

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JULY 12, 2024

ADULT SUMMER SERIES MEALS ON WHEELS PACKING EVENT

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 14 | 9:30AM
WESTMINSTER HALL NORTH

Hands-on Mission Opportunity!

We will pack 500 lunch bags for Meals on Wheels during the Sunday School hour. These bags will be delivered to



the MOW clients as an extra meal. The Mission Committee purchased the contents for these meal bags with Hunger Action budgeted funds. Hunger Action is our Special Offering this month.



SUMMER PROJECT FOR THE FOOD BANK IS COMPLETE!

The Food Bank delivered a very large spool of red



mesh a couple of weeks ago, which was transformed into 6,000 produce bags for the Food Bank. They use these bags when packing food to distribute to various pantries and organizations. This small project

has a big impact and we appreciate all of your help in completing this task!

foodbank
NOURISH. BUILD. EMPOWER.



OLYMPIC RINGS FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY ON JULY 26

On Friday, July 26th, from 6:00-8:00pm, come join your HMPC friends to enjoy the splendor of the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony. We will watch the opening ceremony in Westminster Hall while enjoying an ice cream sundae bar and cold drinks. Please feel free to bring a packed dinner to eat before ice cream.

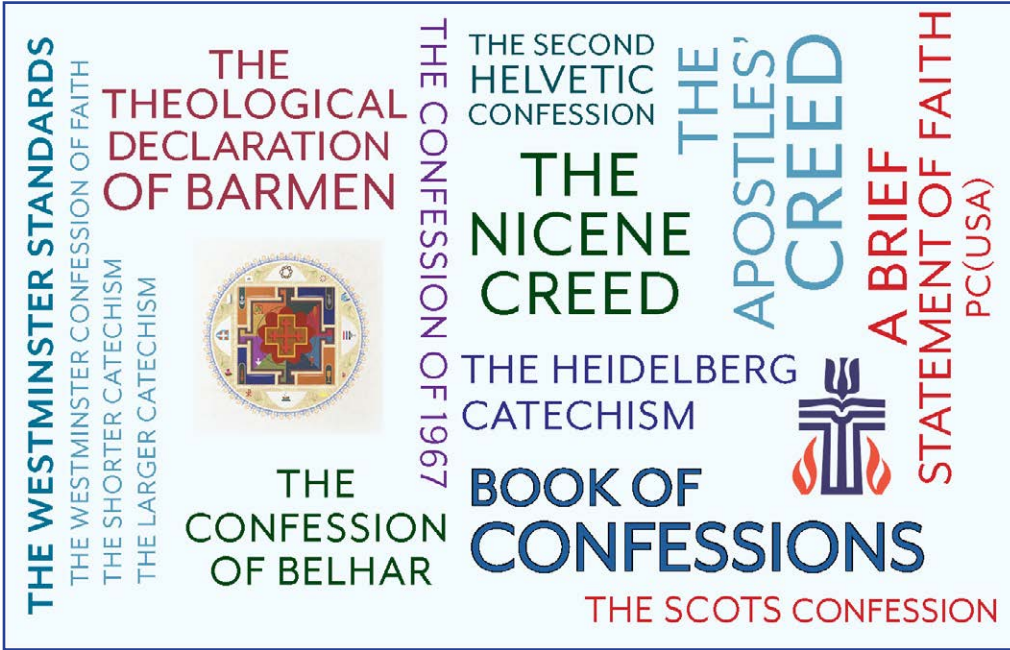


For the first time in the history of the summer games, the opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Paris 2024 is breaking new ground by bringing sports into the city and the same will be true of the opening ceremony, set to be held in the heart of the city along its main artery: the Seine. This promises to be an amazing display of creativity and entertainment.

Please RSVP [here](#) or by calling the church office by July 23 so we are sure to have enough refreshments.



The Book of Confessions Series



Over the past several months, Pastor Mac has been doing a sermon series on the *Book of Confessions* (Part I of the PC(USA) Constitution). Thanks to the Reverend Dr. Jimmy Hulseley and Elder Don Slater who have also contributed to our learning about the *Book of Confessions* through preaching and teaching. If you would like to listen to these sermons they can be found on the [church YouTube channel](#). If you would like to read the *Book of Confessions*, it can be found online by clicking [here](#).

