

THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | NOVEMBER 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 REV. TOM JONES

A few years ago I was travelling to a training seminar in the Philadelphia area. I had entered the destination information in my GPS and was quite happy to arrive at the small town where the seminar was being held. However, my joy quickly turned to frustration as I began to realize I was in the wrong place.

Apparently, the name of my arrival destination and the name of the place where the seminar was being held were nearly identical! When I realized that I was an hour away from the right destination, my frustration turned to anger. I was angry at both myself and the GPS.

Some time later, my wife was with her friend, Sue, in Pittsburgh. At some point, they realized they were very lost and had no idea where they were. Instead of getting frustrated or angry, Sue just laughs and says, "Well, I guess we are going to go on an adventure!" When my wife told me that story, I decided that would be my new life quote.

Life has a way of sending us in directions that we didn't necessarily want to go. We may have experienced a change in employment, a change in our health, or a change in our personal lives that sent us in an unexpected direction. Often this change causes us to be frustrated or angry and this leads us to question what God is doing in our lives. If we truly believe that God is in control of the world and our lives then we do have to realize that change is part of that plan. It is through change that we find ourselves experiencing new adventures!

Adventures, both good and not so good, lead us to depend less on ourselves and more on a loving God who is always actively working in our lives. As Paul said so well in Romans 8:28:

*"And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those
who love him, who have been
called according to his purpose."*

Worship:

Sundays | 10:00 am

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Communion News

LISA ALEXANDER & DEB REA

Our next communion will be on **Sunday, November 5 at 10:00 am**. 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.



2023 Deacons Holiday Food Drive

It's time again for the Annual Food Drive to help those in need who live in our community for a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal. Beginning on **Sunday, October 29-November 12**, check out the table in the Welcome Area to see items needed. Bins will be located there also for your donations. Your generosity is always so overwhelming that once we take care of our families, we are able to send the rest to FC Helping Hands families! Items needed:

- Cake mix & icing
- Canned gravy
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams
- Canned vegetables
- Cranberry Sauce/Berries Pudding
- Boxed potatoes
- Bag of sugar
- Jello boxes
- Stove Top Stuffing

Meals on Wheels

MARY JORDAN & SANDY MARTINEK

With the holidays fast approaching, the Deacons are planning to give recipients of "Meals on Wheels" (throughout the area) a **velour throw blanket as a Christmas gift** this year. Normally, a candy bag and an ornament are given, but the thought is a blanket might be more needed and appreciated. To that end, we are asking for donations of blankets. Inexpensive blankets can be found at Sams, Kohls, WalMart, etc (Amazon-under \$10). We will start collecting these on **Sunday, November 5** to ensure we have enough for each client before Christmas. The "Red Tub" will be placed in the welcome area. Thank you & blessings to all!

Christmas Poinsetta Orders - \$9.00 each

If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in the church for Christmas in memory of a loved one, the envelopes/order forms will be available on **Sunday, November 19** in the welcome area. Your envelope can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. **Please return your order/money no later than Tuesday, December 12**. Please make your checks payable to Hickory United EPC.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will be up and ready for you to grab your angels on **Sunday, November 26**. There will be angels for the Fort Cherry Helping Hands program, Avis Arbor, and those in our family outreach ministry.

THANK YOU! We appreciate your donations of toilet paper rolls. We had enough to add extra rolls to each recipient's box. None of this would be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you again for your commitment and kindness.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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SEASON 12! 2023-2024

REGISTER NOW!

[REGISTRATION.UPWARD.ORG/UPW85292](https://registration.upward.org/UPW85292)

AGES 4 YRS-8TH GRADE

Upward Basketball Needs Volunteers!

UPWARD is also looking for volunteers to fill a variety of roles: coaches, assistants, referees, Buck Stop workers, prayer warriors, etc. We are also searching specifically for a few more coaches to work with tot and kinder aged teams. No prior experience necessary, we will train you! This is a great opportunity to serve the children in our community through an amazing program that promotes sharing the goodness of God.

