

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 6, 2024

This Weekend at Hudson



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 10:00AM-12:00PM **FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

Join us for this family-friendly event in Westminster Hall from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This celebration is always a fun-filled, festive morning! Activities include ornament-making, a nativity scavenger hunt, and making gingerbread nativities. Hot chocolate and treats will be available as well! At 9:00am that morning, the children will rehearse in the Sanctuary for Sunday's pageant.



The children have been practicing for weeks on their music for the pageant and Christmas Joy!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 **DURING 10:30 WORSHIP** **ANNUAL CHILDREN'S** **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

During worship this Sunday, the children of HMPC will share their talents to tell the story of Christmas! Rev. Jimmy Hulseley will be our guest preacher for this second Sunday of Advent.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 5:30pm **"THE CHRISTMAS STORY"** **(REMIX)... A DIFFERENT KIND OF PAGEANT**

All are invited to the Sanctuary on Sunday evening to watch the HMPC Youth Drama Troupe's interpretation of the Christmas story. There will be a reception following the pageant in Westminster Hall. Please come support our middle and high school youth!

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

From Presbyterian Mission

Advent is the season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The word Advent means “a coming” or “an arrival.” It comes from the Latin word *adventur*, meaning arrival or approach. Advent is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world. Presbyterian Mission Organization produced a weekly Advent Devotional this year that you are invited to use throughout the season of Advent.

[Click Here for Week 1: Hope](#)

[Click Here for Week 2: Peace](#)



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!



POINSETTIAS

The Chancel Guild invites you to honor or remember a special person with a donation of \$15 toward Advent preparations, including poinsettias and greenery. Names will be listed in the December 22nd and Christmas Eve worship bulletins. Return an information form (located on the flower calendar board outside of room #103) with your check to the office, or place it in the offering plate **by December 16th**. Designate ‘poinsettias’ on your check, and please specify if your donation is in **honor** or **memory** of anyone. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

CHRISTMAS JOY RECEPTION Volunteers & Donations Needed!



HMPC Christmas Joy Worship is Sunday, December 15, 2024. Presbyterian Women hosts the fellowship reception following this special musical worship

service, and we are in need of volunteers! Please sign up for a volunteer position and/or to contribute a food item for this most joyous fellowship celebration of the year. You can also sign-up by emailing your selected volunteer post to Sharon Cole at sharoncole@carolina.rr.com. PW thanks you!

SIGN UP [HERE!](#)

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders can need help themselves. This Special Offering provides for Presbyterian church workers in need and furthers leadership development for communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the PCUSA Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, helping hundreds to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care or to otherwise meet financial challenges while Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development and so nurture racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to “Joy”), or you can give online by scanning the QR code, or visiting hmpe.org.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

TEND MY SHEEP OFFERING

HEALING TRANSITIONS

Healing Transitions believes that all people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction (especially the unhoused, uninsured, and medically underserved) deserve appropriate services on demand. To achieve that goal, Healing Transitions offers both a men’s campus and a women’s campus tailored to serve the unique needs of each group which includes shelter beds, meals, and basic clothing while providing, among other things, a long-term recovery program, an emergency drop-in shelter, non-medical detox, and family services. As winter nears, their clients' need for warm clothing grows. Thus, **Tend My Sheep for December is gathering gloves, hats, and scarves to help meet their seasonal clothing necessities.** Healing Transitions has identified some winter clothing in small bulk offerings on Amazon that also address these needs. If you would like to receive a listing of these identified items (with links to Amazon) for possible purchase, contact John Oldenburg at oldygolden@aol.com.



The Mission Committee End Of Year Giving News

At the end of every year, the Mission Committee donates the remainder of its designated funds to organizations in need. This year the committee has designated \$500 in shelter ministries funds to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville to go towards their work finding housing for those who lost their homes in the wake of Hurricane Helene; \$1,400 in hunger action funds to Feed the Pack; and \$1,500 each from the general mission fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Beloved Asheville both to help with relief efforts for those affected by Helene.



Hanging of the Greens

THANKS TO CHANCEL GUILD AND ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED DECORATE LAST SUNDAY!



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Pageant

Preaching: Rev. Jimmy Hulsey

5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Youth Pageant - "A Christmas Story REMIX"

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

Nursery available at 3:00 and 5:00 services

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth "Friendsgiving"

A group of 40 students, parents, advisors, and staff attended a youth Thanksgiving meal at the end of November. Fun was had by all (and some even said the turkey was the best they'd ever had!).



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Call for Officer Recommendations

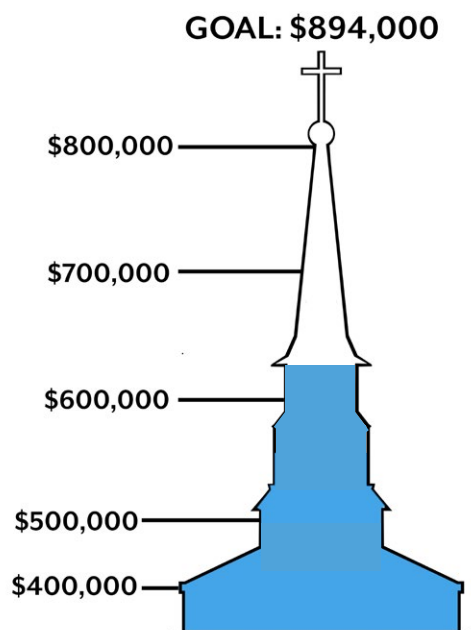
Elder and Deacon nominations will take place during December. If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself) who you feel "possess the necessary gifts and abilities and who are persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord" (Book of Order G-2.0104), please submit his or her name by either clicking [HERE](#), or using the provided QR code shown.

