

Director of Music: **Ledford Wilson**
 Church Secretary: **Susan Coard**
 Directors of Youth: **Andy Barnard & Ginny Owens**
 Director of Children's Ministry: **Cindy Williams & Doris Carawan**
 Acolyte: 8:30 **Jake McClanan** 11:00 **Grace King**
 Next Week: 8:30 **Olivia Cooper** 11:00 **Jessica Rosser**
 Children's Church: 8:30 **Amy McClanan** 11:00 **Tess Bechthold**
 Next Week: 8:30 **Elizabeth Lovelace** 11:00 **Lynn Jordan**
 Offering Counters: **Alan Foster & Cheryl Cooper**
 Next Week: **Celia White & Joyce Stukey**

Organist: **Betty Winslow**
 Nursery Worker: **Rebecca Burcher Jones**
 Sexton: **Michael Colbert**

Hickory United Methodist Church

2708 Battlefield Boulevard, South, Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Pastor

Church 421-2778 - Parsonage 421-2777 - Cellular 287-8420

Worship Services: 8:30 & 11:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas - December 31, 2017



Welcome to Hickory United Methodist Church! We hope today is a blessing and invite you to worship with us again soon. The Pastor, Staff and people of Hickory will be glad to share with you about opportunities for Christian growth. Please call the church office for more info. You may also email the church at office@hickoryumc.org or visit our website at www.hickoryumc.org. On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hickoryunitedmethodistchurch.

If you need help hearing today's service, hearing aids are available. Please see an usher.

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of UMW President, Celia White, with thanks for all she does for the ladies of Hickory UMC.

Congratulations to Lindsay Eck and Mike Burgess on the birth of Piper Raegan Burgess on Dec. 15th. Piper weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20¼" long.

Pecans: Only a few left, halves, pieces and honey roasted! Get them while they last!

Christmas Cantata: Special thanks to the many hands that helped set up and take down tables and chairs, the turkey cookers, the chefs in the kitchen, decorators, servers, and clean-up crew! And special thanks to Cyndi Dunlo for coordinating our efforts! You all are amazing and appreciated. It is always a blessing to see people pitch in to help whether or not they signed up to. God can use us all in big and small ways. We could feel the love. UMW

The Mercer Family would like to thank everyone for the many gifts and acts of kindness shown them during this Advent and Christmas season.

A special thank you from all the Staff at Hickory UMC to the congregation for the gift cards we received and all of the other kindnesses shown to us during the Christmas season.

There will be a Staff/Parish Committee Meeting on January 7th at 12:15 p.m. The Book of Discipline of the UM Church mandates that the committee meet annually to review the clergy leadership for our church. As a result of this meeting, the committee must advise the Bishop via the District Superintendent as to whether the congregation would be best served by the Pastor serving another year or that a change in clergy leadership may best benefit the church. The Staff/Parish Committee will meet to consider this important decision in the life of the church. You are welcome to contact any of the members of the committee with input (praise and/or concern) you believe would be beneficial in making a recommendation. The members of this committee are: Cheryl Cooper (482-2920), Chair, Wendy Boswell (681-1286), Steve Barnes (548-2967), Ed Hughes (482-3635), Marty Hutto (547-4713), Linda Calhoun (547-2652), Cindy Feldman (482-8323), Sabrina Leist (547-3373), and Tim Schorr (525-6134).

Report of Stewardship for December 24, 2017

Attendance	188		
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,656.00	Budget to Date	\$ 398,097.00
General Offering	\$ 12,087.00	Received to Date	\$ 390,322.62
Tanzania Well Project	\$12,435.45		

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Mature Men's Basketball
Saturday	7:00 pm	Volleyball

The pastor is available in his office on Wednesday and Friday mornings subject to emergencies. Please feel free to call the Pastor at any time on his cell phone (287-8420) or the church office (421-2778) and an appointment can be arranged.

Hickory United Methodist Church Mission Statement:

“To live and proclaim the Gospel, seeking, encouraging and equipping all to become disciples of Jesus Christ.”

2018 Offering Envelopes: New Offering Envelopes are available in the Welcome Center. Please call the church office if you do not find your envelopes or if you need additional envelopes for a family member.

The new Flower Chart for 2018 is now up in the Welcome Center. Payment is due when you sign up. Please make your check payable to HUMW and put it in the UMW box in the Choir Room or give your check to a member of the UMW. Please do not put your check in the offering plate.

CAST: Our CAST dates are Jan. 3rd-10th. Please pray about your involvement with this important ministry. Sign-up sheets are available in the Welcome Center. For questions, please contact Tim or Teresa Mizell at 323-2932.

Poinsettias: If you gave a poinsettia and would like to take it home, please pick it up in the Welcome Center. Thank you to all who gave poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas.

Our Chancel Choir needs you! The choir is looking for new members and it's okay if you can't be here every Sunday because we are flexible. There is a one hour practice on Sundays at 5 pm. If you are interested or need information, please call Ledford Wilson at 252-775-1866.

