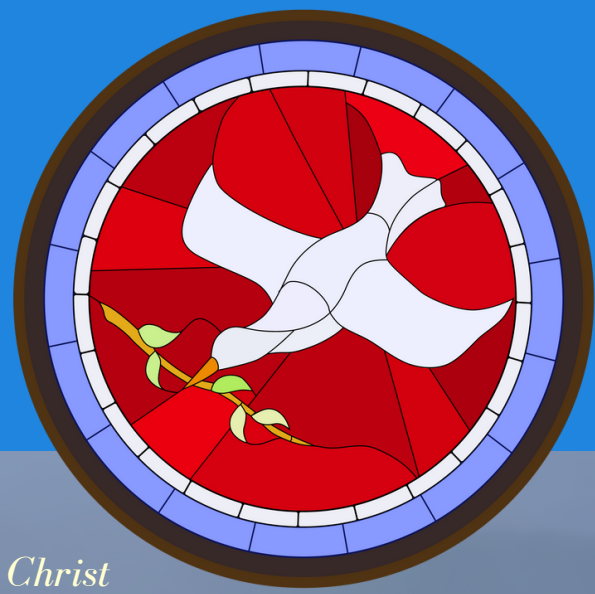


THE HICKORY MESSENGER

HICKORY UNITED EPC | FEBRUARY 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 a young boy, our family spent New Year's Eve at my Uncle Bob's dairy farm in Troxelville, Pennsylvania. At about five minutes before twelve midnight, I remember my uncle loading his shotgun with two shells and walking out of the kitchen door on the backside of the house. He continued walking briskly until he abruptly stopped in the middle of a snow covered field that abutted the backyard. Standing quietly in the light of the moon, I could see each of his exhaled breaths become clouds of crystalized mist as they came into contact with the cold winter air. Every so often, he cradled the shotgun against his left arm and shoulder, and pulled back his right coat sleeve to look at his wristwatch. Then, without warning or fanfare, he placed the butt of the shotgun against his right shoulder and discharged two shots into the air to 'ring in the New Year.' There are many different traditions celebrated

throughout the world when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve.

The Chinese, and some parts of Latin America, believe that wearing red (for love and passion) or yellow (for prosperity) will positively alter their fortunes for 2023. Other cultures will hold money in their hand at the strike of twelve to ensure prosperity for the coming New Year. Apparently, the more money you are holding the more prosperous you will be. Some people believe that if they step forward with their right foot at exactly 12:00 midnight, they will start the year off on the RIGHT foot. Others intentionally jump over seven consecutive waves in the ocean for good luck, or eat black-eyed peas, or sweep out their house to rid them of all the negativity from the year before, or walk around their block with an empty suitcase for a year full of travel. When we look at all these different traditions, we begin to realize that people of all walks of life and belief systems are seeking some sort of positive change in their lives in the year that is ahead

(CONTINUED ON PG. 4)

Sunday Worship Services:

8:30 am Contemporary

11:00 am Traditional

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Pen / cover

Deacon's Corner / 2

Stewardship / 3

Misc. News / 4-5

Haiti Update / 6-7

Preschool / 8

Calendar / 9

Connect / 10

Deacon's Corner

PAGE 2

Thank You Deacons

BY PATTI JACOBS

A 'BIG' thank you to those deacons stepping away this year after having served their term: Sharon Mechtel, Jackie Fawley, Barb Rea, & Denise Rollinitis. Our Deacons' group of eleven truly had remarkable experiences over these past years.

Many people from our congregation, whom we also wish to greatly thank, are always willing to help, especially at our Bereavement Meals. It's amazing how God orchestrates his people with abilities & motivation to serve.

Personally, as Moderator, I want to thank all the Deacons for their diligence, patience, & most of all, their love for the Lord!

In His precious love,
Patti Jacobs

Patti Jacobs' term is also ending in 2023.

