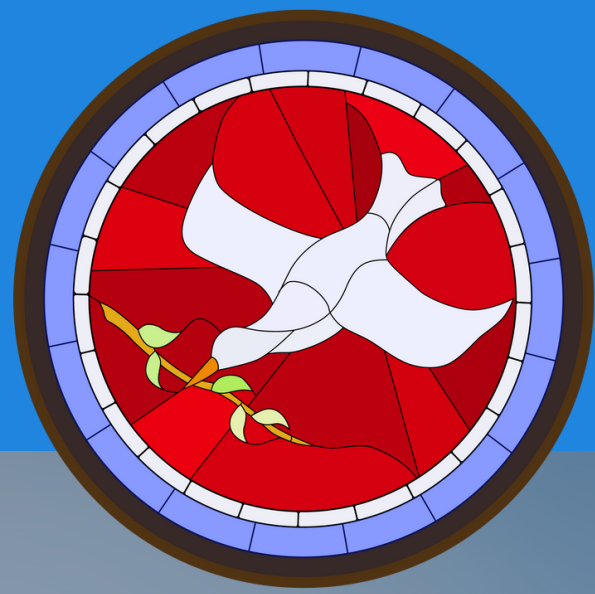


THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | MAY 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

One day, an honest man was being tailgated by a very, very stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light ahead, turned yellow. Instead of accelerating through the intersection to beat the red light, the man came to a stop at the crosswalk. The tailgating woman behind him slammed on her brakes and laid on her horn in disgust. Frustrated that she missed her chance to get through the intersection, she began cursing a blue streak of expletives at the top of her lungs out of anger. Still in mid-rant, she was startled by the sudden tapping on her driver's side window. Looking up, her eyes met the eyes of a very serious looking police officer. The officer ordered her to move her car to the side of the road. She was then told to exit her car with her hands up. After being handcuffed, the woman was transported to the police station where she was searched, finger-printed, and photographed, and then placed in a holding cell.

Several hours elapsed before a second police officer unlocked the holding cell door and escorted her back to the booking desk. There stood the arresting officer holding her personal effects. He apologized by saying, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and cursing the man in front of you. I noticed the "Choose Life" license plate holder, the "What Would Jesus do?" and "Follow Me to Sunday School" stickers on your back bumper, as well as a silver plated Christian Fish emblem on the trunk of your vehicle. When I witnessed how you were behaving, I naturally assumed you had stolen the car!"

The fourth fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) is patience or 'good' temper. The word 'temper' is defined as a person's state of mind seen in terms of their being angry or calm. Simply stated, a person's temper can turn bad or good depending on the disposition of their state of mind. King Solomon, inspired by the Holy

(CONTINUED ON PG. 5)

Sunday Worship Services:

8:30 am Contemporary

11:00 am Traditional

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Pen / cover

Deacon's Corner / 2

Rise Up & Pray! / 3

Stewardship / 4

Misc. News / 5-6

Haiti Update / 7-8

Preschool / 9

Calendar / 10

Connect / 11

Communion News

COMMITTEE: LISA ALEXANDER & DEB REA

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 located in the main entrance foyer. On Sunday, April 2nd (Palm Sunday) 196 people received communion, and on Thursday, April 6th (Maunday Thursday) 115 people received communion.

COMMUNION:
SUNDAY, MAY 7
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Deacons' Special Projects

COMMITTEE: RICH MOORE & DAVE WILLKENS

Fort Cherry Helping Hands

In addition to the usual food donations, they have requested donations paper products (toilet paper, paper towels). Please place your items on the metal rack located in the main entrance foyer. As the school year comes to an end, May will be the last month that the deacons will take donations for the FCHH program to the school.

Since the school is closed during the summer months, the deacons will take your summer donations to the Midway UP Church. They distributed these items to the local families who participated in the FCHH program during the school year, and other local families in need. THANK YOU!! Your generosity to this program has helped many local families receive essential food/items for daily living.

Bereavement

COMMITTEE: BOB SPENCER & DEB REA

We are looking for volunteers to make food or desserts for bereavement dinners. In the near future, there will be a signup table in the welcome area for those who wish to help.

Meals-On-Wheels

COMMITTEE: MARY JORDAN & SANDY MARTINEK

We are looking for summer drivers to help deliver meals to our local community. If you are able to volunteer or have questions, please call the church office, at 724-356-4424, and leave a message for either Mary or Sandy.

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.

