

THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | JUNE 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

When I was about eight years old, my mother gave me an 8" by 11" placard to hang on my bedroom wall. The placard featured a color photograph of President John F. Kennedy with an italicized quote from his 1961 inaugural address embossed at the bottom. The quote read: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." President Kennedy's words have reminded me throughout life, that we are called to serve others. Jesus, the ultimate servant-leader for all of humanity, teaches us and His disciples, what 'serving others' means from the Son of God's perspective.

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" He asked. 37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." 38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink

and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." 41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:35-45

In today's society, we relish being served by others. Who of us would turn down the privilege that accompanies first class service on a flight, eating at a five star restaurant, receiving VIP treatment at a music venue, or being ushered to the front of the line at Disney World? John and James, disciples of Jesus, erroneously perceived their privilege of following Christ, as an automatic qualifier for the highest positions in Jesus' kingdom. But the heavenly kingdom of Jesus is

(CONTINUED ON PG. 4)

Summer Worship:

Unified Services 10:00 am

Starting June 11

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Communion News

COMMITTEE: LISA ALEXANDER & DEB REA

Our next communion will be on Sunday, June 4th at the 8:30 & 11:00 am services. 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.

COMMUNION:
SUNDAY, JUNE 4
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Deacons' Special Projects

COMMITTEE: RICH MOORE & DAVE WILLKENS

WILL YOU BE TRAVELING? If so, please pick up any unused complimentary hygiene items from your hotel or resort. These are used to make care packages for the Washington City Mission and, when needed, sent to those affected by natural disasters and taken to Fort Cherry for the Helping Hands Program. Those "free" items are appreciated and used in many ways! There is a box in the main entrance foyer to place your items.

Bereavement

COMMITTEE: BOB SPENCER & DEB REA

We are still in need of more volunteers who will be able to make food or desserts for bereavement dinners throughout the year. Please sign-up by contacting Deb Rea

Meals-On-Wheels

COMMITTEE: MARY JORDAN & SANDY MARTINEK

Summer drivers are needed 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 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.

NOW LAUNCHING AT HICKORY CHURCH...

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New Hospitality Ministry Team

BY LYNN VANNASDALE

We are very pleased to announce the launch of an exciting and inspiring new initiative coming this Fall - the Hospitality Ministry Team! Having a church culture that orients the guest experience around Biblical hospitality is vital for first time visitors. The in-person experience should meet or exceed what guests see and hear about us in the digital space or from other people. Hospitality fosters a consistent culture that is inviting, celebratory, nonjudgmental, low pressure, safe, and sensitive to the needs of those being served. It's having a servant heart posture. It's meeting people where they are by being intentional and genuine, taking initiative and stepping out of *your* comfort zone to make someone new comfortable. Scripture calls on us again and again to practice Hospitality. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" Hebrews 13:2, "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" 1 Peter 4:9, "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality" Romans 12:13, and my personal favorite, "You shall treat the stranger *who sojourns with you* as the *native among you*, and you shall love *him as yourself*, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" Leviticus 19:34. These references are simply a few, but the point is the spiritual gift of hospitality empowers a person to go out of their way to make others feel seen, known, and loved. Brooke Warren from Gwinnett Church and North Point Ministries said that: "Every Sunday is someone's first Sunday. Show your guests that God is for them by how well you serve them."

We are the city on the hill, we are the beacon of hope; we are the light and salt of the earth - and we are called to emulate and exude the love of Jesus as we help one another grow in discipleship. You never know who might walk through the door on Sunday morning. If this has piqued your curiosity or you want to stay informed on the exciting work God is doing in our congregational community - we implore you to show up. We commission you to this Mission! **Join us for a Hospitality Informational Presentation on July 13 at 6 pm** because we need motivated, passionate, servant hearts *blazing for this Ministry cause* in order for *real* disciple-making change to happen. See you there.



Summer Sunday Potluck Series

Join us for our Summer Sunday Potluck series, Food & Fellowship! Following worship services, gather in Covenant Center and enjoy great company and great food. It all kicks-off Sunday, June 11 with our Staff hosting "Fiesta Fellowship!" Staff will supply items for a taco bar, but we need the congregation to help make it a Potluck!