NEXT COMMUNION:
FEBRUARY 5

vitalant 

*Save
the
Date*

BLOOD DRIVE
MARCH 25

**UNIFIED
SERVICE**

FEBRUARY 5

2.5.23 | 9:00 AM

**INSTALLATION &
ORDINATION OF NEW
CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Fort Cherry Helping
Hands is not receiving
food from the food
bank and is in need of
canned goods;
vegetables, fruit, tuna,
and chicken.**

**Thanking you for
supporting this
community outreach!**

Deacons' Terms:

2020-2023:

*Jackie Fawley, Patti
Jacobs, Sharon Mechtel,
Denise Rollinitis*

2021-2024:

*Lisa Alexander, Tracey
Fasnacht, Mary Jordan*

2022-2025:

*Ken Alrutz, Janet Greene,
Deb Rea*

2023-2026:

*Rich Moore, Bob Spencer,
Sandy Martinek, David
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.*



STEWARDSHIP

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

February 5- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

The work of a steward should sometimes be done in private...but sometimes it should shine before others. The work of a steward is effective not only in the work itself but also in the witness it gives.

February 12 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

"Today I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

We choose life when we follow the words and example of Jesus in doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. It's a simple rule, at least simple in the saying of it... but frequently hard in the doing. Perhaps a few minute's thoughts about it each day would be a good thing.

February 19 - Transfiguration Sunday

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Matthew 17:4

Peter is thrilled to experience the glorious majesty of Jesus seen in the Transfiguration. Later on, Peter gave his all to spread the gospel of Jesus. Although we haven't seen the Transfiguration, we, like Peter, are invited to spread the gospel by our words and actions.

February 26 - First Sunday of Lent

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Matthew 4:10

While being tempted by the devil, Jesus was encouraged to forget his purpose, forget his task, forget his God. But he didn't. Instead he rededicated himself to God and to God's service. We too are called to rededicate ourselves to God and to God's service.

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

Notes of THANKS

Thank you so much for the financial assistance. I cannot express my gratitude. On Monday, I received medical bills from March/April appointments on my old insurance and bills from my new insurance for appointments in September/October. On Tuesday, I received the church's check. I don't know what to say except what an incredible God thing. I didn't have time to worry or stress out and the bills were taken care of. Blessings to you all!

~LOVE, JODIE

The Helping Hands Committee of Washington County Children and Youth Services would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity this holiday season. Because of supporters like you, our 2022 gift drive was a great success. We were able to provide nearly 1000 children and teens with a holiday gift. Thanks to you, they received gifts of every variety, from crayon and art/craft supplies to bicycles, electronics, clothing, and toys. You helped to make children's lives a little brighter during the holidays. We are grateful for your participation and generosity. We wish you and yours a prosperous and healthy New Year.

~TERRI EILER & LOUISE HILTY
The Fort Cherry Angel Tree Committee

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 71 families and over 160 children in our district. With you generosity, these families were able to have a very Merry Christmas morning with lots of gifts under the tree. When the community works together, we are able to do great things for our families. We appreciate everyone's contribution and look forward to working with you in the future. Wishing you the best in the new year!

~KATE GRANT, BARB MULLEN, JANE ZUPANIC & ANNE SCHLEGEL, Agency Administrator
The Helping Hands Committee

All of us, staff and residents at Presbyterian Senior Care wanted to thank you for making this holiday season extra special for our community. Every resident that received one of your pieces were extremely happy and have been using it ever since. Thank you!!

~KELLY KORPUS
Director of Lifestyle & Engagement

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PAGE 4

(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

throughout the world when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. The Chinese, and some parts of Latin America, believe that wearing red (for love and passion) or yellow (for prosperity) will positively alter their fortunes for 2023. Other cultures will hold money in their hand at the strike of twelve to ensure prosperity for the coming New Year. Apparently, the more money you are holding the more prosperous you will be. Some people believe that if they step forward with their right foot at exactly 12:00 midnight, they will start the year off on the RIGHT foot. Others intentionally jump over seven consecutive waves in the ocean for good luck, or eat black-eyed peas, or sweep out their house to rid them of all the negativity from the year before, or walk around their block with an empty suitcase for a year full of travel.

