITIAN CHILDREN

- Cash envelope or check to office OR offering plate marked “Haiti Food Distribution”

**volunteering fills a gap.
truly serving fills the heart.**

serve with us.



SERVE at Hickory United

Use your gifts to make a Kingdom impact through the various ministry programs and missions at Hickory United. You can also get involved by joining a Committee. Visit the bulletin board in the Welcome Area and check out the sign-ups under “Service Opportunities” or complete a Committee Interest Card. We are especially looking for folks called to serve in our Kids & Youth ministries!

Not sure where to start? Scan the QR code or visit hickorychurch.com/serve to complete a Serve Interest & Gifts form and we'll help you find your fit!

Baptism News

Celebration and congratulations are in order for the Randour family. On Sunday March 22, Jeremy Randour was received as a new member while Kayla, June and Reed Randour were baptized. Praise and glory to the Lord!



Food & Fellowship
APRIL 5
EASTER BREAKFAST

- JOIN US IN COVENANT CENTER AT 7:30 AM EASTER SUNDAY!
- BRING A BREAKFAST ITEM OR DESSERT TO SHARE
- DISH DROP-OFF TIMES: 5:45-5:55 AM OR 7-7:30 AM

Food & Fellowship - Easter Breakfast!

Apr. 5 | 7:30 am | Covenant Center

Join us for a church breakfast in between services. Bring a breakfast item or dessert to pass and Let's celebrate that He is Risen together! Dish drop-off in the kitchen before the 6 am service or between 7-7:30 am.

HOLY WEEK AT HICKORY UNITED

Palm Sunday Worship Ushers in Holy Week

On March 29, Joyful Noise students were blessed with the opportunity to lead the congregation in worship on Palm Sunday as well as participating in the processional waving of palms during the opening Hymn. Thank you to our Joyful Noise members for being faithful in their preparation and their offering of music!



Living Easter Cast Prepares for Debut

Rehearsals are under way for the first ever “Living Easter” experience, set to debut at Hickory United on Saturday, April 4 with walk through tours running from 1-2:30 pm. Devised by “Living Nativity” event organizer, Ellen Warren, (below) the “Living Easter” serves as a continuation of the story, sharing the good news of the Gospel through testimonies from Biblical characters that encountered Christ. Come and see!



(Above) The cast gathers in Fellowship Hall to hold rehearsals where each cast member recites their character’s monologue. “The Living Easter” features twelve stations with twelve different character’s attesting to the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus Christ throughout His ministry, trial, and crucifixion.



Maundy Thursday Service

Apr. 2 | 7 pm | Covenant Center

Sit at the table with your neighbors like Jesus sat with His disciples at the Last Supper as we remember His covenant.



Easter Sunday at Hickory United

Apr. 5 | 6 & 10 am Services | Sanctuary

Join us for a breakfast potluck in between services followed by a kids egg hunt. Sunday School @ 8:45 am.

KIDS MINISTRY

HICKORY UNITED Kids

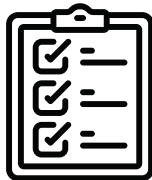
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMARY

After beginning the month of April with an Easter lesson, kids will spend time in the epistles of the New Testament. They will learn from Romans and Galatians about the role of the Holy Spirit, from James about the importance of obedience to God, and from Jude about the importance of being ready to stand up for and tell others about Jesus! Join us as we learn from the early church these important lessons on how we must respond to the resurrection!



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT MICHAELA:
YOUTH@HICKORYUNITEDEPC.ORG

SERVE IN KIDS & YOUTH MIN!



Praise God, our Kids & Youth ministries are growing, and this means more opportunities to serve! We invite anyone with a call on their heart to come alongside in service for our youngest disciples. Contact Michaela Walker or sign up to serve at events at the Welcome Area bulletin board!

KIDS & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 - 9:45 AM

Communicants Class

The Communicants reached the halfway point in their classes, so naturally a group outing was in order! The class went to laser tag and had a great time playing arcade games!

At the end of the class session, students will give a Profession of Faith and are planning a group field trip to Washington, D.C. in May.

This is the first Communicants class session to take place for Kids & Youth and has garnered great interest from families. The Communicants class has 13 participants and meets weekly with Pastor Clayton & Michaela Walker.



Kidventure Update

This April, kids will Live It Out as we teach the Simple Truth, "I Am Set Apart." Kids will learn that God cares about us, our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Understanding God's love and care helps motivate us to live in ways that point others to God.

Kidventure runs through May 12, weekly on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Youth Room/Covenant Center. This is a free program that includes games, activities, Bible lessons, and snack time.



Parents' Night Out!

