

Making Disciples of Jesus, Creating Community

HICKS UMC



Hicks Memorial United Methodist Church Newsletter

1211 Third Ave., PO Box 384, Duncansville, PA 16635 (814) 695-8529 hicksumc.org

December, 2018

A Year of Making It Better

I'm looking back on this year and thinking about living into our vision of Making Disciples and Creating Community. As you may recall, last December the Vision Team presented a report that came out of our most recent visioning process. At the time I summed it up in the words, "Make It Better." Our goals were to make our church more effective in making disciples by doing **more intentional mentoring, leadership development, and small group growth**. We wanted to make things better by addressing the Stewardship Challenge of **giving to fund ministry for growth and fund a possible building project** to improve our facilities.

So, one year later, how are we doing? Positives can be seen in our recent Mentor training event led by Jennifer and Matt Lake. Over twenty people attended and there was an excitement around what we can do going forward. Our next step is finding the right leader to spearhead a mentoring ministry that reaches every member of our fellowship. Another positive can be seen in the ongoing variety of small group opportunities that emerge from our fellowship. New small groups are drawing new participants. This, too, is how disciples are made. Our Discipleship Coordinator, Jessica Peacock, can get you connected to a group.

On the goal of a possible building project, a Building Study committee has met over the course of the year under the leadership of Jason Meadows. This team made a recommendation to the Ad

"The best way to see for yourself what God is doing is to come to worship, come to a small group, come to serve."



Rich Morris, Pastor

Continued on next page.



Fill the Dove Tree

Our dove tree is an alternative to mailing Christmas cards to church friends. Simply make a donation to the Mechanicsburg Children's Home, sign a dove and place it on the tree which is located in the chapel area off the sanctuary. An envelope is provided for your gift of love. Let's fill the tree with doves and help the kids at the Children's Home.



Dove Tree offerings helps the Children's Home in Mechanicsburg.

ARW Food Pantry

273 lbs. of food were delivered to the ARW for the past two weeks. Urgent needs: Pasta and especially soap, shampoo and toothpaste. Bring in your donations to the Donation Station located near the Church Office.

Thank You

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 to Family Services Incorporated, by making a donation, you are partnering with us to help someone find a new beginning.

Lisa Hann, Executive Director, Family Services, Inc.

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Precious Life, Inc. We appreciate your support and prayers.

*Scott Manganella
CEO, Precious Life*

"A YEAR OF MAKING IT BETTER" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council in October. The recommendation outlined the scope of a building addition and two architectural firms that might best serve our needs for the feasibility study. The Ad Council recommended waiting until after General Conference this February to make a decision on the feasibility study.

Are we Making Things Better? I think we are. I think we've done some good work on the vision. But we have a long way to go. We think of vision and growth as dramatic and seemingly instantaneous. But the truth of pursuing God's vision for us is more like Eugene Peterson put it, "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." The best way to see for yourself what God is doing is to come to worship, come to a small group, come to serve. You will be inspired by what the Holy Spirit is doing among us.

See you in worship,
Rich Morris, pastor

UMW Mission Train



In 2019 the UMW Mission Train will be stationed downstairs in order for the children to be part of a mission-giving experience. All Sunday School classes will receive containers to collect coins each week and on Mission Sunday (the second Sunday of the month) coins are to be deposited into the train downstairs or into a special container on the Welcome Desk. Coins placed any Sunday in the worship offering will go to UMW missions. If everyone gives a few coins, together we can make a big difference through UMW mission ministries.

The Jeremiah Millennial Blog

Allyce Fogle, Ministry Staff

“Never Will I Leave You, Never Will I Forsake You”

I wonder how it must have felt. Eleven men scattering to Galilee after the death of Jesus, the man they put their hope and trust in for their salvation, no longer in their presence. I wonder if the disciples felt fear when Jesus didn't immediately return to them. I wonder if they questioned God's abilities. I ask myself, where the men scared for their lives? John 20:19 tells me that they were. In this chapter, the disciples are meeting behind locked doors for fear that the Jewish leaders would do to them what had been done to Jesus. I wonder how many of them thought that it was time to back out of the whole Jesus idea.

Sure, Mary Magdalene had held witness to Jesus' resurrection at the grave, but could she really be trusted? A man rising from the ashes!



“I know that God is good because without Him, evil and suffering would win. And it never does.”

Some of the most difficult times in our lives stem from that feeling of waiting on God to reveal himself in our lives. Just two weeks ago, 11 innocent lives were taken after a terroristic attack against members of the Jewish community. Vigils across the country were held trying to make sense of the actions of an anti-Semitic's crime against humanity. I can't help but think, as the world grows more dangerous, will His people once again feel a need to hide behind closed doors for fear of their lives?

