

HICKS UMC



HICKSUMC.ORG

1211 THIRD AVENUE, PO BOX 389 DUNCANVILLE, PA 16635

April, 2021

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rich Morris, Pastor

Cathy Baird, Sexton

Bob Baird, Building Superintendent

Jolene Cidor, Financial Secretary

Heather DeStefano, Church Secretary

Heidi Fogle, Treasurer

Jason Garman, Youth Director

Katie Guise, Children's Ministry Director

Julie Hanlon, Praise Band Leader

Billie Jo Jackson, Nursery Coordinator

Elaine Mallory, Organist

Jeromy McCorriston, Tech Coordinator

Robin Ritchey, Assimilation

Sandy Steele, Choir Director

Holy Week

I've been reading some of the history of Scotland. Not a lot, a *wee bit*. The history of the Highland Clans and the Jacobite risings against the English kings is an interesting one. Many historians point to the fateful Battle of Culloden as really the death knell of the Highland Clan way of life. The battle was important, but what happened after the battle was even more crucial. Laws were enacted that made it a crime to wear the kilt and speak the Gaelic language. Its an example of when you take away language and custom, you take away belief and practice. Words and language are important. When we lose the meaning of words, we lose more than words. When people stop speaking a language, it's not just the language that is lost, but also the culture that is lost with it.

Christianity is not a culture, but it does, in a sense, have a language. For example, do you know the meaning of the term, *Maundy Thursday*? It is the Thursday of Holy Week. The name Maundy comes from the Latin word, *mandatum*, from which our English word *mandate* derives. It refers to Jesus words to his disciples, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you." Jesus demonstrated "how he loves" by washing his disciples feet. This practice is still sometimes observed on Maundy Thursday. *CONTINUED ON NEXT PG.*

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Holy Week begins the previous Sunday with Palm or Passion Sunday, proceeds to Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper in the Upper Room, then on to the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday. Saturday, when Jesus was dead in the tomb, is known as the Great Silence. Easter Sunday is the Day of Resurrection and the victory of our Lord over the power of sin and death. It is a quite a week. Many see significance in the mere fact that the Great Story of Christ's Redemption unfolds in a week's time.

One of the many difficulties of this past Pandemic Year was the sense that we had lost track of days and weeks. All the time kids were home from school, adults working from home, normal schedules cast aside, one day felt like the next, day after day, week after week, month after month. TV and internet shows had segments dedicated to "What day of the week is today?" Turns out, it helps to know. To know the days and language of Holy Week, I would suggest, is even more crucial to our living. What did Jesus do and say during this crucial week? Why did he say what he said?

What effect did this have on those who witnessed it?

We are a Church that observes and celebrates the events of Holy week. We do this because we want to remember. We want to pass this on to our children. We want to witness to the meaning and the power of Jesus Christ and what happened in Jerusalem all those years ago. It is our language. It is our Good News. Holy Week is not just another week. Let your normal schedule be cast aside. Let the mundane wait for the mundane. Let it happen the following week. Holy Week is for listening to the words, seeing the holy drama unfold, and fixing our eyes on Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here is our church schedule for Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday Worship
7pm

Good Friday Worship
7pm

Easter Sunday Worship
8am (*in person and
livestreamed*)
9:30am
11am

In Christ,
Rich Morris, pastor



*"One of the many
difficulties of this
past Pandemic
Year was the sense
that we had lost
track of days and
weeks."*



Youth Group News

Important Dates

4-2-21 Good Friday Service

4-18-21 Youth Group 5:30-7PM

4-28-21 Combine Youth Group 7-8:30

5-9-21 Youth Group 5:30-7PM

5-16-21 Baccalaureate Service 7PM at Hicks UMC

What's been happening...

HYF has resumed youth group meetings 2 Sundays per month since the middle of February. We kicked off our winter season sled riding at Green Hills United Methodist Church camp. The camp director at Greene Hills stated, "Your group is the first group that has been on site at Greene Hills since March of last year! It's really nice and gives me hope for good things to come." Hope is a very underappreciated phrase lately and I am very hopeful and excited to be planning and discussing ways for our youth to continue to develop their faith through fellowship with each other.

Combined Youth Group

Hicks will be hosting a combined youth group night for the Hollidaysburg Youth Ministerium Wednesday April 28th from 7-8:30 PM. This has been an annual tradition (except for last year) and we are excited to be bringing all of the youth groups back together.

