

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 5, 2024



Mac's Meanderings: Be in the Light



This past Sunday, I sat in a pew. On Sundays that I am “off,” I almost always go to worship at another church. It's so important and refreshing for me to worship on Sundays that I'm not leading at Hudson.

Why?

1. Worship is an important part of my weekly rhythm, whether I'm leading from Hudson's chancel or participating in worship from a pew.
2. I always learn something from other pastors and other churches.

Last Sunday, the sermon that I listened to at Christ Church in downtown Raleigh started with the priest talking about her morning ritual at Christmas: (1.) Brew coffee, (2.) Turn on the Christmas tree lights, and (3.) Stare at the Christmas tree lights. For this priest, quietly staring at the tree lights in the darkness of morning had a healing and calming power on her. It allowed her to “be.” She challenged those of us in the pew to have times to simply “be” in the light of Christ. This “being” will help sustain us when aspects of life and our world get busy or seem out of control.



Our *Book of Common Worship* says this: “Epiphany” means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God’s saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God’s covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important—not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world.

As we enter 2024, I hope you will be intentional about “being” in Christ’s light. We can find Christ’s light in nature, in friends and family, in the openness of children, in art, in spiritual rituals, in memories, and in worship. This Sunday in worship, we will celebrate Epiphany with communion, give out Star Words for the year ahead, reflect on Psalm 72 and Matthew 2, and prayerfully commission our 2024 Confirmation Class to their time of learning and discovery.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Mac'.

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 20 Downsize, Declutter, Donate!

Do you resolve every January that this year “I’ll get organized?” Are you or a family member downsizing or moving? Or do you just want to declutter? The Deacons of Hudson are hosting an event to help keep this resolution! Downsizing, decluttering, and donating are good for us, for our community, and for the environment because:

- as Christians we are called to be stewards of everything God has entrusted to us;
- it is important physically and psychologically to manage the things we surround ourselves with rather than allowing them to manage us;
- recycling, repurposing, reusing, and upcycling have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants;
- sharing ideas with others as we seek to “live more lightly on the earth” is exciting and fun!

The congregation, friends, and family are invited to join us on January 20, 2024, from 10:00am – Noon in WH North, with our guest Elizabeth Hirsch, founder and owner of The Downsizers. She will share her expertise, and we will learn the Top 10 basics of decluttering, downsizing, and donating for everyone--both practical and fun tips!

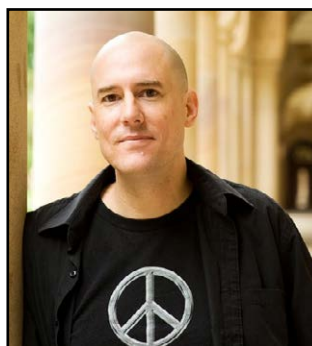


The event is free, but we do ask for donations of non-perishable food items for North Raleigh Ministries food pantry or an item for the NRM Thrift Shop; sales from the Thrift Shop help fund the services of NRM.



SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 17 An Evening of Stories and Songs with David LaMotte

We are pleased to announce a concert that will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday evening, March 17, with special guest David LaMotte! He is an internationally recognized songwriter, speaker, and author. He was with us in 2016 for a concert when we hosted members of the Habitat Interfaith Coalition, and we are thrilled to have him return.



"David LaMotte has created a powerful antidote to the helplessness we often feel in a world that is overwhelming, in both its pain and its beauty. With seriously good cheer, he helps us think about how to engage this world with courage, grace, and hope, in the ways that are distinctly

ours to do...his wisdom reminds us that as we do this, we are not alone."

-Jan Richardson, Minister, Artist, and Poet

Along with our members, we are inviting others to attend, and are issuing invitations to our primary mission partner organizations, interfaith coalitions, New Hope Presbytery, and the Six Forks Road churches. There is no cost to attendees.

We are excited about welcoming the larger community to our campus and will need lots of our members to assist with various aspects of hospitality including greeting and assisting with the concert reception. This event requires advance registration which will open to the congregation and community in early February. As soon as we have an idea of the number we are expecting, we will have sign-up opportunities available for all volunteer tasks.

The concert is sponsored by the Adult, Fellowship, Mission, and Youth Committees.