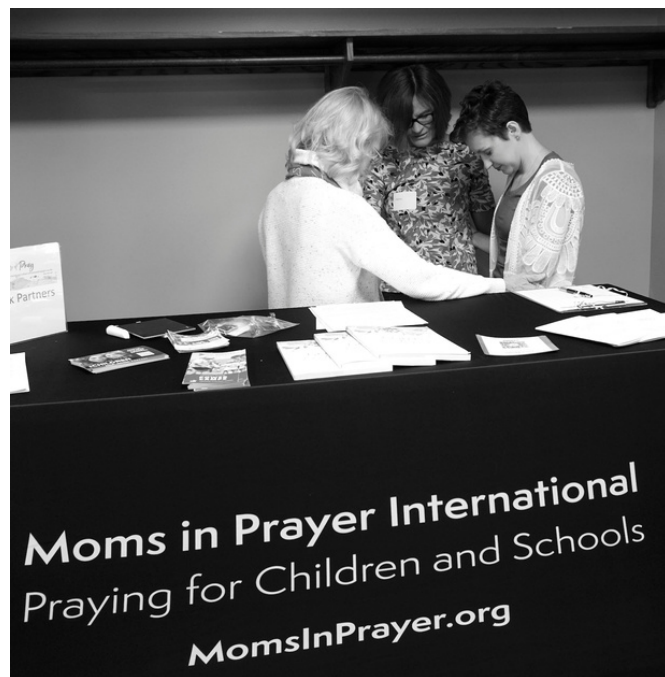
Rise Up & Pray

BY ASHLEY STRNISA

Have you ever seen the movie *Courageous* where the Pastor passionately calls to fathers and says "Where are you men of Courage? Where are you men who fear God?" Well let me ask you ...where are woman of faith? God is calling us to take up the gauntlet of the woman before us! God is calling us to stand up AGAINST the enemy. We are going to rise up and pray, to come alongside our children young and old, our teachers, and our schools.

The focus of Rise Up & Pray is to spread prayer like wild fire, to teach us to look to Scripture for inspiration in our prayers, to help us to learn to confess our sins and get our hearts right before the Lord and to thank Him for His goodness and honor Him for who He is. Diane Ippolito spoke on Moms in Prayer's four simple steps to prayer gave us the time to practice each step with one another. Several churches were represented and we had several people volunteer to start a group from the event. Please look for upcoming small groups that will teach us to pick up our torches and pray for the next generation!

Ladies we have a shield of faith to protect each other and our children in prayer, we have a helmet of salvation to make every thought obedient to Christ and now we have a torch... Contact Merri Clark: clarkwwmd@msn.com or Ashley Strnisa: 724-480-8803 for information.



(Above) Moms in Prayer team member Nadine takes a moment to pray at her booth before event kick-off with Merri Clark and Ashley Strnisa.



(Left) Rise Up & Pray Guest Speaker Ashley Strnisa, Hickory Event Organizer Merri Clark, and Moms In Prayer Pennsylvania State Coordinator Diane Ippolito share a moment together post-event. (Above) Lynn Davis, Melissa Fluharty & Catie Fluharty lead attendees in Hymnal Worship.

Ways to Give



- Text **RiseUpPray** to **91999**
- Scan the **QR code**
- Click the **GIVE BUTTON** on momsinprayer.org



Moms in Prayer International is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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.



STEWARDSHIP

and Mission Ministry Team *Managing God's Gifts To Us*

May 7- Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1

Jesus knew that people were easily afraid. He frequently experienced people and situations that were scary! He was able to rise above his fear because he was committed to God's kingdom, and was willing to sacrifice everything (including his life) in service to God. So... don't let your hearts be troubled.

May 14 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. John 14:15-16

The Advocate, whom we usually call the Holy Spirit, is a constant guide for us, a constant encouragement to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. The Advocate will be with us forever, guiding, encouraging, uplifting, caring.

May 21 -Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Day)

As the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Acts 1:9

He was gone! Now what? With no blueprint or plans, only the inspiration of the Advocate, the disciples set to work to bring to life the kingdom of peace and justice, of love and compassion, that their Master had preached. Let us set forth to do the same.

May 28 - Pentecost Sunday

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. Acts 2:1

In one place. The community of believers were all together in one place when the day of Pentecost came. Their spirit of cooperation, mutual respect and care for others, already present, was deeply multiplied when the Spirit came upon them. May our community hold these same values and may they grow daily by the power of the Spirit.

***Our Culture of
Thankfulness
& Generosity***

Notes of THANKS

To all my Church Friends,

Thank you for the get well wishes, cards and especially the prayers during my hospital stay and recovery at home. Thanks also to Pastor Dan for his thoughtful visits.