Here is a reminder about our Confessions from the Inclusive Language version of the Confession of 1967 (9.03): “Confessions and declarations are subordinate standards in the church, subject to the authority of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, as the Scriptures bear witness to him. No one type of confession is exclusively valid, no one statement is irreformable. Obedience to Jesus alone identifies the one universal church and supplies the continuity of its tradition. The obedience is the ground of the church’s duty and freedom to reform itself in life and doctrine as new occasions, in God’s providence, may demand.”

PROPERTY

Painting & Repairs at Hudson

At the end of June, Session approved several projects:

- The repairing of wood rot and the painting of the front of the Sanctuary and Arcade.
- Fixing drainage issues outside of the Arcade.



Congratulations!

Benton Michael Osborn-Reed, child of Autumn & Bethany Osborn-Reed, was born July 2, 2024.



Congratulations, Erica & Juju!



We celebrate with Erica Hairston and Julianne "Juju" Atwater! Their marriage took place on Wednesday, July 3rd, in the Netherlands. In case you have not met Erica, she is our church Business Manager. Pastor Mac Schafer officiated "a service before the European service" on

Wednesday, June 26th, and signed the Wake County marriage license. Please pray for Erica & Juju as they celebrate their honeymoon in Ireland.

My Summer So Far...

a.k.a. The Best Laid Plans



Dear Hudson Friends,
As some of you know, I had an Emergency Room visit a few weeks ago, where an issue was identified that required a minimally invasive surgical intervention. It did not need to be done right away and I scheduled it for the end of July. I shared this information with the staff, Deacons, and a few others with whom I arranged to be unavailable for church activities for a few days at that time. Those plans changed last weekend with a second ER visit and a hospital admission. The surgery was moved up and everything went well. My cousin was with me during my a brief stay and I am so grateful for the excellent medical facilities and practitioners I have access to. After recovering for a few days at home, I anticipate being back in the office next week. I appreciate your care and concern and look forward to seeing you soon!

- Pastor Debbie

To the Church Triumphant



Please pray for the Brenner family. Gail Brenner's sister/Nancy Brenner's sister-in-law, Susan Ruth Brenner Peters, entered God's everlasting kingdom last week.

About the Deacons' Prayer Ministry



Hudson Memorial's Deacons are an elected board of church members focused on care of the Hudson community. We provide care in the form of visits to sick or homebound members, meals for those recovering from surgery or illness, and other forms of ministry. Above all, we pray for our congregation and all who request it. If you feel in need of prayer for yourself or a friend or family member, you may place a blue prayer card in the offering plate on Sunday with your information or you may call the Deacon Prayer Line at 919-390-2688 and leave a message for the Deacon on Call.

If it is in your heart to pray for others, you may join the list of members called Prayer Partners. Some prayer requests received by the Deacons are sent by email (with the requester's permission) to the Prayer Partners who pray individually for the concerns. It is important that Prayer Partners keep all prayer requests confidential. Deacons Jill Hovis and Gil Graybill maintain the Prayer Partners list and you may contact one of them to be added.

Giving Out "A Place At The Table" Meal Cards

On Youth Sunday our confirmation class handed out *A Place At The Table* gift cards. People who attended church that Sunday received a meal card to hand out to someone in need. Some members shared their experiences with us about handing out the meal cards.

While stopped at a traffic light, I handed the card to a person asking for help. When I told him it had \$10 on it he stopped, looked at me with wide eyes, that started to "fill up". He said A Place at the Table had helped him many times and he was very grateful to be able to go there and pay his way. He gave a huge "thank you."



I was at the traffic light at Trader Joe's on Wake Forest Road. I rolled down the window and asked the man on the median asking for money if he ever goes downtown. I asked him if he had heard of "A Place At the Table." He said he does go downtown and had heard of it. I gave him the card and he said, "Thank you and God bless you."

I was eating in North Hills with two friends. Two women walked up to us and asked if we could give them some assistance. They didn't speak English. I got up from the table and walked with them. I offered them the Place At The Table gift card. They graciously received it.



When I received the gift card I wasn't sure whom I could give it to. I see people on many corners in Raleigh but didn't know if they would have a way to get there. When a fellow Circle member said they gave it to one of them and they knew of the place and were appreciative I thought I'd give it a try. Not long after, I called a man over and asked if he knew A Place at the Table and asked if he could get downtown. He said that he could and thanked me heartily. He felt blessed and I know I did too.

I was on Lake Boone Trail at the Food Lion Shopping Center. A man was asking for help at an intersection. I asked him if he ever went downtown. He said he did. I said, "Do you know Place At The Table?" He indicated he did. I said to him, "This is a \$10 gift card, I hope it can help you." He was very grateful and thanked me for my gift to him.



