



## Seedbed

I remember watching a documentary about a man who spent decades of his life living in a remote wilderness cabin where there were no roads. Every few months a bush pilot would drop off some supplies to him. Needless to say, the man was remarkably self-sufficient. Since he was in the wilderness of the north, winters were particularly harsh and solitary. It was interesting to me how the man used even the “downtimes” of winter to be productive and live each day fully. When there were several feet of snow on the ground and he couldn’t really do much outside, he would work inside his cabin, making improvements, crafting small utensils and pieces of furniture, cleaning his gun and gear, cooking meals, making plans.

You don’t have to live in the remote wilderness to do valuable work in winter. All those commercial greenhouses that we visit in Spring and early Summer are even now making their plans, ordering seeds. In not so many weeks, while there is perhaps still snow on the ground, they will begin planting their seeds and nursing that growth so that it is ready for the Spring.

In both these examples, people do what work they can while the ground is frosty and hard. They work ahead to be ready when conditions will be ripe for growth. They don’t just ask, “What’s on tv?”

If they did that, if they waited until everything was nice and warm outside, they wouldn’t be ready for the best growth.

Friends, now is the time for us to plant the seeds of new spiritual growth in our persons. Plan for it now. Do the work you can do now. I was reminded recently that the word *seminary* is a Latin word meaning “seed bed.” In a sense, every follower of Jesus goes to seminary. We intentionally plant the seeds of the kingdom in our persons and lives. What do these seeds look like?

They are the seeds of quiet prayers on a cold morning or dark bedtime. They are seeds of a scripture verse we read that we carry with us through the day. They are the seeds of a community group that we attend. They are seeds of serving and giving in our church and larger community. Now is the time to do this work. Who knows what God might grow in you.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It is the smallest of seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and makes nests in its branches.”  
Matthew 13.31-33

In Christ,

Pastor Rich

## Night of Worship 2025 is HERE!

After taking a holiday break, Night of Worship is back for 2025.



Night of Worship takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Coffee on 3rd at 7:00 PM. During the colder months, we meet inside the coffee shop for a time of teaching, worship, and fellowship. We hope to see you this month on January 18th at 7:00 PM, but if you can't make it this month, join us on February 15th!



### Jesus Jam

Recently, our church ad council has approved co-sponsoring a three-day worship event in the Duncansville Community. Its name? Jesus Jam. We are asking for all hands-on deck for our church as we prepare for this event from September 4, 5, and 6, 2025. Here's a general format of the event:

September 4th: A worship night at Hicks.

September 5th: A worship night at Coffee on 3rd.

September 6th: A worship night at Duncansville Community Park with Special Musical Guest

If you're interested in being part of the planning process for Jesus Jam, please contact Pastor Allyce at [allyce@hickschurch.org](mailto:allyce@hickschurch.org)



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



## Want to make a Kingdom Impact?

**Children are a gift from God and deserve our best!**

This past Sunday we held a Children's Ministry orientation and are excited to welcome three new friends to the team! Praise Jesus!

As our halls continue to be filled with children, I'd like to invite you to prayerfully consider learning more about how **you** can get involved and become part of this fantastic Ministry team. Contact Ms.

Laura to connect and experience the joy and wonder that comes along with serving in Children's Ministry.



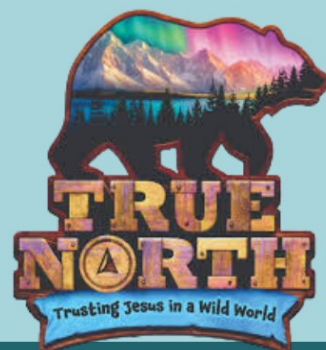
For more information contact Laura Wallace  
[laura@hickschurch.org](mailto:laura@hickschurch.org)

## Grow in Faith as a Family this year.

**The Family Unit has the Greatest Impact on How a Child Grows in Faith.**

Family faith experiences help ground and bond a family on a deeper level. I'd like to invite you to check out the "**Ideas for Integrating Faith into Family Life**" page and commit to adopting a few ideas.

Make memories that will last a lifetime and impact eternity for your family!



