

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF HUDSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

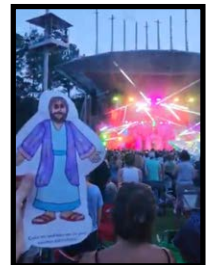
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024



Jesus traveled with us this summer... near and far!



THE ADVENTURES OF FLAT JESUS!



PROPERTY

A New Artistic Addition to Westminster Hall



A number of years ago, Milner Presbyterian Church on New Bern Avenue in Raleigh (photo on left) closed. Hudson received a number of their members to our congregation.

For everyone who joined Hudson we eventually received approximately \$35,000. The Session of Hudson allocated these funds to help upgrade Westminster Hall.



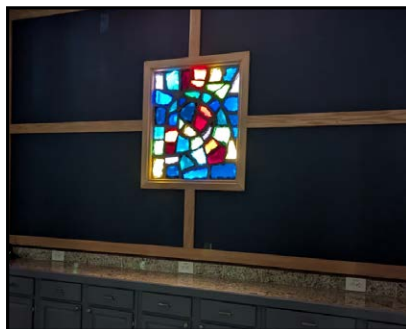
Last week we installed a stained glass window from Milner in Hudson's Westminster Hall.

The lighting was the finishing touch and it is beautiful! In the upcoming weeks we will dedicate the upgraded hall to Christ and the future ministry we do in that space. The Presbyterian Church USA is a connectional denomination, and we are so thankful to the members of Milner Presbyterian Church who joined our congregation. We are thrilled to honor their ministry with a section of Milner's stained glass in our fellowship hall.



Hudson's Minister of Visitation, the Reverend Aleta Ash, was pastor at Milner for nearly 7 years. We are thrilled to celebrate our connection with them!

We also celebrate that their property is now being used to provide affordable senior living housing. This housing complex is called Milner Commons and hosts 156 affordable units for residents aged 55+.



FELLOWSHIP

Boomers: Save The Date!

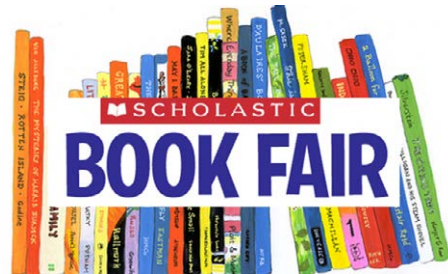


You are invited to an evening of fun with fellow Boomers! Please plan to attend on **Friday, November 1 at 7:00 in HMPC's Westminster Hall North.**

PRESCHOOL

Stop by the Book Fair!

Hudson Memorial Preschool's Scholastic Book Fair will be set up through Sunday, September 15th. **We invite you to stop by Westminster Hall after the 10:30 service to purchase books for your friends, family, or even one of the preschool classes!**



INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Interested in Membership?

The Inquirers' Class, for those interested in membership, will be held after worship on **Sunday, September 22nd and Sunday, November 10th.** The class covers what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of Hudson Memorial. [RSVP for the class here](#) or on the homepage of our website. Contact [Debbie Kirk](#) with any questions.



Matthew 25 Mini-Conference Report

WORKSHOP #5 - BY JAY CUMMINS

Since joining the PCUSA Matthew 25 movement in 2021, Hudson has focused on the goals of congregational vitality, eradicating systematic poverty, and dismantling structural racism. The Matthew 25 invitation focuses on Matthew 25: 31-46, the parable of the sheep and goats in which Jesus makes clear, that what we do matters to God and how we treat others is important to God.

In January, Elders Joan Lester and Jay Cummins participated in the Atlanta Matthew 25 Summit. (Summary [HERE](#).) New Hope Presbytery organized a follow up [mini-conference in July featuring six PCUSA moderated workshops](#).

Pastor Mac, Joan, and Jay participated in the mini-conference and will continue to report about their workshops in the Weekly Window over the next few weeks.



This week, Jay Cummins reports on the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins' workshop "Faith Which Inspires and Informs our Actions" in the Matthew 25 foci contexts of eradicating systemic poverty and congregational vitality.

Why does the church get involved in politics? This was a question I was hoping to learn more about at Reverend Hawkins' workshop.

Reverend Jimmie Hawkins is the Director of the PC(USA) Advocacy Offices of Public Witness in Washington D.C., and Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations in New York, NY. These are two of the eight PC(USA) ministries of Compassion, Peace, and Justice, and are supported by the Pillars of the Church and three special offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness, and the Pentecost Offering.

Reverend Hawkins has local ties, having pastored Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham for over 15 years.

We learned that social justice advocacy is organized efforts aimed at influencing public attitudes, policies, and laws to create a more socially just society guided by the vision of human rights, that may include awareness of socio-economic inequities, protection of social rights as well as racial identity, experiences of oppression, and spirituality.

