

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

Oct/Nov, 2019

Hugs in a Dallas Courtroom

The facts of the case were both startling and depressingly familiar. The familiar part was that a young black man was shot and killed by a police officer. What was particularly shocking in detail was the police officer shot and killed the victim, Botham Jean, *while he was sitting eating a bowl of ice cream in his own apartment*. Officer Guyger had entered the wrong apartment. She was on the wrong floor of her apartment building. She thought she had entered her apartment and when she saw a man sitting there she assumed he was an intruder and shot him. She immediately realized her mistake and frantically called 911 but it was too late. Jean was pronounced dead at Baylor University Medical Center soon after.

A Dallas jury found Guyger guilty of murder and sentenced her to ten years in prison. Many felt that the sentence was too light, especially considering the possibility of early parole. I'm not going to debate that. What I want to point to is what happened in court during the sentencing phase. You may have heard that the brother of the victim testified at the trial. Brandt Jean had just lost his brother. His brother's killer was in the courtroom, sitting a few feet away from him. She was going to prison for a few years, but his brother was gone for the rest of his life. And in tears, Brandt Jean asked the presiding judge a question:

"Can I give her a hug, please? Please?"

"The world
doesn't
understand
forgiveness"



Rich Morris, Pastor

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“Hugs in a Dallas courtroom” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In an interview with NBC news that aired on the Today Show, Judge Tammy Kemp, the judge who presided at the trial, explained that the rules of procedure don't allow for witnesses and defendants to have any physical contact, but when Jean said please a second time, something in Kemp relented. Watch the video. It is a moving scene. In a powerful symbol of forgiveness, Brandt Jean hugs his brother's killer. Wiping away tears, Judge Kemp walks around from behind the bench and hugs Guyger too. After speaking with Guyger Judge Kemp walked back to her chambers, got a Bible, and came back and handed it to Guyger. Kemp told Guyger that now that her victim's brother had forgiven her, she needed to forgive herself. She told Guyger that her life could still have purpose.

Judge Kemp broke protocol and many are criticizing her for it. Many are saying that both she and Brandt Jean, who are black, are racial sellouts. Many are saying they should not have offered forgiveness to the white police officer. One critic labelled it “the product of a slave mentality.” Protestors in Dallas and around the country said it was a betrayal of justice. Many expected Brandt Jean, and Judge Tammy Kemp for that matter, to behave differently, because their black. But Jean and Kemp have something else in common – they are both Christians.

Forgiving your brother's murderer is something that most people can't wrap their minds around. It is reminiscent of the slaying of the Amish school children in Nickel Mines. The Amish community not only forgave but embraced the wife and family of the man who killed their children. Then too, many in the media not only didn't understand the Amish, but felt that there was something morally wrong with them. Brandt Jean and Judge Kemp are getting the same kind of criticism.

But what if your worldview is shaped by a story about a man who forgave his accusers and laid down his life for them? What if your scriptures taught you that justice and mercy are not mutually exclusive? What if you sang songs about grace and forgiveness on a weekly basis? Would there not come a time in your life when forgiveness was put to the test, in this case, in the worst imaginable way? The family of Botham Jean showed, through deep pain and grief, that their faith in God was more than just an idea or a principle. Judge Tammy Kemp demonstrated that justice and mercy, truth and forgiveness can show up in the same room, even a courtroom.

“(My job) was to *do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly*,” Kemp told NBC news, quoting Micah 6.8.

The world doesn't understand forgiveness. Cancel culture doesn't get it. Here is the powerful witness of a few believers. We may and should pray that the Lord would deliver us from such evil times. But pray, Lord, we rise to the moment as these faithful believers in Dallas did.

In Christ,

Rich

Rich Morris, pastor

Gather Together and Pray for Area Schools



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Wednesday, October 16, the UMW will meet at noon for a covered-dish luncheon followed by a business meeting and a mission program presented by Sonia Keiper. New members are always welcome.