To register as a volunteer visit:

registration.upward.org/UPW85292/volunteer

7TH ANNUAL
Living Nativity
HICKORY UNITED EPC

SAVE THE DATE!!!
DECEMBER 9 & 10

Help us Bring the Nativity to Life!

It takes many hearts and hands to create a successful outreach event that blesses those in our community. The Living Nativity is an opportunity for the church to come together and work united towards a common goal- bringing Jesus' birth story to life for all who would hear it! We have joy and hope to share! The Living Nativity may be the first Bible story some patrons encounter. If interested in participating in the cast or a supporting role this season, please contact:

Ellen Warren:

ellenwarren@hotmail.com



(Left): A few former baby Jesus cast members over the years. They have grown out of their manger-size status since then, but we cherish the blessing to have so many ages involved in this event! L to R: Clay, Arya, Caleb & Jake

Honoring all who served

Veteran's Day Service

Sponsored by the Hickory Lions Club

November 11 at 11:00 am
Hickory United EPC

SUNDAY | NOV. 5

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Turn clocks back one hour



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

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SECRET SISTERS SIGN-UP STARTS NOV. 5

SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

It's Secret Sister Season!

Start the new year with a Secret Sister! Join a fun group of Jesus loving women who want to share their joy and encouragement with one another through prayer and cards. Sign-up begins November 5 in the Welcome Area!

- Complete a sign-up card by Dec. 10
- Place the completed card in the white box in the Welcome Area or bring it with you to the info meeting.
- Attend the Info Meeting on Dec. 10 after the service in the Parlor to find out your Secret Sister!

Questions? Contact Cindy Semack: ckt@hky.com

Notes of THANKS

Dear Friends of Hickory United Church,

Mary Snyder celebrated her birthday in September 23rd with family and friends and she was overwhelmed by the number of birthday cards received. My daughter, Jessica reached out to your congregation as well as our local church asking for cards to be sent to Mary to celebrate her birthday. The birthday card project was a huge success, and I am writing this letter to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and good wishes, and to let you know that you made Mary's birthday month very special! Mary was/is a long time member of your church. I believe she started attending in 1960 when our family moved from Pittsburgh to Cherry Valley and built a home. She was very involved in the church and the church family, and it became a major part of our lives. Mary sends her love and thanks to all of those who sent cards. Thank you again and God bless,

~RICK SNYDER

Dear Saints at Hickory UEPC,

"May you be blessed by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 115:15. greetings in the glorious name of our Lord Jesus. My Wife Ermithe and I are doing well and we pray this note finds you well. Thank you for our prayers and your financial support of our children that keeps the school going. Thanks for check #21803 in the amount of \$3,560.00 dated 9-30-23. Thank you very much. The ministry is going well. God is watching over His work. He protects and provides. We still can buy and get food delivered at the mission for the children and for general food distribution. School is going well. Children are fed. God bless.

~ERMITHE & PIERRE

Thank you for your continued support of the Burgettstown Area Food Pantry. Your support enables us to provide needed food for our clients.

~BETH ENGEL

Digital Ways to Give

Web



Text

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

In App



Let us pray for you Today.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:

HICKORYCHURCH.COM/PRAYER

OR SCAN THE QR CODE NOW



KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY

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SAVE THE DATES:

- **NOV 4:** Service Project from 10 am - 2 pm, lunch included. Service projects will take place on church property.
- **NOV 18:** Hickory Student Hangouts @ church. Details TBD.

Sunday School in Full Swing

We snapped some candid shots of our Kids & Youth Sunday School classes during their lesson time! Sunday School for ages Pre-K through 12th grade is every Sunday at 8:45 am-9:45 am. Lessons typically consist of Worship Skills, Scripture Memory Work, lecture/discussion interactive activities, and even crafts and games!



QUESTIONS?

Contact Youth Ministry Director Michaela:
youth@hickoryunitedepc.org

STAY TUNED!

