

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

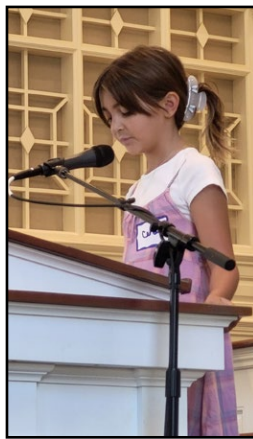
OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 22, 2024

CHILDREN'S SABBATH SUNDAY

Last Sunday, November 17, the children and youth of Hudson helped lead worship! They shared special music and also served as ushers, greeters and liturgists. We are so grateful to have this wonderful group of children at Hudson!



Several age groups received beautiful new Bibles!



See the wonderful stained glass artwork the children created in Sunday School! (Photo above.)

MEMORIALS

To the Church Triumphant ELAINE THOMAS



Long-time Hudson member Elaine Thomas entered God's Everlasting Kingdom on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. There will be a memorial service followed by a reception at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church on Monday, November 25th, at 2:00pm.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can livestream the service [HERE](#).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Elaine's name to the HMPC Foundation.

Please keep Elaine's family in your prayers.

FELLOWSHIP

Single Way JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT LUNCH!

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.



WORSHIP & THE ARTS

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00pm
Trinity Baptist Church
4815 Six Forks Road (Next door to Hudson!)

Every year since the 1980s, a group of churches along Six Forks Road have gathered together for worship around the Thanksgiving holiday. These churches include Grace Lutheran, St. Mark's United Methodist, Trinity Baptist, The Fountain Fellowship, North Haven Church, Saint Timothy's Episcopal, and Hudson. This is a great opportunity to express our connectedness in Christ. Let's get a lot of Hudson folks down to Trinity Baptist for worship and fellowship! In a time when so many people are looking for things that divide, let's celebrate our unity! Members of the Hudson Chancel Choir will be singing with a joint choir during this service, and there will be a reception at Trinity afterward.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Youth Events

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Friendsgiving - Westminster Hall
5:00-7:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Middle School Youth Group
ORNAMENT MAKING
5:00-7:00pm

High School Youth Group
FRIEND SQUARE ART PROJECT
5:00-7:00pm

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 24 hours. 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.

Family Christmas Celebration



Saturday, December 7

10:00am-12:00pm

Westminster Hall



Nativity Scavenger Hunt ✿ Hot Chocolate
Ornament Making ✿ Gingerbread Nativities

Adult Sunday School

9:30am | Sundays During Advent
Advent Series with Rev. Jimmy Hulsey
December 1, 8, 15, 22 | Seekers Class
Westminster Hall South

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

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.

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!

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 24

9:30am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North
9:30am - The Seekers - WH North
10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
11:30am - Children's Music - Geneva Hall
11:30am - Youth Sunday School - GH Youth SS Room
12:00pm - Youth Music - WH South
5:00pm - Youth Friendsgiving - Westminster Hall

Monday, November 25

11:30am - HMP Thanksgiving Feast - WH North
2:00pm - Elaine Thomas Memorial Service - Sanctuary
7:00pm - Session - WH South
8:00pm - Al-Anon/Ala-teen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, November 26

6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom
5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
7:00pm - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - Trinity Baptist
7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Thursday, November 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed

Friday, November 29

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



**HANGING
of the
GREENS**

**Come help decorate our building
for the Advent & Christmas season!
Gather in Westminster Hall North
for instructions after worship.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

First Sunday of Advent **Next 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

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
Preaching: Rev. Debbie Kirk
Nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 services

Charting the Path Forward: Highlights from Hudson's Session Retreat

Hudson held a day-long retreat for Session members and Deacon leadership on Saturday, November 16, facilitated by Jordan Bowman, Executive Director of Journeymen Triangle. Hosted by Elder Dottie Burch at her home in Sanford, the retreat focused on strategic planning to guide the church's ministry over the next two years.

The foundation of the retreat was a survey conducted earlier to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the church's ministry. Through interactive exercises and group discussions, participants analyzed the survey results and collaborated to draft five key goals for the church's upcoming transition period. These goals aim to address identified needs and opportunities while aligning with the church's mission. All the information and results will be integral to the interim process as guided by the Interim Pastor/Head of Staff and may be amended as needed.

The retreat was described as engaging and productive, with participants appreciating the lively and collaborative atmosphere. The draft goals developed during the retreat will be further refined with Jordan Bowman's final report. At the December Session meeting, leadership will finalize the language and ensure the goals reflect the survey data accurately. They will also establish a timeline and plan for implementing and communicating these goals to the congregation.

Transparency and congregational engagement will be central to the rollout, ensuring that the church community understands and supports the process. The retreat set the stage for purposeful progress, with leaders committed to fostering growth and integrity in Hudson Memorial's ministry.



Interim Pastor Nominating Committee Begins Important Work

This week marked the first meeting of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) as we embark on the vital task of searching for our next senior pastor. The committee, composed of Grace Hutchinson, John James, Laura McHenry, and Bob Monroe, have begun their journey with dedication and prayerful discernment.



The meeting was facilitated by John Winings from the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of New Hope. John provided an excellent overview of the process that will guide the IPNC's work. His insights into vetting and interviewing candidates for the Interim Pastor role were invaluable, as were the resources he shared, including a comprehensive process outline and case studies to inform the committee's approach.

