

# THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | MARCH 2024



## 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 REV. TOM JONES

My wife's family likes to get together on Easter Sunday and share a meal. I always enjoyed going to those gatherings because I could hear stories about how their respective churches celebrated Easter that day. I recall talking to one family member telling me that their pastor didn't preach on the resurrection and didn't mention it at all. That surprised me.

I do know that some churches don't have a special celebration of Easter because we celebrate the resurrection EVERY Sunday, not just once per year. Also, some Christians are reluctant to celebrate Easter due to the fact that "Easter has roots in both Christianity and ancient pagan culture." As a result, they "cancel" that celebration from their churches as they seek to be faithful to the Word of God.

At the heart of the Easter message is redemption. Jesus Christ came to live for us, to die for us and to rise again for us that we might be redeemed from the power of sin and have eternal life in Him. The word redemption has the idea of "being bought back by paying a price." Jesus paid the ultimate price. We celebrate

being set free and living out the reality of this new life.

I say all this to say that, in my view, there is no need to "cancel" anything because the Lord has redeemed it all! For us, as believers, every day of the year belongs to Him. Let us celebrate being set free to live in His love, grace, mercy and power!

Love and Blessings, Pastor Tom



*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*  
John 11:25-27

## Worship:

Sundays | 10:00 am

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## Communion News

Next communion will be on **Sunday, March 3 at 10:00 am**. One gluten-free wafer will be available on each communion tray when passed around. **Donations of canned goods, vegetables and boxed pasta are requested for collection on Sundays when Communion is served.** These items will be distributed to families in our area who require additional assistance. Thank you for giving generously to help these families. Please place items on the metal rack located in the main entrance foyer.



*Easter Flowers*  
**ORDER BY MARCH 24**  
Envelopes in Welcome Area

## Easter Flowers

Order Envelopes are now available at the podium upon entering the Sanctuary or at the Welcome Center Desk. **Lilies are \$10.00 each, Daffodils and Tulips are \$9.00 each. Orders are due by March 24 to the offering plate or the Main Office.** Cash or Check only. Please make checks payable to Hickory United EPC with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. All flowers can be picked-up after the Easter Sunday Worship service on March 31.

**SAVE THE DATE. DONATE. SAVE LIVES.**



vitalant<sup>®</sup>  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**MAR 23 | COVENANT CENTER**  
**7:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**HICKORY UNITED EPC 210 MAIN ST. HICKORY, PA**

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QR  
CODE  
NOW!



## Deacon Responsibilities

Bereavement: Deb Rea, Bob Spencer, Lois Templeton | Cards, Shut-ins, Military: Janet Greene | Communion: Gretta MacIntyre, Deb Rea | Family Outreach: Kathy Yonker | Flowers: Ken Alrutz, Rich Moore | Food Pantry: Deb Rea, Sandy Martinek | Meals on Wheels: Sandy Martinek | Special Projects: Rich Moore, Bob Spencer

## 2024 Deacons

*Deb Rea, Moderator*

*Bob Spencer, Vice Moderator*

*Lois Templeton, Secretary*

*Gretta MacIntyre, Treasurer*

*Ken Alrutz*

*Janet Greene*

*Sandy Martinek*

*Rich Moore*

*Kathy Yonker*

*Welcome Deacons Gretta MacIntyre, Lois Templeton and Kathy Yonker who started their three year service term in 2024.*

## 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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## Notes of THANKS

*Thank you for your donation and contribution to the Fort Cherry Angel Tree program this year. Your support allowed us to provide toys, gifts, coats, books, backpacks, and clothes to 69 families and over 142 children in our district. With your generosity, these families were able to have a joyous Christmas morning with many gifts under the tree. When the community works together, we are able to do amazing things for our families. We appreciate everyone's contributions and look forward to working with you in the future. Wishing you the best in the new year,*

*Dear Mission Partner,*

~ TERRI EILER & LOUISE HILTY,  
THE FORT CHERRY ANGEL TREE COMMITTEE

*On behalf of the mighty work that God is doing in Sierra Leone, West Africa, we want to thank you for your blessings, prayers and generous financial support this past year. We can't say enough about how grateful we are to have your involvement in this ministry! The needs of these villages are numerous and endless, but your support this year has helped with food, shelters, youth camps, church building and supplies top name a few. More importantly, your support has helped bring numerous adults and children to know our Savior Jesus! What a blessing to know we can touch so many lives in so many ways. Again, thank you for walking with us on this journey and sharing the Good News with others. We look forward to working with you again this year and cannot wait to see what the Lord will accomplish through this ministry. God Bless, In Christ,*