~LOU TEMPLETON

Thank you for always standing with us in the advancement of God's work. We appreciate so much your prayers and your financial support. We couldn't do it without you. You and we are doing this work together for the glory of God. Blessings upon all of you!

~PASTOR PIERRE

The Easter Offering this year totaled \$6,925. The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed. Most of all, thanks to our Good Father who provides the means for this generosity. Thank Him also for our fellowship, the energy to serve, and the message of salvation He allows us the privilege to proclaim!

~STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PAGE 5

(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Spirit, addressed the detriment of a 'bad' temper when he wrote, "It is honorable for a man to resolve a dispute, but any fool can get himself into a quarrel." Proverbs 20:3

Whenever our temper sours from good to bad, and it spills over onto others, we not only harm them, we also harm ourselves. People who habitually display a bad temper project their own inner problems onto others because they fail to see that both the cause and remedy of their bad temper arise from within them. What I have found to be often true for this type of persistent bad behavior is that "hurt people hurt people." And sometimes, these individuals believe that the only way to get things done is to lose their temper. But James, Jesus' brother, points out to us that a bad temper is

not of God. "For man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness." James 1:20

Another way of saying this is: "For man's (bad) temper is never the means of achieving God's true goodness." 'Wrong' means lead to 'wrong' ends. You may be thinking, this is easier said than done. I agree but it can be done. By God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, we can overcome our sinful acts of hatred, discord, fits of rage, and dissension by calling on the Spirit of God, who dwells within us, to lead us to live with a 'good' temper. When the urge to strike out in anger begins to arise within, let us take a deep breath and remember Paul's teaching: 24 'Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with

with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.' Galatians 5:24-26

Blessings, Dan



JOIN THE PRAYER TREE

To opt in contact Paula: office@hickoryunitedepc.org

A Special Note from Session:

Hickory United will be moving to a combined service beginning June 11th and continuing until the end of August. Please join us in Unified Worship at 10:00 am on Sundays for a creative mixture of contemporary and hymnal offerings. Adult Sunday school classes will continue throughout the summer at 9:00 am. Please check with your Kids/Youth Sunday School teachers for details, as Summer plans are still being finalized. We are looking forward to a wonderful summer with an atmosphere that is a bit more relaxed. This will be an excellent season to invite your friends and neighbors!



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PAGE 6



SMILE,
it's Picture Day!

DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS NEW DATES:

May 21 & 22

SIGN UP IN WELCOME AREA STARTING MAY 7!

Were you out of town, unavailable or forgot to sign-up for your Directory Photo session? We have two new opportunities to schedule your Photo Session appointment on Sunday, May 20 from 9:30-11:00 am & 12:00-12:30 pm and Monday, May 21 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Online sign-up runs through May 1. In person Sign-up begins Sunday, May 7!

Discipleship Team Seeking

SMALL GROUP COORDINATOR

Contact Natalie:
NATALIEJENGEL@GMAIL.COM



Small Groups
AT HICKORY CHURCH



**Church just got
an upgrade.**



- Submit Online Prayer Requests
- Live Streaming & Sermon Replay
- Virtual & Audio Bible Features
- Fast Calendar Access
- Member Messaging
- Online Giving
- AND MORE!



Download now!

It's All About Prayer!

LADIE'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY MAY 6 | 8:30-10:30 AM

CONTACT CINDY: 724-255-1583

- Please bring a simple breakfast casserole/item
- Join us for breakfast, prayer & learn about Prayer Personalities!
- Donations for a Love Offering will be given to Avis Arbor



SUNDAY SCHOOL
END OF YEAR

MAY 21 @ 9:45 AM
LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Party



HAVE A HEART FOR HAITI

MISSION UPDATE: MAY 2023

DEAREST FRIENDS & FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS:

Greetings in the precious name of our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus! It's so good to get back with you. It is the weekend, let me give you a view of the week through this update. We cannot stop thanking God for His protection over the staff, teachers and all the children in our schools. Amid the wind of insecurity God is at work, He feeds, He leads, and He protects His children. Hope you and your loved ones are well. In this update, we focus first on agriculture, primarily the mission farm. We will also present the words of gratitude of some micro loan recipients.

AGRICULTURAL FARMS IN LACROIX

In Lacroix, the farmers thank God for the first drops of rain after Lent. It is only after 6 months and a few days that the rain finally arrives in the fields. During the dry season, the population suffered from a lack of food, as can be seen in the open-air markets. As a result, the prices of these products increase and people who have little money cannot afford them. On the mission farm, preparations for this period have been underway for several months. We hired a man to prepare the field, to be ready for the rainy season. So it was a wise choice.

