

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 13, 2024

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Last Sunday, December 8, over 40 children put on their costumes and shared their talents to tell the story of Christmas during the worship service. They did a wonderful job!



CHRISTMAS JOY IS THIS SUNDAY!

10:30 Worship | Sunday, December 15

Get in the Christmas spirit with Hudson's talented music ensembles and instrumentalists! You'll hear children, youth and adults singing and playing lots of Christmas music. You'll also get the chance to sing some favorite carols yourself. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!



Family Christmas Celebration

125 attended the festive annual Christmas event last Saturday!



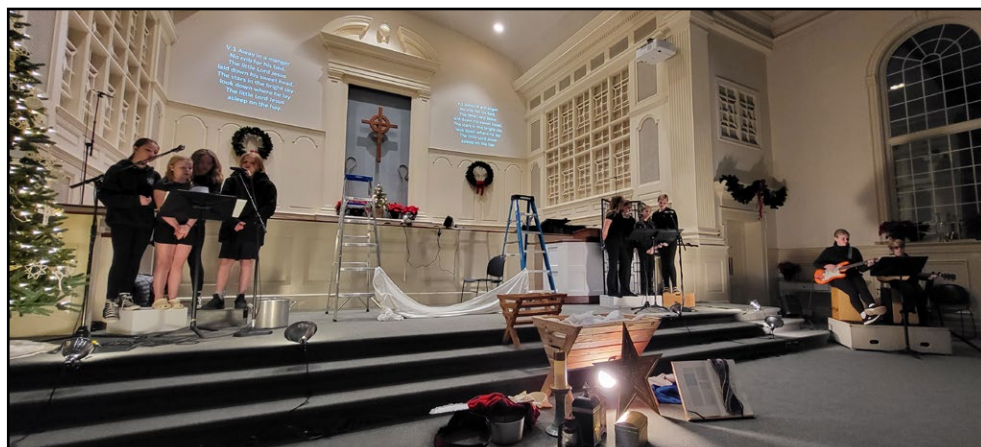
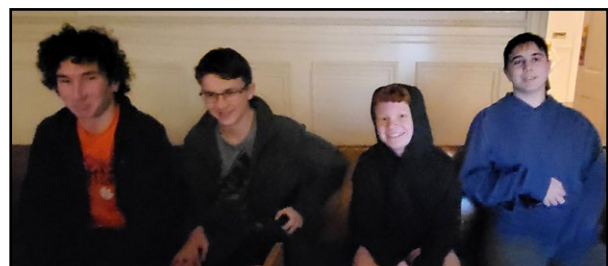
Youth Pageant Last Sunday

What can you produce with 22 youth, 4 microphones, 2 ladders, 1 chair, 1 king-sized bedsheet, 1 messenger bag, 1 beanie, and 2 kitchen pots, you ask?...well...A New Kind of Christmas Pageant!



Last Sunday evening, the HMPC Youth Drama Troupe & Friends presented “The Christmas Story” (Remix)... a different kind of Christmas Pageant. This production was a “Gathering” of an assortment of material from the

Gospel of Luke and Matthew, Eugene Peterson’s *The Message*, John Bell and Graham Maule’s *Cloth from the Cradle*, and original thought and placement by Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministry and Children’s Music at HMPC. The link is on the homepage of our website if you want to check it out!



POINSETTIAS

The Chancel Guild invites you to honor or remember a special person with a donation of \$15 toward Advent preparations, including poinsettias and greenery. Names will be listed in the December 22nd and Christmas Eve worship bulletins. Return an information form (located on the flower calendar board outside of room #103) with your check to the office, or place it in the offering plate **by December 16th**. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check, and please specify if your donation is in **honor** or **memory** of someone. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve services. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

CHRISTMAS JOY RECEPTION Volunteers & Donations Needed!



HMPC Christmas Joy Worship is Sunday, December 15, 2024. Presbyterian Women hosts the fellowship reception following this special musical worship service, and we are in need of volunteers! Please sign up for a volunteer position and/or to contribute a food item for this most joyous fellowship celebration of the year. You can also sign-up by emailing your selected volunteer post to Sharon Cole at sharoncole@carolina.rr.com. PW thanks you!

SIGN UP [HERE!](#)

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

From Presbyterian Mission

Presbyterian Mission Organization produced a weekly Advent Devotional this year that you are invited to use throughout the season of Advent.



[Click Here for Week 1: Hope](#)

[Click Here for Week 2: Peace](#)

[Click Here for Week 3: Joy](#)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15

10:30am in the Sanctuary

“Christmas Joy” Music Worship

Preaching: Rev. Debbie Kirk

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Preaching: Rev. Ashley-Anne Masters

(Campus Minister at NC State)

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

3:00pm - Communion Service

5:00pm- Candlelight & Family Service

8:00pm - Candlelight & Communion Service

Nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 services

The 5:00 and 8:00 services will be live-streamed

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The first week of Advent, the Deacons held their annual Blue Christmas Service. During the service participants had time for quiet contemplation,



prayers, and reflection. Four blue candles acknowledging the shadows in our lives were lit from the Christ candle. Everyone was invited to light a candle as a visible symbol that Christ is with us in light and shadows.



CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Members **Mary Mac and Burke Wombwell**

on the birth of their child

Alice Bennett Wombwell

on December 6, 2024

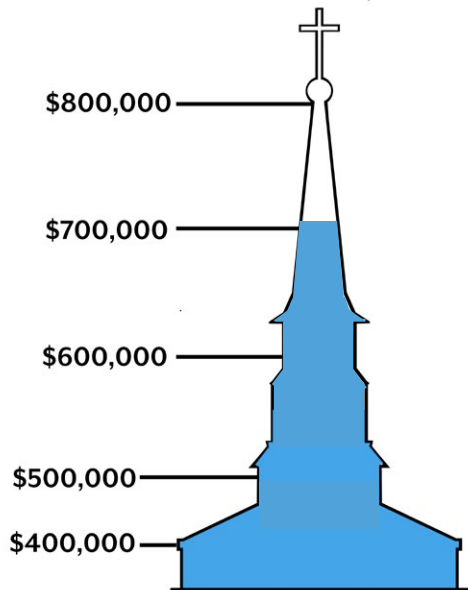


GIVING MINISTRY

Pledge Campaign Update

AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2024

GOAL: \$894,000



Currently, our 2025 pledges total at \$700,304. Out of our 338 active member families, 143 have pledged. In comparison, this time last year 164 families had pledged for a total of \$768,571.

You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Manager. You can call Erica at 919-390-2664 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.



HMPC OFFICE

Office Holiday Closings

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE:

Open regular business hours through Dec 23

Closed Tuesday, December 24

Closed Wednesday, December 25

Closed Thursday, December 26

Open 9am-12pm on Friday, December 27

Closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025

End-of-Year Gifts for 2024 Giving Statements

As you consider your end-of-year giving, we want to make you aware of IRS guidelines that allow for a donation to be included on your 2024 giving statement for tax purposes. Simply dating a check in December is insufficient according to the IRS guidelines – therefore please consider the following deadlines:

- Given in the offering plate: by Dec 31
- Hand delivered to the office: by Dec 31
- US Mail: Postmarked by Dec 31
- Private delivery service (FedEx/UPS): Received in-office by Dec 31
- Online credit card gifts: must “fully process” by credit card issuer no later than Dec 31 – we recommend that you initiate an online gift by Dec 23 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.
- Stock donations: received in the church’s brokerage account by Dec 29 – we recommend you initiate a stock transfer by Dec 19 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.

The church office will be open until 12:00pm on Friday, December 27, so please consider this for any in-person deliveries. If you have questions or concerns, please

feel free to contact Erica Hairston, Business Manager, at ehairston@hmhc.org or 919-390-2664.



MEN'S WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

Presbyterian Pint



Men of the church are invited to Presbyterian Pint this coming **Thursday, December 19 at 7:00pm at Mordecai Beverage Company.** Join us for good fellowship and conversation!

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Seekers Advent Series

9:30am | Westminster Hall South
Continues December 15 & 22

Anyone feeling a bit beaten down by life? During the Sundays of Advent, let's consider the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as an opportunity to refresh our faith. With Christ coming, how may an openness to God's future lift our spirits even as we face the challenges of the season? I invite us to explore that together. Looking forward to seeing you.

- Jimmy Hulsey, Leader

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30am | Westminster Hall North
"Imperfect Messengers"

Facilitated by Fred Woodward, John Oldenburg, John James, Gil Graybill

"God uses crooked sticks to draw straight lines."

- Martin Luther

We are far from perfect, and sometimes we feel we are not worthy to do God's bidding. If God only invited those who are worthy to His table, there would be a lot of leftovers. In this series we will look at the people whom God chose (some familiar, some not so much) who had an "imperfect" past.

This week we'll look at two minor stories in the Bible for our search for Imperfect Messengers. First, we'll look at the favorite childhood Sunday school story of Jonah and examine it from an adult perspective. After we've swallowed that one up and fully digested it, we'll learn about Tamar, daughter-in-law of Jacob and an ancestor of Jesus. Her story is probably one you didn't go over in Sunday school as a youth.

Seekers & Ponderings CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The Seekers & Presbyterian Ponderings are cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 14th, at 3:00pm** at the home of Shirley & Richard Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are also invited.



Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, December 17 | 6:30am | Patio



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets via Zoom and in-person (on the WH Patio), alternating weekly.

WUWTW uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. We read the passage that will be preached on for the upcoming Sunday four times, with interspersed questions: *What's a word or phrase that stands out to you? Allow that word or phrase to develop into a memory from your life, a thought you have on the passage or a metaphor? What is Christ calling you to through the passage?*

No previous Bible study experience is necessary. It's a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships within the church! New participants are always welcome. Contact [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) to be added to the mailing list for this group.