Good Friday Service

The youth of our church will once again be leading the Good Friday service at our church. This year, the youth that will be presenting the sermon will be Lydia Cidor. Lydia is one of our graduating seniors. She is the daughter of Aaron and Jolene Cidor and is very excited to share her message with the congregation. All youth participating in the service should arrive at 4:30 for final preparations. Dinner will be provided for the youth and the service starts at 7PM.



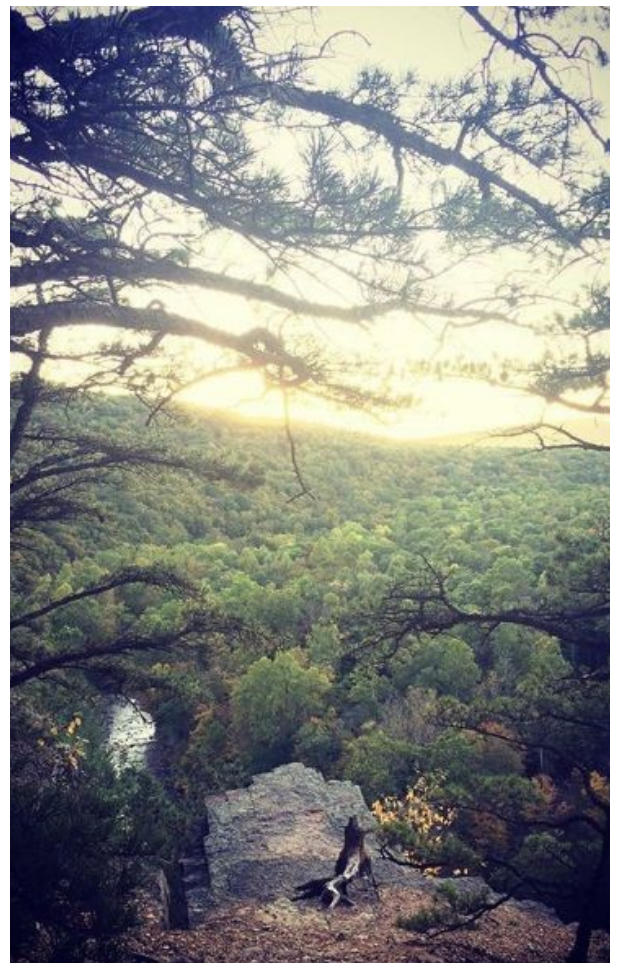
Youth Group Activities

Baccalaureate Service

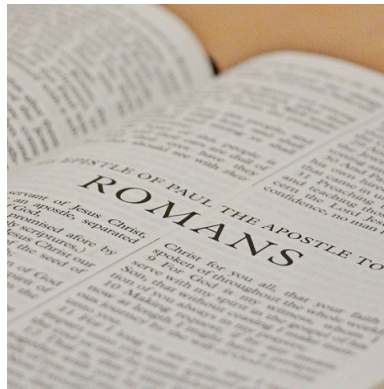
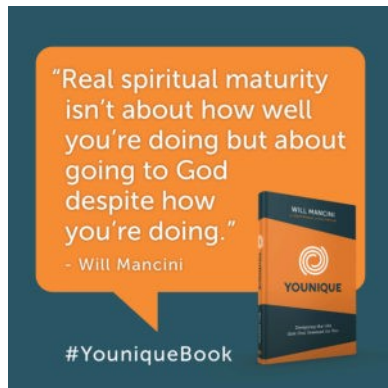
Traditionally the Hollidaysburg Ministerium has held a Baccalaureate service for all Hollidaysburg High School Seniors at the HAHS auditorium. In order to make sure that this service will happen this year the Ministerium has felt that it would be in the best interest of the service for it to be held at one of our local churches this year instead of the high school auditorium. It was a no brainer that the outdoor space here at Hicks is the best possible location for an outdoor service. In future years, we plan on being back in the high school but, with COVID-19 still very present in our lives this will take a lot of pressure off all groups represented in this service. Since this service is not going to be held at HAHS, we are opening it up to any senior within the Blair County community that would like to come to the service. Members of our church: please spread the word to anyone whom this service may pertain to.