A PLACE AT THE
Table
CAFE

My Week at Massanetta Springs

By Kessler Dickerson, 9th Grade Youth

I recently attended the 2024 Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference in Massanetta Springs, VA. The theme of the conference was “Keep Calm and Rejoice” and we focused on Philippians 4:4-8. Our keynote speaker, Erin Counihan, talked about the many ways we can and should rejoice with one another. She used the improv comedy phrase “Yes, And...” to show how our ideas all have value and can build upon one another. Using this technique we can build up each other to create a welcoming community that can easily rejoice in a variety of ways.



After our keynote sessions, we would go with our smaller "encounter groups" led by high school advocates from across the country (including our very own Hayes Atkinson). In our encounter groups, we were able to explore deeper topics and form closer bonds with one another. I was able to meet people I never would have spoken to and learn from them.

We also attended various workshops connecting to our theme. My favorite workshop was about rejoicing and controlling anxiety through dance. Our workshop director taught us ways to keep calm and not let our anxiety control us while also keeping it interesting and upbeat with different dance activities. The workshop was a great way to understand anxiety and opened me up to more ways of rejoicing.



One of my favorite moments at Massanetta is the evening vespers candle service that they do every year. Everybody at the conference stands in a large circle holding candles while we sing, pray, and think about our experience at Massanetta and moving forward. It is a calming and special time that I always cherish.



Even though this was my fourth and final time attending the conference as a “middler,” I am still very happy that I was able to attend all of these years. The friends, memories, and lessons I have learned from Massanetta will always stay with me. This middle school conference is more than just a fun time with friends; it is a truly inspirational way to hear the Gospel and I will always be grateful for it.



JULY SPECIAL OFFERING: Hunger Action



This month we are collecting for our Hunger Action fund. Hudson Memorial is a certified Hunger Action congregation which means our primary mission focus is to address food insecurity in our community and around the world. When famine or other events contribute to

food insecurity, we can use these funds to help get food to those in need.

You can give by designating your donation on an envelope placed into the offering plate; mailing a check with “Hunger Action” in the memo line to the church office; giving online by visiting hmpc.org, or texting the donation amount with the word “Hunger” to 888-906-0744. *Example text: 25 Hunger*

JULY TEND MY SHEEP: Green Elementary BACKPACKS + SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Green Elementary is our neighbor public elementary school - it is a Title I school which means that a significant portion of its students receive free or reduced lunches and have extra needs required to achieve an equitable education. Hudson is working with the school's social worker to provide backpacks and school supplies to those children most in need. **We are collecting backpacks, headphones (no earbuds or wireless please), #2 pencils, composition notebooks, crayons,**

colored pencils, dry erase markers, safety scissors, two pocket folders, glue sticks, and wide ruled paper. We will continue to collect these items through the first two weeks in August.



Last week at A Place At The Table

HMPC members Steve Jesseph and Roger Howard met at APATT to start planning for the Mission Committee's Offering of Letters on Sunday, September 29. Maggie Kane, founder of APATT, recognized Roger and came



over to say hello. She generously took time to share details with them about APATT's history. She told them how well-received she has been by Hudson and has always felt loved by our congregation. Thanks be to God for this wonderful organization!

VBS HELP NEEDED!

Vacation Bible School



Our slate of VBS volunteers is almost full, but we have a need for the following: Friday **classroom volunteer** and **science helper** M-TH.

If you are able to fill either of these slots or are interested in helping with the **nursery**, we would love to have you! The dates of VBS are August 5th-9th - 9:00am-12:00pm.

[SIGN UP HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)



Waking Up With The Word

TUESDAY, JULY 16 - 6:30am - Patio



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.

Seeing the Word

MONDAY, JULY 15 - 12:00 - WH SOUTH

The Book Of Kells



Join Pastor Mac at noon on July 15th to learn about The Book of Kells! This book is an illuminated manuscript and Celtic Gospel book in Latin, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament together with various prefatory texts and tables. It was created in a Columban monastery in either Ireland or Scotland, believed to have been created c. 800 AD.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Interested in Membership?

The Inquirers' Class, for those interested in membership, will be held via Zoom at 12:30pm on July 21. The class covers what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of Hudson Memorial. [RSVP for the class here.](#) Please RSVP by July 16.

After the July 21 class, the next Inquirers' Class will be held September 22nd after worship in Room 200. [RSVP for that class here.](#)

Contact [Debbie Kirk](#) with any questions.



Adult Summer Series

9:30-10:20am Sundays | WH North

COMING UP...