~PASTOR PAUL HOUSMAN, EPC & THE PRESBYTERY OF THE ALLEGHENIES,  
SIERRA LEONE MISSION COORDINATOR

*Please offer up our thanks to the Lord for His providence in providing what we needed to make this a great season for all involved. Thank Him for the Covenant Center, the commissioners, all the volunteers, the parents, the grandparents, and friends who came to support the players. But most of all, thank Him for His greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. I, personally, would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and support for our Upward Basketball program this year. It has been greatly appreciated. In His Love,*

~JEANNE PHILLIPS, UPWARD BASKETBALL PRAYER COMMISSIONER

## Digital Ways to Give

Web



Text

"HICKORY" TO  
888-364-GIVE (4483)

In App



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS MAR. 10!

*Clocks ahead one hour!*



## APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

# MAR. 25



Email Lynn:  
[communications@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:communications@hickoryunitedepc.org)

## Let us pray for you today.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:  
[HICKORYCHURCH.COM/PRAYER](http://HICKORYCHURCH.COM/PRAYER)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE NOW





# MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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*Annual Name Your Price*

**FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY MARCH 16**  
**9 AM-1 PM**



**DROPOFF:**

MAR. 14 | 1-7 PM

MAR. 15 | 1-7 PM

**PRE-SHOP:**

MAR. 15

7-8 PM



SAVE THE DATE!

*Ladies Spring Breakfast*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2**

**9:00 AM | COVENANT CENTER**

**(BRING A BREAKFAST ITEM TO PASS)**

LOVE OFFERING ACCEPTED FOR THE HAITI WOMEN'S  
HEALTH EMPOWERING PARTNERS PROGRAM



*Ashley Struza*  
SPEAKER



*Food & Fellowship*  
**MAR. 10**

*"SPRINGTIME SEASONINGS"*

- JOIN US IN COVENANT CENTER AFTER WORSHIP
- BRING A SPRINGTIME THEMED DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE
- DISH DROP-OFF IS 8:55-9:30 AM IN COVENANT CENTER



*Family Movie Night*  
*"HARRY & THE HENDERSONS"*



**MARCH 2 | 7-9 PM**  
**COVENANT CENTER**

*Flea Market Fun Is Upon Us!*

BY PATTY LIN GROWDEN

It's that time of year again to start cleaning out those closets for our annual Name Your Price Flea Market! Mark your calendars for March 14th-16th. Please read ALL of the information listed below for further details.

Donation drop off times for the flea market will be **Thursday, March 14th from 1:00 - 7:00 pm and Friday, March 15th from 1:00 - 7:00.** \*\*PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS BEFORE the start time each day as it may interfere with the preschool activities and Drop off/pick up times. \*\* Church members are invited to presale shop on Friday from 7:00-8:00.

**There will be no pick-up of items this year.** You must bring your donations to the church and we will help you unload. Large items that cannot be carried while shopping should be dropped off at fellowship hall. Items we are not accepting this year include: Clothing, shoes, TV's, computer monitors that are not flat screen, cribs, and expired car seats (check the back for the expiration date).

**The flea market is Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.** Food will also be available to purchase, so come hungry or get it to go to enjoy later!

As always, thank you in advance for your donations, it wouldn't be a success without all of you. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Patty Lin Growden at 412-721-9660.

We are also in need of pies and baked goods to sell during the flea market. **If you are willing to bake, please contact Shelley Heinlein at 724-579-5563.**



FLEA MARKET

**BAKERS  
NEEDED!**

PIES & HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS

CONTACT SHELLEY:  
724-579-5563

*Family Movie Night!*

HOSTED BY THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Bring your family, neighbors and friends to Family Movie Night on March 2 from 7-9 pm in Covenant Center. We will be screening *Harry & The Hendersons*. Popcorn provided!