The Bible makes constant references to justice and compassion (Isaiah 58:6-9, Matthew 4:25 and 9:35, Mark 1:14-45, among others), and sometimes that means us, as God's people, are called to speak truth to power in love and call on the powers and principalities at hand to influence change.

The Office of Public Witness provides services that help Presbyterians express their concerns and "holy discontentment" to people in government in a timely and effective manner.



Three main concepts presented were that the essential element of advocacy is building a positive relationship with the people in power to influence decisions that affect us and our communities; that separation of church and

state is misunderstood; and that we have the freedom to be engaged and fair. This relational power is not unlike Christian notions of unity – "When two or more are gathered here" – we have power together.

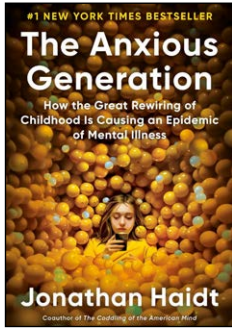
Reverend Hawkins explained the context for community organizing and the "advocates toolbox" which outlined the best approach to meet with your member of congress (Introduction, Personal Story, the "Ask", and Thank You and Invitation). He uses these strategies when meeting with members of the House and Senate, the State Department, and the White House.

He also explained about the first clause in the Bill of Rights which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This establishment clause of the First Amendment is often interpreted to require separation of church and state. Further, he explained the Johnson Amendment, a 1954 provision in the U.S. tax code that prohibits all 501 non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates.

The workshop concluded with a review of resources (most of which can be found on the web or Presbyterian News Service, including Presbyterian Social Witness Policy Statements) and interfaith partnerships.

This was a very well attended workshop with over 80 participants and **the presentation can be found [HERE](#)**.

Short Term Book Study for Parents of Children & Teens



Pastor Mac will be leading a short term book study on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Dr. Haidt addresses the impact of the smartphone in the early 2010s to the present and the need to restore a more humane childhood. Pastor Mac will facilitate a discussion on the four parts of the book while incorporating questions that tie to our Christian faith. This study for parents of teens and children will meet on the following dates at 7:00pm at **Mordecai Beverage Company**:

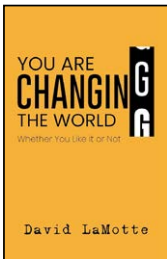
Thursday, September 19th (read Part I) | Thursday, September 26th (read Part II)
 Thursday, October 3rd (read Part III) | Thursday, October 10th (read Part IV)

David LaMotte Fall Book Study

Sunday evenings, Oct. 13 - Nov. 10
 5:00-6:30pm in Room 200

The day before he joined us for the weekend in March, David LaMotte gave a TED Talk, at TEDx Asheville 2024, along with eight other speakers on the stage of the Wortham Center for the Performing Arts. David's talk focused on the downside of hero narratives, and how stories that we tell in order to inspire people can often have the opposite effect. It's a hopeful message, reminding us that we don't have to be extraordinary to make change, we just have to work together. If you haven't seen it, check it out: www.DavidsTEDx.com.

Following David's visit at HMPC, a number of us read his latest book *You are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not** and participated in a book study where we had rich conversations about how to show up and engage wherever people are hurting, bringing our own unique perspectives, gifts and skills to make a positive impact in the world.



This fall we are offering part two of this book study which will cover some of the same as well as additional material we did not get to in the spring study. You are invited to join us whether you attended previously or not. We will begin with the TED Talk and David's assertion that "hope is both an active choice and a choice to be active." **We will meet October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 10, 17.**

If you would like to attend this book study, contact Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpc.org by Oct. 1.

AMAZING GRAYS

Amazing Grays

Thursday, Sept. 19 | 11:30 | Milton's Pizza

Join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30am on Thursday, September 19, at Milton's Pizza & Pasta. Please let Mike Law or Sandy Cole know if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate headcount.



SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Coffee & Conversation: A Time for Young-ish Adults

Sundays Following Worship



Are you in your 20s, 30s or 40s? Coffee & Conversation is a group that meets most Sundays following worship at 11:30ish in the Chapel while Joyful Noise & Youth Music are happening. It's a great group of young-ish adults that talk about life, faith and culture in a laid-back setting. The

group meets for a half hour. Grab a coffee in the Welcome Lounge or a snack in Westminster Hall and stop in. No preparation or homework! If you have questions please reach out to Pastor Mac or Cary Dickerson.

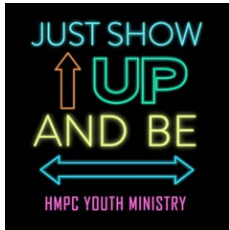
YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Gatherings This Week

This Sunday, September 15 at 5:00pm

Middle School Youth
Game Night at HMPC

Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 6:00 to 7:00pm



High School
Youth
Chipotle
Check-in at
North Hills
Chipotle

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry Opportunities



CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals have begun!