Their annual fund drive will be starting and offering envelopes will be distributed to women in the congregation. If you do not receive one and wish to support mission work through the

UMW, simply make your check payable to United Methodist Women and place it in the worship offering plates. Your gifts build schools and health clinics, train community health workers, support neighborhood centers, teach marketable job skills, provide micro loans and much, much more.

Also the second Sunday of each month is Mission Sunday and all coins received in the offering plates go to the UMW.

Nov. 20, the program will be presented by Donna Fruth. It will be a unique Tea event symbolizing the work of the United Methodist Women.

Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Thank You Hicks UMC

Pastor Rich and Friends,

Thank you for supporting Young Life and for believing in the work Christ does through us with junior high and high school students. We appreciate your commitment to serving the community as well and we are so thankful that we can do it together. God Bless, Tim & Gwyn O'Brien

Hicks UMC,

Thank you for thinking of us by donating \$1,00.00 to Family Services Incorporated. Looking back over the 90 years that Family Services, Inc. has had a presence in the community, it is clear that any success we have achieved is due to the kindness of our supporters. Your donation makes you part of our history, a legacy of caring that will continue through generations to come!
With much gratitude,
Lisa Hann, Executive Director

Hicks UMC,

Your recent donation of \$1,000.00 to our 2019 Annual Campaign helps us provide important resources to the people who need them most but might not have the financial means to take advantage of them. Every dollar collected in our Annual Campaign stays right here in our community. Without you, the YMCA would not be such a positive force throughout our community.

Hicks UMC,

Thanks you for the role you play in enriching the lives of so many families and individuals.
Respectfully,
Sharon L. Jones, Executive
Director and Phyllis Pacifico-Baker, Community
Engagement Director

New Shut-In Team

Shut-In Team. The shut-in team has recently reorganized to better serve our shut-in community. Our goal is to visit every shut-in at least every two months, and if they desire, bring them communion consecrated by Pastor Rich on communion Sundays.

People can be members of a church for decades and then become sick, infirmed and no longer able to get out. We want no shut-in to feel alone, or separated from their church family in often what is their greatest time of need.

The shut-in team exists to bring love, encouragement, and the hope of the Holy Spirit to these people.

REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T TELL THE CHURCH OFFICE SOMEONE HAS BECOME A SHUT-IN, WE DON'T KNOW.

In Brief

Evergreen Manor Safe Trick or Treat: We are looking for help to support Evergreen Manors in organizing a Safe Trick or Treat this year on **October 30th from 6-7pm** at their campus. Volunteers who are willing to help pass out candy that day can contact Jeromy McCorriston at 814-660-6672. Candy donations will be accepted at the donation station in front of Nancy's office.

Kennywood Fright Night: The Young Adult Group is going to Kennywood's Fright Night on **Friday, October 25th**. We're leaving from the church at **5:30pm**. This event is open to all Young Adults of the church, you don't have to already attend Bible Study or be in College to come! Please let Jeromy McCorriston know if you're attending at 814-660-6672.

2020 MEXICO MISSION TRIP. The 2020 trip will be from August 1-8th, 2020. An **informational meeting will be held at 10:30 am** in the Genesis Room on **Sunday, October 13th**. Total cost is \$1,300. We are aiming for 22 participants. An initial deposit of \$100 is due on Sunday, November 3rd.

CHARGE CONFERENCE. The annual charge conference will be held on **Sunday, November 3rd, at 7pm** at Christ Community UMC (formerly 58th St. UMC) in Altoona. Anyone at Hicks is invited to attend this meeting with Rich.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE. An adult (18 yr old & over) church volleyball league is starting in the Altoona area. If you are interested in playing on a Hicks team, please sign up on the sheet on the Welcome Desk. Games will be on Tuesday evenings and will begin Nov. 12 and run through March or April.

AMERICAN RESCUE WORKER NEEDS. The need for donations for ARW is great at this time of the year. ARW serves about 150 families per month. Please place any donations in the baskets at the front of the church. Needs are: canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta, cake and cookie mixes, jello, pudding, canned corn, spaghetti and pasta noodles, mac & cheese, canned fruit, mashed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, noodle side dishes, toilet paper, soap, shampoo. Thank you!



