



HICKORY UNITED EPC | JUNE 2026

THE HICKORY MESSENGER



Pastor's Pen

BY PASTOR CLAYTON LAPOSTA

As most of you have heard by now, one the great highlights over the month of May was the completion of our Communicants Class! For 10 weeks, this group of kids devoted an hour a week learning the doctrines of our church, the history of our tradition, and so many other wonderful things (not to mention all of the homework that we sent home with them!)

This experience ended not only with the baptism of 3 students and the reception of 8 others as active members at HUEPC but with our trip to Washington, DC. Of all the things that I was excited to see on our trip, the Museum of the Bible was at the top of my list. If you're ever in DC, this place is certainly worthy of making it into your itinerary. The museum is laid out in six floors with each one devoted to a different subject. For example, on one floor you could see and even touch artifacts from first century Judea, on another you could walk through what Jerusalem would have looked like during the life of Jesus, and on another you could see all the ways that the Bible and our Christian faith have shaped our nation.

My favorite was the 4th floor that was entirely devoted to learning about how the Bible has been reliably transmitted to this day and the current work of translating the Bible into every known language. One amazing aspect of this floor was learning just how much work went into copying one Bible into multiple copies. In most cases, it would take years to make just one copy of the Bible. This means that having access to the Bible, especially for an average Joe, was unheard of. We learned how this process changed after the invention of the Gutenberg printing press. But even then, until the Reformation and the work of brave folks like William Tyndale and John Wycliffe, having access to the Bible was incredibly rare.

In today's world, that is incredibly hard for us to imagine. We have Bibles nearly everywhere. They are in almost every hotel room, most homes, and can be downloaded on every smart device that we own. With the accessibility of the Bible increasing you would think that we would treasure and utilize this gift that Christians throughout most of history would die to have. Sadly, this usually isn't the case. We treasure the thought of religious freedom but this convenience has actually driven us to comfort and we ignore the great treasure it is to have a Bible, even though so many of our ancestors devoted their lives to make it happen.

A very popular verse from Psalm 190:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light upon my path." You may have even sung that before! Knowing our wonderful church, I think all of us would agree that the Word of God is true but as we read this verse, is it really? Are these words true to us? Is the Word of God a light to our path? Have we devoted ourselves to the study of God's Word or is something else a light to us? Are the Bibles that we own something that we use and rely upon or are they just another knickknack that gives us the appearance of faithfulness? I bring this up because with the summer months now here and most of our children getting out of school soon, we will no doubt be incredibly busy. Whether we have vacations planned, summer camps to attend, whatever, we will have a million things to keep us busy. I encourage you to find time in the middle of your busy summer to make the study of God's Word part of not only your daily routine but your family's. See the great treasure that sits on our bookshelves, desks, and even our pockets waiting to be a light upon your path and follow it!

WORSHIP:

Sundays | 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sundays | 8:45 am

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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

Communion Sunday – June 7th

On Communion Sunday, we also invite you to bring canned goods, boxed cereals, and pasta for Fort Cherry Helping Hands. Your generosity makes a difference!

Save the Date – Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is Saturday, September 26th. Mark your calendar!

Meals on Wheels (MOWs) Delivery

MOWs drivers are now scheduling through McDonald MOWs.

For more information or to volunteer, contact:

- Pat Powell: 724-926-2104
- Melissa Mohon: 757-469-2354



NOTES OF Thanks

Dear Saints at Hickory, Greetings. We thank you for thinking about us, for praying for us, and making sure we have money to run the ministry. Thanks for checks #22693 \$100 and #22692 \$1820. We are very grateful. All continues to go well at the mission. Glory to God

~ERMITHE & PIERRE

Baptism News

Congratulations to Beatrice Stritzinger, William Stritzinger, and Seth Fawley on their baptisms. We are all so proud of your commitment to the Lord.