Regular Rehearsals on Wednesdays
7:30-9:00pm - Sanctuary



Musical Leadership in Sunday 10:30am worship services & special services throughout the year. All are welcome!

HUDSON HANDBELLS

Rehearsals have begun!

Wednesdays - 6:15-7:15pm - Westminster Hall South
(for intermediate to advanced ringers)



YOUTH MUSIC

(5th-12th grade handbells)

Rehearsals have begun!

Sundays | 12:00-12:30 | Westminster Hall South

If you play an instrument, have any questions, or want to help in the music area, please reach out to [Barbara Loehr-Fox](#).

CHILDREN'S MUSIC - "JOYFUL NOISE"



This is for kids (Kindergarten-5th grade) and is held in Geneva Hall on Sundays from 11:30am-12:15pm. Come sing, play instruments, and learn about God and the Bible through this unique musical opportunity!

MISSION

September Special Offering PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES



Our special offering this month is for Presbyterian Campus Ministries of Raleigh. HMPC has been a long-time supporter of PCM and has had many former youth participate in its ministries and activities. Its mission is to proclaim

and reflect the Good News of the Kingdom of God through ministry to, with, and for college-age students in the Raleigh, North Carolina area.

Your support will help to provide much-needed nurturing to the young people in our care by providing a safe and accepting environment for all students. In addition to Wednesday night meetings at West Raleigh Presbyterian, PCM Raleigh's Campus Minister and students organize various gatherings and outings throughout the year and attend retreats, spring break service trips, and the annual College Conference at Montreat.

You can give online by visiting hmpc.org. To give by phone, simply text the donation amount with the letters "PCM" to 888-906-0744. (Example text: 25 PCM)

Fall Mission at Hudson

OFFERING OF LETTERS EVENT

September 29 after worship

RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT

October 6 - 4:00-6:00pm - RAH Warehouse

SEPTEMBER TEND MY SHEEP



This month we are having a back-to-school clothing drive for Note in the Pocket. Note in the Pocket helps address clothing insecurity, which is a problem that often lacks adequate attention. By providing clothing we can give children what they need to feel comfortable and confident at school,

allowing them to see themselves as valuable and capable of learning and success. Their most urgent needs are: girls' shirts (short & long sleeve t-shirts) sizes 8 & 16; girls' pants (jeans & athletic pants) sizes 5, 8, & 16; boys' shirts (short & long sleeve t-shirts), sizes 5, 8, & 10; boys' pants (jeans & athletic pants) sizes 6 & 8. Place donations in bins at Sanctuary entrances.



Sunday Adult Education THE GATHERING

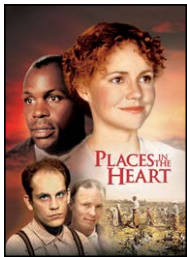
The Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

September 15 & 22 - Facilitated by Susan Bradshaw

This class is especially for those who have commitments preparing for worship at 10:00am, and others who would like a full hour of study, conversation, and worship.

For September 15th and 22nd we will watch the movie *Places in the Heart*. We will watch 30 minutes each day and then have discussion. We hope you will join us to discuss this award-winning movie about a widow with two small children that tries to save her small farm with the help of a blind boarder and an itinerant handyman.



Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30-10:20am | Westminster North

September topic: "HOPE"

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

Hope is waiting in faith. It is not merely wishing for something to happen or hoping everything will work out if the stars align. Hope is waiting with anticipation—at times, with impatience—for what you know and believe is coming.

For the four Sundays in September, Presbyterian Ponderings will discuss Hope from both Old and New Testament perspectives. We are using a multimedia



lesson plan from the series *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*, published by Growing Faith Resources / Presbyterian Publishing.

Later this fall, we will offer sessions based on lectio divina, the Parables of Jesus, and the “flawed messengers” God chooses. We are discussion-based, team-taught, with no advance reading or other prerequisites. Drop in and ponder with us!

The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | September 15

Westminster South

"What Does a Church Library Mean?"

Part 2: Facilitated by Jimmy Hulse

Why does a church have a library? I have known people, not at Hudson, who I can still hear asking, "We have the Bible. Isn't that all we need?" But, when Christians realize that the Bible and the Christian faith are not a single, literal point of view on God, we have come to the library.

When Christians realize that Scripture requires that the Holy Spirit working with the community of faith in tandem need not merely to quote but to interpret God's Word, we have come to the library.

When Christians are tired of burying our dead through conflict with one another and people of other religions; when mutual understanding strikes us as a better way than shouting slogans from behind walls of difference, we have come to the library.

When we as Christians lose any connection to the library of our faith, we are susceptible to those who want to use us for their causes, substituting their mottos and slogans and rallying cries for actual Christian confession of faith.