5th Quarter at Hickory Church is back for 6-12th graders! On Friday, October 27 following the final Fort Cherry home football game, Hickory Church hosted a 5th quarter movie night event, and screened "Facing the Giants". Youth enjoyed snacks, pop, the opportunity to fellowship in a safe space and see a Christian movie involving- you guessed it...football! Stay tuned for future 5th quarter events during Basketball season.



SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 4

**HICKORY
STUDENT
SERVICE**

10 AM-2 PM
LUNCH PROVIDED

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES

YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAYS
OCTOBER 19-DECEMBER 7, 2023
6:30 PM-8 PM

HICKORY UNITED EPC

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023

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A Short Note on OCC Shoebox Ministry

BY SUE ALRUTZ

By now, most of you probably have your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes packed and ready to go. If possible, please include a short note, telling the child receiving your shoebox, that they are special and that God loves them. If possible, send a picture of your family or your pet. These notes and pictures mean so much to the children. They are truly treasures that the children keep for years to come.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Dedication Sunday is on November 12th. Please remember to bring your shoebox gift with you that morning. We ask that you hold onto your box in your pew and we will bring them forward during the church service. If you are not going to be at church that Sunday, you can bring it the week before and just set it on the shelf above the coat rack and we will be sure that it makes its way forward on Nov. 12th.

Thank you all for your faithfulness and dedication to this special ministry program. Please continue to pray for the child the Lord has chosen to receive your shoebox, that their heart will be touched by the love of Jesus and that they will come to know him personally as their Lord & Savior.

~KEN & SUE ALRUTZ



SHIPPING & SEALING YOUR SHOEBOX:

Inside each shoebox, there are two different labels and two rubber bands. Choose the regular Brochure Label or the Follow your Box/Online \$10 donation Self Adhesive Label. Place rubber bands around each end of your shoebox when finished.

Regular Brochure Label:

- 1) Cut the label out, select boy or girl and check the appropriate age.
- 2) Tape the label to the top of your shoebox.
- 3) Fill out the information and enclose \$10/box in the brochure envelope.

Write checks payable to Samaritan's Purse with "Operation Christmas Child" in the memo line. Place on top of items INSIDE shoebox.

Follow Your Box Self-Adhesive Label:

- 1) Remove adhesive from label; attach to shoebox.
- 2) Select boy/girl and the appropriate age group.
- 3) Scan/enter code on the label to give a \$10 suggested donation online and activate label tracking. Label tracking not necessary, but will allow you to follow your shoebox.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOEBOX MINISTRY: SAVE THE DATE!**

**SUNDAY
NOV. 12**

- **FREE** Cardboard shoe boxes available in the Greeting Area.
- Plastic shoe boxes available for \$2.50/box. Contact Sue to Reserve.

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT SUE ALRUTZ: 412-576-5773**



GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

- ✓ **School Supplies:** crayons, markers, pens, pencils; sharpeners, stamps; ink pad sets, writing pads/paper, solar calculator, coloring or picture books, etc.
- Toys:** small cars, dolls, stuffed animals, balls, kazoo's, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small etch a sketch, toys that light up or make music with extra batteries, slinky, etc.
- Hygiene Items:** toothbrush and holder, mild bar soap and plastic soap dish with a cover, comb, brush, washcloth, etc.
- Other:** T-shirt, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, inexpensive jewelry or watch, flashlights with extra batteries, soccer ball with pump, etc.
- ✗ **NO:** toothpaste, candy, gum, used/damaged items, war related items i.e. toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate, seeds, fruit roll-ups, drink mixes (powdered or liquid), lotions, medications, vitamins, glass items, aerosols, or any liquids.

