

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2024



Merry Christmas from the Hudson Staff!



Dear Hudson Friends,

The last couple of weeks in Raleigh have brought us extraordinary sunrises and sunsets as we are teased into winter. This turn of the seasons is a vivid reminder of the cycle of life that is constantly moving us from one place to another. Change is inevitable and we may experience it as daunting or exciting, filled with grief or overflowing with joy. We have recognized this in the ways we have this time as a church family: from the Service of Shadows and the Christmas Joy worship services, to countless activities of study, mission, and fellowship in between. I am grateful to spend one more Advent and Christmas with all of you. With all of the changes ahead, we have much to look forward to. Wherever you are this season, may the hope and expectation of Advent sustain you on your journey to the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Faithfully,
Debbie

*Join us on
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 & 8:00 services will be livestreamed.*

CHRISTMAS JOY WORSHIP

A JOYFUL, MUSICAL MORNING!



Big Thanks to
Presbyterian Women & our
volunteers for hosting the delightful
reception after the service!



CHRISTMAS JOY WORSHIP



We had a wonderful Christmas Joy worship service & reception last Sunday! This is a photo of the musicians who participated.



WOMEN'S GROUPS - HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP



Women at the Well and our PW Circles recently had their special Christmas celebrations. Great fellowship, service projects, and lots of food!



PERSONNEL

Update on Pastor Mac

Pastor Mac Schafer began his call at Doylestown Presbyterian Church on December 2nd. His wife Katy concluded her work at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh on December 15th. They are looking forward to spending Christmas together with their family.

Their new address is:
53 Belmont Square
Doylestown, PA 18901

They send their love and care to HMPC this holiday season!



Mac & Katy at their new home in Doylestown.



FELLOWSHIP

Single Way

NEW YEAR'S EVE POTLUCK GET-TOGETHER!

Enjoy fellowship, games, singing and ringing in the New Year a little early!

Please contact Ruth Herpich at 919-280-0049 if you plan to join us and what delicious dish you will be bringing.

We will also have a gift exchange (\$10 maximum) during our "Christmas with the Right Family" game.



**Tuesday, December 31
4:00-6:00pm**

Westminster Hall
Hudson Memorial
4921 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION



Seekers Advent Series

9:30am | Westminster Hall South

Wraps up on December 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

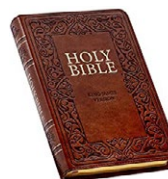
"Imperfect Messengers"

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 will look at the book of Judges which chronicles the contentious efforts of the Israelites to claim the "Promised Land". It includes many characters, both flawed and heroic. We will focus on the famous Samson and his seemingly superhuman strength.

NO CLASS ON DECEMBER 29! After the holidays, we will resume on January 5.

CELEBRATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS Dee Blackerby & Steve Jesseph!

Dee Blackerby and Steve Jesseph are members of HMPC and they first met each other at Hudson Memorial. On December 14, 2024, they got married in the HMPC Chapel, officiated by Rev. Jimmy Hulsey. Congratulations to the happy couple!



MISSION

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM FEED THE PACK

Thank you so much for your gracious support in collecting items that allow our pantry to remain stocked! **Your organization collected 134.4 pounds of food for Feed the Pack.** Your time, effort, and dedication to collect food and other items is greatly appreciated and a substantial help to our pantry. It is through people like you that our pantry can thrive and together, we can fight food insecurity on campus.

We are extremely grateful for your donation!

Sincerely,

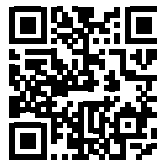
Feed The Pack, NC State Food Pantry



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.



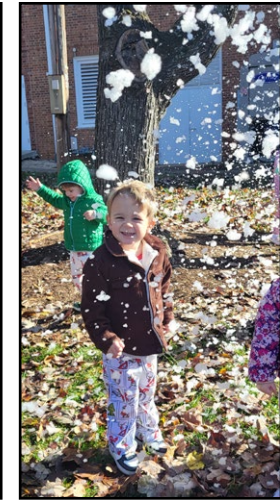
If you prefer, you may complete a nomination form that will be included in the Sunday worship bulletin on Dec. 22. The Nominating Committee members will compile the nomination forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received. Once the congregation elects these new officers, they will 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.