We have already planted vegetables such as eggplant, papaya, tomatoes, chili, spinach, okra and leek. Next month, we will plant banana and coconut trees in another part of the farm. The next school reopening, the children of the school will find vegetables from this farm in their dishes. We are planning to buy a solar pump to water the whole farm.

MICRO-LOAN

We had a meeting with some beneficiaries' women of micro-loan of the mission. Let me remind you that we have sixty women in this micro-loan program. We took the opportunity to listen to the testimonies of some; we choose to share with you two in this update:

Mme DESIRA DARLERANT

Mother of 5 children, her husband became a sickly person since 13 years having difficulties to walk properly. She is a beneficiary woman of the mission's micro loan program; we have retained her testimony: For three years I have been integrated into the mission's micro-credit. I passed the first and second stages and now I am in the third stage. This credit is a great help to me because I didn't have a personal fund to start a mini business; with this program, I was able to buy peanuts in the field and then sell them at the market and this allowed me to take care of my five children. It enables me also to help my husband with his doctor's visits and medicines. I thank God first, then I thank the brothers and sisters who are part of the staff of the mission, and finally I thank all those who contribute to help us women change our standard of living for the best. May the Awesome GOD JEHOVAH pour out his rich blessings upon you each day!



ALIETTE CHARLES

Hello! my name is Aliette Charles, mother of 3 children, I am a Christian, Maestro of the ladies' group of the New Testament Church. I have had a great affinity for the street business since I was very young. The last few years have been difficult and I have not been able to continue my street vending business because of this. After joining the mission's micro-loan program, I resumed my business and my turnover increased. In my country, no banking institution would lend money to people like me who have no collateral. I knew that God had a plan for me. I bless His name for the grace and favor He has given me, because for the past three years I have been receiving a loan from the New Testament Mission's micro-loan program. I thank the donors from the United States for their generosity and favor for the women of LaCroix. May God continue to bless you all!

HAVE A HEART FOR HAITI: LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION

*To all of you who go to Haiti, pray for Haiti, donate to Haiti or sponsor a child at the Lacroix New Testament Mission, God bless you.
Thank you for letting God use you to support this ministry.*



NEWS FROM PASTOR PIERRE

You would not believe that the mission is functioning in the midst of the chaos that the country is in. Several other schools are closed. Yet everything is going as normal for us. It is hard to believe. Our teachers and our students are protected. All we can say is that it is the Lord's doing. The battle is not ours to fight, it's His. If the Lord is for us who can be against us?

The Lord is providing for His ministry through you so His people in Haiti can live through this famine that has been there for over three years now. You have fed thousands and thousands with your monthly donations. We are always at a loss for how to express our gratitude to you.

-Pastor Pierre

NEWS FROM HICKORY

Because of your generous hearts, our church just sent \$15,000 to the mission for food distribution, \$5,000 to the building fund and \$6,000 for the higher education fund.

Thank you, Jesus!

Grace and peace,
Gretta MacIntyre

The cost of sponsorship is \$240 per year, or \$20 per month. If you would like to begin sponsoring a child or make a donation, we have children in need that will benefit greatly. Checks should be made payable to Hickory United EPC, with the memo "Haiti Mission" Donations may be put in the offering plate or mailed to the church: Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 210 Main Street, Hickory, PA 15340

Please contact Gretta at geese@hky.com or 724-986-7946 if you are interested in sponsoring a child or need information regarding Haiti. The gift you give as a child sponsor helps so many people: your child, their family, the teachers and staff at the mission and the people of the Lacroix Community. Sponsorship provides an education that is an opportunity for a better future.

Complete the following sponsorship form, detach, and return to the church Main Office:

Name: _____ **Contact:** _____

- ☐ I wish to continue sponsoring my child. (yearly / monthly)
- ☐ I wish to become a new 2023 sponsor. (yearly / monthly)
- ☐ I am unable to sponsor/wish to discontinue sponsorship at this time.
- ☐ I wish to give a one time contribution to the program. \$_____