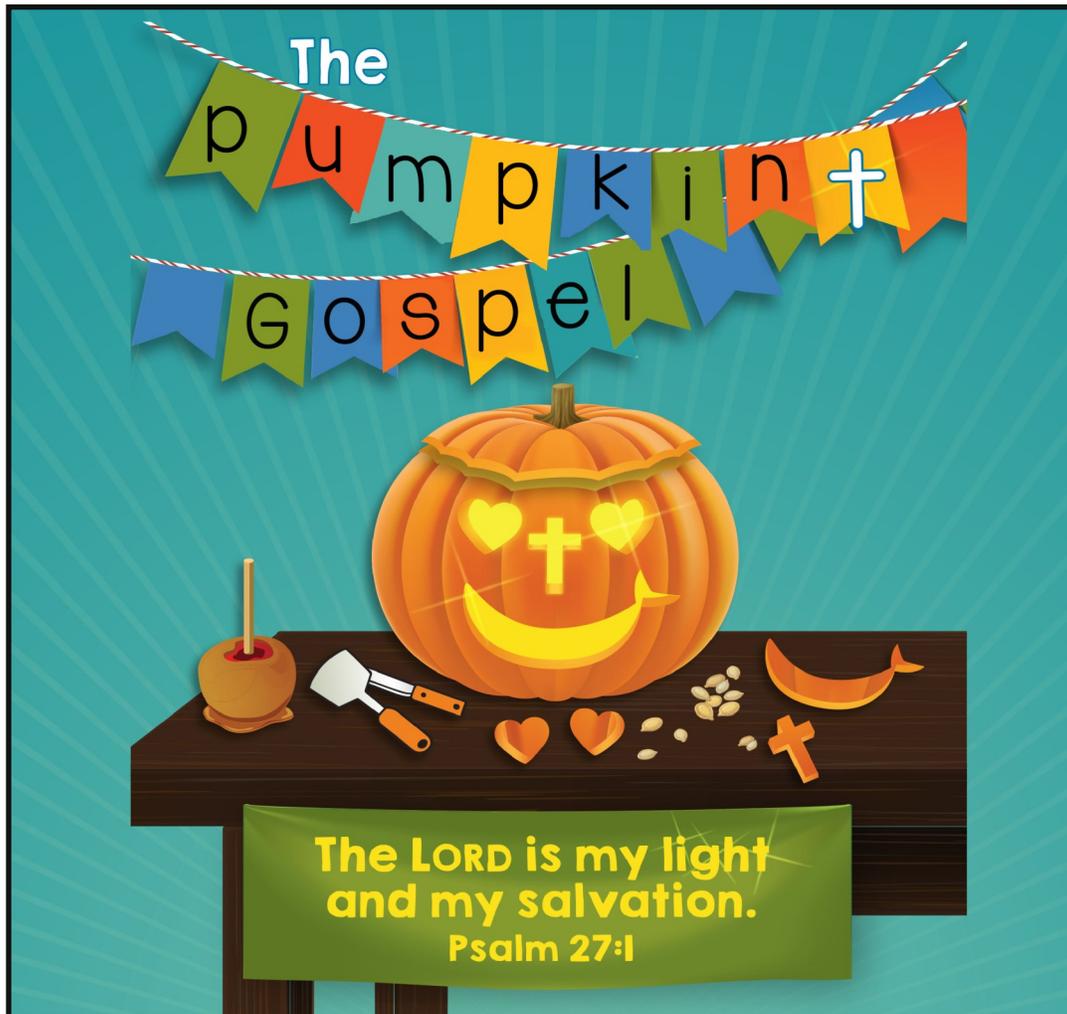
ANNUAL OUTDOOR TAILGATE SERVICE: SEPTEMBER 15