HICKORY PRESCHOOL

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UPCOMING DATES:

**SARRIS CANDY ORDERS
DUE NOVEMBER 8**

**PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES
(no school)**

- Thursday Nov. 9
- Friday, Nov. 10

**THANKSGIVING PARTIES
PREK 3s - NOV. 21
PREK 4s - NOV. 20**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK
(no school) NOV 22-28**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29
School Resumes**

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES:
PREK 3s - DEC. 19**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:
PREK 4s - DEC. 20**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK:
(no school) DEC. 21-31**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Preschool Director,
Ashley Lewis:
preschool@hickoryunitedepc.org

Ride 4 Jesus Recap

BY ASHLEY LEWIS

This past week we had our annual Ride for Jesus Fundraiser here at Hickory Christian Preschool! We raised \$3,000 and the kiddos had a blast! One student even rode 51 laps around the gym!! While the students were not riding their bikes, they were able to tour a fire truck and police car. The Mt. Pleasant Township Police and Fire came to share about fire and community safety. We also loved having church volunteers help us join in the fun. Thank you so much for supporting our Ride For Jesus. We look forward to our ride next year!



HICKORY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sarris Candy Fundraiser

**DELIVERY DEC. 5
ORDERS DUE NOV. 8**

FORMS AT WELCOME CENTER

**USE GROUP ID #
10-1157**

-OR- SCAN THE QR
CODE TO ORDER
ONLINE



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

11/1	All Saints Day	11/12	Operation Christmas Child Collection Day!
11/5	Communion - 10:00 am (S) Daylight Savings Ends	11/18	Cub Scouts Flag Retirement - Lower Lot
11/7	Election Day	11/19	Living Nativity Costume Fittings (LB)
11/10	Veterans Day (substitute)	11/22-11/28	Preschool Closed
11/11	Veterans Day Veterans Day Service - 11:00 am (S)	11/23	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
11/12	Food & Fellowship Meal - 11:15 am (CC)	11/24	Office Closed
		11/26	Living Nativity Costume Fittings (LB)

RECURRING WEEKLY MEETINGS/CLASSES/GATHERINGS

SUNDAYS

- Sunday School - All Ages | 8:45 am (Various Locations)
- Worship Services | 10:00 am (S)

MONDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (CC)
- Tim V Small Group | 6:30 pm (CR)
- Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)

TUESDAYS

- Staff Meeting (Every Other Week) | 10:00 am (LB)
- Boy Scout Meeting | 7:00 pm (CC)

WEDNESDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (CC)
- Moms in Prayer Small Group | 10:00 am (LB)
- Praise Band Practice | 7:00 pm (S)
- Cub Scouts | 7:00 pm | (CC)

THURSDAY

- Youth Group 6-12 Grade | 6:30 pm (CC/L)
- Competitive Volleyball | 7:00 pm (CC)

FRIDAYS

- Fit Club | 8:00 am (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
- 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 Wednesday
- Preschool Team Meeting | 12:30 pm (FH) | Every 2nd Tuesday
- Security Team Meeting | (P) Every 1st Wednesday
- Session Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | Every 3rd Wednesday
- Stewardship Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) | Every 1st Monday **after** 1st Wednesday of the month
- 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



HICKORY UNITED EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastoral & Ministry

Transitional Pastor, Rev. Tom Jones | pastor@hickoryunitedepc.org

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

Youth Ministry Director, Michaela Walker | youth@hickoryunitedepc.org

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

Administrative / Support

Office Administrative Assistant, Michelle Danna | office@hickoryunitedepc.org

Communications Coordinator, Lynn VanNasdale | communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

Co-Treasurer, Linda Carter | linda.carter@hickoryunitedepc.org

Co-Treasurer, Melissa Fluharty | melissa.fluharty@hickoryunitedepc.org

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

Hickory Christian Preschool

Preschool Director, Ashley Lewis | (724) 356-7337 | hickorypreschool@hickoryunitedepc.org

Facilities

Sexton, Eugene Short | (724) 356-4424 | sexton@hickoryunitedepc.org

Facility Assistant, Will Smith | (724) 356-4424

Prayer Tree

Join the Prayer Tree Weekly E-List: contact communications@hickoryunitedepc.org

LET'S GET LINKED!



scan



GET THE
APP!



SHARE
SOCIAL!

text

HICKORYUNITED
TO 84576



follow



@hickorychurch



hickorychurch.com



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15340

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