

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 29, 2024



Advent Begins This Sunday



As we approach another Advent, the season that evokes many feelings, images, memories, and stories. For each of us, these may be joyful or sorrowful, and for many

of us, the season is a mixture of both. We are entering into a stretch of the year that gives stories of our Biblical forbearers on their journeys: Mary's visit to Elizabeth, her journey to Bethlehem with Joseph, the arrival of the shepherds, the road taken by the mysterious Magi. The landscape of Advent and Christmas is marked by routes traced by those who responded to God's invitation to set out, and so the season beckons us into the journey that unfolds in the weeks ahead.

Advent takes us through the time when the light falls into darkness earlier and earlier until we reach December 21, the longest night of the year. One of the things I notice as this occurs is how shadows emerge differently each day, and there are many metaphors that shadows encompass that mirror our life's journeys. Beautiful artwork contains both light and shadow, sometimes hardly discernible but both rely on the other to express the truth that one does not exist without the other.

In the company of those whose stories we hear in these weeks, Advent invites us to consider the lay of our own land: what are we searching for, what are we waiting on, what do we need right now? It poses questions about our own lives: What are our dreams, fears, and hopes? What inspires us to keep going, to move deeper into the landscape, to venture into unfamiliar territory? How do we stay open to the surprises the journey holds, the treasures that are hidden so often in the dark and revealed only in the shadows?

We invite you to journey through the season in ways that are meaningful. Participating in worship will engage you in the Biblical narrative through word and song. **Personal devotions may be helpful, and we are providing a weekly guide. Advent Week 1 guide "Hope" is available at [this link](#)** (also available on the homepage of our website).

Advent invites us to hold in tension the way things are and the way we imagine they will be. These words from Kate Bowler (*Everything Happens*) are helpful:

"Advent offers permission to see the world as it really is, while still hoping for a future we can only sometimes glimpse. The season invites us to bear witness to the promise of God that began at creation and is now being fulfilled in the person of Jesus...But that doesn't mean we can't tell the whole truth about what we are experiencing in the here and now. It takes courage to wrap our minds around the inconvenient truths, the difficult truths, the complicated and seemingly contradictory truths. God has made us for truth-telling, to have eyes that glimpse through tears at the already-and-not-yet that we live in. And at the same time, these same eyes are trained on Jesus, who embodies the compassion, restoration, and justice we long for. So this Advent, may we have the eyes to look long and see this promise of truth coming toward us once again. Let's meet it with joy, together."

Friends, may we celebrate the season as it unfolds in all its fullness.

Faithfully,
Debbie



Blue Christmas "A Service of Shadows"

6:00pm | Sunday, December 1 | Chapel

Advent begins when the shadows are lengthening, and darkness overtakes the light, until on December 21st we have more hours of darkness than light in a 24-hour period. Life is a mixture of both light and darkness; they are not actually opposites, one does not exist without the other. We think of shadows as the spaces in between; the thin, sacred spaces where things are not as clear as we might like, where the lines are blurred and constantly changing. Advent evokes many feelings, images, memories, and stories. We may be filled with excited anticipation or anxious dread, and for many of us, the season is a mixture of both.

As part of their ministry of care and compassion, the Deacons will be hosting a "Blue Christmas Service" on Sunday, December 1st, in the Chapel at 6:00pm. The service is especially for those who find the holiday season difficult, and for others who want a quiet reflective time when so much is hectic. It will include



the reading of scripture, prayers, contemplative music, and the lighting of candles in recognition of God's presence in our places of greatest need.

Christmas Pageant

During 10:30 Worship | December 8



The children of HMPC will share their talents to tell the story of Christmas!

PARENTS:
Rehearsal is the day before - December 7, at 9:00am.

Family Christmas Celebration



Saturday, December 7
10:00am-12:00pm
Westminster Hall



Nativity Scavenger Hunt ❁ Hot Chocolate
Ornament Making ❁ Gingerbread Nativities

Christmas Joy Worship

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. The annual Christmas Joy worship



service will be on December 15 in the Sanctuary. A reception hosted by PW will follow the celebration. Please join us!

December Special Offering *Christmas Joy*

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 hmpe.org.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



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 worship bulletin. 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 15th**. Designate ‘poinsettias’ on your check, and please specify if your donation is in **honor** or **memory** of anyone. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

December Tend My Sheep *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 Transition 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.



YOUTH

Youth This Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

MORNING

9:30am

**Special "In-depth" Sunday School
Youth SS Room**

AFTERNOON

5:00-7:00pm

**Middle School Youth Group
ORNAMENT MAKING**

**High School Youth Group
FRIEND SQUARE ART PROJECT**

ADVENT SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1

8:30 Communion Worship in the Chapel

Phil Hayden will provide music

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Preaching: Rev. Debbie Kirk

Following Worship - Hanging of the Greens

That evening at 6:00pm in the Chapel:

“Blue Christmas: A Service of Shadows”

Hosted by the Deacons

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Children’s Christmas Pageant

Preaching: Rev. Jimmy Hulsey

5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Youth Pageant - "A Christmas Story REMIX"

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

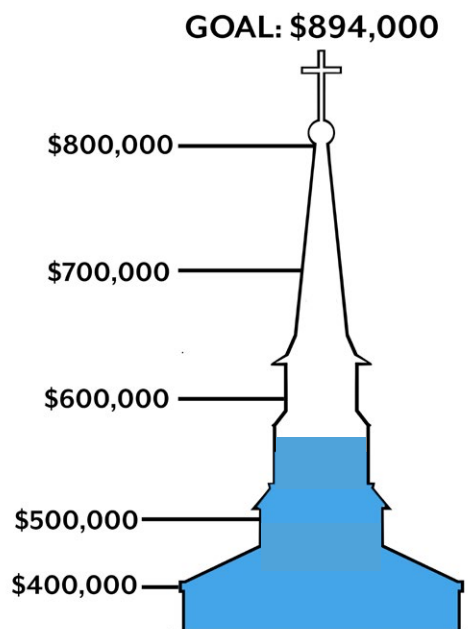
8:00pm - Candlelight & Communion Service

Nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 services

GIVING MINISTRY

Pledge Campaign Update

AS OF NOVEMBER 26, 2024



Currently, our 2025 pledges total at \$568,244. Out of our 338 active member families, only 122 have pledged. In comparison, this time last year 169 families had pledged for a total of \$763,171.