Capital Campaign for Ministry

We are excited to announce our upcoming Capital Campaign for Ministry starting Sunday, November 3rd. The Campaign will kick-off with a month long teaching on Stewardship issues, things like How to Get Out of Debt, Spending on What Matters, and Living Generously. I know many times people get anxious about Campaigns, nervous about *when and how hard the “ask” is going to be*. There will be a big ask with the campaign – our goal is to raise \$200, 000 by May 3rd – but there will also be a big “give.” My hope is that we will give you, through teaching, example, encouragement, and opportunity, things that will impact your life with God’s wisdom and blessing. Over the next six months you will hear testimony and example from folks who struggle with the same financial and spiritual issues you do and yet have made real progress. You will also hear about some of the specific needs we hope to address to further the ministry of the church, facility needs, staff needs, program and missional needs. Please begin to pray for this Campaign and pray about your involvement and response. I believe this will be a great time of growth for our church, if we will listen and obey the Spirit of God. If you have ideas or questions about the Campaign, please feel free to contact me or one of the other Stewardship Team members: Craig Brennecke, Paul Good, Donna Bon, Sam Dunkle, Chris Weidley, and Bob Baird.

The Pumpkin Gospel: Oct. 20th



On Sunday, October 20th all children in Pre School-6th grade will enjoy a morning of Pumpkins and Prayers featuring a special "Pumpkin Gospel" lesson, themed crafts, games, and snacks at our 9:30 & 11:00 Children Church classes. The children will learn more about how we are like pumpkins and God is the Gardener. God creates us and cares for us. He "chooses" us from all of the other pumpkins, but inside we all have the yucky goo – sin. God gives us His light to shine through us! He turns us into new creations that can shine for Him! And when others see our light, then they might want to learn how to have a light of their own, too! We don't want you to miss this special morning. Invite a friend and join the fun! This popular event is one the kids look forward to each year – invite a friend!



10-12
Pumpkin Palooza
6:45-7:00

10-13
No Youth Group

10-20
Youth Group
5:30-7:00

10-27
Human Clue
5:00-8:00

11-3
No Youth Group

11-10
Youth Group
5:30-7:00

11-17
Youth Group
5:30-7

11-24
Community Thanksgiving
Dinner

Hicks Youth Fellowship

Past Events

On Sunday Sept 22nd HYF had the opportunity to head to Green Hills United Methodist Church Camp. Our youth had the opportunity to shoot a bow, climb at rock wall, and participate in an epic game of Beach Volleyball. This was a great chance for the kids to spend the day in fellowship and getting a chance to get away in a camp setting that they can enjoy as well.



Hicks Youth Fellowship News

Pumpkin Palooza

On Saturday September 12 HYF will be paring up with other churches that make up the Hollidaysburg Youth Ministerium to participate in our Pumpkin Palooza at St. John's Reformed Church in Hollidaysburg. We will be meeting at the church at 6:45 and the activity will last until 9:30 PM.

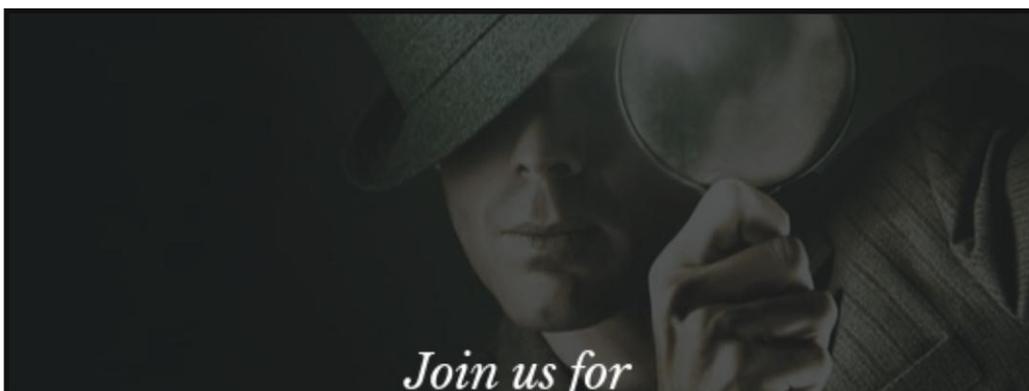
Youth activities include:

laser tag, pumpkin carving, scarecrow building, fall goodies, campfire, and more. Youth can either be picked up at St. John's or back at the church around 9:45. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring friends.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

HYF youth will be helping serve/clean-up during our yearly Thanksgiving meal. This is always a great opportunity for youth in our church to help serve our congregation and community. There will be two shifts and more information about this will be giving out at a later time.