- Bring a dish or dessert item of choice to pass, and let's share some good eats all around!
- Dishes/Desserts can be dropped off with a Potluck Host in the Covenant Center Kitchen on Sundays between 8:30-9:55 am.
- Items that can be non-refrigerated, refrigerated, placed in the warmer or plugged in (crockpots) can all be accommodated!
- We kindly request dishes that do not need to be further prepared on site via oven or stove.
- Please pick up your dish/dessert item after the Potluck (i.e. Tupperware, crockpots, pans, etc.)



Food & Fellowship
SUMMER SUNDAY POTLUCKS

- JOIN US AFTER SERVICES • 11:15 AM
- KICK-OFF DATE: JUNE 11 | COVENANT CENTER
- BRING A DISH/DESSERT TO PASS!
- DISH DROP-OFF: COVENANT CENTER KITCHEN 8:30-9:55 AM

JUNE Potluck Schedule

6.11 FIESTA FELLOWSHIP

6.18 PICNIC FARE

6.25 TEA TIME | Light Reception*

*Due to VBS kick-off in Covenant Center, please bring some light pastry items - cookies, donuts, coffee cakes, etc. and meet in the Welcome Area this day!



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

is not centered in palaces and thrones, or in positions of self-centeredness and self-importance. Those who enter the Kingdom of God will be those who are willing to act out of selfless sacrifice by serving others with mercy, grace and forgiveness, all for the glory of God, all in the name of Christ. Jesus teaches, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 I have learned that the more you know who Jesus really is, the more you begin to understand that serving others in His name is about selfless sacrifice, willful submission, and humble servanthood. Following Jesus isn't about us. It is all about Him. It always has been and always will be. So, what would it take for you to stand strong for Christ, rather than seeking to have your personal wants or desires met?

So, in paraphrasing the quote from President Kennedy, and reflecting on Jesus' teaching, I say this, "Ask not what Jesus can do for you. Ask what you can do for Jesus."

-Blessings, Dan

Notes of THANKS

The family of Ken Alrutz would like to thank the congregation for the kindness and caring extended to us through cards, phone calls, funeral visitation,

meals, flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association and most of all the prayers for peace and comfort after the passing of Ken's Mom, Dorothy Alrutz. While we miss her each day, we are thankful that she no longer suffers and is with her Lord and Savior, Jesus in her eternal home above.

~ALRUTZ FAMILY



NEW

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

Unified Sunday Services
@ 10:00 AM

STARTING JUNE 11!

Summer Schedule Reminder!

Hickory United will be moving to a combined service beginning June 11 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. Sunday School Lite will also be at 9:00 am for ages Pre-K through 5th grade. We hope everyone will join us in Covenant Center after Worship for the Food & Fellowship Potlucks. This will be an excellent season to invite your friends and neighbors!



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Following the Worship Service



LAST
CHANCE
to say Cheese!

FINAL 2023 DIRECTORY PHOTO DAY:

June 25

SIGN-UP JUNE 18 IN WELCOME AREA!



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!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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Please help us gather needed supplies and donate through our Amazon wishlist: <https://a.co/6W17WVH> OR visit the bulletin board next to the office and take a paper lion to donate/lend us any requested items. Please return items with the paper lion attached. Borrowed items will be returned once VBS has ended. Closer to the start of VBS we will have new paper lions on the bulletin board with food donations that are needed. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

Compelled to share a testimony? Called to share a message?

REACH.TEACH.PREACH.

6.18 | 7.23 | 8.20 | 8.27

Contact Pastor Dan

SENIOR RECOGNITION
SUNDAY, JUNE 4



JUNE 5 | 6-8 PM

JUNE 9 | 1-4 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

HELP PAINT SCENERY & DECOR FOR VBS!

**JULY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE!**



JUNE

19

Email Lynn:

communications@hickoryunitedepc.org



JOIN THE PRAYER TREE

To opt in contact Paula: office@hickoryunitedepc.org

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PAGE 6

New Summer Small Group Offering!