In recent years, there seems to be a shift in the general population's personal feelings pertaining to safety. A poll taken by *The Washington Post* iterates that many Americans feel less safe than they did prior to 9/11 (source found [here](#)).

How do we take enormous heartache like a shooting and try to justify it? I don't know that we can. I can't say in good conscience that everything happens for a reason, because there is no reason for this tragedy. I also can't give you a verifiable reason behind why God seems to allow so much hurt in our world. Yet still, I know that He is good.

I know that God is good because of the way neighbors came together to stand in remembrance of the lives lost. I know that God is good because there were people on the scene ready and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the city of Pittsburgh. I know that God is good because in mere hours a Muslim organization raised thousands of dollars to help Tree of Life Synagogue victims.

I know that God is good because without Him, evil and suffering would win. And it never does.

I can only imagine the relief, joy, and amazement felt when the disciples were once again reunited with Jesus (Matthew

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Allyce Fogle, Ministry Staff



28: 17; Mark 16:14; Luke 24: 36; and John 20:19). Finally, the hard part was over!

Well...actually, their difficult journey had just begun.

Jesus' resurrection surged a hunt for Christians. All but one apostle died brutally for preaching the Gospel. The disciples were taught with the knowledge that life didn't end with death. These men understood that their earthly life was just the beginning and that through Christ they could have eternal peace and safety.

It takes strength and courage to live bravely and faithfully in our world.

"THE JEREMIAH MILLENNIAL" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

We are not so unlike the apostles who were trying to sort out fear and uncertainty while waiting on God.

However; this fear, evil, and suffering is not what God intended for our lives. Instead, He wishes for us to join Him in eternal peace and safety in Heaven through His Son, Christ Jesus. Jesus, as prophesized throughout the New Testament, will come again to redeem His people.

Through Christ's Resurrection and return, the peace and safety that we desperately desire in this world has and will come to fruition.

Bible Verse: John 14: 1-3, 6

"Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am... I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Devotional Questions:

1. Where do you turn for safety and comfort?
2. How can we live in such a way that we keep eternal perspective on our hearts and minds?
3. What practices can you implement in your life to feel more at peace?
4. Call to Action: Pray for the individuals, families, and community members impacted by the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are sad and scared in a world that feels less and less safe. Please grant healing to the community of Pittsburgh as they continue to grieve. Help us to remember the truth in your words that you will never leave, nor forsake us. Remind each of us that this chaos and destruction is not a permanent fixture, but you are. We pray for the day when we are no longer weighed down by sorrow, anger, suffering, and fear. As you prepare a place for us in Heaven, guide us to become the people we are purposed to be. In your name we pray, Amen.



The "Gift of the 9th. Nutcracker" study begins on December

New Kitchen Class Study Begins December 9th

When the most unexpected gift is the greatest of them all...

The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892 and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day.

In ***The Gift of the Nutcracker***, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way through the lens of faith. Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build. Much like Clara, we are all caught in an Advent season, pondering a most extraordinary gift. Complete with devotions capping each chapter, this book can be read alone or is perfectly suited for use in a small group. There will be a under 10 minute video each week, along with scripture study and group discussion of the subject for the week. The class meets at 9:30, Sunday mornings, downstairs in the Social Hall. Take the parking lot stairs to the Basement of the Church Building, then the first left through the Kitchen and either of the Kitchen doors into the classroom.

Dec 9	1	Waiting for Christmas	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 1:30-33 Luke 2:41-52
Dec 16	2	Drosslemeir, A Godfather's Love	Isaiah 40:1-5 Luke 1:34-38
Dec 23	3	The Mouse King: Changing Perspective	Luke 2:1-2 Matthew 2:1-5, 7-8 Luke 3:1-2
Dec 30	4	The Nutcracker: The Greatest Gift	Luke 1:31-33, 35 Luke 2:8-10

December Birthdays

- Dec. 1 Jolene Cidor
- Dec. 5 Nancy Walters
- Dec. 7 Rick Gibson
- Dec. 7 Jason Garman
- Dec. 8 Kyle Lindsey
- Dec. 9 Darcie Frazier
- Dec. 10 Zachary Kephart
- Dec. 11 Brian Linderman
- Dec. 11 Bill Robison
- Dec. 11 Jack Stewart
- Dec. 12 Sofia Fanelli
- Dec. 12 Holly Guise
- Dec. 12 Timothy Campolong, Jr.
- Dec. 13 Harry Brown
- Dec. 14 Jerry Disney