Young Adult Camp

One of the major programs that HYF participates in is our conference's Camping/Retreat Ministry. A few years ago Michelle and Myself started a camp for young adults ages 18-24 at Wesley Forest. This year, the dates are June 25th-June 28th. Not to brag...however... Our camp is pretty AWESOME and more importantly is an extremely relevant camp for youth adult Christians. If there are members of our church that have children in this age group please encourage them to register for this ministry opportunity. This is an important age group where faith can be tested and I am very proud that our church has made it a priority to support this ministry as our church will pay up to 50% of the registration fee.



IN BRIEF



YOUNIQUE SMALL GROUP. A new small group is beginning Monday, April 19th at 7:00 PM and will run for 6 weeks. Cory Hartman will lead this teaching that gives a powerful taste of what it feels like to live a life inspired by a sense of your God-given purpose. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or by calling the Church Office. Deadline for sign-ups is Monday, April 12th.

ROMANS BIBLE STUDY. Join Pastor Rich for a new small group on the book of Romans beginning Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM. The Class will run for approximately 8 weeks. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

SOWING SEEDS IN BELIZE. A Mission trip is being planned to travel to Belize to help build a nursery at the local church. The vision for the nursery space goes beyond Sunday use, it includes a 5 day/week daycare center— there are NO daycare facilities there. Daycare would not only provide employment to two women (administrator and caregiver) but will also provide the opportunity for additional women to join the workforce because they would have a trusted, safe place for their children. Please email info@sowingseedsinbelize.com if you would like additional information.

HUB NEEDS. The Altoona District Mission Hub is in need of dust masks, erasers, rulers, hand towels, flat diapers and sleepers. Donations can be placed in the HUB basket in the donation station.

ARW. We are collecting food for the ARW pantry. You can place your donations of canned and boxed food in the donation area near the Church office.

SHUT-IN TEAM. The Hicks shut in team is here to serve the parishioners of Hicks that due to illness or infirmity can no longer attend church services. Our mission is to bring love, compassion and connection to the shut in from their church family. Please let the office know if a member has become a shut in due to illness, surgery, infirmity, etc. IF YOU DON'T TELL THE CHURCH OFFICE SOMEONE HAS BECOME A SHUT-IN, WE DON'T KNOW.

UMW. Thank you to those who made gifts to mission through the United Methodist Women. It is not too late to send your donation payable to "United Methodist Women" to Susie Ridenour, 1104 Wade Lane Duncansville or to the church office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Hunger, poverty and injustice go on and your help is needed to make the love go on during this time of pandemic.



What is a Tithe?

The tithe is the first 10 percent of our earnings and our resources. Why give the first 10 percent of our resources? Because giving the first 10 percent of what we make is a principle that establishes our priorities. We are saying, “God, You are first in all my resources.” God loves receiving the first of everything, but not so much because He wants the first of that particular resource. He doesn’t need it. He wants our whole hearts. In Exodus 34:26, God told the people, “As you harvest your crops, bring the very best of the first harvest to the house of the Lord your God.” So, we give what God says to give.

Practically speaking, this means giving God 10 percent of every paycheck before we spend that money on anything else. We purpose beforehand to give it to God, not spend it on bills, debt, things we want, etc. Faithfully giving our very best—the first of our earnings—opens the door of blessing over our remaining resources. You can give to Hicks through [our website](#) with a credit card. You can sign up for [automatic bank draft](#). You can simply mail or drop off your check at the church office.

HELP WANTED

We are seeking someone to serve as our Nursery Coordinator for the children in our nursery on Sunday mornings. The Coordinator staffs the nursery for all services every Sunday and also recruits volunteer helpers on a rotating basis. We average 1 to 10 children on a given Sunday, from birth to three years old. This is a part-time, paid position. Applicants must be at least 18, have experience working with children, and pass a background check. If interested, please submit your resume to the Church at office@hicksumc.org.