# LENT & EASTER EVENTS

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## *Palm Sunday* *Worship Service*

MARCH 24 | 10 AM



## *The Living Last Supper*

MAUNDY THURSDAY CHORAL PERFORMANCE

MARCH 28 | 7 PM



## EASTER SERVICE

MARCH 31 10:00 AM



# KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY

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## DATES & REMINDERS

### MARCH STUDENT SERVICE:

**SERVICE PROJECT**  
**CITY MISSION**  
**FOOD SERVICE**  
9 AM-1 PM  
MARCH 23, 2024

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL AGES:**  
SUNDAYS @ 8:45 AM

**YOUTH GROUP (6TH-12):**  
SUNDAYS @ 6:30-8

**KIDVENTURE BEGINS MAR. 5!**  
(K-5TH) TUESDAYS 5:30-7 PM

## SAVE THE DATES

**STUDENT HANGOUT:**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 16  
DETAILS TBA

**VBS 2024**  
HOMETOWN NAZARETH  
JUNE 17-21 @ 9 AM-12 PM  
(Stay tuned for registration info!)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Youth Ministry Director  
Michaela:  
[youth@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:youth@hickoryunitedepc.org)

### *Student Ministry Update*

BY MICHAELA WALKER

In Youth Group, we are in the middle of a study on Proverbs! This March, we will continue these discussions on the fullness of life that comes from living according to God's wisdom. Join us this month as we finish out this series!

In Sunday School, high school is reading 1 Peter! The book of 1 Peter highlights the joys of salvation and Christ's triumph over death, joys that are present even in the midst of suffering. Every week, we read a small section and spend the Sunday School hour discussing.



### *Let the KidVenture Begin!*

The long awaited return of KidVenture is here! What's KidVenture? It's a high energy weekly program that meets kids where they are and helps them get closer to Jesus. We provide an environment that is safe, engaging and welcoming. Scripture, Snacks, Games, & Fellowship Fun! Think: A little slice of VBS every single week.

Geared toward the Kinder-5th grade age group, we help kids develop an authentic faith by inciting wonder about our Great big God.

The new session of KidVenture runs **March 5 - May 14 weekly on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm. KidVenture meets in the Youth Loft and Covenant Center.** Parents & guardians are encouraged to drop-off at the gym double doors to the right of the main entrance. Please park and accompany your child inside if it is their first time.





## DATES & REMINDERS

**NO SCHOOL MAR. 14 & 15**  
PRESCHOOL CLOSED

**CONFERENCES:** MARCH 15 & 16

**EASTER PARTIES:**  
MARCH 25: PRE-K 3s  
MARCH 26: PRE-K 4s

**SPRING BREAK: NO SCHOOL**  
CLOSED MAR. 27-APR. 2



## UPCOMING:

**April 11:**  
Permission Slips & money due  
for Field Trip

**APRIL 25:**  
PreK 4's Field Trip to  
SpringHouse Farms

### *The Love of Jesus*

BY ASHLEY LEWIS

This Valentine's Day our focus was on how Jesus Loves Us. We read the Bible story "Jesus Loves the Little Children" from Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The students loved learning about how the disciples originally turned the children away but Jesus wanted them to come to Him! This made our students feel so special and important especially when they realized they are never too small to talk to Jesus.

What a privilege it is to spread the word of God to these sweet kiddos! Our parties also went well when we got to extend that same message to the parents - who are never too old to talk to Jesus! Our days were filled with love, the Holy Spirit and finding joy in giving to each other for Valentine's Day.

We are looking forward to teaching about the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus this March.



*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

*Matthew 19:14*

# HAVE A **HEART** FOR HAITI: URGENT PRAYERS NEEDED



## DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS IN GOD'S MINISTRY:

Greetings in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Ermithe and I would like to keep you informed about the ministry in Haiti.

For the past two weeks, the situation has gotten terrible to the point that words can not describe what is going on there. All we can say If the Lord was not in control several thousand people could have been killed.

This week is even worse. Violent demonstrations all over. At the mission in Lacroix and in its vicinity all is going well. The schoolchildren are fine. We thank the Lord for watching over His people there. We know this is an answer to prayers. Now what we asking you to do though we know you have been doing that, is to pray for Haiti and the Haitians. God is the only One who can help us out of this situation. We have been praying for God to turn our nation around and to turn the Haitian government around for a better Haiti.