- Dec. 15 Tricia Priel
- Dec. 15 Rachel Cidor
- Dec. 15 Faye Virsack
- Dec. 16 Jenna Zelem
- Dec. 19 Leo Fanelli
- Dec. 19 Luca Fanelli
- Dec. 19 Heidi Fogle
- Dec. 19 Bob Lenhart
- Dec. 20 Brent Simpson
- Dec. 20 Casey Walters
- Dec. 21 Michelle Smith
- Dec. 22 Allyce Fogle
- Dec. 23 Clark Monahan
- Dec. 24 Mary Jo Campolong
- Dec. 24 Chris Linderman



- Dec. 25 Denise Latoche
- Dec. 27 Caroline Gilles
- Dec. 29 Leah DePetro
- Dec. 30 Steven Neely

OUR MISSION:

Our Children's Ministry's purpose is to assist parents with their children's life long journey to know, love and follow Jesus. We want to connect children to God and to each other as we teach and equip them to become disciples and create community.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



December 9th 9:30 & 11:00am Special Advent Series "Love Revealed through Mary" in Children's Church

December 9th 6:00pm Friends 'n Faith/Champions 4 Christ Groups -- Christmas Party

December 16th 9:30 & 11:00am Special Advent Series "Love Revealed through Joseph" in Children's Church

December 23rd 9:30 & 11:00am Special Advent Series "Love Revealed through Jesus" in Children's Church

"Love Revealed" Advent Lesson Series

December 9, 16, and 23 in Children's Church

The children in our K-6th grade classes will begin our Christmas series called "LOVE Revealed" on Sunday, December 9th. The series will feature three weeks of advent lessons, games, crafts, and snacks leading up to Christmas. Each week the children will examine a new topic and scripture that will remind them that God sent His only son at Christmas to reveal his LOVE for the world.

Volunteer Teachers and classroom helpers are needed for the 9:30am and 11:00am services; please [email Katie](mailto:katie@hicksumc.org) if you are available to help during the "LOVE REVEALED" special advent lesson weeks.



Birthday Party for Baby Jesus

December 16th, 4:00-5:30pm.

Children ages 3-10 are invited to join us in our Social Hall as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. There will be games, crafts, songs, and birthday cupcakes! We'll hear the Story of Jesus' birth and celebrate the real reason for this season. Invite your friends, coworkers and neighbors; all are welcome! It's going to be a very special afternoon for the kids in our community -- hope you can join us! Please RSVP online at hicksumc.org/events so enough food and crafts can be purchased.



Christmas Eve Family Worship

5:00pm on December 24th.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We will have two practices and one dress rehearsal leading up to Christmas Eve. The 2018 Pageant practice schedule is as follows:

- **December 20th, 7:00-8:00pm**
- **December 21st, 7:00-8:00pm**
- **December 23rd, 12:30-1:30pm**
DRESS REHEARSAL





Upcoming Events

Dec 9th
Youth Group 5:30-7:00
College Talk 5:30

Dec 12th
Confirmation Meeting
7:00

Dec 16th
Youth Group 5:30-7:00

Dec 22nd
Volunteer/Christmas
Celebration

Jan 13th
Youth Group 5:30-7:00

Jan 18th-20th
Annual Winter Retreat

Hicks Youth Fellowship News

College Talk

On Sunday December 9th, HYF will be hosting a college talk geared for youth currently in 11&12 grade and their parents. The purpose of this meeting is to give youth and their parents the opportunity to ask common questions that most would have about their child seeking higher education. The talk will be hosted by Jim Watt. Jim Watt has worked 20+ years in higher education and has a vast knowledge of this subject, which would help anyone with questions about this next potential step for youth. Youth that are in grades 7-10 will participate in regular scheduled youth group.

Volunteer/Christmas Party

Our youth group Christmas party will be held Saturday Dec 22nd. Youth will be meeting at the church at 2:30 to help pack our church's care baskets headed to Evergreen Manor. Once this task is complete, we are going to go see the new "Grinch" movie and will be heading to the Cutshall residence for pizza and hot chocolate. The Christmas party will end at 7:00pm.

Winter Retreat

Our annual winter retreat to Wesley Forest will be Friday Jan 18th to Sunday Jan 20th. Cost of the retreat will be \$20 per youth. There will be more information given about this retreat closer to the date.





The Me I Want to Be Small Group Begins January 3rd.