July 14 on cover

July 21: Celtic Christianity 101 with Pastor Mac



St. Patrick, St. Columba, the Gospel of John, God's creation, the Isle of Iona, the Synod of Whitby, and more. What are the marks of Celtic Christianity? Come "scratch the surface" of this interesting topic that can impact your spiritual journey.

July 28: Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading") is an ancient devotional practice that includes multiple readings of a single Scriptural passage, quiet reflection, and in a group setting, conversation. Bring a Bible and join Fred Woodward to learn more and give it a try.

August 4: St. Cuthbert & The Holy Island

St. Cuthbert is a 7th century saint who is buried in Durham Cathedral in England. He conducted ministry along the present day Scottish border and lived on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. There are many interesting stories and legends about him, and today there is a 100 km pilgrims' path in his memory. Come join Pastor Mac to learn about Cuthbert.



August 11: Avery County Mission Trip Presentation



Our Mission Team will share their week building with Habitat for Humanity in Avery County in Western NC. Not only do they work hard as the "hands and feet of Christ" but also they enjoy getting to know each other better through times of devotion, reflection and sharing at the end of each day.

THIS WEEK AT HUDSON

Sunday, July 14

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, July 15

12:00pm - Seeing the Word - WH South
7:00pm - American Pilgrims on the Camino - WH North
7:00pm - Diaconate - Room 200
7:00pm - Finance - Zoom
8:00pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, July 16

6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Patio
9:30am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
10:00am - Sewing Guild - WH South
10:30am - Esther Circle - Chapel
5:00pm - Giving Ministry - WH North
5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
6:30pm - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge
7:00pm - Fellowship - Zoom

Friday, July 19

5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship hosted the second Summer Supper of the season earlier this week. We had over 30 in attendance and enjoyed an evening of delicious food and fellowship. Hope to see you in August for our final Summer Supper!



Final Summer Supper

August 14 | Doors open at 6:00 | \$6 per person | WH North

*At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ's church.*

LIVE *into* HOPE

► New stated clerk, co-moderators

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, both of South Carolina, were [elected co-moderators of the 226th GA](#), and the Rev. Jihyun Oh, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, [was elected stated clerk](#), the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but [in an overhaul of standing rules](#), the **moderatorial election will move to the end** of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



► Sexual orientation, gender identity protections

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, [adding gender identity and sexual orientation](#) to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending [an examination of these principles for ordination and installation](#) (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

► Fossil fuels and climate justice

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for [aligning the values of the PC\(USA\) with its investments in fossil fuels](#), the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

► Unifying budget of OGA and PMA

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026**, [resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita](#) over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

► Medical coverage, small church flexibility

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to [explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans](#) for Pastors and Spouse or Families to **help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options** for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

► Divestment from occupier countries

GA unanimously adopted a commissioner's resolution asking The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions, the two primary investing arms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to "prayerfully consider" [ending their investments in government debt](#) from countries "engaged in prolonged military occupation," currently defined by the United Nations as Israel, Morocco and Turkey.

► Prison justice

GA unanimously passed DOE-02, **encouraging ratification of a U.S. Constitutional amendment [abolishing the exception clause in the 13th Amendment that allows any person convicted of any crime to be enslaved](#)**, and also passed a commissioner's resolution urging Presbyterians to call upon elected officials to enact legislative or administrative reforms ending prolonged

solitary confinement in jails, prisons, and detention centers.

► Protecting children from gun violence

DOE-03, an overture calling for action [so that children can live free from gun violence](#), passed easily in committee but was removed from the consent agenda so the entire assembly could hear testimony about it. Following heart-wrenching witness, co-moderator Tony Larson spoke and said, ["The stories are important, but they are hard"](#). They are important because they have residence in our communities." DOE-03 passed the assembly unanimously.

► Changes to special offerings

The [four special offerings currently received by the PC\(USA\) will be reduced to three](#), and proceeds will be distributed to causes instead of programs. The changes in FIN-12, which take effect for the 2026 offerings, include eliminating the Pentecost Offering and moving the ministries it has supported to a restructured Christmas Joy Offering.

► The rejection of Christian Zionism

The GA passed on consensus the [update and expansion of the resolution confronting Christian Zionism](#) approved in 2004. Through the Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism, GA calls on the denomination to reject Christian Zionism in all its forms, acknowledge the expansion of Christian Zionism in all its forms, and issue a study document that addresses the expansion of Christian Zionism since the 2004 policy.

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