MISSION

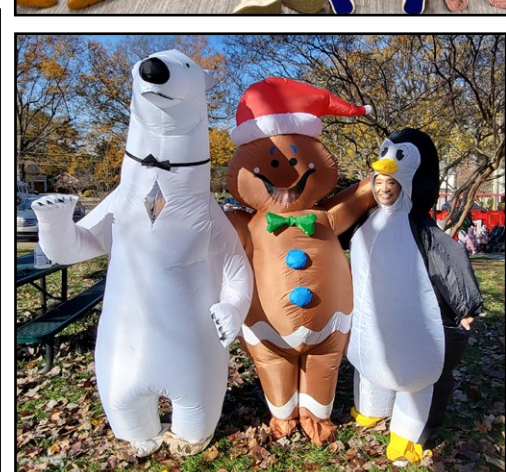
TEND MY SHEEP OFFERING HEALING TRANSITIONS

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.

❄️ PRESCHOOL POLAR EXPRESS DAY ❄️



A train ride, a penguin, polar bear, gingerbread woman, snacks, Santa, and SNOW!



New Security Cameras

Hudson’s Property Committee is installing a camera security system which will start recording video in January. We want everyone to be aware of what the system does and why it is here. The goal is to maintain the welcoming and trusting environment we have, while also keeping everyone safe.

The Session established a task force to write an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that would give us the knowledge and tools to act quickly and effectively in the event of emergencies, one of which was a Hostile Intruder incident. The plans called for adding a camera security system, which the EAP delegated to the Property Committee.

In preparation, the church and preschool staff and a member of the Preschool Board walked our campus with a police officer. They received recommendations about locations where cameras would be helpful. This included cameras facing the inside of our entrance doors so everyone entering the building will be recorded in a frontal view, and cameras in main hallways will be able to capture movements of an intruder within the building.



Winter Fox & John Whisler hard at work installing the new cameras.

Following the officer’s recommendations, the Property Committee studied the types and cost of security systems and recommended a system with about 8 cameras, leveraging our existing internal computer network to simplify installation and access. The Foundation agreed to fund the \$3,300 project.

Some details about the cameras: This system records video, but not audio. The video is stored within the building, not in the cloud. Recorded video is not saved indefinitely. It is automatically overwritten by new video, but we will have at least the last 30 days of recordings available. The system runs automatically in the background. Only the staff and those authorized by Session have access to view footage, and the safety team and law enforcement have the ability view it if there is an incident requiring investigation.

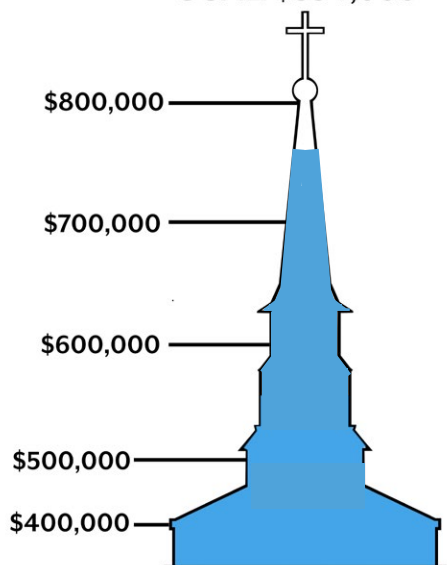
We are grateful for technology that helps to strengthen the safety and security of our campus. For questions or concerns please contact the Property Committee, John Whisler at 919-345-2004.

GIVING MINISTRY

Pledge Campaign Update

AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2024

GOAL: \$894,000



Currently, our 2025 pledges total at \$750,208 Out of our 338 active member families, 157 have pledged. In comparison, this time last year 168 families had pledged for a total of \$774,371.

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.



Photo on left: Giving Ministry co-chair Sharon Cole collecting pledges last Sunday.

ADVENT

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](#)

[Click Here for Week 4: Love](#)

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

9:30am - Ponderings - WH North
9:30am - The Seekers - WH South
10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Fellowship - WH North

Monday, December 23

Office open 9:00am-4:30pm
8:00pm - Al-Anon/Ala-teen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom
3:00pm - Christmas Eve Communion Service - Sanctuary
5:00pm - Family Candlelight Service - Sanctuary
6:00pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
6:15 pm - Christmas Eve Dinner for Staff/Choir - WH
8:00 pm - Candlelight & Communion Service - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 27

Office open from 9:00-12:00

Merry Christmas!



INTERIM PNC

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee Update

In the midst of the busy holiday season, the IPNC continues to review profiles and applications for HMPC's next Interim Head of Staff. We met this week to discuss which candidates (so far) present the best fit for Hudson. Despite our different life experiences and perspectives, there is consensus among the committee about who HMPC is as a community of faith and the characteristics we desire and need in our next pastoral leader.

HMPC OFFICE

Office Holiday Closings

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE:

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

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 chairston@hmpc.org or 919-390-2664.