

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



AUGUST 16, 2024



*Join us for a fellowship lunch as we wrap up summer and kick off our fall season!*

**Sunday, August 25**

**Following Worship | Westminster Hall**

We are having boxed lunches from Jason's Deli and we need your order by August 23rd. All lunches come with a sandwich, chips, and a pickle spear. The sandwich choices are roast turkey, chicken salad, or a veggie wrap. You can make your selections on the RSVP form.



*Is there a dessert you are famous for? Dust off your recipe and bring it to share!* You can drop off desserts in the Westminster Hall kitchen before worship.

Please RSVP no later than next Friday, August 23. **To RSVP online:** use [this form](#). Link also available on the homepage of hmhc.org. This Sunday, August 18, we will also have **paper RSVP slips** available in the Sanctuary and Westminster Hall to fill out. **To RSVP through the church office:** Please call 919-787-1086 and let us know your name, how many will be attending, and what your sandwich choices are. (Leave a detailed message if no one picks up.)

Suggested donation of \$6 per person. Please pay online (using link found on RSVP form), or by check/cash. You can pay in advance or at the event.

## DOVES & PIGEONS SUMMER SERIES This Sunday, August 18 9:30am | WH North



Forget everything you know about pigeons. Pigeons are one of nature's most successful creatures. Pigeons and doves belong to the same family

of birds, and Biblical Hebrew uses two words for these two species: usually translated as pigeon, but also as dove. Occasionally, these words occur together. Come for a fascinating look into one of God's creatures as "Pigeon Dan" takes us into a world of wonder and interaction with some of his sought-after companions he has raised and trained.



**This is our final session of the Adult Summer Series. The Gathering Adult Sunday School classes will kick off on Sunday, September 8th.**

## Session Agreements



This past Sunday, August 11th, I preached on Ephesians 4:25-5:2. It says, "So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those

who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Within the sermon, I talked about agreements that Hudson's Session has made about how we will talk with each other and treat one another. Some of you have asked me if I would publish those agreements so you could think more about them. They are as follows:

- Take space, make space
- Stay on your listening edge
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Oops, ouch, appreciation
- Take responsibility for your impact
- Humor is okay!

One of my main points in the sermon was that process matters. While we are human and will hurt each other, these agreements help us deal with our failures and shortcomings in ways that have the potential to deepen community in Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

## Montreat Youth Conference

By Johannes van Die, High School Youth



The theme at Montreat this year was **Planting Peace**. We learned about *Shalom*, and how it doesn't just mean peace. It means building up a community. We learned that people would say *Shalom* if they did wrong to their neighbor, or if a child did wrong on their behalf. We also learned

about planting a seed in others, whether it's by talking about the Christian faith or just by living our lives in a Christian manner, so that people can learn by example. Each one of us can plant a seed in one another to make Christianity shine for God's Glory. We also saw a quote from Mahatma Gandhi which says, "Confession is like a broom which sweeps away the dirt and leaves the surface brighter and clearer. I feel stronger because of confession." This quote is saying that if you confess, you will feel clean and like a new person. If we apply this in a Christian context, and if we confess our sins to God, He will clean us up and make us a new person in Him.

One of the sub-themes of the Planting Seeds theme was Pruning Peace. Imagine you're a gardener and you see a plant you've just planted and it has a dead leaf, are you going to leave that on there? No! You are going to prune, or clip it off, so that the plant can live and be healthy. The same can be said with us; imagine that leaf is a bad group of friends or a sin problem that you need to get rid of. You must prune or cut it from your life in order to grow and be healthy. God calls each and every one of us to prune our own sin problems or bad problems so that we can grow healthy and new in Him.



My favorite thing about Montreat was the great support that everyone gave each other. For example, I played *Viva La Vida* by Coldplay in the Variety Show. The support that everyone showed me was absolutely awesome; as I played the first chord, everyone started cheering and clapping. And, as I started getting into

the song more and more, people were singing the lyrics of the song. Montreat is an awesome and welcoming community and I have met so many friends. Now, I want to leave y'all with this question: ***How is God making you grow in your life?***

## UPCOMING AT HUDSON

## MISSION

**FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY**

**BINGO**


**Friday, August 23**  
**Westminster Hall**

PRIZES! FUN!

**Doors Open at 6:00 | Bingo starts at 6:30**

**Blessing of the Backpacks**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25**



**ALL STUDENTS (CHILDREN & YOUTH) ARE INVITED TO BRING THEIR BACKPACK TO CHURCH AND HAVE IT BLESSED TO KICK OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!**

**FALL KICKOFF**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**  
**FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN AT HMPC!**

## AUGUST TEND MY SHEEP Food Bank of NC

August's Tend My Sheep collection is for the Food Bank of North Carolina. The Food Bank has provided over 89,600,000 meals to families in just this past year! In our community, one out of seven people face starvation and food insecurity. North Carolina has hundreds of local pantries, food giveaways and pop up markets that help to decrease this need. As a church, we are focused on food insecurities in our community, and this month will focus on collecting healthy breakfast food.