If you prefer, you may complete a nomination form that will be included in the Sunday worship bulletins on Dec. 8, Dec 15, and Dec. 22. The Nominating Committee members will compile the nomination forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received. Once the congregation elects these new officers, they will begin their service in May 2025. Please contact Melinda Dickinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you have questions. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, 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.



Pledge Campaign Update

AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2024



Currently, our 2025 pledges total at \$622,244. Out of our 338 active member families, 130 have pledged. In comparison, this time last year 162 families had pledged for a total of \$764,971.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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. During the holidays and during this time of pastoral transition, you may feel unsettled and especially in need.

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, who will be in contact with you.



A Note From Pastor Debbie

Dear Hudson Friends,

As I enjoyed Thanksgiving with my family, I was reminded of the many things I am thankful for, one of which is having been a part of this congregation for twenty years. Together, we have shared our lives as we have studied, worshiped, fellowshiped, and served together. It is difficult to imagine saying goodbye in a few weeks! At the same time, I am excited to imagine what God is doing at HMPC.

Recently, the church staff completed planning the master calendar in detail through the end of June, and this month the Session will approve all the major dates for 2025. Going through that process I am always amazed at the variety of activities and programs we have that enable us to faithfully live into our mission, guided by our wonderfully talented staff.

In everything, we strive to ensure the best use of the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us, and we know that each of us has situations when we can contribute more in one area than others. We faithfully plan, even with some things that are unknown, including who the interim pastoral staff will be. One thing we do need to know is what financial resources will be available in 2025, and we are depending on the stewardship campaign to give us this information. Early in the new year, we will adjust our plans depending on the budget we adopt. If you can make a financial pledge, we invite you to do so within the next couple of weeks. As a reminder, all pledges are completely confidential outside of the church financial office.

Stewardship in all its forms is an expression of gratitude to God, that is especially important in times of transition and uncertainty. Gratitude connects us and our priorities to what God is doing on a global scale. "Gratitude is not a form of passive acceptance or complicity. Gratitude strengthens our character and moral resolve, giving each of us the possibility of living peacefully and justly. It untwists knotted hearts, waking us to a new sense of who we are as individuals and in community." (Diana Butler Bass)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the pastoral transition.

Gratefully,

WOMEN'S FAITH FORMATION

Evening Women at the Well Holiday Gathering

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 - 6:00PM



As we typically do, we are combining the November/December meeting into one at Debbie Kirk's home for a relaxed time of conversation and fellowship, with dinner provided. Current group members have received this information, other women who would like to join us can contact Debbie for details. Please RSVP to Debbie by December 9.

MEN'S FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, December 10 | 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.

THE GATHERING - SUNDAY ADULT ED

Seekers Advent Series

9:30am | Westminster Hall South

Led by Rev. Jimmy Hulse

December 8, 15, 22 | Seekers Class

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 Hulse, Leader

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30am | Westminster Hall 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, December 8, we will focus on the Old Testament figure Jacob. Deceiving his father, cheating his brother - Jacob even wrestled with God. Yet God blessed Jacob as a patriarch of the Israelites. What's up with that? John James will lead the discussion.



Seekers & Ponderings Christmas Gathering

The Seekers & Presbyterian Ponderings are cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 14th, at 3:00pm** at the home of Shirley & Richard Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are also invited..

This Week at HMPC

Sunday, December 8

- 9:30am - Ponderings - WH North
- 9:30am - The Seekers - WH South
- 10:30am - Worship/Children's Pageant - Sanctuary
- 11:30am - Fellowship - WH North
- 11:30am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
- 11:30am - Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
- 12:00pm - Youth Music - WH South
- 5:30pm - MS/HS Youth Pageant - Sanctuary

Monday, December 9

- Morning - Preschool Polar Express
- 7:00pm - Finance - Zoom
- 7:00pm - Personnel - Zoom
- 8:00pm - Al-Anon/Ala-teen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, December 10

- 6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom
- 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 11:00am - Elizabeth/Esther/Rachel Circle - Chapel
- 11:30am - Hannah Circle - WH South
- 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
- 7:00pm - Miriam Circle - Offsite
- 7:00pm - Adult Ed - Zoom
- 7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12

- 6:00pm - Women at the Well Christmas Celebration - Debbie's House

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

- 10:00am - Christmas Joy rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 3:00pm - Seekers/Ponderings Christmas Gathering - Shirley & Richard Blanks' House

End-of-Year Gifts for 2024 Giving Statements

As you consider your end-of-year giving, we want to make you aware of IRS guidelines that allow for a donation to be included on your 2024 giving statement for tax purposes. Simply dating a check in December is insufficient according to the IRS guidelines – therefore please consider the following deadlines:

- Given in the offering plate: by Dec 31
- Hand delivered to the office: by Dec 31
- US Mail: Postmarked by Dec 31
- Private delivery service (FedEx/UPS): Received in-office by Dec 31
- Online credit card gifts: must “fully process” by credit card issuer no later than Dec 31 – we recommend that you initiate an online gift by Dec 23 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.
- Stock donations: received in the church’s brokerage account by Dec 29 – we recommend you initiate a stock transfer by Dec 19 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.

The church office will be open until 12:30pm on Friday, December 27, so please consider this for any in-person deliveries. Church hours can be found online. If you



have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Erica Hairston, Business Manager, at ehairston@hmpc.org or 919-390-2664.

INTERIM PNC

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Last week, the IPNC submitted its draft Ministry Discernment Profile to the Presbytery for feedback. We incorporated the feedback we received and have submitted the MDP to the Session for approval. We look forward to posting the MDP and reviewing candidate submissions over the next few weeks.