## SAVE THE DATE

**Vacation Bible school 2025**  
Evenings of June 9th - 13th  
Preschool - 5th Grade



# Ideas for Integrating Faith into Family Life

**Set Aside Time for Family Devotions and Prayer:** Create a regular schedule for family devotions and prayer. This could be during a meal, before bedtime or any set time that works for your family.

**Apply Biblical Lessons to Daily Challenges:** Use biblical principles to address daily challenges and conflicts. Applying biblical lessons helps children understand the relevance of faith in everyday situations.

**Create a Prayer Wall and set Prayer Time:** Dedicate a space in your home where family members can post prayer requests, thanksgiving notes, or spiritual goals. Seeing this faith-in-action encourages families to take time to pray, and it fosters a sense of community and care. It's a place for reflection and a reminder of the power of prayer in your family's life.

**Lead by Serving and Serve Together:** Choose a community or church service project to do as a family. This shows faith in action while teaching children the importance of empathy and caring for others. Great options include:

- Preparing meals together for Dinner Church – Contact Landi Gibson at (814)312-5857
- Volunteer together at the American Rescue Workers (ARW) Contact Craig Brennecke
- Lead by example by volunteering in a Church Ministry (There is a Children's Ministry orientation this coming Sunday 1/12 after the 9:45 service!)

**Enjoy Faith Music and Art:** Faith-filled music and art inspires and uplifts! Play Christian music as you drive, work, or play. Have a Christian Dance Party in the kitchen. Watch God-honoring shows on TV and at the theaters.

**Attend Faith-Based Events as a Family:** Attend church services and other faith-based events together, such as Worship Nights and local church events. Doing this strengthens your faith and also deepens your community connections.

**Engage with Interactive Bible Study Tools:** Utilize interactive tools such as Bible apps or online resources that offer engaging ways to learn and grow. Great options for kids: Bible App for Kids, and Minno. Teens and Adults:

YouVersion Bible App. Feeling the need to reconnect with your teen? Try 30 Days Connecting with the Heart of Your Teen. Scan QR code to learn more.

NEW APP

**30 DAYS**

**30 DAYS CONNECTING WITH THE HEART OF YOUR TEEN**

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

# Leadership Teams for 2025

## Administrative Council

Chair	Paul Good	932-6599
Pastor- Parish	Nancy Cherry	312-4062
Trustees	Walt Kratzer	254-2104
Pastor	Rich Morris	931-9956
Finance	Heather DeStefano	330-5244
Member	Aaron Cidor	312-3332
Member	Dennis Ridenour	695-7902
Member	Donna Bon	931-3059
Member	Jessica Peacock	935-1579
Member	Adam Guise	210-347-6811
Member	Craig Lecrone	931-2035

## Staff

Senior Pastor	Rich Morris	931-9956
Associate Pastor	Allyce Logue	505-3554
Children	Laura Wallace	
Financial Secretary	Kathy Ozio	937-1228
Choir	Jean Rupp	934-4604
Nursery	Chelsey Dick	
Organist	Elaine Mallory	696-1245
Administrative Assistant	Chelsey Dick	
Custodian	Cathy Baird	696-1245
Discipleship	Allyce Logue	505-3554
Building Supervisor	Bob Baird	207-6877
Technology	Jeromy Ross	660-6672
Treasurer	Heidi Fogle	695-5391
Youth	Jason Garman	931-4208

## Lay Representatives to Annual Conference

Dennis Ridenour , Susie Ridenour

**Nominations:** Rich Morris, Chair

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Donna Imler	Jeromy Ross	Laura Wallace
Katie Guise	Michelle Garman	Elli Seymour