**Items needed:** Canned fruits, canned dairy, shelf stable milk, cereal, oatmeal, nut butters (peanut, almond, hazelnut), jelly, nuts, seeds, trail mix and granola.



Place donations in the bins at the front and rear of the sanctuary anytime and the

Mission Committee will deliver to the Food Bank after the last Sunday in August.

## AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. Through our church, donations for this offering go towards events such as: Hurricane Beryl, the Texas Panhandle Fires, Israel/Palestine, and more. We pray, we cry, we give, and pray some more. Please consider sharing your treasures.

You can give by designating your donation on an envelope placed into the offering plate; mailing a check with "PCUSA Disaster Assistance" in the memo line to the church office; giving online by visiting [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org), or texting the donation amount with the word "PDA" to 888-906-0744. *Example text: 25 PDA*



## Women's Connection Conference

Last weekend, 15 women from Hudson attended the annual Montreat Women's Connection Conference. This conference was a time for women to connect with old and new friends, a time for self-care, a time for space and Sabbath. The keynote speaker was Becca Stevens, founder of the wonderful non-profit called Thistle Farms. [Check it out here!](#) Drawn from 25 years of leadership in mission-driven work, Becca leads important conversations across the country with an inspiring message that love is the strongest force for change in the world. Her keynote was very meaningful, as well as the worship services and workshops that were a part of the weekend.



*Attendees: Aleta Ash, Lesley Ash Jacobsen, Susan Bradshaw, Melinda Dickinson, Nancy Eyre, Lizzie Graybill, Joanna Hulsey, Kelly Hurd, Grace Hutchinson, Debbie Kirk, Melinda Kovach, Caroline Rohs, Mary Schindo, Sandy Vasher, Kristen Ziller*



*One conference attendee said, "Refreshed, restored, renewed—all in a beautiful place in the delightful company of HMPC women."*



# Matthew 25 Mini-Conference Report

## Workshop #2 - 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](#).

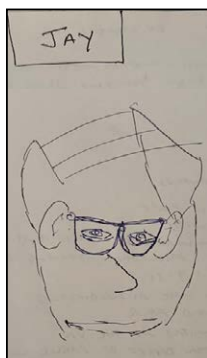
Pastor Mac, Joan, and Jay participated in the mini-conference and will be reporting in the Weekly Window over the next five weeks.



This week, the Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon’s workshop “Grounded and Growing, a practice in discernment” in the Matthew 25 foci context of congregational vitality will be covered.

We sat at round tables in groups of six. Dr. Cannon opened with an exercise designed to understand discernment.

Each person put their name on a blank piece of paper and handed it to the person to their right. We then were asked to draw individual facial features of the named person and pass the paper to the right. First the nose, then eyes, lips, ears, and hair. The finished product then was passed to the owner. Some of the pictures were spot on, others were quite abstract (as you can see from my picture on the left).



The process of discernment is critical when discussing the “why” or context of where we are going and what we are doing as a church and a presbytery. He offered up a term coined by John Maxwell, “leadershift”, to describe the ongoing process of adapting and evolving our leadership style which requires constant learning. Things in culture are constantly changing. Do you remember some of the things in life that have changed

since 2000? Grocery prices, the impact of the internet, technology in general, just to name a few. It’s important for us not to be dragged down by the culture around us, and cited Romans 12:2 as advice not to be conformed to this world but keep our lives focused on God because he brings out the best in you.

The climax of the workshop was the discussion of understanding our “why” and the understanding that the decisions we make today determine the story we tell tomorrow. This is accomplished through the development of a personal calling statement that has three benefits – direction, decision-making, and fulfillment. You can create your own statement, too, by answering the questions and building your own “house” on the attached worksheet [here](#).



The bottom line of this all is effective disciples learn to focus their lives and ministries. They abide in Jesus, so their lives bear fruit; the Holy Spirit helps them become more like Jesus in all they think, say, and do. Disciples’ lives are centered in Jesus and built on a Biblical foundation. You can find a copy of the presentation [here](#).

### FAITH FORMATION

## Waking Up With The Word

### Tuesday, August 20 - 6:30am - Zoom



This is an early morning men’s Bible study. It meets in person on the WH Patio and via 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. New participants are always welcome.

# 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

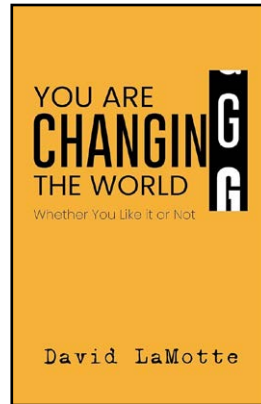
narratives, and how stories that we tell in order to inspire people can often have the opposite effect. It's a hopeful message, reminding us that we don't have to be extraordinary to make change, we just have to work together.