Upcoming Events

May 1-2:
NO SCHOOL
Teacher In-Service

May 11:
Last Day PreK 3's

May 12:
Last Day PreK 4's

May 17:
All School Picnic

May 15, 16, 18:
Teacher In-Services

Springhouse Farm

BY MS. ASHLEY & MS. KAREN

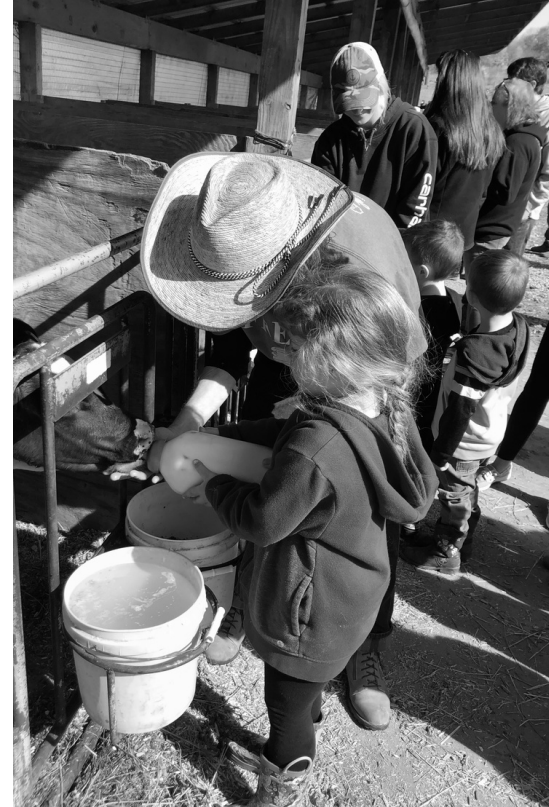
On April 19 our 4-year-old classes took a school field trip to the lovely Springhouse Farm. We started our day learning about feed, what they put down in stalls and what cows like the snack on. From there we went to the milking room where we learned about the machines they use to milk cows and how they prepared the cows to be milked. After that we toured the storage container where they kept the milk at a certain temperature and constantly moving to prevent the milk from turning to cream.

Through the storage room was the entrance to the calf sanctuary where we saw calves as young as four days old. Our students had the privilege of feeding the calves by bottle, which they loved! Soon after, they were able to milk a cow by hand all by themselves! Next was the cow nursery where the pregnant mommas were awaiting delivery. This was an incredible experience, finished off with a tour of the bottling facility and delicious ice cream made right on the farm!

*For more information about
Springhouse Farm Visit:
www.springhousemarket.com*



(Above) The vintage Springhouse Farm sign welcomes visitors, boasting farm fresh milk, custom ice cream concoctions and from scratch baked goods. Springhouse Market Restaurant has been voted Best Buffet for the past three years by the Observer-Reporter. Photo Credit: Jennifer York



(Above) Pre-K student Sarah York is assisted by a farmhand tour guide in bottle feeding a young calf. Students gained first hand experience in caring for the animals and learned all about the milking process! Photo credit: Jennifer York

AN ABC FAREWELL!

Our school year will come to an end with our Closing Program filled love, laughter and Jesus! A fun picnic will be held at Cross-Creek Park on May 17 to bring all families together in celebration of all the milestones and accomplishments our kiddos achieved.

What a wonderfully blessed school year we have had!
Thank you for all of your prayers for us this school year!



MAY CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

5/6	Ladie's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-10:30 (CC)	5/16	Final KidVenture 6:00 pm (L)
	Work Day - Bldg. & Property 8:00 am	5/18	Ascension Day
5/7	Directory Photo Sign-up Begins	5/21	Directory Photo Sessions 9:30-11am & 12-12:30 pm (P)
	Communion 8:30 & 11:00 AM (S)	5/22	Directory Photo Sessions 6:00-8:00 pm (P)
5/11	Preschool Closing Program (S)	5/28	Pentecost Sunday
5/12	Preschool Graduation (S)	5/29	Memorial Day - Office Closed
5/14	Mother's Day	6/4	Graduation Recognition / Communion 8:30 & 11:00 (S)

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) *current session ends May 21*
- IGNITE (6th-12th grade) | 9:45 am (L) *current session ends May 21*

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) *current session ends May 16*
- 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

- 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 Cancer Survivors Group Meeting | 12:00 pm (CC) | Last 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

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

Director of Music Ministry, Tim VanNasdale | tim.vannasdale@hickoryunitedepc.org

Administrative / Support

Office Manager, Paula Steele | paula.steele@hickoryunitedepc.org

Communication Coordinator, Lynn VanNasdale | communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

Financial Director, Linda Carter | linda.carter@hickoryunitedepc.org

Assistant Treasurer, Melissa Fluharty | melissa.fluharty@hickoryunitedepc.org

Audio Visual Technician, David Sykut | david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org

Hickory Christian Preschool

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

Facilities

Sexton, Eugene Short | (724) 356-4424 | 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

LET'S GET LINKED!



scan



GET THE
APP!



SHARE
SOCIAL!

text

HICKORYUNITED
TO 84576



follow



@hickorychurch



hickorychurch.com



724-356-4424

210 Main St., Hickory, PA.
15340

contact