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

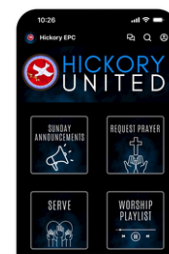
HAITI FOOD DISTRIBUTION

YOUR DONATIONS FEED HAITIAN CHILDREN

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

Help Feed Haitian Children

We are always collecting donations for our Haiti Food Distribution program. Donations supply rice and beans to Haitian children and their families.



we love a good glow up.



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



united gear is here.



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

volunteering fills a gap.
truly serving fills the heart.

serve with us.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Annual Pancake Fundraiser



We had an incredible pancake breakfast this month! Our youth and volunteers were up bright and early preparing breakfast for the congregation and helping make the morning such a success. We are so thankful for everyone who came out to enjoy fellowship together and generously donated to the Children's Youth and Development Fund. Your support and encouragement mean so much to our young people and the future of our ministry.



Communicants Class

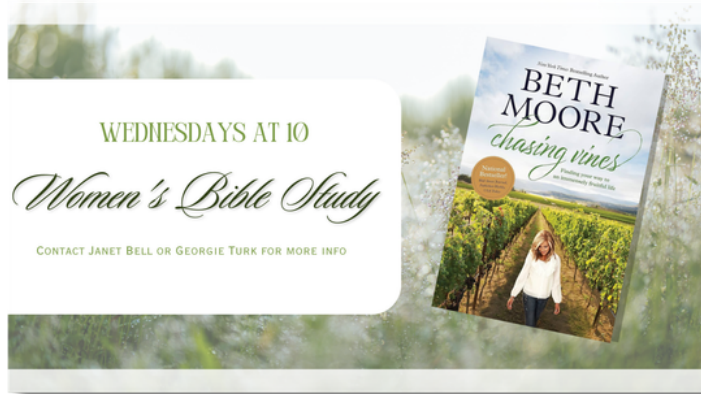
This month, we joyfully welcomed new members into our church family from our Communicants Class!

They spent time in Washington, D.C., visiting the Martin Luther King Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and many others.

The main part of the trip was visiting the Bible Museum, which consisted of six floors of different Bible subjects, Ancient manuscripts, rare artifacts, early translations, and how the Bible was copied, preserved, and spread around the world. Thank you everyone for your prayers and support!



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

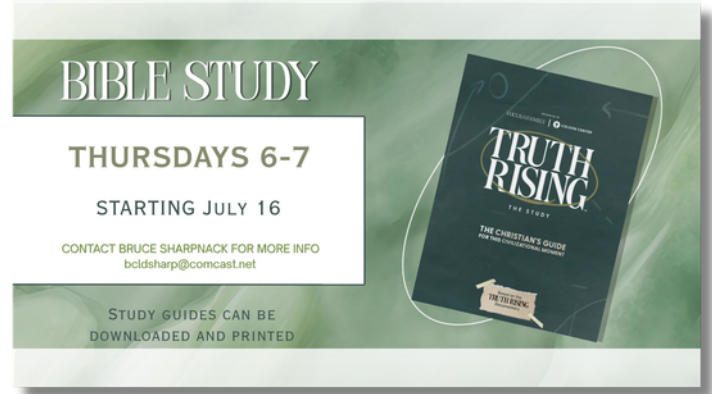


WEDNESDAYS AT 10

Women's Bible Study

CONTACT JANET BELL OR GEORGIE TURK FOR MORE INFO

BETH MOORE
chasing vines



BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS 6-7

STARTING JULY 16

CONTACT BRUCE SHARPNACK FOR MORE INFO
bldsharp@comcast.net

STUDY GUIDES CAN BE
DOWNLOADED AND PRINTED

TRUTH RISING
THE STUDY
THE CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE
FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Summer Bible Studies

This summer, new Bible Studies will be starting! We are excited to gather together for fellowship, learning, and growing in faith. Listed here are some of the studies that will be available, with more information and details coming soon.

We hope you will join us this summer!