Learn more about David LaMotte and listen to his music at DavidLaMotte.com

2024 Special Events & Services

January 20 - "Downsize, Declutter, Donate!" Event

Hosted by the Deacons; 10:00-12:00 in WH North

Sunday, February 11 - Youth Sunday

10:30am Worship

Tuesday, February 13 - Fat Tuesday Celebration

Hosted by Fellowship

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

Ashes will be available at designated times throughout the day

Wednesdays, February 21, 28; March 6, 13, 20, 27

Lenten Simple Suppers & Prayer Services

6:00pm Supper, 6:30pm Service

Saturday, March 9 - Easter Egg Hunt

10:00-12:00 at HMPC

Sunday, March 17 - David LaMotte Event

Details on page 2

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Worship service

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

12:00 Worship service

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

7:00am (Ecumenical), 9:00am, 11:00am services

Sunday, April 14 - Preschool Sunday

10:30am Worship

Sunday, May 5 - Confirmation Sunday

10:30am Worship

Sunday, May 19 - Music Sunday

10:30am Worship

June 19-21 - Arts Camp

Current K-5th graders

August 5-9 - Vacation Bible School

Youth Trips For Spring/Summer 2024

High School Presbytery Retreat (Grade 9-12)

March 1-3, 2024; Camp Don Lee

Registration Fee is \$145; Sibling Discount is \$125

(Registration Deadline is 1/7)

High School Mission Trip (Rising 9-12)

June 16-21, 2024

Deposit \$100 (Deadline for deposit is 1/7)

Registration Fee is \$400; Sibling Discount is \$350

Deadline for full registration is 3/1)

Massanetta Middle School Conference (Rising 6-9)

June 25-28, 2024; Massanetta Springs, VA

Deposit \$100 (Deadline for deposit is 1/7)

Registration Fee is \$450; Sibling Discount is \$400

(Deadline for full registration is 3/1)

Montreat Youth Conference (Rising 9-12)

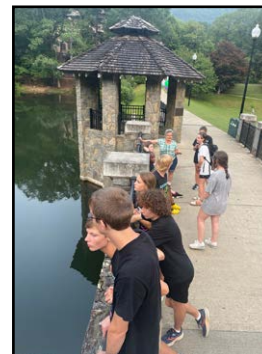
July 14-20, 2024; Montreat, NC

Deposit \$100 (Deadline for deposit is 2/1)

Registration Fee is \$550; Sibling discount is \$500

(Deadline for full registration is 3/1)

Scholarships available upon request



KICKING OFF 2024 AT THE GATHERING

Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

January 7th

What Do Genesis 1:29 and Longevity Have in Common?

Come learn about why a city in the United States is the only Blue Zone in America, an area of the longest-lived people and highest life expectancy.

Genesis 1:29: And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant-yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."



January 14

"My, That Was A Good Sermon, Wasn't It?"

Have you ever been inspired (yes!) from a sermon on a Sunday Morning at Hudson? Have you heard the words, "That sure was a meaningful sermon, wasn't it?" as members of our congregation leave the Sanctuary? The 9:00 Class will explore different sermons throughout January and have time for discussion afterwards. You'll have a chance to reflect on what the message means to you, or just listen to the discussion afterwards.

The first sermon in this series is Debbie's sermon on Emmett Till.



Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30-10:20am | Westminster North

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

This discussion-based class is using *The Present Word Bible Study* as a guide to engage the topic "Faith that Pleases God". **This week's theme is "The Faith of Ruth" and we will look at Ruth 1; 4:13-22.** No advance preparation required; only a heart for the Biblical narrative, excitement about exploring it through your particular lens of life and faith, and willingness to share with others.

JANUARY LINE-UP

January 7 - *The Faith of Ruth* - Ruth 1; 4:13-22

January 14 - *The Faith of David* - 1 Samuel 17: 1-58

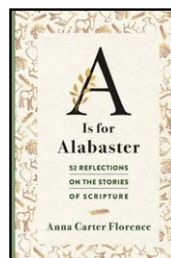
January 21 - *Family of Faith* - Matthew 1:1-17; Genesis 38; Joshua 2; 6:22-25; 2 Samuel 12:24; Ruth 4:13-22

January 28 - *The Faith of Elizabeth & Mary* - Luke 1: 1-25; 39-45; 56-60

The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

January 7, 14, 21, 28



We will be using *A Is for Alabaster* by noted preacher and writer, Anna Carter Florence. Each week we'll explore a new character or story from the Old or New Testament, some familiar ones and some usually overlooked. From an alabaster jar of ointment, to Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, we'll learn how these ancient stories

and characters can touch our lives in new ways today. Each class will be facilitated by Susan Grigg. All are welcome to come for one class or for all four in January.

January 7 - "K is for King Solomon and King Herod"

January 14 - "M is for Mary and for Memory"

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, January 9 | 6:30am | Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets in-person and on Zoom, alternating weekly. It uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. We read the passage that will be preached on 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 and, in winter months, we do the study around a fire. 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@hmhc.org

Brown Bag Lunch

with Pastor Mac is Back in 2024

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

We will meet for the first time in 2024 on Monday, February 5th at noon in Westminster Hall South. In preparation for the meeting in February, Pastor Mac would like all of you to read the Gospel of Mark in



January. As you read it, write down any questions it prompts. Please send Pastor Mac (mschafer@hmhc.org) any questions from your reading prompts by Friday, January 26th and he will attempt to answer those questions in the February 5th session. All are welcome to bring a bag lunch to the class. The church will provide cups, plates, napkins, and water. No RSVP necessary!