No Strings Attached-GOD

Package trip to DC soon!!! Donations are always being accepted. There is a collection bin in the Donation Station. Items needed are: personal hygiene products, hats, gloves, small blankets, rain ponchos and bibles. If you are interested in coming along or need any other information, please contact Melaine Depetro 931-8548 or email us at:

nostringsattachedgod@gmail.com

Website: <http://no-strings-attached-god.org/>

Facebook: [No Strings Attached-GOD](https://www.facebook.com/NoStringsAttached-GOD)

Upcoming events:

April 10- DC Outreach trip

October 23-Fundraiser event

Nov 6- Outreach trip (TBD)

Hicks Mexico Mission Team

We will be heading back to Ensenada, Mexico from July 31st-August 7th, 2021 to bless another family with a new home and conduct a VBS and feeding program for local children through YUGO Ministries. Over the past four years, thanks to your support and generosity, our team blessed four separate families with new homes, helped complete a new church build, and shared the love of Jesus with hundreds of children.

YUGO Ministries theme for 2021 is STAND which comes from 1 Corinthians 15:58;"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

If you would like more information about being a part of this year's mission, please contact Aaron Cidor at 312-3332 or aaroncidor@gmail.com. The cost of trip is \$1,300 and first deposit of \$100 is due on Sunday, April 4, 2021. There are still a few spots available!

Mexico Mission Fundraiser - BBQ Chicken & Yard Sale under the Pavilion Saturday, May 1st 8am-1pm

BBQ Chicken Dinners : \$10 per meal, pick up time 11am-1pm

Your yard sale donations are appreciated! Please no heavy/large items since we will be moving everything outdoors, and no adult clothing. Donations will be accepted on the following days/times only:

- Sunday, April 25th 11:30-12:30pm
- Monday, April 26th 5-7 pm
- Tuesday, April 27th 9:30-11:30 am & 5-7pm



April & May Birthdays

Pam Robison	April 2
Cathy Baird	April 2
Steven Dodson	April 3
Addison Basenback	April 5
Abigail Bell	April 8
Katie Stewart	April 10
Amy Garman	April 11
Landi Gibson	April 11
Donna Bon	April 12
Marcia Bathurst	April 14
Dorothy Stapelfeld	April 14
Samuel Gilles	April 15
Susie Ridenour	April 17
Rich Morris	April 19
Gus Dellinger	April 21
David Forshey	April 21
Kimberly Morris	April 22
Isaac Jandora	April 24
Riley Jandora	April 25
Caliauna Venios	April 28
Brian Fleck	April 29
Debra Oppel	April 30

Jason Garman

A Decade of Youth Ministry Service



WALK WITH JESUS EXPERIENCES CONTINUE THROUGH EASTER

Our Elementary Children's' Church classes will finish the "Walk with Jesus" lesson experience. The "Walk with Jesus" lessons have allowed our children to learn more about Holy Week and experience together the five events leading up to the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The children are learning about these significant events through a weekly "experience station" allowing them to feel what it might have been like to be there during these events that changed the world. The final experience will be this Sunday, April 4th as we celebrate the Resurrection story. The Resurrection story is important for our children to understand why we celebrate Easter and why it's about so much more than Easter baskets and colored eggs.



Rocky Railway VBS: July 12th-16th



YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our VBS program will be held July 12th-16th from 6:00-8:15pm. There are many, many things to accomplish before the fun begins. Our theme for this year is "Rocky Railway" and we are really excited to turn our Sanctuary into Colorado Rocky Mountain Train Station for the kids!

Rocky Railway is for all kids ages 3 thru completion of 4th grade. Anyone in our church, grades 5 and up, is invited to serve; Dad's are especially encouraged to volunteer! Adults over the age of 18 must have their PA clearances on file in our church office before July 1st.

Sign-ups for VBS Station Leaders, volunteers, and donations will be available in the coming weeks.





As most of you have now heard, my last day as the Hicks UMC Children's Ministry Director will be Friday, April 9th. I have accepted a job at Juniata College and will begin my new position on Monday, April 12th.

When I began working at Hicks in 2012, we were still attending another church in town and I was excited to begin a new part-time job after having been home raising my children for 10 years. I could never have imagined my family would find an incredible church home at Hicks, and that I would end up working in Children's Ministry full-time. It is so hard to think about leaving this position and starting over somewhere else. I have cherished my time at Hicks UMC and am so grateful for the years I've had to serve so many children and families. Although I'm stepping down from my role as Director, our family remains very much a part of the wonderful Hicks UMC community! God has certainly blessed this special chapter in my life and I know he will continue to guide me as I begin this new journey at Juniata. Thank you all so much for your love and support; please continue to pray for our church and this ministry as a new person is hired and begins their own story!

With love and so much gratitude,

Katie