## Ministries

Communion Steward	Shirley Geiger, Missy Liteig	
Media	Ryan Lucas	599-5421
	Adam Guise	210-347-6811
Greeters	Wanda Dunkle	695-5912
	Donna Imler	696-3195
Church Meals	Bella Wetter	Brigid Dodson
	Rebecca Yarnell	Larry Cardone
	Landi Gibson	
Funeral Meals	Mary Jo Campolong	
Meal Train	Katie Guise	
World Missions	Sonia Keiper	696-0519
No String Attached	Melaine Depetro	931-8549
Coats, Shoes and Love	Carly Ackinclose	932-5732
Prayer Team	Brigid Dodson	935-8848
Multimedia	Ryan Lucas	696-0672
Membership	Chelsey Dick	
Backyard Club	Barb Webb	703-785-3817
Dinner Church	Landi Gibson	312-5857
Women of Faith	Donna Fruth	695-6236
Caring Cupboard	Dan Bon	931-3016
Online Church	Jeromy Ross	660-6672
Quilt Ministry	Connie Fraizer	
Crux	Allyce Logue, Jeromy Ross	
Night Of Worship	Allyce Logue	
Mission Week	Aaron Cidor	312-3332
Altoona VIM	Aaron Cidor	312-3332

## Committees

<b>Trustees</b>	Walt Kratzer, Chair	
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2026
Greg Ackinclose	Darrell Seymour	Walt Kratzer
Brian Webb	Tom Pooley	Anthony Geist
Roger Menard	Scott Imler	Donnie Rhodes
<b>Finance</b>	Heather Destefano Chair	
Heidi Fogle	Richard Fruth	
Kathy Ozio	Paul Good	
Nancy Cherry	Rich Morris	

## Church Budget for Ministry 2025

### Connectional Giving

Global Church General	5,560
Northeast Annual Conference	16,680
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>22,240</b>

### Staff

Pastor	73,000
Pension	9,824
Health Insurance	27,563
Continuing Education	1,000
Associate Pastor	49,970
Associate Health Stipend	2,500
Associate Pension	5,380
Pulpit Supplies	1,000
Admin Assistant	13,584
Organist	10,324
Director of Youth Ministry	20,648
Director of Children's Ministry	51,878
Technology	10,400
Custodian	18,583
Replacement Custodian	210
Nursery Coordinator	3,623
Second Service Music	4,140
Third Service Music	4,140
Treasurer	11,411
Financial Secretary	1,943
Building Supervisor	1,943
Vacation Replacement Organist	105
<b>Total Staff expenses</b>	<b>324,408</b>

### Administrative Expenses

Fuel – Church	5,000
Fuel –Parsonage	2,500
Electricity-Church	30,000
Electricity-Parsonage	1,800
Phone-church (includes DSL)	1,500
Phone-parsonage	500
Water/Sewer	3,000
Trash Removal	1,800
Snow Removal	4,000
Filters and Equipment	300
Postage	600
Real Estate Taxes	10,000
Property Insurance	10,312
Outdoor Care (Lawn, Sidewalks)	4,000
Computer Software/Web Service	5,000
Computer Hardware	1,500
Bank Fees	800
Inspections/Permits/ Repairs	1,800
Staff Travel	4,000
Pastoral Supplies (Voucher)	1,200
Trustees	35,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
<b>Total Administrative Expense</b>	<b>\$138,112</b>

## Church Budget for Ministry 2025

### Benevolences

Senior Gifts	500
Camping Scholarship	7,000
Mission Central	2,000
Altoona Mission Hub	500
Precious Life	500
Ephratha House	1,000
Young Life	2,000
Sierra Leone Initiative	1,200
Hicks Mission Week	2,000
Boy Scouts	250
Cub Scouts	250
New Generations Ministry	2,500
Overflow Warming Center	2,000
Christian Festival	5,000
Miscellaneous	8,856
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<b>52,556</b>

### Program Expense

Hospitality	1,000
Children's Ministry	15,000
Adult Small Groups/Sunday School	2,000
Music Program	1,500
CCLI Licensing	900
Youth Ministry	6,000
Worship Expense	2,800
Publications/Subscriptions	400
Annual Conference Expense	2000
Young Adult Ministry	500
Night of Worship/Crux	1,200
Leadership Development	1,000
Communications/Advertising	2,500
Special Events	4,000
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>