Women at the Well

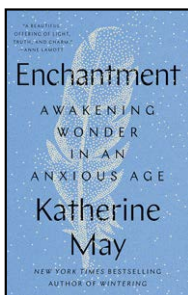


Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us!

WEEKLY GROUP

The next session of the weekly Women at the Well begins January 10 in the season of Epiphany. Our book for the winter semester is *Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age* by author Katherine May. She lifts up enchantment and wonder as an antidote to this age of fear and anxiety, a fitting lens through which to see the New Year with all of

its possibilities. And when many of us may experience a letdown after the holiday season, Epiphany reminds us that our journeys are always unfolding as we retell the ancient story of the first visitors to find Christ.



MONTHLY GROUP

Monthly Women at the Well begins again January 18, 2024.

2024 Weekday Adult Ed Offerings

Brown Bag Lunch with Pastor Mac - Bible study group that meets the first Monday of the month at noon.

Presbyterian Pint - Men's group that meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at a local bar/restaurant.

Seeing the Word - Group that meets the 3rd Monday of the month (may vary) at noon in the Chapel.

Women at the Well (monthly) - Women's group that meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (may vary) at 6:00pm in a local restaurant.

Women at the Well (weekly) - Women's group that meets 9:15am on Wednesdays in the Chapel/Zoom.

Waking Up With The Word - Men's Bible study that meets Tuesdays at 6:30am, alternating between Zoom and in-person on the Westminster Hall Patio.

TECH TEAM

Tech Team at HMPC Consider joining in 2024!

The HMPC Tech Team has been growing over the past several years, and they have helped enhance the worship experience at Hudson, for those both in person and worshipping online. The members of this team, led by John Whisler, are responsible for live-streaming worship services, operating the soundboard and projector, and assisting with other technology-related projects.

If you are interested in learning more about technology at HMPC, contact John Whisler. The team has members of all ages (high school - adults) and levels of technical experience. New members will be thoroughly trained on the tasks they are interested in helping with.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Officer Recommendations FINAL DATE: JANUARY 12

Recommendations for Elders and Deacons from the congregation will take place through January 12. If you have a recommendation of a Hudson member (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 by using the provided QR code shown below.

If you prefer, you may complete a recommendation form that will be available at each of the three Sanctuary entrances through January 12. The Nominating Committee will compile the forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received. The newly elected officers (elected by the congregation) will begin their service in May 2024. Please contact Carol Cox of the Nominating Committee if you have questions. Thank you for your prayerful considerations, 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 - SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January Special Offering A PLACE AT THE TABLE



A Place at the Table was started in 2015 with a mission to provide community and good food to all, regardless of means. From a start-up idea to a successful non-profit, *A Place At The Table* provides meals to individuals

who are food-insecure in an affordable, inclusive, and welcoming café setting in downtown Raleigh. HMPC was one of the first congregations to support this ministry and it has become one of our primary mission partner organizations as a Hunger Action Congregation. APATT continues to seek creative and innovative ways to meet the needs of our community, and were recognized for their ability to stay open as a takeout-only site for the many months of the pandemic closures. On January 9, APATT celebrates six years of service to our community and our Special Offering this month is a tangible way to support their ongoing mission.

You can donate [online](#), text, mail your donation to the church, or give in the offering plate on Sundays in January. Here is how to text to give: Text amount to 888-906-0744 along with the word "Table"--Example: 25 table. Once you enter your information, you will not need to enter it again for future donations.

Offering for the Food Bank SPICES & CONDIMENTS

One of the primary goals of the Food Bank is to provide the means for everyone to prepare meals that are healthy and cost-effective. To that end, they assist people with learning how to make the most of the many kinds of food they provide, that include not only those that are non perishable, but fresh vegetables and fruit, along with refrigerated dairy and meat products. Offering condiments and seasonings enables everyone to enjoy nutritious food that can be prepared in any number of ways that meet a variety of dietary requirements. **They suggest the following herbs and seasonings: pepper, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder, Adobo, chicken bouillon, oregano, cinnamon, chili powder and**



olive or canola oil. **All donations should be in date and unopened.**

WELCOMING

Name Badges

Reminder to Wear Them on Sundays!

Members of HMPC should all have name tags, but we noticed many of these name tags are not used. We wanted to remind you to wear them on Sundays as a way to get to know one another. They can be found on the alphabetized name tag ribbons in the main hall near the offices (pictured below).