FELLOWSHIP

Amazing Grays

Thursday, December 19 at 11:30am

Join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30am on



Thursday, December 19, at **Poppysed Market**. Please contact Mike Law (717-439-0677) or Sandy Cole (276-708-5010) if you plan to attend so they can get an accurate headcount.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders can need help themselves. This Special Offering provides for Presbyterian church workers in need and furthers leadership development for communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the PCUSA Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, helping hundreds to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care or to otherwise meet financial challenges while Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development and so nurture racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to "Joy"), or you can give online by scanning the QR code, or visiting hmpc.org.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

TEND MY SHEEP OFFERING

HEALING TRANSITIONS

Healing Transitions believes that all people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction (especially the unhoused, uninsured, and medically underserved) deserve appropriate services on demand. To achieve that goal, Healing Transitions offers both a men's campus and a women's campus tailored to serve the unique needs of each group which includes shelter beds, meals, and basic clothing while providing, among other things, a long-term recovery program, an emergency drop-in shelter, non-medical detox, and family services. As winter nears, their clients' need for warm clothing grows. Thus, **Tend My Sheep for December is gathering gloves, hats, and scarves to help meet their seasonal clothing necessities.** Healing Transitions has identified some winter clothing in small bulk offerings on Amazon that also address these needs. If you would like to receive a listing of these identified items (with links to Amazon) for possible purchase, contact John Oldenburg at oldygolden@aol.com.



The Mission Committee End Of Year Giving News

At the end of every year, the Mission Committee donates the remainder of its designated funds to organizations in need. This year the committee has designated \$500 in shelter ministries funds to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville to go towards their work finding housing for those who lost their homes in the wake of Hurricane Helene; \$1,400 in hunger action funds to Feed the Pack; and \$1,500 each from the general mission fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Beloved Asheville both to help with relief efforts for those affected by Helene.



INTERIM PNC

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Hudson's Ministry Discernment Profile is live! Our job posting is up and we are encouraged by the responses we have received so far. Candidates first submit a profile listing their experience and a narrative of the type of ministry to which God is calling them. After reviewing the profiles, the IPNC then invites promising candidates to formally apply. God's hand in this process is evident to us, and we are grateful for the congregation's continued prayers and encouragement.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15

- 9:30am - Ponderings - WH North
- 9:30am - The Seekers - WH South
- 10:30am - Christmas Joy Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30am - Joy Reception - WH North
- 12:00pm - College Student Lunch - Offsite
- 5:00pm - Youth Sabbath Sunday - At home/restaurant

Monday, December 16

- 11:30am - Preschool Program - Sanctuary
- 12:30pm - Preschool Reception - WH North
- 7:00pm - Session - WH South
- 7:00pm - Deacon Mtg - Room 200
- 8:00pm - Al-Anon/Ala-teen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, December 17

- 6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Patio
- 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 10:30am - Sewing Guild - WH North
- 6:00pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
- 6:00pm - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge
- 7:00pm - Fellowship - Zoom
- 7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Wednesday, December 18

- 12:00pm - HMP Parent Committee - Welcome Lounge
- 6:15pm - Hudson Handbells - Sanctuary
- 6:30pm - MS Youth at Captain Cookie & The Milkman
- 7:30pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 19

- 11:30am - Amazing Grays - Poppyseed Market
- 1:00pm - Staff Gathering - Offsite

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Deacons' Prayer Ministry

Hudson Memorial's Deacons are an elected board of church members focused on care of the Hudson community. We provide care in the form of visits to sick or homebound members, meals for those recovering from surgery or illness, and other forms of ministry. Above all, we pray for our congregation and all who request it. During the holidays and during this time of pastoral transition, you may feel unsettled and especially in need.

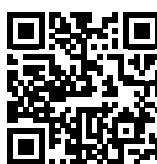
If you feel in need of prayer for yourself or a friend or family member, you may place a blue prayer card in the offering plate on Sunday with your information, or you may call the Deacon Prayer Line at 919-390-2688 and leave a message for the Deacon on Call, who will be in contact with you.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Call for Officer Recommendations

Elder and Deacon nominations will take place during December. If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself) who you feel "possess the necessary gifts and abilities and who are persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord" (Book of Order G-2.0104), please submit his or her name by either clicking [HERE](#), or using the provided QR code shown.



If you prefer, you may complete a nomination form that will be included in the Sunday worship bulletins on Dec. 8, Dec 15, and Dec. 22. The Nominating Committee members will compile the nomination forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received. Once the congregation elects these new officers, they will begin their service in May 2025. Please contact Melinda Dickinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you have questions. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and for the opportunity to see the Spirit of God at work as we identify the next group of faithful individuals whom God is calling to serve.