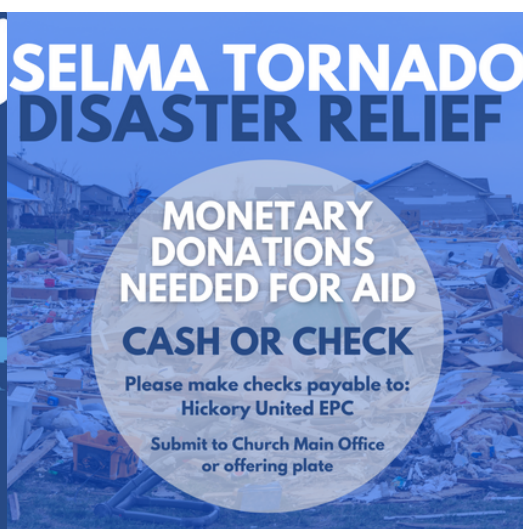
When we look at all these different traditions, we begin to realize that people of all walks of life and belief systems are seeking some sort of positive change in their lives in the year that is ahead of us. The one certainty that holds true for you and me in 2023, is that it will be a year filled with changes. Some changes will be small, almost imperceptible, while other changes will be volcanic with seismic shifts. Some changes will be 'eye-blinkingly' fast while others will be glacially slow. Some changes, like the changing of the seasons, will remain predictable, while others will occur suddenly, and without warning. Some changes will be pleasant, while others will be excruciatingly painful and filled with sorrow. Some changes will be personally contained, affecting only the individual, while other changes will cascade, like falling dominos, and affect thousands upon thousands of people.

Change, the only thing in life that is seemingly constant, will affect every human being on the planet. I don't know how you feel about change. As for me, I am personally looking forward to change this coming year because it resets the status quo.

Mark Twain once said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." I believe there is only one thing that is worse than change and that is the status quo. Change in life can be painful. Growth in life can be painful. But nothing is as painful as remaining stuck somewhere you don't belong. Life is change. Growth is optional. And each of us is given the opportunity to choose wisely. Now that we are a few weeks into 2023, I wonder what wise choices you have made thus far, or are planning to make.

For me, my choice in 2023, is to intentionally lean more heavily into Jesus, who never changes. I have learned through personal experience, that the more I am willing to lean into Jesus, the more of Jesus is inside of me, and I change. The change may be slow and imperceptible, but I change for the better. That is what Jesus promises. That is what Jesus desires. And I want to be more of what Jesus calls me to be. Maybe you do too. Together, may we this coming New Year, lean more heavily into Jesus, so that each of us may be filled with wise choices for ourselves, and for those whom God has already placed, and will place, in our journey of life this side of heaven with Him.

-Blessings, Dan



Flea Market 2023

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! **Save the Dates: March 16-18!** Please read ALL of the information listed below as there are some changes this year.

- Donation drop off times for the flea market will be **Thursday, March 16th from 1:00 - 8:00 pm and Friday, March 17th 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 them to the church, and we will help 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, stuffed animals, TV's, computer monitors that are not flat screen, cribs, and expired car seats (check the back for the expiration date)
- **Flea Market runs Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Food will also be available to purchase, so come hungry or get it to go to enjoy later!
- 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 Henlein at 724-579-5563.

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 or Shelley Heinlein at 724-579-5563. We look forward to seeing you!



