



HICKSCHURCH.ORG

1211 THIRD AVENUE, PO BOX 389 DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635

September 2024

Why Do A Building Project?

The following was presented by Pastor Rich at our church conference on November 4th.

We are taking time this evening to broach the subject of our building and to what extent it meets the needs of our congregation and our mission. Anytime you consider a course of action, the best place to start is with Why. I am a “why” person. I think most of us are.

The What of our discussion is “do we need to do a building addition to meet the needs of our mission?” I believe the answer is yes. So let me get to the Why.

Community is important to us here at Hicks. You hear it in our mission statement – “Building communities of devoted followers of Jesus.” Community is in our DNA. We see ourselves not just as a large gathering of individuals but as a gathering of people in relationship with each other in Christ. We are family. And so we Gather as a Family to worship, to learn, to listen, to pray, to serve. The church is the Gathered people of God. We are also the Sent. We are sent into the larger community as witnesses to Christ and His kingdom. This Gathered/Sent identity is a repeatable ebb and flow of our mission. We are living that out in our expression of community, or rather, communities. That’s in our mission statement as well. We are building communities here at the building but we are also seeking to build communities away from our building. Prime examples of these are our ministries at Evergreen Manors, our Night of Worship at Coffee on Third, and community groups like Crux.

We have been creative and flexible with use of our building and ways that we can adapt to ministry away from the building. But there is a limit to how much flexibility and creativity can make up for building limitations. The building limitations are primarily one of space. [Continued pg. 2]

These needs were identified in a visioning process in 2017. The needs are still there. They are, in brief: need for another large group worship and multipurpose space; need for larger rooms for children and youth ministry. Adult classroom space; office space; and storage space.

The addition of these spaces would allow for several key improvements:

- Being able to go back to two main Sunday morning services without compromising room for growth.
- Separating the worship space from Sunday school space so that sound is no longer an issue.
- Separating Sunday School and worship times to encourage more adults to be in small groups on Sunday morning.
- Dedicated spaces for traditional worship and contemporary worship means less setup and more flexibility and creativity for those spaces.
- Our children's classrooms and youth rooms are near capacity on Sunday mornings. Additional space provides room for creativity and for growth.
- Being able to provide meeting space for more outside community groups (eg. YMCA before and after school, scouts, 12 step groups)
- Office space
- Storage space – have you seen our closets, attic, and basements?

The last building project by this congregation that added indoor space was in 1916. Before that it was 1867. So the church went about fifty years between its initial building and the current building. We are now in year 108 since this building was built.

I do not believe in the "Build it and they will come" philosophy. That may be true for baseball fields in Iowa, but not churches. But I do believe that an inadequate facility can keep people from coming who might normally come. This is not meant to be a last word but rather a first word to initiate discussion and prayer around this matter. I welcome your feedback and input.

In Christ,

Rich

What does Scripture and theology say about God's mission and nature?

Missiologist Christopher Wright describes mission as God's great work in the world with purpose for goodness and restoration in creation. God's mission to redeem humanity stems from God's nature as a relational being; loving, merciful, compassionate, and gracious.[1] God calls the collective church to be in cooperation with God's purposes.[2] Wright's statement emphasizes that mission stems from God's will, not one's personal will.



God's mission seeks to set people free from the bondage of their sin and enter into eternal life. God invites disciples to pursue holiness in cooperation with God's grace. God's nature is good and just, where God does not allow justice to go unseen or unheard.[3] Jesus came to set the captives free; to heal the wounded; to forgive our guilt and shame; and to bless the poor and the oppressed.[4] Jesus came to invite all those who would follow him into eternal life.[5] God's mission tasks the church to carry Jesus' message through word and proclamation of God's Kingdom as a present reality, begun in the ministry of Jesus, continued in the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Mission of God is restoration to right community between God, self, and others. God's nature is relational. In the fall of Adam and Eve, community between human and human, human and self, and human and God was first diminished, and as a result, humans struggle to maintain deep, genuine relations with one another as God intended. Throughout Scripture, God extends an opportunity to regain the community that was lost in the fall. God's mission is to be a presence in the lives of Israel that they would be transformed by God's gracious love for God's people. As time passes, two patterns emerge in the Israelite community: they are disobedient to the commandments, and God is merciful and forgiving. [Continued pg. 4]

Eventually, Israel's collective sin leads to an exile from their land. Israel is incapable of being a community that will bring redemption. God's people need a Savior.

