

# Hephzibah Baptist Times

NOVEMBER 2023



## A Time for Asking

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”  
(Matthew 7:7-8)

Our Lord Jesus knows not only what we need; He also knows us. He knows our nature. He knows that it is not in our nature to seek God and ask Him for what we need. We will work, stress, and push in every direction before we bow our knees and ask the Lord.

The fact that we are so naturally reluctant to pray says a great deal about us. But the fact that we are commanded to pray says even more about God. As Jesus taught His disciples about the Kingdom of God, He stressed to them the importance of prayer. He instructed them to pray. He invited them to pray. Jesus continued in verse 11, saying, “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” Our God is generous and delights in providing us everything we need. So we are challenged to pray and promised that the Lord will provide.

We are searching for the next leaders of our family ministries, and we need to be asking the Lord to send workers for His harvest field here in Hephzibah. This is a great time for us to bow our hearts to the Lord and ask Him to lead us into the next chapter of mission and ministry. Will you pray with me as we work toward the future ministry the Lord prepares for us?

Your Pastor,

Michael Wren



## POINSETTIAS

We will start taking orders on November 5th for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season (in memory of or in honor of someone special in your life). Envelopes will be located at the Sanctuary entrances. Pricing and other information will be in the bulletin on October 29 and November 5th.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 5th

## OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, November 22nd &  
Thursday, November 23rd  
Happy Thanksgiving!



## COMING IN DECEMBER

### LIVE NATIVITY

December 16th-17th, 6-8pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, December 24th at  
5:30pm

## FYI

- **HBC FAMILY ARCHERY DAY:** Saturday, November 4th, at HBC-Behind Newsome House from 12-3pm.
- **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST:** Sunday, November 5th, at 7:30am.
- **OCC PACKING PARTY:** Sunday, November 5th, at 2:30pm in Joy Classroom.
- **CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING:** Wednesday, November 8th, at 7:00pm.
- **OCC NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK:** November 13th-20th.
- **YOUNG AT HEART:** Monday, November 13th, at Noon.
- **DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS:** Sunday, November 19th, after 11 am service.
- **DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER:** Wednesday, November 16th, at 9am.
- **OFFICE CLOSED:** November 22nd & 23rd, in celebration of Thanksgiving.
- **NO ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday, November 22nd.

### TEAM MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER:

- **Building & Grounds:** Wednesday, November 1st, at 6:15pm
- **Stewardship & Finance:** Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:00pm
- **Mission Team:** Wednesday, November 15th, at 6:00pm
- **Church Council:** Thursday, November 16th, at 6:30pm
- **Deacons’ Meeting:** Wednesday, November 29th, at 6:00pm

### Please Note:

All events, dates, and times are subject to change.

### Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Dr. C. Michael Wren, Jr.  
mwren@hephzibahbaptist.org  
Minister of Worship/Music.....Amanda Brookins  
abrookins@hephzibahbaptist.org  
Administrative Assist./Finance.....Julia Grayson  
jgrayson@hephzibahbaptist.org  
Administrative Assist./Ministry.....Renee Jenkins  
rjenkins@hephzibahbaptist.org  
Custodian.....Ken Oglesby  
office@hephzibahbaptist.org

### Wednesday Menus for the Month of November:

Dinner begins at 5:50 pm.


All meals include tea and coffee.

**\$7—11 & Up, \$4—Children, 5-10, \$7—Take Out  
\$25 max. for immediate family.**

\*To-Go” Plates will be prepared by the Kitchen

Personnel after the serving line closes. We cannot guarantee “to-go” orders until all of our dine-in family members are served. As available, additional take out plates may be purchased at the regular price.

Menus are subject to change.

11/1 Regular/Baked Spaghetti, Garlic bread, Salad, & Dessert	11/8 Soup, Grilled cheese, Salad & Dessert
11/15 Chicken pot pie, Salad, & Dessert	11/22 NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL
11/29 Meatloaf, Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll & Dessert	

### MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT:

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$35,237.00
Weekly Budget Needs:	\$8,132.00
General Offering Received as of 10/22/2023	\$32,698.04
Year-to-Date Budget Needs:	\$70,474.00
Year-to-Date Budget Received:	\$62,373.39
11am Worship Service Average Attendance	125
Average S.S. attendance as of 10/22/2023	121



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# Children's Ministries

FROM MRS. LORA

I remember back when I first knew I would be coming to HBC, and thinking, “God, how can I already love people I’ve never met?” You already felt like family and I hadn’t even met you yet! I prayed over you all (y’all!) and wondered what it would be like to serve Christ alongside you. Now, over 4 years later, I know you and I love you even more! God has graciously gifted Andy and me to minister with people who serve the Lord wholeheartedly and who are the most kind, encouraging, and faith-driven body of Christ of which we’ve had the privilege of being a part. Thank you all for the cards, gifts, and outpouring of love for us. We truly are leaving one family here as we journey back to our family in Indiana. We will be praying for you!