Prayer Shawl Ministry offered a 4 week session of "Learn to Knit" lessons, instructed by Mary Jordan throughout the month of January. Participants followed beginner knitting patterns to construct warm items to donate to the needy in the community. (L to R) Merri Clark is assisted by Mary Jordan as Lynn Arbuckle and Ella Steele concentrate on their technique. Photo Credit: Participant Paula Steele (not pictured)

The Future of Krepps Bridge Festival

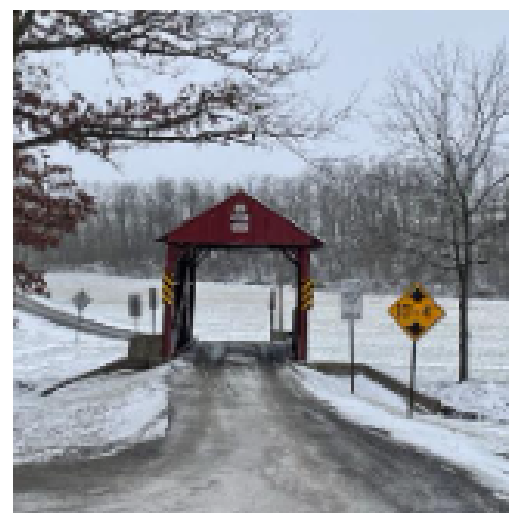
BY RON STEWART

Hickory United EPC has been blessed to sponsor the Krepps Covered Bridge Festival since 2005. Like all bridge festivals here, we have been through both fruitful and challenging years. After considerable discussion, the session has made the decision to discontinue sponsorship of Krepps in the future.

This decision was not made lightly, but with the understanding that we would move forward in pursuit of high quality opportunities to outreach and spread the gospel to our community. Difficulty in acquiring volunteers, aging current volunteers, economic conditions, and recognizing a need to devote more energy and resources into opportunities that more strongly align with the mission and vision of our church all impacted the decision to move in a new direction.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions for what form this new direction might take. Additionally, if you have any recommendations for organizations that might be interested in taking on sponsorship of the Krepps Covered Bridge Festival, please let me know.

It has been a real pleasure working with all those involved in the organization and implementation of Krepps over the years. On behalf of HUEPC, I thank you for your time, efforts, fellowship and support. It has value beyond measure. Welcome this new season God has in store for our Outreach Ministry, and encourage you to heed the call to serve in a new capacity for the glory of His kingdom, wherever the Lord guides.



HAVE A **HEART** FOR HAITI: LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION UPDATE WEEK OF 1.23.23



DEAR PASTOR DAN AND CHURCH:

School started in LaCroix on Monday, and the school year will go until August.

1. The children will be fed each day as always. Parents were happy for their children to be in school.
2. There was a parent meeting on Monday afternoon to let parents know how the school year is changing, and parents were thrilled that their children will be in school during the summer, too.
3. Students in Paul have been going to school since October because the teachers walk and the community leaders have been patrolling to be sure the school is safe. Paul is a tough place, but this time it is a good thing.
3. The price for fuel has been a sticking point up until now. The cost previously was \$1.19 a gal. and now is \$7.33. The mission was able to purchase fuel through a business man they are acquainted with. They send a small bus to bring the teachers to school, so fuel is a blessing for that to happen.
4. The sponsorship office continues to work and has been rewarded for a job well done, during this difficult time, with children not being at the school.

-Pastor Pierre

To see how you can get involved with this Mission, visit
www.hickorychurch.com/have-a-heart-for-haiti or contact
Gretta MacIntyre at geese@hky.com

HAVE A HEART FOR HAITI: SPONSORSHIP 2023

Dear Church,

Thank you for your ceaseless prayers, support, contributions and sponsorship of the children of the LaCroix New Testament Mission. You are answering God's call and you are changing lives. Glory be to God!

The sponsorship of a child has an impact even greater than we can imagine. It ensures a child receives an education through school programming, ensures they will not go hungry by providing hot meals, protects their human right to health via access to medical care, and offers spiritual guidance by surrounding them with Christian role models.

Haiti continues to see unspeakable hardship by crime, war, poverty, food insecurity, and political turmoil. The Have A Heart for Haiti Mission program at our church gives these children hope for a brighter, more stable life. The ripple effects of your sponsorship are evident in the opportunities it creates for their futures, all while bringing them closer to Christ. We have had sponsorship children go on to pursue dentistry, nursing and even go on to join the La Croix New Testament Mission. Praise the Lord for his holy works!