This event is a total win-win for Parents & Kids! Drop off your K-5th grader with us while you enjoy a few hours of free time with an evening outing while we do the entertaining. Kids will enjoy activities, a Bible lesson, craft, games, short video or movie, and dinner (provided).

RSVP for Parents' Night Out by registering online! Scan the QR code with your device or visit the event page: <https://hickoryunitedepc.subs.pla.sh/4237dvm>



Parents' Night Out! (K-5th)

Apr. 17 | 5-9 pm | Covenant Center
Enjoy the night out while your kids stay in!

YOUTH MINISTRY



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMARY

In April, we will wrap up the Gospel of Mark! We will read of Jesus' resurrection, ascension, and charge to his followers to spread the good news. Join us as we conclude this gospel, and make sure you're there this month as we discuss what we'll read next!

**NO
YOUTH GROUP
EASTER SUNDAY!
APRIL 5**

**SAVE THE DATE!
HARVEST LOCK-IN
MAY 16-17
5 PM - 10 AM**

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT MICHAELA:
YOUTH@HICKORYUNITEDEPC.ORG

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 - 9:45 AM

Harvest Youth Group Update

We are continuing our Alpha Youth video series! In April, we will explore questions about the Holy Spirit and how God helps us overcome evil. And as always, we will enjoy good eats and fun games! March highlights included Moe's burritos for dinner and a new game called Alien! Join us this April for fun, food and fellowship. Youth Group meets weekly on Sundays from 6-8 pm in the Youth Room & Covenant Center.



April Service Project

Join us as we serve a member of our congregation by assisting with some outdoor property maintenance! Registration can be completed by scanning the QR code, outside of Michaela's office or by contacting Michaela directly.



UPCOMING HARVEST EVENTS



Open Gym Nights

Apr. 10 & 24 | 8:30 - 10 pm | Youth Room
We have two Friday night Open Gym opportunities this month!



Local Missions Week

July 27-31 | TBA | Off Campus
Save the Date for our Summer local Missions Week! Rather than serving out of town, which is typical for youth group summer trips, we will be serving locally at Hickory United EPC's mission partners.

Students will spend each day learning from and working with a new mission partner, learning firsthand about each organization's mission and take part in advancing that mission by participating in the organization's work. Stay tuned for more details!

APRIL CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

- 4/2 **Maundy Thursday** - Service & Communion | 7 pm (CC)
4/2-4/7 **Easter Break** - Preschool Closed
4/3 **Good Friday** - Office Closed
4/4 **The Living Easter** | 1-2:30 pm (CC/FH)
4/5 **Easter Sunday**
Worship & Communion | 6 am & 10 am
Breakfast | 7:30 am
Egg Hunt | 8 am
4/10 **Harvest Open Gym** | 8:30-10 pm (CC)
4/12 **Harvest Service Project** | 1-5 pm (Off campus)

- 4/15 **Tax Day**
4/17 **Parents' Night Out (K-5th)** | 5-9 pm (CC)
4/24 **Harvest Open Gym** | 8:30-10 pm (CC)

NEXT MONTH

- 5/3 **Worship & Communion** | 10 am
5/5 **Cinco De Mayo**
5/10 **Mother's Day**
5/16 **Harvest Youth Lock-in** | 5 pm
5/17 **Discipleship Pancake Fundraiser** | 11:15 am (CC)

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

CHECK ONLINE CALENDAR FOR FULL LIST OF RECURRING WEEKLY/MONTHLY MEETINGS: hickorychurch.com/calendar

Staff CONTACTS:

PASTORAL & MINISTRY

SENIOR PASTOR

Clayton LaPosta | (724) 356-4424 (Ext. 102)

pastor@hickoryunitedepc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Michaela Walker | (724) 356-4424 (Ext. 103)

youth@hickoryunitedepc.org

LAY PASTOR

Lou Templeton | (724) 356-7835

ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Danna | (724) 356-4424

office@hickoryunitedepc.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Lynn VanNasdale | (724) 356-4424

communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

TREASURER

Melissa Fluharty | treasurer@hickoryunitedepc.org

ASST. TREASURER & CONSULT

Linda Carter

AUDIO VISUAL TECHNICIAN

David Sykut | david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org

FACILITY ASSISTANT

Will Smith

HICKORY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Ashley Lewis | (724) 356-7337

(724) 356-4424 (Ext. 101)

hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org



JOIN THE PRAYER TREE:

communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:

hickorychurch.com/prayer



@HICKORYCHURCH



HICKORYCHURCH.COM



724-356-4424



OFFICE@HICKORYUNITEDEPC.ORG



210 MAIN STREET, HICKORY, PA.



GET THE NEWS!

TEXT 'HICKORYUNITED' TO 84576 & JOIN THE MAILING LIST!