“The Me I Want To Be” New Small Group

“The Me I Want to Be” Small Group will begin Thursday, January 3rd, 2019. Jessica Peacock will be leading this group. If you are interested in joining the group, please sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact Jessica at smallgroups@hicksumc.org.

If God has a perfect vision for your life, why does spiritual growth seem so difficult?

John Ortberg has some intriguing answers to that question, and he has organized his thoughts and God’s words into a straightforward and timely guide for living your best life in *The Me I Want to Be*.

This book will show how God’s perfect vision for you starts with a powerful promise. All those who trust in God “will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Ortberg urges you to recognize your brokenness, understand that God is the project manager, and follow His directions. The author first helps gauge your spiritual health and measure the gap between where you are now and where God intends you to be. Then he provides detailed tasks and exercises to help you live in the flow of the Spirit, circumventing real-world barriers—pain and sorrow, temptations, self-doubt, sin—to flourish even in a dark and broken world.

God invites you to join Him in crafting an abundant and joy-filled life. *The Me I Want to Be* shows you how to graciously accept His invitation.

Why Join A Small Group?

Relationships, far more than church attendance, is what God uses to grow and mature our faith in Him. One of the best ways we are able to grow as believers is by joining a small group. The Christian life was never meant for us to live alone. Joining a Small Group is a perfect way to connect with others to pray and explore God’s word together. For a list of our current Small Group Offerings and Meeting Times, visit our Small Group bulletin board in the Chapel area. Need more information? Contact our Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Peacock, at smallgroups@hicksumc.org.



Continuation of DePetro Bible Study

The George DePetro Bible study based on the book of Romans will continue to meet on Mondays at 6:00pm. The group will continue indefinitely. New members are welcome!

Young Adult Bible Study

A 4-week Bible study focusing on the book of Hebrews will take place on Thursday evenings at 7:00 beginning December 20th. If interested in joining, contact Allyce Fogle at adf101@francis.edu.

Elementary Groups Christmas Party

The Friends 'n Faith and Champions 4 Christ Elementary Groups final meeting for 2017 is this Sunday, December 10th. Sunday night is "pajama night" and everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite pair of jammies. We will meet at 6:00pm for our Christmas themed lesson, activities, and games and will conclude the evening at 7:30pm.



Christmas 4 Kids Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a child for the ARW Adopt a Child at Christmas and the Christmas 4 Kids at Foot of Ten Elementary School. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Evergreen Manor Christmas Dinner

This holiday season, we would like to prepare 5-8 Christmas dinner baskets for families at Evergreen Manor. Please consider donating a turkey or side item. Donations should be dropped off to the church office by noon on Dec. 21st. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk.

United Methodist Women



2018 has been a great year:

- New members attended
- Easter eggs were filled for the egg hunt
- Hosted the conference UMW meeting
- Visited Mission Central in Harrisburg
- Cards sent to shut-ins
- Sunshine bags delivered
- M&Ms (Meal and Ministry)
- Delicious luncheons
- New secretary – Karen Lynn
- Paid pledge - \$1,500 plus
- Financially supported the local ARW and the Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg

Programs

- Easter Monologue
- Call to Prayer and Self Denial
- Candles and Coins
- Mission U study highlights
- Thanksgiving Devotional

Thanks to all who supported the United Methodist Women through the Mission Train and the Offering envelopes.

The next gathering will be a **Holiday Luncheon at the home of President, Donna Fruth on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at noon.** A snow date will be the 13th.

Donna's address is 104 Lowry Drive, Duncansville. Stop by the church at 11:45 to carpool or call for directions, 695-6236. The only thing you are asked to bring is a nonperishable food item for the Rescue Mission.

Hicks is fortunate to have an active unit of UMW that blesses those in need with mission ministries. Regular monthly meetings will resume in March.



Unto [★] US
A CHILD IS
Born

Celebrate Christmas Eve at Hicks UMC

5:00pm 7:30pm 11:00pm



OUR STAFF

Rev. Rich Morris, Pastor

Alan Anderson, Praise Band Leader
Cathy Baird, Sexton
Bob Baird, Building Superintendent
Nancy Cherry, Church Secretary
Jolene Cidor, Financial Secretary
Allyce Fogle, Ministry Intern
Heidi Fogle, Treasurer
Jason Garman, Youth Director
Katie Guise, Children's Ministry Director
Billie Jo Jackson, Nursery Coordinator
Jessica Peacock, Discipleship/Outreach
Robin Ritchey, Assimilation
Elaine Mallory, Organist
Sandy Steele, Choir Director



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