Human Clue



Join us for

HUMAN CLUE

CAN YOU GUESS WHO DID IT?

October 27 | 5 - 8 PM | Hicks Mansion
(basement)

Black Tie Affair - wear your best clothes, whatever that may be!

On Sunday October 27th, HYF will be bringing back a popular game of Human "Clue"

This dinner theater themed evening will be a black-tie affair where teens will be served dinner and then will be trying to solve the murder mystery.

All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a friend.

Happy Oct/Nov Birthday to You

October 01	Diane Selfridge	Brandi Lucas	November 1
October 02	Weston Graffius	Alysia Watt	November 1
October 02	Martha Disney	Sandy Steele	November 2
October 06	Kyle Krug	Ava DeStefano	November 3
October 07	Ray Rettig	Aiden DeStefano	November 3
October 10	Anna Jackson	Marylee O'Connor	November 4
October 11	Hannah Merriman	Warren Smith	November 4
October 12	AJ Albarano	Seth Morris	November 6
October 13	Carol Newman	Stacey Salyards	November 6
October 14	Michelle Garman	Jeffery Vaughn	November 6
October 15	Michael Morris	Luke Baird	November 7
October 18	Lori Adams	Rachel Daras	November 10
October 18	Austin Schobel	Pamela Schobel	November 10
October 20	Tessa Lindsey	Tiffany Fanelli	November 10
October 21	Kasie Metzger	Bella Basenback	November 11
October 21	Dane Sensabaugh	Gerald Gardner	November 11
October 25	Jean Senne	Shaun Robison	November 12
October 27	Tracy Feltenberger	Kay Barnes	November 13
October 28	Paul Good	Sonia Keiper	November 13
October 28	Tom Jandora	Kellen Kensinger	November 13
October 29	Beverly Fleck	Christine Dively	November 14
October 30	Betty Magill	Alyssa Bell	November 15
October 30	Eric Malone	Tommy Virsack	November 15
October 31	Leslie Daras	Olivia Fleck	November 16
		Michala Magnetti	November 18
		Daniel Bon	November 21
		Billie Jo Jackson	November 22
		Shelby Lenhart	November 23
		Nancy Butterbaugh	November 26
		Mason Koelle	November 29

Send us your birthdate to Nancy Cherry at office@hicksumc.org so we can update our database!

Missed a Week in Worship or want to re-listen to a favorite message?
[Visit the "Messages"](#) tab on our Hicksumc.org web site to catch up.



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CURRENT SERIES

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Annual Thanksgiving Dinner & Worship Service

Our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship Service will be held on Sunday, November 24th. This is a free dinner for anyone who'd like to attend; invite a friend to join you! The dinner will begin at 5:00 pm in the Social Hall; a time of worship will begin at 6:00pm. Parents, if you've never attended our dinner and Worship service, there is a special lesson and craft for children ages 3-10 in the green jungle classroom during the Worship service.

Please RSVP

Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy will be provided! Please sign up to bring a side dish.

Visit <https://www.hicksumc.org/events> or sign up at the Welcome Desk. Many volunteers are also needed for the set up crew from 2:00-4:30pm.



OUR STAFF

Rev. Rich Morris, Pastor

Cathy Baird, Sexton
Bob Baird, Building Superintendent
Nancy Cherry, Church Secretary
Jolene Cidor, Financial Secretary
Heidi Fogle, Treasurer
Jason Garman, Youth Director
Katie Guise, Children's Ministry Director
Julie Hanlon, 11:00 Praise Band Leader
Billie Jo Jackson, Nursery Coordinator
Robin Ritchey, Assimilation
Elaine Mallory, Organist
Sandy Steele, Choir Director



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