BY MERRI CLARK

Hey there Ladies, Do you need some spark in your prayer life? Consider signing up for this life changing Bible Study on Prayer by Fern Nichols, "Igniting a Passion to Pray." The prayer principles taught in this study are called the 4 steps of prayer: Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving and Intercession. This curriculum teaches what God says about prayer. Come out and experience the blessing and power of God through prayer. Our Heavenly Father desires to be us and loves pursuing a relationship with us. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you! **Call or text Merri Clark to sign up: 240-434-6236**

**Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm | 5 week session
JULY 5 - AUGUST 2**



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING: A SUMMER DOCUMENTARY SERIES

**LED BY RON STEWART | 9:00 AM | PARLOR
STARTING JUNE 11 | ADULTS & YOUTH WELCOME**

Is Genesis History? - Rocks and Fossils - Life and Design - Bible and Stars - Exodus - Red Sea Miracle
The Journey to Mount Sinai - The Moses Controversy - The Star of Bethlehem

*"As iron
sharpens iron,
so one person
sharpens another."
-Proverbs 27:17*

Discipleship Team Seeking

**SMALL GROUP
COORDINATOR**

Contact Natalie:

NATALIEJENGEL@GMAIL.COM



**Small Groups
AT HICKORY CHURCH**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL LITE EDITION
PreK-5th | Starting June 11 | 9 AM**



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

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Food distribution at the Mission:



(Above Left) Capturing the moment of the truck's arrival for food distribution. (Above Right) Bags of rice are unloaded out of the truck, then transported via wheelbarrow to the distribution location for families to pick up. These photos show the fruits of our labor in giving to the La Cross New Testament Mission, ensuring food security and meals for both the school children of the Mission and their families. Praise God for His provision!



(Left) The school in LaCoupe has no water. The older children walk a half mile **every day to get water, then **carry the filled containers** the half mile back to school so that food can be prepared for all the children.**

HAVE A **HEART** FOR HAITI: LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION UPDATE CONTINUED...



Recap: Arbor Day at the Mission



Children at the mission received small plantable trees to take home in celebration of Arbor Day. This is a two-fold blessing!

First Blessing:

The children are taught how to care for their trees, and to respect nature and the value trees provide. Fruit trees and shade trees were raised by the mission in their greenhouse, and distributed to the school children.

Second Blessing:

Planting trees also helps to reforest the country, which had suffered deforestation in the past due to the fact that charcoal is made from trees which people use to cook their food. The mission solely uses propane to cook food for the school children, providing a model example of alternative conservation efforts.

Arbor Day was a happy day for all of the mission's kids!



PASTOR PIERRE IS COMING TO PITTSBURGH!

Friday, September 15 to Monday, October 2, 2023

Even though Pastor Pierre and the La Croix New Testament Mission are always in our hearts, it has been too long since we have had a chance to welcome him into our churches and our homes. Let's make him feel at home! If you are interested in helping provide accommodations and Hosting Pastor Pierre at any time throughout his visit:

Contact Gretta MacIntyre (724-986-7946)

JUNE CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

6/4	Communion 8:30 & 11:00 am (S) Senior Graduation Recognition	6/14	Flag Day
6/5	VBS Paint Party 6:00-8:00 pm (FH)	6/18	Father's Day Final Directory Photo Session Sign-up
6/9	VBS Paint Party 1:00-4:00 pm (FH)	6/19	Juneteenth
6/11	Summer Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Sunday School Lite Begins 9:00 am Unified Worship Services Begin 10:00 am (S)	6/20	VBS Set-up Begins (FH)
		6/25	Directory Photo Sessions 8:30-9:55 am (P) VBS Family Night 4:00-7:00 pm (CC)
		6/26-6/29	VBS 9:00 am-12:00 pm

RECURRING WEEKLY MEETINGS/CLASSES/GATHERINGS

SUNDAYS

- Sunday School - Adult/Youth | 9:00 am (Various Locations)
- Sunday School Lite (Pre-K - 5th grade) | 9:00 am (Loft/CC)
- Unified Worship Services | 10:00 am (S)
- Food & Fellowship Potluck | 11:15 am (CC)

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

- Staff Meeting (Every Other Week) | 10:00 am (Parlor)
- 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

- Competitive Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)

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 1st Wednesday
- Preschool Team Meeting | 12:30 pm (FH) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Security Team Meeting | (P) Every 1st Wednesday
- 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 | sexton@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



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