Blood Pressure Checks

Every third Sunday
starting in June
8:30 - 9:45am

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will begin this month. Screenings will take place every third Sunday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to stay informed about your health and wellness.



Women's Resource Center

Women's Resource Center

Women's Resource Center is available in the church library. Some things you will find are a prayer request box, devotionals, information for homeschooling moms, widows, grandmothers, etc. Come check it out!



MWF 7:50 - 8:50 AM FIT CLUB
AEROBICS AND STRETCHING
MONDAY - 7:00 PM VOLLEYBALL
TUESDAY 12:30 - 2:00 PICKLEBALL
THURSDAY 6:00 - 8:00 PICKLEBALL

Fit Club.

Fit Club

Fit Club is still going strong! Join us throughout the week. Aerobics and stretching take place every MWF from 7:50–8:50 am. Volleyball meets Mondays at 7:00 pm., Pickleball is held Tuesdays from 12:30–2:00 pm and Thursdays from 6:00–8:00 pm. There is something for everyone. Come, stay active and connected!

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY

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

VBS ROME: ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY

KIDS

Welcome to ancient Rome where campers learn about the Apostle Paul and the underground church. Tiptoe past Roman guards to visit Paul in a secret cave to learn about God's love through Paul's eyes. At Rome, everyone gets to explore fist hand the culture of Paul's world.

They'll experience the heartbreaking trials, victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero. God's Word comes alive as families enjoy traditional Bible-time customs, occupations, food, and even games! Registration is open for participants and volunteers! Visit the display table in the Welcome Area, scan the QR code or visit: vbspro.events/p/hickoryunitedvbs to sign-up. See you there!



HICKORY KIDS CAMP

New This Year — Hickory Christian Kids Camp! Hickory Christian Preschool is excited to announce their brand-new Kids Camp running June 30 - July 30 for children ages 4 - 12! Camp will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with kids exploring a new and exciting theme each week through fun activities, learning experiences, games, and more.

Families can register by the week or for the full month, making it easy to fit summer schedules. Spots are limited to just 60 campers, so don't wait! Registration is now open on our website under the "Summer Camp" tab.

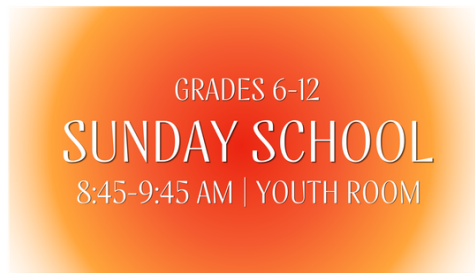
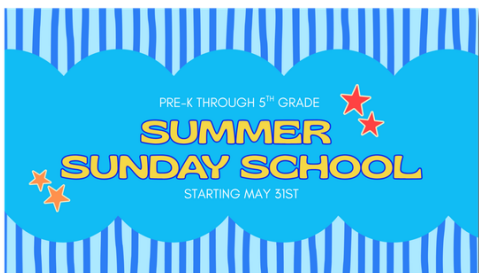


SERVE DURING MISSIONS WEEK!

YOUTH

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, experiencing firsthand each organization's mission in regards to service and help advance mission efforts by actively participating in the organization's work.

Join us for a week full of giving back to our communities, serving the "least of these," and loving our neighbors as Jesus commanded. Scan the QR code to RSVP!



JUNE CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

6/7 **Worship & Communion** | 10 AM

6/12-14 **VBS Set up**

6/14 **Flag Day**
Food and Fellowship | 11:15 AM

6/15-19 **VBS** | 9 AM - 12 PM

6/21 **Father's Day**
Blood Pressure Checks | 8:30 AM

NEXT MONTH

7/3 **Office Closed**

7/4 **Independence Day**

7/5 **Worship & Communion** | 10 AM

(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

LAY PASTOR

Lou Templeton | (724) 356-7835

ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Danna | (724) 356-4424

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Bella Blue | (724) 356-4424

communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

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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



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HICKORYCHURCH.COM



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GET THE NEWS!

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