God's mission is salvific. Salvation comes through Jesus alone, the anointed one who has been pronounced by the prophets of the Old Testament to save Israel. Jesus is God with us, bringing about a sense that God wishes to enter and engage in community with humanity.[6] Jesus restores the relationship and community between human and human, God and human, and human and self. Jesus is Savior in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

[1] Psalm 135:8-9

[2] Wright, Christopher, *The Mission of God's People* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2010), 24-27.

[3] Proverbs 11:21

[4] Isaiah 61

[5] John 5:4

[6] Matthew 1:23

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
2024

Music isn't just for kids!

If you are a teen who loves music and would like to share your gifts with our church family, we are creating small group opportunities for you! Please contact Laura Wallace.
Laura@hickschurch.org

THE NOT SO SILENT NIGHT

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

In this year's Children's Christmas Musical, the shepherds are on trial for causing a disturbance of the peace while celebrating and proclaiming our Savior's birth! It is filled with humor, songs, and a touching message. We invite you to join us December 15th at the 9:45 or 11:15 service.

Psalm 69:30 *"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving"*

Upcoming Family Events

- **Thanksgiving Dinner**
11/24 at 5:00PM
- **Tree Lighting** 12/6 at 6:30PM
- **Christmas Musical** 12/15 at
the 9:45 & 11:15 services
- **Christmas Eve Family
Worship Service** at 5:30PM



WOMEN IN FAITH



**Tuesday, Nov. 20 the Women in Faith will meet
for a covered dish noon luncheon in the church social hall.**

Following a brief business meeting, they will assemble college goodie

bags. **If you have a college student, be sure to submit their name**

to the church office before Nov. 17. Students or a family member may pick up their bag Nov. 24 – Dec. 1 in the church chapel area. If you wish to donate snacks or other items, place them in the basket by the entrance to the church house.



At the meeting Nov. 20, Donna Lindsey will share a program titled ***Count Your Blessings***, 2 Corinthians 9:8. We will be encouraged to notice the simple, ordinary gifts that our Lord sends our way to bless us.

Be sure to attend. All women are invited.

2025 Altar Flowers

Due to rising costs, Kerr's Florist is requiring all 2025 church flower orders to be at least \$50 per arrangement. They will continue to provide free, complimentary delivery for all church orders. Since Hicks Church has two flower vases, the cost would be \$100 to sponsor both flower vases for a two-week period. Kerr's has suggested that to reduce the cost of the flowers, one sponsor could pay for one vase, and a second sponsor could pay for the second vase, thereby reducing the cost per person or family wishing to place flowers in the church. Both sponsors would be noted in the Sunday bulletin. Also, Kerr's is willing to deliver one \$50 vase if only one sponsor has signed up for a time period. Sign-up sheets for 2025 are on the Welcome Desk.

Contact Debbie Treese for more information at 814-695-3060.

HYM New November 2024

Important Dates

Nov 10 Youth Group 5:30-7

Nov 17 Friendsgiving at “The Well Church” 6-8

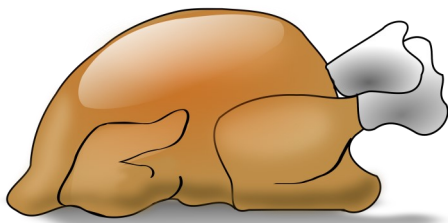
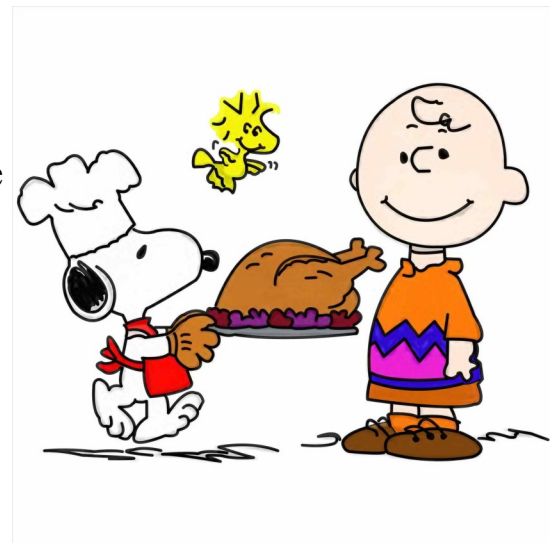
Nov 24 Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Activities

There are a few activities that the youth of our church will have the opportunity to participate in during the month of November most of them involving good food to eat.