David's 2024 TEDx Talk was chosen by TED International as an "Editor's Pick." On July 30, 2024, they released it to their 41 million followers worldwide, and the talk quickly went viral, with tens of thousands of views in the first few days. If you haven't seen it, check it out: [www.DavidsTEDx.com](http://www.DavidsTEDx.com)

This is the second TED talk David has done, and as with the first one, it features his special brand of storytelling punctuated by his experience and wisdom as an internationally recognized peacemaker.

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."



Registration will be open in early September. For more information contact Debbie Kirk [dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org)

\*A copy is now in our church library. The book explores how easy it is to be overwhelmed with all that is going on in our world and offers practical and inspiring content for use in our personal and communal

lives. David well knows that we are often seduced into believing it is impossible to have a positive impact on such enormous issues but he does not buy into this. Through his own experience and the stories of many others he illustrates the practical value of small, organized efforts. The book has many examples of "planting the seeds of change" as we consider the seeds we are planting. Comments about the book include:

"This book serves as an antidote to the hopelessness so many of us feel about our world today."

- Kathleen Norris, Author and Poet

"LaMotte captures the rhythm and artistry that exist in efforts to change the world for the better."

- William Barber, Yale Divinity School

"David LaMotte is a very good partner in this work, both for our world and for the human soul."

- Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation

## Weekday Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

### AUGUST DATES

**\*\* THIS WEEK'S SEEING THE WORD POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER \*\***

**Tuesday, August 20 - 6:30am - Zoom**  
Waking Up With The Word

**Thursday, August 22 - 7:00pm - Mordecai Bev. Co.**  
Presbyterian Pint

**Tuesday, August 27 - 6:30am - WH Patio**  
Waking Up With The Word

**Thursday, August 29 - 6:00pm - Vivo Ristorante**  
Women at the Well (monthly group)

## SINGLE WAY

# Single Way

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 to join!

Date: September 3 at 11:30am

Place: Bahama Breeze Island Grille  
3309 Wake Forest Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Please call Dee Blackerby at 919-846-6241 by September 1 if you plan to attend. Join us!

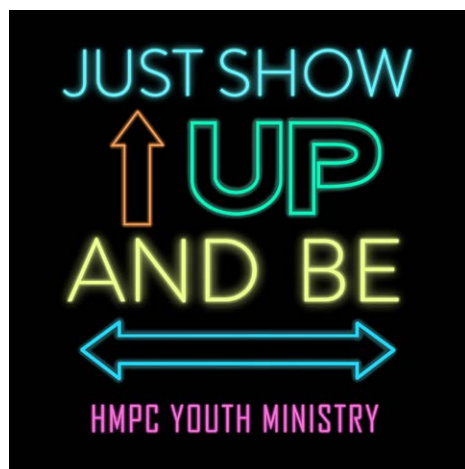


## YOUTH MINISTRY

# We Need Youth Advisors!

If you have ever thought about giving back to the church, working with an amazing group of young people, or simply have a gift for working with kids, we need you!

If interested, please contact Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministry and Children's Music. You can contact him at [hmpcyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:hmpcyouthgroup@gmail.com) or 336-324-0497.



## MUSIC MINISTRY

# Handbell Workshops

August 21 & 28 at 6:00 pm  
in Westminster Hall South

Have you ever...



- *wanted to learn more about bell ringing?*
- *wanted to try your hand at ringing a bell?*
- *rang in the past but are feeling rusty?*

These workshops are for you! You will have some hands-on ringing experiences and grow in your appreciation for this fun and meaningful music ministry. For more information, reach out to [Barbara Loehr-Fox](#).

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 18

- 9:30am - Adult Summer Series - WH North
- 9:45am - Summer Sing - Choir Loft/Sanctuary
- 10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary
- 10:45am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva/Playgarden
- 11:30am - Fellowship - WH North

### Monday, August 19

- 6:00pm - Property Committee - WH North
- 7:00pm - Diaconate - Room 200
- 7:00pm - Finance Committee - Zoom
- 8:00pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

### Tuesday, August 20

- 6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom
- 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 10:00am - Sewing Guild - WH South
- 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
- 6:00pm - PW Council - WH South
- 7:00pm - Fellowship - Zoom
- 7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

### Wednesday, August 21

- 6:00pm - Handbell Workshop - WH South

### Thursday, August 22

- 7:00pm - Presbyterian Pint - Mordecai Bev Co

### Friday, August 23

- 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
- 6:00pm - Fellowship Friday- BINGO - WH North

### Saturday, August 24

- 9:00am - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge