THE WEEKLY

OUT TO THE LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL





A MESSAGE FROM DEBBIE

Going Forward...

Dear Hudson Friends,



As we come to the end of our time together, a word of congratulations as you complete the first phase of the pastoral transition that we began with the unexpected news of both pastors leaving within a few months. It was never an option to put things "on hold" and our ministries continued to thrive without missing a beat.

We have had baptisms and welcomed two classes of new members. We celebrated a wonderful Advent season that began with a contemplative Blue Christmas service, featured our musicians with the Christmas Joy in the Morning service, and ended with three Christmas Eve services. We had additional funds at the end of 2024 that allowed us to not only end the year in a strong financial position, but to adopt a balanced budget for 2025. You hosted the large New Hope Presbytery gathering and have continued to worship regularly in person and online. Deacons and Elders enjoyed retreats for fellowship, nurture, and planning. Our children and youth programs continue to grow. Our commitment to help neighbors near and far was honored with significant financial donations to address particular needs in our community, state, nation, and across the world. Members of all ages participated in hands-on mission projects that made an immediate impact. Your Property Committee is always at work on large and small projects so that our campus is safe and welcoming for everyone. Plans are in place for our spring and summer programs. The Personnel Committee faithfully supports each staff member, which is always vitally important, but even more so during this transition. I have enjoyed preaching each week as well as hearing from our guest preachers.

And now we come to the next phase of transition when we formally say goodbye and you prepare for an Interim Pastor to soon join you. Most of you know that Rich Richards will be on paternity leave, and we have planned for that time as well.

Going forward, here are some important things to note:

Covenant of Separation

I remind you of the Covenant of Separation that you and I have signed. In the next few days, I will finalize my commitments and though I will be around the church completing administrative tasks and cleaning out my office, I will no longer be available to you as I have been. My church email will be open for a while longer, but I will not be responding as I normally do. At the request of Presbytery, I have appointed Session Clerk Glenn Schindo as the Temporary Acting Head of Staff (gschindo@hmpc.org) and Ed McLeod will act as Session Moderator.

What We Have in Place for Worship This Month

We welcome a variety of wonderful guest preachers, along with church officers who will host them and serve as worship leaders: Elder Jay Cummins, Deacon Joanna Hulsey, and Deacon Mary Schindo. For a line-up of who will be preaching, see page 3 for details.

Who to Contact for What

- For pastoral concerns: First, contact the Deacon on Call (February's DOC is Lisa Williams - Prayer Line # is 919-390-2688). The DOC will then notify Rev. Aleta Ash or other Deacons as needed.
- For Youth Ministry, read about the plan for Rich's parental leave on page 6.
- A list of office staff and who to call for various administrative, financial, and communications matters, can be found on the bottom of page 9. All HMPC staff contact info is also available on page 8.
- Each of the groups that Mac and I facilitated in the past now have designated church members as leaders.

Finally, thank you so very much for your gracious and generous support and expressions of appreciation. I can't imagine not being with you even as I am excited about what the future holds for HMPC and for me. I am so grateful to Jo Nygard Owens for the reminder that each of us is a thread in a unique tapestry. Sharing our gifts in community is more beautiful than what any one of us could do, whether you have been here for decades or are our newest members.

Thank you to the staff for the wonderful "Margaritaville" themed send off, to the Elder and Deacons, the ministry leaders from all of the committees and teams, both Women at the Well groups, the Chancel Choir for the singing the ordination piece for Jo, and the beautiful anthem for me. And to everyone who made the reception so much fun, and to all of you who were able to be here in person or online - my heart is full.

It has been a joy to work with so many staff, past and present, and for many seasons where we embraced tradition even as we were willing to be guided by the Spirit in new directions. With gratitude for the ways you have ministered to me, the mission and ministry we have shared, and for a future in which God is already at work. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Faithfully,

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WORSHIP & THE ARTS

February Worship Details

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:30am - "Youth Arts Worship Sunday" Rev. Dr. Ed McLeod will preach

Assisting in worship leadership: HMPC Youth, Rich Richards, Elder Jay Cummins

Dr. McLeod retired in May, 2023, having served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh since 2004. He and his wife, Jenny, have two adult children and 5 grandchildren.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

10:30 Worship - Rev. John Kidd preach

Assisting in worship leadership:

Deacon Joanna Hulsey

Rev. John Kidd retired to Raleigh a few years ago following a long co-pastorate in Virginia with his wife, the Rev. Robbie Kidd. He attends White Memorial and is active in New Hope Presbytery on the Milner Commons Development Team.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

10:30 Worship - Rev. Betty Berghaus will preach *Congregational Meeting to follow the service.*

Assisting in worship leadership:

Deacon Mary Schindo

Rev. Berghaus is a retired Presbyterian pastor. She served for 19 years as Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Durham. Since retirement, she has served two interims and supply preached at a number of area churches. She serves on New Hope Presbytery's Commission on Ministry.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

10:30 Worship - Rev. Dr. Lynn Stall will preach

Assisting in worship leadership:

Elder Jay Cummins

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stall is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary. She has served as the called or interim pastor in nine congregations during her 38 years of ordained ministry. Now retired, Lynn and her husband, Edward Bruce, are enjoying their first grandchild and corgi puppy.

FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Fellowship





We had a wonderful time of fellowship last Sunday after worship!









IPNC NEWS

Update from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee









Shortly after Mac announced his departure from HMPC, the Session recruited four church members to serve on an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (John James, Grace Hutchinson, Bob Monroe, and Laura McHenry). The committee's charge is to find and extend a call to a transitional pastor to shepherd HMPC through our search for a new, installed Senior Pastor and Head of Staff.

The committee first convened in early November for orientation and training, led by New Hope Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The first task was to develop a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), a document that describes who we are as a community of faith and advertises our interim head of staff position to potential candidates. Once approved by the Presbytery, our MDP was posted on the Church Leadership Connection (a job site specifically for PCUSA).

The committee reviewed dozens of candidate profiles and interviewed seven candidates. Three candidates were contacted for second interviews. At last Monday's Session meeting, the committee reported that it has identified its top candidate and is preparing to make a contract offer. When a contract agreement is reached, the Session will review and vote on the agreement. The Presbytery's Exams and Transfers Sub-Commission will then review the candidate's credentials and vote on the transfer.

The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee thanks everyone at Hudson for their prayers, support, and interest in our work. We hope to have a big announcement very soon!

SESSION

Session Meeting Highlights: KEY UPDATES FOR OUR CONGREGATION

The Session of HMPC recently met to discuss and make important decisions for our church's future. Here are the key actions taken:

- **2025 Budget Approved** The Session approved the church's budget for 2025, which includes a 3% salary increase for HMPC staff in appreciation of their dedication and service
- Annual Congregational Meeting Set Mark your calendars! Our annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, February 16, at 11:30 AM. The agenda includes:
 - A review of 2024 finances
 - Presentation of the 2025 budget
 - A report from the HMPC Foundation
 - The annual meeting of the corporation
- Presbytery Commissioners Elected The Session elected representatives to attend the three 2025 Gatherings of the Presbytery, ensuring our church remains engaged in the broader work of the Presbyterian Church.

- Treasurer Re-Elected Harry Bond was re-elected as Treasurer of the HMPC Corporation, continuing his faithful stewardship of our church's financial responsibilities.
- Interim Head of Staff Appointed The Session appointed Glenn Schindo as Interim Head of Staff, effective February 1, to serve until our Interim Pastor arrives.

We are grateful for the leadership and guidance of our Session as they work to support the mission and



ministry of HMPC. If you have any questions about these updates, please reach out to a member of Session.

Blessings, Glenn Schindo, Clerk

DEACONS

Winter Warm Up to Wellness Event

Saturday, February 8 10:00am - 12:00pm Westminster Hall

Join us for a refreshing morning of wellness and connection at our Winter Warm Up to Wellness event! On Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Westminster Hall at HMPC, we invite you to come together for a time of inspiration, relaxation, and support. Our special guest, Liza Coonse, LCSW, will be the featured speaker, offering valuable insights on mental wellness.



In addition to Liza's presentation, including a Q&A session, we will offer a variety of spiritual and creative activities designed to foster inner peace and well-being. And to keep you energized, we will have a delightful Espresso and Hot Tea Bar along with light refreshments.

This event is open to all ages 19-99, so feel free to bring a friend or neighbor along! Please bring a donation of new socks and canned soup to support our local outreach



through Raleigh Rescue Mission and North Raleigh Ministries. These items will be distributed to those in need. We look forward to seeing you at this uplifting and enriching event as we embrace wellness together!



The HMPC Deacons

NEW MEMBERS

New Members 3 New Members Joined HMPC!

GREYSON & JORDAN FEURER



Greyson and Jordan Feurer joined January 26, 2025. Jordan is an attorney who enjoys reading, spin classes, and needlepoint. Greyson works as a Director of Operations at Capstone Event Group, and enjoys music and sports. They both love to volunteer and serve the community, and are excited to get involved at Hudson.

Jordan was born to an airforce dad who was stationed in Las Vegas, but her dad was transferred to Tampa, FL, when she was 2, and she spent the rest of her childhood there. She went to Elon for undergrad and has lived in NC ever since. Greyson was born in Morehead City, and grew up in Wilmington, NC. They are expecting a baby soon!



NOELA WOODALL

Noela joined Hudson on January 26. She grew up in Asheboro, NC, and is a retired educator in the NC education system. Noela likes working with youth and enjoys art.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Rich's Parental Leave A NOTE FROM RICH RICHARDS. **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY & CHILDREN'S MUSIC**



As many of you know, my wife Lindsey and I are expecting a new addition to our family. Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church provides its pastoral and full-time staff a Parental Leave. From the HMPC Employee Handbook, "Full-time Church employees are eligible for paid 'Parental Leave' in the period immediately preceding and following a child's birth." I am positive that those who have received a parental leave are grateful for the generosity and progressive policies put in place by the leadership of Hudson, and our family is among those.

Here is the "plan" for the next couple months. Our due date is February 14th, but as you know, the baby may decide to come a bit early. The moment we head to the hospital, the leave will begin. If that is February 13-14, I will be returning on Palm Sunday, April 13th, 2025.

During this period of 8 weeks, ALL HMPC Youth Ministry and Children's Music Ministry will continue as planned. Those calendar items may be found on the website as well as in the calendar located in the main hall on the YM Bulletin Board between the two doors of the Chapel.

Sunday direction of Children's Music will be led by our new Organist/Accompanist, Hunter Cox.

The children will continue their 11:30am to 12:15pm Music Time in Geneva Hall (per the schedule) and the Joyful Noise Music crew will sing on March 2nd for Preschool Sunday!

Here are "the helpers" or "contacts" that will be filling in the gaps during this 8-week period:

- Youth Committee Jenn Autry (Chair) and Ken Krause (Session Liaison)
- Youth Group Jenn Autry (Chair of Youth Committee) and Cary Dickerson (church staff)
- Chipotlé Check-In and Captain Cookie Mid-Week programs Youth Advisors and parents
- Children's Music Hunter Cox and Barbara Loehr-Fox
- Social Media (i.e. @HMPCYM Instagram page) Kessler Dickerson
- Print and Website Lesley Ash Jacobsen

If there are any urgent needs or emergencies regarding your family, you may contact Aleta Ash, our Minister of Visitation, OR you may contact me directly.

Thank you so much for all who have offered to "step up" during my parental leave, and if you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lindsey, Olsen, Bogen and I ask for your prayers during these next couple of months.

Peace and light, Rich



FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, February 4 | 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. 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. Contact Tripp Bradshaw with any questions.



The chilly weather didn't stop this devoted group from meeting outside during January!

Registration for the Montreat Women's **Connection Conference OPENS THIS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**



As always, this will be a time for women to connect with old and new friends, with a time for space and Sabbath. As in years past, we will do this

together through powerful and creative worship led by women, space for honest and faithful conversation. Each year, HMPC women enjoy this time of fellowship, fun, inspiration and spiritual renewal. This year's keynote speaker is Amy-Jill Levine (AJ) Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt. She is a distinguished scholar, outstanding professor, creator of hundreds of educational resources and an engaging speaker who makes the Biblical narrative relevant for us today.

Comprehensive registration (includes conference, housing, and meals) will open Monday, February 3rd at 10:00am EST, and registration for commuters (conference only) will open Monday, February 10th at 10:00am EST. HMPC Women register individually with housing in Assembly Inn as our home base for meals and fellowship. Read more here: Women's Connection 2025 Montreat Conference Center.

FELLOWSHIP

Single Way February Luncheon



Tuesday, February 4 at 11:30am Brig's Restaurant - 8111 Creedmoor Road - Raleigh, NC 27613



Please contact Ruth Herpich at (919) 280-0049 by February 2, so she can give the restaurant a seating count. This is very important at this restaurant as they will want to set up for us before we arrive. Also, they will not seat our group until all have arrived so being on time is very important.