In addition to John's guidance, the Session offered critical input, sharing Hudson's mission, vision, values, and goals. This foundational information will assist the IPNC in developing a Ministry Discernment Profile that reflects the unique needs and priorities of our congregation. This profile will serve as a key tool in identifying candidates who are a strong fit for Hudson.

Over the coming weeks and months, the committee will meet regularly, carefully considering each step of the process. Their goal is to ultimately identify the best candidate to present to the Session for approval.

We invite the congregation to pray for the IPNC as they undertake this important work. May they be blessed with wisdom, unity, and discernment as they seek a leader to guide us during this transitional period.

Glenn Schindo
Clerk of Session

PROPERTY

Consider Joining The Property Team!

Psalm 23:6 - "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

These are such comforting words from the Psalmist. We know that this passage means God's eternal house yet while here on earth, we are called to take care of God's earthly house, in our case, Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Property Committee of HMPC has quite the large task of taking care of our church's campus. We are seeking members to join our committee to help keep God's House up and running to provide a space for worship, mission work, fellowship, preschool, support groups and so much more. Please consider joining our committee to make this House the best it can be. Feel free to contact any member of the Property Committee: Allie Maples, Karen Melling, Harry Bond, Steve Jesseph, John Whisler, JB Babson, Nancy Eyre, Bob Stowe, or Session Liaison, Ken Krause.



MEN'S FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, November 26 | 6:30am | Zoom



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. 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. Contact [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) to be added to the mailing list for this group.

THE GATHERING - SUNDAY ADULT ED

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30-10:20am | WH 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 coming Sunday we will examine the transgressions of King David, who nonetheless was forgiven and still dear to the Lord. And we will ask why did God not show King Saul the same forgiveness? John Oldenburg, who is every bit as flawed as Gil Graybill--see last week's Window--will invite the discussion.



CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Joyful Noise Music

NOVEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 1

Joyful Noise Music 11:15am-12:15pm



DECEMBER 7 (Saturday)

Pageant rehearsal 9am-10am in Sanctuary

(Head over to the Family Christmas Event afterwards!)

DECEMBER 8

Pageant in worship - 10:00am call time in Geneva Hall

DECEMBER 15

Kids sing during worship

Meet at 10:00am in the Sanctuary



The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | WH South

"Thanksgiving"

Sunday, November 24: We will explore Thanksgiving Day, our national holiday, and how that day reflects our Biblical thanksgiving.



November Special Offering Good Samaritan Fund



Our monthly special offering is for the Good Samaritan Fund, a discretionary account outside of the annual operating budget that is used to assist HMPC members and others who are experiencing financial challenges. These needs have increased due to the long-term

effects of COVID-19 and we appreciate any amount you give so we have the funds available as needed.



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

November Tend My Sheep "Feed the Pack" - Final Week to Drop Off The Food Pantry at NC State University

"The mission of the *Feed the Pack Food Pantry at NC State* is to help meet the food needs of all members of the NC State community with dignity and respect." Feed the Pack is the food pantry on NC State's campus, and is student-led and open to all members of the campus community (students, staff, and faculty). NC State and campus partners have developed many programs to support students in need of food, housing, financial and educational security.

Feed the Pack accepts a wide variety of donations to the pantry including; food, hygiene products, technology, and more! **Currently, specific needs are: Rice and starches, beans, breakfast food, condiments (no spices), baby formula, pet food, shampoo, and soap.**

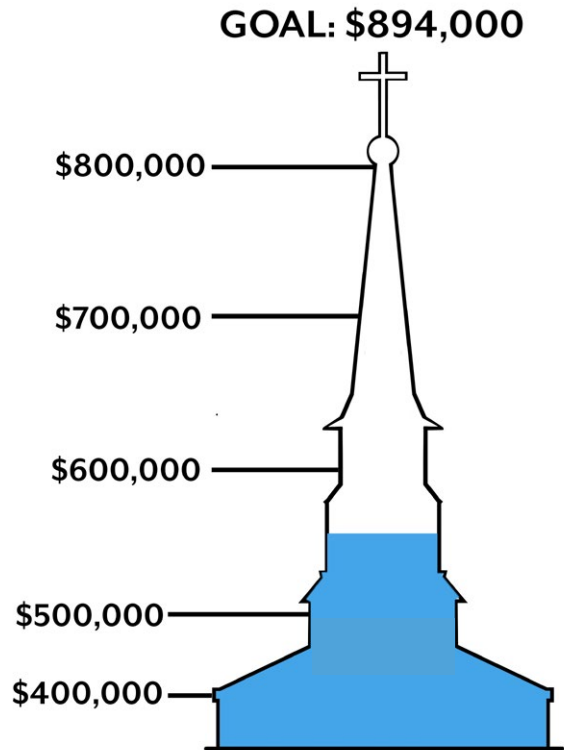
Items can be placed in the bins at Sanctuary entrances throughout the month of November.

Learn more [HERE](#).



2025 Pledge Campaign Progress Update

AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024



November 3rd was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent, and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge, or made your commitment online.

Currently, our 2025 pledges total at \$557,744. Out of our 338 active member families, 119 have pledged. In comparison, this time last year 154 families had pledged for a total of \$740,551.

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.