If you do not have a name tag or are in need of a new one, email Lesley Ash Jacobsen at lash-jacobsen@hmpc.org.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Coin Drive

Children's Coin Drive = 2,037 Lunches

Our Children's Ministry Advent Coin Drive was a huge success! Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, contributions from Preschool families, and a \$500 contribution from our Mission



Committee, we will be able to pay off more than \$815 worth of school lunch debt at Green Elementary School. That is the equivalent of 2,037 lunches for children in our community. Thank you to all who contributed!

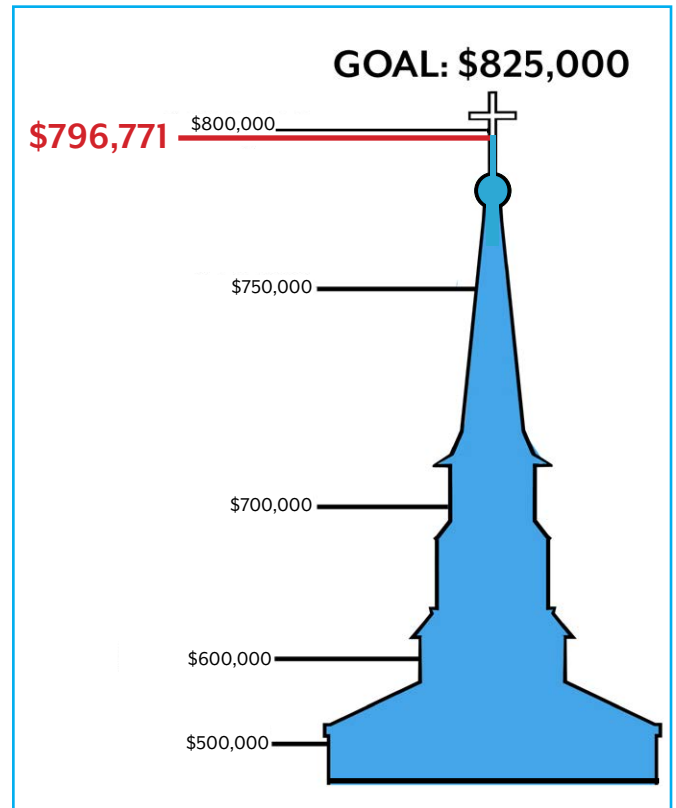
GIVING MINISTRY

THANK YOU!

We are very thankful to all of you who have pledged your time, talent, and financial resources to Christ's ministry through HMPC in 2024. If you have not pledged but wish to do so, please keep in mind that the budgeting committee is working very hard this week and next week to make a recommendation to Finance Committee by Monday, January 15th. Session will finalize the 2024 budget at the end of January.

You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Administrator, or Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator. You can call Erica at 919-390-2630 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.

2024 Pledge Campaign



As of January 4, 2024, our received pledges total **\$796,771**. We currently have **176** households who have submitted pledges--Last year we had a total of 185 pledging households.

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK AT HUDSON

Sunday, January 7

9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200
9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North
9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30 am - Children's Music - Geneva Hall
11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
12:00 pm - Youth Bells -WH South
5:00 pm - MS/HS Youth Group

Monday, January 8

4:30 pm - Memorial Garden Board - WH South
7:00 pm - PW Leadership - WH South
7:00 pm - Personnel - Zoom
8:00 pm - How it Works - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 am - Waking Up With The Word- Zoom
9:30 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
11:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle - Chapel
11:30 am - Hannah Circle - WH South

Wednesday, January 10

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel/Zoom
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
6:30 pm - Youth Chipotle Check-in
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, January 11

5:30 pm - Worship Committee - KH Room
7:00 pm - Mission Committee - WH South

Friday, January 12

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Join Our Social Media
Community!



@HudsonMPC



@HudsonMemorialPC

HMPC STAFF

Mac Schafer, Pastor & Head of Staff
mschafer@hmpc.org

Debbie Kirk, Associate Pastor
dkirk@hmpc.org

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation
aletaash@gmail.com

Barbara Loehr-Fox, Director of Music Ministries
bloehr-fox@hmpc.org

Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministries
hmpcyouthgroup@gmail.com

Cary Dickerson, Director of Children's Ministries
cdickerson@hmpc.org

Erica Hairston, Business Administrator
ehairston@hmpc.org

Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator
lflint-morris@hmpc.org

Lesley Ash Jacobsen, Communications Specialist
lash-jacobsen@hmpc.org

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director
droche@hmpc.org

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director
jhawkins@hmpc.org

Al Hyde, Organist
al@hydefin.com

Hope Parangi, Church Hostess
hparangi@yahoo.com

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers Sign Up for a 2024 Date!



Our 2024 sign-up sheet has been posted. Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room 103, or contact [Erica Hairston](mailto:ehairston@hmpc.org) in the church office.