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION



The Seekers

Feb 2 & Feb 9: "Living the Bible Literally: Can It Be Done?" Facilitated by Ron Ash

WESTMINSTER HALL SOUTH

Can all of the laws, rules, commandments, and mandates found in the Old and New Testaments be followed as they are written? This series will discuss what this involves by looking at one man's attempt to live Biblically for one year. Many verses in the Bible will be examined to see what must or can be done: Can we pick and choose which



rules to follow? Is the meaning of verses with a mandate really clear? Are some Biblical laws too harsh? These and other questions will be studied.

Presbyterian Ponderings "Parables of lesus"

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

WESTMINSTER HALL NORTH

The first third of the Presbyterian Ponderings "semester" will take us again to the Parables. The next third will examine once more God's use of imperfect messengers -- there just are so many -- to inform and lead us. The last third will be a study course TBD (to be determined) to finish this part of the year before the Summer Series begins. As before, we expect to do some Lectio Divina sessions when we finish one mini-course but before we move onto the next portion of study.

On February 2, we will explore the Parable of the Great Banquet (Matthew 22: 1-14). Viewer Warning: this parable is rated PG-13 for violence! We'll ponder the meaning of the passage for our lives today. John James will lead the discussion.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4th Annual Arts Camp June 18, 19, 20 5:30 to 7:30 each evening

Join us for Art Camp as we explore our faith through the arts! We will use music, drama, and visual arts to learn more about God!

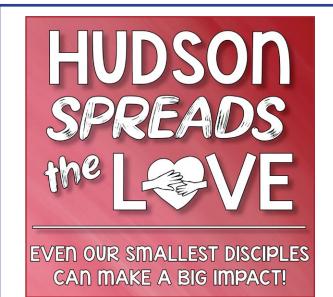
This camp is open to children currently in Kindergarten through 5th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. This event is open to the public so invite a friend to join you! Dinner will be served each evening before we begin our art rotations. Please be sure note any food allergies we should be aware of when registering your child.

We look forward to a time of faith and fun with your children!



Register HERE **Beginning** February 2!

Link also available on the homepage of hmpc.org



Join us after worship this Sunday in Westminster Hall South for a brief meeting to hear more about the upcoming Spread the Love Service Project. Whether you are already signed up or just interested in learning more, we hope you will come to hear all about this new church-wide project! The project is open to member families with Sunday School age children.

HMPC STAFF

Beware of Scam Emails Impersonating Staff Members



Be advised, there are several email scammers posing as HMPC pastors and staff members.

Pastor Debbie is the latest to be impersonated. Her current email is dkirk@hmpc.org and not any other email address.

We take security seriously, and we have reported this and are looking into where a data breach might have occurred and what we can do to prevent it in the future. It is important to the pastors and staff that our members feel their information is safe.

Please read the below information and suggestions:

- Most church staff emails end in "@hmpc.org" and are the first initial and last name of a staff member. If you receive an email that does not end in that, and you have never emailed it before, delete it. Many of these scam emails are Gmail addresses, and they include the staff member's name in the address. Do not trust non @hmpc. org email addresses, even if they say the staff/pastor's name (unless it is one you have previously used and you trust, or it is one of the email addresses listed on the right).
- If you are unsure if an email is a scam, do not reply. We recommend you create a fresh email with the staff member's official email address from the church directory.
- Never click on any links and never reply to an email that seems suspicious. Report any suspicious emails to your email provider.
- HMPC will never send you a personal email asking for gift cards, routing information, and bank account numbers.

We are saddened that the community is targeted with these types of fake emails. This has happened to a number of churches in our area recently. We wanted you to know we are aware of the situation, and that we should all remain vigilant.

Use These Staff Email Addresses

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation aletaash@gmail.com

> **Hunter Cox,** Organist hcox@hmpc.org

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

> Erica Hairston, Business Manager ehairston@hmpc.org

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director jhawkins@hmpc.org

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

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

> Hope Parangi, Church Hostess hparangi@yahoo.com

Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Music hmpcyouthgroup@gmail.com

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director droche@hmpc.org

Hannah Woodcock, Administrative Coordinator hwoodcock@hmpc.org

Not Sure Who To Contact? **OFFICE STAFF CHEAT SHEET**



Erica Hairston - Financial matters, check requests, reimbursement requests, donations, Manual of Operations updates, Session reports, HR matters.



Hannah Woodcock - Church calendar and scheduling, address changes, membership updates, property-related issues, memorial garden, van calendar.