PUMPKIN PATCH AND TRUNK OR TREAT THANK YOU! Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to raise money for summer camp by setting up the Patch and tearing down, helping on Delivery Day, decorating, volunteering during a shift, leading during the HES field trips, and buying pumpkins. We had a great time visiting with our neighbors while helping cut the cost for summer camp.

Also, thank you to all who donated everything that goes into achieving Trunk or Treat, like candy, hot dogs, lights and music, parking, snacks, meal prep, set-up and take-down, and, of course, trunks! All the help given by our church family during this major outreach is appreciated to make it such a success.



CENTRIKID CAMP 2024: THE WOW FACTOR CentriKid Camp is scheduled for June 10-24, 2023 at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Registration and a \$75 deposit must be paid to the church office by Sunday, February 4th.

# Community Events



Our annual Living Nativity will be on Saturday, December 16th and Sunday, December 17th at 6:00pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Amanda Brookins. We will need volunteers to help with scenery, costumes, advertising, and characters.

# Student Ministries

FROM MR. ANDY

It has been a honor and a privilege to be able to serve this church as the Minister to Students. Working with the youth has been a real joy, and I am glad that I have had the opportunity to see so many of them grow in their faith in the Lord. Two of our memory verses come to mind: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7), and "casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). May these verses be a continuous reminder that when we keep our faith and trust in Jesus, He will never fail us.



Engage continues to meet each Wednesday evening during the month of November from 6:30 PM to 8 PM. We have organized games & activities, a worship & prayer time, and a time for Bible lessons.

A special thanks to the HBC Youth volunteers that helped with the Pumpkin Patch on the Sundays in October.

# Women's Ministry

THURSDAY MORNING 10 AM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Women’s Bible study group meets each Thursday at 10am. We are currently working through the book, “Biography of God,” and would love to have you join us!



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Women's Bible study group is continuing our study of "Mama Bear Apologetics." Even if you have missed the first few weeks, we would love to have you join us as we continue through this book and study together. We meet from 6:30 to 8:00 each Wednesday.

# Music Ministry



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well...not yet, but it will soon! We will be decorating the church on Sunday, November 19th, following the 11:00am worship service. Lunch will be provided, so please let Amanda Brookins know if you plan to stay and help decorate.

# Discipleship Ministry

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth within our church. We now have seven Sunday School Classes for adults. We also have two weekly studies for women, and one for men. Our library has books and DVDs for discipleship, evangelism, parenting, and many other important topics. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Cross (706) 836-9226.

# Men's Ministry

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST  
Sunday, November 5th, at 7:30am

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night men's Bible study group is studying the book of James, emphasizing righteous living and righteous praying. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in Room 103.

# Missions Ministry



OCC DROP OFF CENTER

National Collection Week is Monday, November 13th, through Monday, November 20th. During this time, local churches and families will bring their packed shoeboxes to HBC and our team will package and prepare the shoeboxes to be sent to the processing center. We need Help! A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall. The times are each weekday evening from 5-7pm, or Saturday 10am-12 Noon, or Sunday after the 11am service until 2pm. Contact Jessica Yoder for more information.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Pray for Israel

We can pray for an end to the conflict, as well as safety, security, and healing during this time of trauma. We also pray for the lost, that believers' faith will shine brightly during this dark time, and that many will have a complete view of God's goodness and grace, accepting Jesus as Savior.

# Music Ministry

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



The Children's Choir is now preparing a Christmas musical, “We Three Spies.” The children will present the musical Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Make sure you mark your calendar now to attend this musical.

# Senior Adult Ministry

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

Monday, Nov. 13, at 12 Noon.  
Our guest speaker will be Francis Yelton from Augusta Agency on the Aging.