*For His cause,  
Ermithe and Pierre*



**"NEVER WILL I LEAVE YOU; NEVER WILL I FORSAKE YOU." HEBREWS 13:5**





# MARCH CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>3/1</b> Women's History Month Begins  | <b>3/14</b> Donation Drop-off   1-7 pm (CC)  | <b>3/23</b> Student Service Project   9am-1 pm             |
| <b>3/2</b> Ladies Spring Breakfast   9:00 am (CC)<br>Family Movie Night   7:00 pm (CC)     | <b>3/15</b> Donation Drop-off   1-7 pm (CC)<br>Church member pre-shop   7--8 pm (CC) | <b>3/24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Easter Flower Orders Due |
| <b>3/3</b> <b>Communion   10:00 am (S)</b>   | <b>3/16</b> <b>Flea Market   9 am -1 pm (CC)</b><br>Hickory Student Hangout          | <b>3/28</b> <b>Living Last Supper   7:00 pm (S)</b>        |
| <b>3/5</b> <b>KidVenture Begins   5:30-7 pm (CC)</b>                                       | <b>3/17</b> St. Patrick's Day  | <b>3/29</b> <b>Good Friday</b>                             |
| <b>3/10</b> <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b><br><b>Food &amp; Fellowship   11:15 am (CC)</b> | <b>3/23</b> <b>Blood Drive   7:30 am - 1 pm (CC)</b>                                 | <b>3/31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>                           |

## RECURRING WEEKLY MEETINGS/CLASSES/GATHERINGS

### MWF

- Fit Club | 7:50 am (CC)

### SUNDAYS

- Sunday School - All Ages | 8:45 am (Various Locations)
- Worship Service | 10:00 am (S)
- Youth Group (Grades 6-12) | 6:30 pm (L/CC)

### MONDAYS

- Tim V Small Group | 6:30 pm (CR)
- Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)

### TUESDAYS

- KidVenture | 5:30-7:00 pm (CC/L) *\*starts March 5*
- Boy Scout Meeting | 7:00 pm (CC)

### WEDNESDAYS

- Moms in Prayer Small Group | 10:00 am (LB)
- BAYSA | 5:00 pm
- Praise Band Practice | 7:00 pm (S)
- Cub Scouts | 7:00 pm | (CC)

### THURSDAY

- Handbell Practice | 6:00 pm (S)
- Choir Practice | 7:00 pm (CR)
- Volleyball | 7:30 pm (CC)

## RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

- Building & Property Meeting | 7:00 pm (LB) | Every 2nd Wednesday
- Discipleship Team Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | (P) Every 2nd Monday
- Deacons Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | Every 4th Monday
- Food & Fellowship Potluck | 11:15 am (CC) | Every 2nd Sunday after Worship
- Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting | *Monthly meetings are fluid, check online church calendar*
- Outreach Committee Meeting | 6:30 pm (P) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Prayer Shawl Ministry | 12:00 pm (LB) | Every 1st Tuesday
- Preschool Team Meeting | 12:30 pm (FH) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Security Team Meeting | (P) Every 1st Tuesday
- Session Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | Every 3rd Tuesday
- Staff Meeting | Every 1st Tuesday 10:00 am (LB)
- Stewardship Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Women's Cancer Survivors Group Meeting | 12:00 pm (LB) | Last Wednesday of the month
- Women's Ministry Meeting | 11:15 pm (LB) | *Monthly meetings are fluid, check the online church calendar*

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



## Staff CONTACTS:

### PASTORAL & MINISTRY

#### TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Tom Jones | (724) 356-4424 (Ext. 102)  
(724) 464-7782 (cell)

[pastor@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:pastor@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

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

[youth@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:youth@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Tim VanNasdale | (724) 356-4424 (Ext. 111)

[tim.vannasdale@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:tim.vannasdale@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### LAY PASTOR

Lou Templeton | (724) 356-7835

### ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Danna | (724) 356-4424

[office@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:office@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Lynn VanNasdale | (724) 356-4424 (Ext. 106)

[communications@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:communications@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### TREASURER

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

#### ASST. TREASURER & CONSULT

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

#### AUDIO VISUAL TECHNICIAN

David Sykut | [david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:david.sykut@hickoryunitedepc.org)

### FACILITIES

#### SEXTON

Eugene Short | (724) 356-4424

[sexton@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:sexton@hickoryunitedepc.org)

#### FACILITY ASSISTANT

Will Smith | (724) 356-4424

### HICKORY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

#### PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Ashley Lewis | (724) 356-7337

(724) 356-4424 (Ext. 101)

[hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org)

## Prayer Tree

### JOIN THE PRAYER TREE:

[communications@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:communications@hickoryunitedepc.org)

### SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:

[hickorychurch.com/prayer](http://hickorychurch.com/prayer)



@hickorychurch



HICKORYCHURCH.COM



724-356-4424



[office@hickoryunitedepc.org](mailto:office@hickoryunitedepc.org)



210 Main Street, Hickory, PA.



### GET THE NEWS!

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



## CHURCH JUST GOT AN upgrade.

- Submit Online Prayer Requests
- Live Streaming & Sermon Replay
- Virtual & Audio Bible Features
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- AND MORE!



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