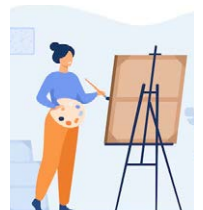
If you have read this far, you may have guessed that our class is about, not only what's in the library, but what the library symbolizes to us. I invite you to join with me to discover both what's in our church library and how to make use of it and to rediscover that we are a people open to God with our hearts and minds.



Sept. 22 and Oct. 13:

"Sharing Interests and Talents: Show and Tell"

Bring a sample (live or a photo) of your interest, craft, pastime, talent, etc. to class. Tell us a little about the beginning of your interest and how it has continued. Using Romans 12:3-7 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, we will discuss what it means to use our gifts and talents for God's glory.



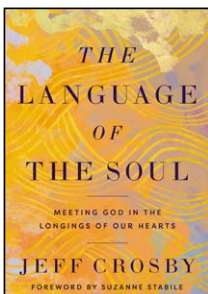
Women at the Well

FALL SEMESTER



Women at the Well has begun the fall semester, and welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! The two groups have a different format, time, and content.

The Weekly Group Wednesdays at 9:15am



THE WEEKLY GROUP meets Wednesday morning from 9:15-10:30am (through December 11) and uses a particular book chosen each semester as a guide for shared conversation, reflections, and prayer. This group uses a hybrid format with women meeting in the Chapel and on Zoom. Using the book *The*

Language of the Soul: Meeting God in the Longings of Our Hearts by Jeff Crosby, we will explore how we experience God, who meets us in our places of our deepest longings, as individuals and in the community of the Women at the Well. Contact Pastor Debbie in you have any questions.

The Monthly Group Begins Thursday, September 19

THE MONTHLY GROUP meets over dinner at a local restaurant at 6:00pm on the third or fourth Thursday of each month (Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, and the end of December) and uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest.



Both groups are wonderful opportunities for women to get to know each other as we discuss how the intersection of culture and faith informs our own spiritual journeys. Current participants in each group are already on the contact lists. If you would like to be added to either one or both, email Debbie Kirk at dkirk@hmpc.org.

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Sept. 17 | 6:30am | Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets on Zoom this week and in person next week, alternating weekly.

WUWTW uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. We read the passage that is 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. At in-person meetings we provide coffee and Bibles. On Zoom we invite you to use an online Bible or pull out your own hard copy and brew some joe at home.



It's a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships within the church! New participants are always welcome.

If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group, please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org.

Presbyterian Pint

Season Kick-off on September 24



The first Presbyterian Pint of the fall will be a cookout at Pastor Mac's house on Tuesday, September 24th, at 7:00pm.

This men's group typically meets the 4th Thursday of every month and enjoys a pint together as the group discusses articles that have to do with culture and faith, along with the occasional short book study. It is a wonderful time of community, laughter, insight, and thoughtful discussion on how we live as people of faith. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group, please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers

1 REMAINING 2024 DATE AVAILABLE

Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. **September 29 is the last available date in 2024, but the 2025 sign-up sheet has been posted!**



To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room 103, or contact [Hannah Woodcock](#) in the church office.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Concert at FPC

THE SENSATIONAL NIGHTINGALES

Grammy-Nominated Gospel Quartet

SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:00PM | FREE ADMISSION

First Presbyterian | Raleigh | 112 S. Salisbury St.

THE SENSATIONAL NIGHTINGALES

SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:00 P.M.



"THE GENTLEMEN OF SONG"

Nominated for a Grammy in 2004 and 2019
Toured in Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy!

Come and hear the beautiful sounds of this Gospel Quartet!

FREE ADMISSION

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@HudsonMPC



@HudsonMemorialPC

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 15

Scholastic Book Fair Open to Congregation!

9:00am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200

9:30am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North

9:30am - The Seekers - WH South

10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary

10:45am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva Hall

11:30am - Fellowship - Westminster Hall

11:30am - Children's Music - Geneva Hall

11:30am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel

11:30am - Youth Sunday School - 2nd flr Youth SS Room

11:30am - Property Committee - Room 200

12:00pm - Youth Music - WH South

5:00pm - Middle School Youth Group - HMPC

Monday, September 16

7:00pm - Diaconate - Room 200

7:00pm - Finance - Zoom

7:00pm - American Pilgrims on the Camino - WH North

8:00pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, September 17

6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom

10:00am - Sewing Guild - WH South

5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

6:00pm - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge

7:00pm - Fellowship - Zoom

7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Wednesday, September 18

9:15am - Women at the Well - Chapel/Zoom

6:00pm - HS Youth Chipotle Check-in - NH Chipotle

6:15pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South

7:30pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, September 19

11:30am - Amazing Grays - Milton's Pizza

6:00pm - Women at the Well - Vivo Ristorante

7:00pm - Book Study - Anxious Generation - Mordecai

Friday, September 20

5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200