Lesley Ash Jacobsen - Newsletter questions or submissions, website, email sign-ups, name tag requests, anything communications-related.

Avery County Mission Trip July 20-25, 2025



This summer, members of Hudson will once again travel to Banner Elk, NC, to work on a home for Avery County Habitat for Humanity. The group will go to Banner Elk on Sunday afternoon, July 20, and after a week of work, will return on Friday afternoon, July 25. Banner

Elk is approximately a 3 ½ - hour drive from Raleigh, close enough that working a part-week is easily possible as a participant's schedule may require. We will stay at Holston Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center where we will room and board for the week at its Guenther Lodge. Guenther offers nine rooms with two double beds and a private bath, plus additional bedrooms with twin beds accessible to ample bathroom facilities if our company needs more accommodation.



With these opportunities and facilities, a large group of men and women can be usefully engaged and fully accommodated each day. Our evenings will offer fulfilling

togetherness and pleasant camaraderie, including a time for Vespers. Please consider joining us on this Mission in the Mountains! No specific skills are necessary, and inexperience is not a barrier. Teens and friends are welcome too.

An informational meeting will proceed on April 27 shortly after service in Room 200. If you desire more detailed information in the meantime, please contact John Oldenburg, 901-210-3701, oldygolden@aol.com.

- The Mission Committee





Special Offerings FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Western North Carolina

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. PDA is sending grants to the Western North Carolina Presbytery to provide resources to meet the long-term needs for recovery from Hurricane Helene.

You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance"), or you can give online by clicking HERE.



FEBRUARY TEND MY SHEEP **Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County**

This month we are collecting individually-packaged and easy-to-store healthy snacks for the children of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County. The Clubs provide a safe, dedicated space for youth development after school and all day when school is not in session.

Ideal donations include but are not limited to: pretzels, goldfish, granola bars, fruit snacks, and applesauce packs. Please make sure all donations are individually packaged and shelf-stable.

You can drop off donations in the bins by Sanctuary entrances during the month of February.



CALENDAR



February Birthdays

- 2/1 Bobby Conder, Dennis Anderson
- 2/2 Tim Peeler
- 2/4 Mike Sandlin, Taylor Allard
- 2/5 Ann Neisz, Lillian James, Adeline Swenson
- 2/6 Tripp Bradshaw, Amanda Saleeby, Rebekah Surasky
- 2/8 Susan Sheahan, Noah Ya, Reid Melling, Lizzie Rohs
- 2/10 Luke Bentlage, Anna Duggins, Libby Wendt, Mary Glenn Krause, Amanda Layton, Ford Harris, Max Perry
- 2/11 Jason Cook, Nancy Law
- 2/12 Carl Rohs, Scott Baker, Sharon Cole, Chris Simson, Julie Ferrer
- 2/13 Michael Peeler
- 2/14 Harry Bond, Todd Wadford
- 2/15 Freddie Woodward, Megan Rahn, Emma Sanchez
- 2/16 Paul Linton
- 2/17 Davis Boone, Amy Tennant, Will Crone
- 2/18 Gregg Perry, Josh Neighbors
- 2/20 Emma Sykes, Bruce Cox, Cary Dickerson, Jordan Krueger, William Potter
- 2/21 Leigh Forehand, Sandy Buchanan
- 2/22 Sanders Rohs, Todd Eichler
- 2/23 Charlie Kelley
- 2/25 Sarah Dawkins
- 2/26 Polly Haydon, Kelly Hurd
- 2/27 Ivy Mercer
- 2/28 Travis Hanks

This Week at HMPC

Sunday, February 2

9:30 am - Ponderings - WH North

9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South

10:30 am - Youth Arts Worship - Sanctuary

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

11:15am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva

11:30 am - "Spread the Love" Project Mtg - WH South

11:30 am - Coffee and Conversation

11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North

12:00 pm - Youth Bells

Monday, February 3

9:30am - Preschool Chapel

6:30 pm - Children's Committee - Zoom

7:00 pm - Personnel Committee - Zoom

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

9:30 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge

11:30 am - Single Way - Brig's

6:00 pm - ACA Meeting - Rm 200

7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall

Wednesday, February 5

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

2:00 pm - Brett Bass Memorial Service - Chapel

6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Saturday, February 8

10:00 am - Winter Warm Up to Wellness - WH

Join Our Social Media Community!





@HudsonMPC

@HudsonMemorialPC