Top10 Reasons to Join the Choir:

10. Those sweet robes.
9. The view from the choir loft.
8. You know what we're singing before everyone else.
7. You'll be part of a great group.
6. Because you love singing.
5. Because you don't have to be able to read music.
4. Because you love music.
3. Because research shows participating in music results in longevity.
2. Because singing is good for the soul.
1. YOU LOVE WORSHIPPING JESUS!!!

Offering Counters: Help is needed on our Counter Team. If you are interested in helping to count the offering on Sundays after the 11 am service, please contact Greg Moyer (377-1866). Thank you.

Prayer Requests for a Praying Church

New Requests for Members

Harry Faircloth

New Requests Beyond our Congregation

Patricia Bechthold – Cheryl McCall's mother

Members with Continued Concerns

Allie Best

Ida Winter

Carol Mellon

Anna Commander

Carol Peters

Ralph Nichols

Stephanie Perdue

Andy Barnard

Bob Snow

Arnie Lindblad

Carolyn Rittenberry

Ann Pafford

Linda Gray

Eddie Allen

Bill Reed

Alice Jarman

Marty Hutto

Joan Gregory

Carolyn Harrell

Bev Warburton

Stephanie Stahler

Continued Concerns Beyond our Congregation

Preston Grissom

Wayne Snead

Vivian Hodges

Jordan Sanderlin

Debbie Brooks

Karen Colston

Jayne Moore

Al Antaki

Tim Craig

Denise Monroe

Janice Lane Stewart

Bobby Lockett

Mary Kay West

Stan Pallett

Harry Blevins

Dr. Robert Brown – Bev Warburton's brother

Alvah Grimes – Celia White's stepfather

Nicole Shultz – Marge Barnes' friend

Marie Edmonds – Eva Delfenthal's niece

Nick & Marla Smith – Lynn Hughes' friends

Trey Futrell – Deborah Pallett's friend

Marianne Morris Jones – Steve Jones' mother

Lucy Harrington – Heather Brewer's mother

Gillian Harrington – Heather Brewer's niece

Mary McChesney – Rachel Burns' friend

Charlie Minehart – Cindy Feldman's friend

Donna Ward – Stephanie Stahler's cousin

Don Erickson – Bill Reed's friend

Jim Anderson – Kim Schorr's father

Rebekah Burke – Stephanie Stahler's friend

Ruth Vierra – Lindsay Eck's mother

Kenny Morgan, Sr. – CS & Carol Curling's son-in-law

Matt McLean – Phyllis Nix's friend

Bonnie Vinne – Eva Delfenthal's niece

Jim Reasor – Phyllis Nix's friend

Susan Rittenberry – Carolyn Rittenberry's niece

Heather Swann – Wendy Boswell's sister-in-law

Mike Gates – Phyllis Nix's daughter-in-law's brother

David Brown – Eva Delfenthal's son

Ginger Hoyos – Tim Mizell's sister

Sharon Ivey – Gary and Carolyn Everton's niece

Keith & Betty Jean Edwards – Carolyn Everton's friends

Connie Carpenter – Susan McKee's cousin

Rachel Gordon – Craig Robertson's niece

Our Deployed Military -Send a note of thanks to military overseas, go to www.letsaythanks.com .

Our Friends in Continued Care

Autumn Care Residents

Jim Powell – at home

Kenny Hobbs – Chesapeake Healthcare

Nina Curling – Autumn Care

Marilyn Pratt – Chesapeake Healthcare

Our congregation hears all prayer requests during Sunday services. Please feel free to voice your request during the service. Please indicate your request on the Prayer Request cards found in the pews or call the church office (421-2778). On the Prayer Card, please list the person's name you would like to add to our Prayer List, their relationship to you, and the prayer concern. Place the card in the offering plate or the Prayer Request box on the organ. Names will remain on the List for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.

Order of Worship

+++++ 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. +++++

THE PIANO AND ORGAN PRELUDE

THE WELCOME OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BRINGING IN OF THE LIGHT

Acolyte

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “There’s Something about That Name”

Chancel Choir

*HYMN “Sing We Now of Christmas”

No. 237

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed, Ecumenical Version” No. 882

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE “There’s a Song in the Air”

No. 249

THE ORGAN INTERLUDE

Please register your attendance by using the form found in the red folder on each pew at the middle aisle.

Visitors are asked to please include your complete address and phone number. **Please print.**

THE SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR CONGREGATION

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

“On Eagle’s Wings”

And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn.

Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.

FIFTH SUNDAY HYMN SING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

(In addition to your offering, the person on the center aisle is asked to hand the attendance sheet from their row to the usher. Thank You.)

The Organ Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Cindy Williams

(During the singing of the hymn, children, preschool-2nd grade may go to Children’s Church.)

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHILD(REN) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE CLASSROOM(S) BEHIND THE SANCTUARY.

*HYMN “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

No. 216

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-40

In blue pew Bibles page 1015

THE MESSAGE

“Two Senior Citizens”

Pastor

*THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION AND COMMITMENT

No. 251

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”

All

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh, how He loves you and me.

He gave His life, what more could He give?

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

*THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

Acolyte

*THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Denotes the Congregation Standing

Memory Verse:

II Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