Friendsgiving Nov 17

On Sunday November 17 the Hollidaysburg Youth Ministorum will be hosting a “Friendsgiving” at the Well Church located on Burns Ave right across from Blue Knob Auto. Youth will be able to taste/eat 9 different soups if they would like for dinner. We will also have games and will have an opportunity to worship together. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring friends. Youth should be dropped off and picked up at the Well.

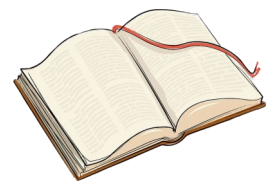


Church Thanksgiving Meal

On Sunday Nov 24 we will be having our annual Thanksgiving meal at the church. During this time, the Youth of our church would always help set up and serve the meal. This will be the same as previous years. This will be a great opportunity for the youth of our church to get some service hours as well.

Extra Bibles

A few weeks ago our church gave out bibles to youth in grades 6-8. If there are youth out there that are in those grades and did not pick up their bible yet please contact Jason Garman. We also have a few extra bibles as well and if there are youth in our church in grades 9-12 that are in need of a bible please reach out.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg is sponsoring a Gingerbread Village for the 2024 Advent and Christmas seasons. They are inviting church groups and individuals to build and submit a gingerbread house to be displayed. They encourage the use of real food as possible. There are a list of requirements in the church office. If you are interested please email Hannah Myers at Hannah.myers@alsm.org or by phone at 814-696-4530.
- **LIGHT UP NIGHT.** On December 6th, the Duncansville Community will gather for Light Up Night in Hicks Church parking lot. Come out for soup, Santa, and a Night of Worship as we light up the tree! We are looking for Donations of soup, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.
- **HEALING SERVICE.** Our teaching focus on Sundays in November will be on Healing. Sunday mornings we will give an invitation to the laying on of hands and healing prayer at our services. In addition, we are having a special Sunday evening Healing Service November 17th at 7pm in our sanctuary. Invite friends and neighbors to attend and pray and be prayed for.
- **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER.** Join us on Sunday, November 24, 2024. for our annual Thanksgiving meal. This year, we will hold a worship service following our meal. Let's join together for a time of fellowship and good food. The church will provide the turkey. We ask those attending to provide a side dish or dessert. Sign-up sheets for those attending, set up, clean up, sides, and desserts are on the Welcome Desk.



Prayer Request

The family of Joann Lovett, The Family of Sam Dunkle, Til Black, Brian Fleck, Muriel Woormer



Brandi Lucas Nov. 01
 Sandy Steele Nov. 02
 Kay Cutshall Nov. 03
 Aiden DeStefano Nov. 03
 Ava DeStefano Nov. 03
 Marylee O'Connor Nov. 04
 Warren Smith Nov. 04
 Seth Morris Nov. 06
 Melaine Nelson Nov. 06
 Jeff Vaughn Nov. 06
 Tina Cardone Nov. 08
 Lawrence Cardone Nov. 08
 Allan Lynn Nov. 09
 Jerry Gardner Nov. 11
 Craig LeCrone Nov. 12
 Shaun Robison Nov. 12
 Sonia Kieper Nov. 13
 Kellen Kensinger Nov. 13
 Christine Dively Nov. 14
 Alyssa Bell Nov. 15
 Carissa Blair Nov. 15
 Tommy Virsack Nov. 15
 Theo Garman Nov. 18
 Michala Magnetti Nov. 18
 Delaney Seymour Nov. 18
 Dan Bon Nov. 21
 Carmen Casanova Nov. 23
 Shelby Lenhart Nov. 23
 Mason Koelle Nov. 29



Jolene Cidor Dec. 01
 Woods Hardesty Dec. 01
 JJ Wyant Dec. 01
 Jason Garman Dec. 07
 Rich Gibson Dec. 07
 Holly Guise Dec. 11
 Tricia Priel Dec. 15
 Ryan Royer Dec. 15
 Rachel Sibal Dec. 15
 Faye Virsack Dec. 15
 Jenna Zelem Dec. 16
 Donato Fanelli Dec. 19
 Heidi Fogle Dec. 18
 Bob Lenhart Dec. 19
 Casey Walters Dec. 20
 Allyce Logue Dec. 22
 Clark Monahan Dec. 23
 Mary Jo Campo-
 long Dec. 24
 Marley Dick Dec. 24
 Denise Latoche Dec. 25
 Zach McCloskey Dec. 26
 Michael Smith Dec. 29
 Ezekiel Reasy Dec. 30
 Caden Thacker Dec. 30
 Cresson Thacker Dec. 31

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

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Building Communities of Devoted Followers of Jesus.