The cost to give one child all of these things is only \$240 per year, or \$20 per month.

If you are currently sponsoring one or more children, God bless you! If you would like to begin sponsoring a child or make a donation, we have children in need that will benefit greatly. As we update our sponsorship list for 2023, please pray for Haiti and pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit regarding your contribution to this program.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Gretta MacIntyre at geese@hky.com or 724-986-7946

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. \$_____

2023-2024 Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year has begun! If you are ready to register, you can pick up a registration form here at school or download from our website at hickorychurch.com under the Preschool tab. classes are filled in the order that registrations are received. Return your completed application, book fee, and non-refundable registration fee as soon as possible!

Preschool Blessings

Consider donating to our Preschool Blessings Wish List on Amazon. Your donations are appreciated by the students and teachers! Click the link below to bestow Preschool Blessings:

[Amazon Wish List](#)

Love Like Christ

BY MARIA MOORE

During the month of February, we will be learning about what love is and talking about what it means to be a true friend. Like Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, the students will be encouraged to love one another. We will practice being kind to everyone, sharing our toys and taking turns, waiting patiently, and putting others first.

Last month, both the Preschool and Pre-K classes celebrated the birth of Christ. Our 3-year-old class celebrated with a birthday party for Jesus. The Pre-K 4 year old classes put on a retelling of the Nativity Story with their program "A Night Like No Other."



(Above) two students pose for a photo in their crafted reindeer antler hats during the annual Pre-K Christmas party. (Left) The 4 year old AM class during a song in their "A Night Like No Other" Christmas Program. The program was held for family and friends in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 21.



We are currently selling Sarris Easter Candy. Orders and payments must be returned to the preschool **no later than Wednesday, March 1.** Please make checks payable to Hickory United EPC for all orders. Brochure orders will be delivered to the school and available for pick up at **11:30 AM on Wednesday and Thursday, March 30th.**



Order Sarris Candy online:

SarrisCandiesFundraising.com

Group ID# 10-1157 (HICKORY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL)

- Access to hundreds of products online
- Every purchase earns 25% profit for our group
- Orders ship directly to you for a small fee
- Contact the preschool with questions at 724-356-7337

Thank you for supporting our school!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS, DATES & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

2/1 First Day of Black History Month

2/4 Covenant Center Reserved 2-4 pm

2/5 Unified Worship & Communion 9:00 am (S)

Installation/Ordination of Church Officers

Sunday School 10:15 am

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/18 Covenant Center Reserved 2-7 pm

2/20 President's Day

No Preschool

2/21 No Preschool

2/22 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm (S)

Imposition of Ashes

2/25 Final Upward Games of 22-23 Season

Setup for Upward Celebration 1:00 pm (CC)

2/26 First Sunday of Lent

Upward Celebration 9:00-12:00 pm (CC)

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)
- IGNITE (6th-12th grade) | 9:45 am (L)

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

- Staff Meeting (Every Other Week) | 10:00 am (Parlor)
- *KidVenture will resume March*
- Boy Scout Meeting | 7:00 pm (CC)
- Dartball League | 7:00 pm (CC for Home Games)

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)
- 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*
- Upward Basketball Games | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm (CC)

RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

- Building & Property Meeting | 7:00 pm (P) | Every 2nd Wednesday
- Discipleship Meeting | 6:30 pm (LB) - *Monthly meetings are fluid, please check the online church calendar*
- Deacons Meeting | 7:00 pm (LB) | 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 - *Session will not be meeting the month of February*
- Stewardship Meeting | 6:30 pm (P) | Every 1st Monday **after** 1st Wednesday of the month
- Women's Cancer Survivors Group | 12:00 pm (CC) | Every 4th Wednesday - *Currently not meeting*
- 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

LET'S



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

Kids & Youth Coordinator, Dan Bender | dan.bender@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!

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TO 84576



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hickorychurch.com



724-356-4424
210 Main St., Hickory, PA.
15340

contact