**Total Projected Budget      \$578,116**





## Announcements

- **Church Directories are in.** If you purchased one with your picture and did not receive the directory or pictures yet, please reach out. There are also Extra directories available to purchase. Contact the church office at [office@hickschurch.org](mailto:office@hickschurch.org) for more information.
- **Save your Old Artificial Christmas Trees.** This summer, we will be creating a winter wonderland, at True North VBS, where kids learn that Jesus is the compass for life! Please consider donating or lending old green artificial trees to help create our set. Contact [laura@hickschurch.org](mailto:laura@hickschurch.org) for more information. Thank you.
- **Healing Service** - we have scheduled another Healing Service at Hicks for Sunday evening, March 9th at 6pm. We were incredibly blessed by what God did among us in November. Once again we will gather to worship, pray, and minister to one another. Plan now to attend and invite a friend to this special experience.
- **Building Team Formed:** The Ad Council is pleased to announce the following persons have been appointed to a Building Team to plan for a new addition to our church facility: Greg Ackinclose, Craig Brennecke, Tony DeStefano, Bob Franks, Craig LeCrone, Rich Morris, Jayme Rhodes, Mike Smith. Please pray for this team and this important work.



## Prayer Request

Warming center

Those homebound and in care facilities

Friends at Evergreen and dinner church outreach

Those with chronic diseases

Those with anxiety and depression. Casting cares upon Jesus. Thought processes



Noah Geist Jan 03  
 Erin Muth Jan 03  
 Betty Wilkinson Jan 03  
 John Dively Jan 05  
 Til Black Jan 06  
 Benjamin Wright Jan 06  
 Kaitlyn Lenhard Jan 06  
 Rosella Pavlatos Jan 09  
 Scott Magnetti Jan 10  
 Donna Lindsey Jan 12  
 Tom Pooley Jan 12  
 Debbie Treese Jan 13  
 Glenn Keiper Jan 14  
 Steve McMahon Jan 17  
 Gloria Smith Jan 18  
 Isabella DeStefano Jan 21  
 Callie Dick Jan 22  
 Sue Franks Jan 22  
 Wade Plowman Jan 24  
 Jodi Albrano Jan 26  
 Linzi Biesinger Jan 26  
 Paula Brennecke Jan 27  
 Mel George Jan 27  
 Terry Koelle Jan 27  
 Bracken Ackinclose Jan 29  
 Reece Franks Jan 29  
 Elli Seymour Jan 29  
 Livia LeCrone Jan 30



Sheila Field Feb 01  
 Lannon Franks Feb 01  
 Joanne Rodgers Feb 01  
 Gavin Bell Feb 02  
 Roger Lindsey Feb 02  
 Dick Fruth Feb 03  
 Madelyn Kordwitz Feb 03  
 Elaine Mallory Feb 05  
 Sofia Moritz Feb 06  
 Tom O'Connor Feb 06  
 Quinnley Thacker Feb 06  
 Roran Robison Feb 07  
 Bob Baird Feb 11  
 Leia Nelson Feb 12  
 Ella Monahan Feb 14  
 Marsha Smith Feb 14  
 Sandy Thomas Feb 15  
 Whitney Moritz Feb 18  
 Kenlie Krug Feb 19  
 Heather Merriman Feb 19  
 Simon Adams Feb 21  
 Lawson Dugan Feb 23  
 Carly Ackinclose Feb 24  
 Tyden Basenback Feb 24  
 Sarah DeStefano Feb 26  
 Isaac Wallace Feb 27

**Help us Celebrate everyone's Birthday! Please consider filling out the Church Directory form.**

# Church Directory Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Emails: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Birthdates

May we put your information in the public church directory?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes, but only a portion of my information \_\_\_\_\_

If we acquire any photographs from church events with you or your family members, may we have your permission to publish them to our website or social media pages?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**\*\* If you have already filled this form out, you DO NOT need to fill it out again.**

**Hicks Memorial Methodist Church Staff**

- Rev. Rich Morris, Senior Pastor
- Rev. Allyce Logue, Associate Pastor
- Cathy Baird, Sexton
- Bob Baird, Building Superintendent
- Laura Wallace, Children's Ministry Coordinator
- Kathy Ozio, Financial Secretary
- Chelsey Dick, Church Secretary & Nursery Coordinator
- Heidi Fogle, Treasurer
- Jason Garman, Youth Director
- Elaine Mallory, Organist
- Jeromy Ross, Technology
- Jean Rupp, Choir Director

**Hicks Memorial Methodist Church**  
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**Building Communities of Devoted Followers of Jesus.**