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.

WOMEN'S FAITH FORMATION

Evening Women at the Well Holiday Gathering

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 - 6:00PM



As we typically do, we are combining the November/December meeting into one at Debbie Kirk's home for a relaxed time of conversation and fellowship, with dinner provided. Current group members have received this information, other women who would like to join us can contact Debbie for details. Please RSVP to Debbie by December 9.

FELLOWSHIP

Single Way DECEMBER GATHERING

Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. If you know of anyone that would like to join us, please extend the invitation. New people are always welcome!



Tuesday, December 3 at 11:30
Outback Steakhouse
7500 Creedmoor Road
Raleigh, NC 27613



Please call Dee Blackerby at 919-846-6241 by December 1st if you plan to attend.

In the spirit of giving for the Christmas holiday, we are asking that each member of our group bring one personal care item to be donated to Capital Towers. The social director at Capital Towers will use these donations for bingo prizes.

MEN'S FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word Tuesday, December 3 | 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.

THE GATHERING - SUNDAY ADULT ED

Seekers Advent Series

9:30am | Westminster Hall South
Led by Rev. Jimmy Hulseby
December 1, 8, 15, 22 | Seekers Class

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 Hulseby, Leader

Presbyterian Ponderings

NO CLASS THIS WEEK

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

The Ponderings class is not meeting this Sunday. We will gather again the following Sunday to continue our exploration of how God fulfills his plan through us, His flawed creatures.

Seekers & Ponderings Christmas Gathering

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



IPNC Update

Over the last two weeks, the Interim Pastoral Nominating Committee (IPNC) has been meeting with members of New Hope Presbytery's Commission on Ministry for training. We elected John James as chair and delegated responsibilities for the work ahead. The committee is currently drafting a Ministry Discernment Profile, which will be used to promote our church and our interim position to prospective candidates.

CALENDAR

This Week at HMPC

Sunday, December 1

- 8:30am - Early Communion Worship - Chapel
- 9:30am - The Seekers - WH North
- 9:30am - In-depth Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
- 10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30am - Fellowship - WH North
- 11:30am - Hanging of the Greens- WH North
- 11:30am - Children's Music - Geneva Hall
- 11:45pm - Youth Music - WH South
- 5:00pm - MS/HS Youth Group - HMPC
- 6:00pm - Blue Christmas - Chapel

Monday, December 2

- 9:00am - Preschool Chapel
- 9:30am - Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm - HMP Foundation - WH South
- 7:00pm - Personnel - Zoom
- 8:00pm - Al-Anon/Ala-teen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, December 3

- 6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - WH Patio
- 11:30am - Single Way - Outback Steakhouse
- 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
- 7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Wednesday, December 4

- 9:15am - Women at the Well - Chapel/Zoom
- 6:15pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
- 6:30pm - Children's Committee
- 7:30pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, December 6

- 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00am - Pageant rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 10:00am - Family Christmas Celebration

BIRTHDAYS

December Birthdays

- 1: Elizabeth Lewis, Dana Carter, Ian-Callum Cox
- 2: Chandler Christenbury, Emily Carpenito, Matthew Rahn
- 3: Tiya Komono, Scott Billman
- 4: Benjamin Rahn, Olivia Nduka
- 5: Jude Davidson, Yvonne Peterson, Jill Priester
- 6: Ellie Gatten, Ronnie Strickland-Apple, Elisa Komono
- 7: Brandon Kever, Mark McDougal
- 8: Taryn Reed
- 9: Angela Baker-James, Mac Schafer
- 10: Scarlett Maxwell, Maddy Ward, Marsha Flueckinger
- 11: Tom Carpenito, Wes Maxwell, Margot Davidson, Bella Anderson
- 13: Ella Grace Edmister, Karlene Perry, Gerry Bowles, Lucille Nicholas, Will Eichler
- 15: Diane Marbach-Morgen, Lem Buruah
- 16: Nancy Law Rogers, Henry Dudeck, Elizabeth van Die
- 17: Monica Maxwell
- 18: Christine Bond, Nicholas Billman, Linda Measamer, Jennifer Mercer
- 20: April Morris, Dickens Sanchez
- 21: Durban Rhame
- 22: Leo Buruah, Mary Schindo
- 24: Blake Ayers, Ron Ash
- 25: Susan Spencer, Holly Burge
- 26: Natalie Hnat, Kayla Dilger
- 27: Gary King, Dottie Burch, Hannah James, Zachary Hughes
- 28: Cheryl McDougal, Irene Fleming, Rose Barford, Gracey Ash
- 29: Keto Komono, John Williams, Jackson Autry, Clark Johnson
- 30: Lauren Klimczyk, Griffin Rogers, Barbara Coleman
- 31: Hunter Schafer, Shirley Blanks, Malcolm Cox