

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 8, 2023

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 | DURING 10:30 WORSHIP

Watch the children of HMPC act out the Christmas story in the Annual Christmas Pageant! They have been practicing for weeks and are excited to teach the congregation about the meaning of Christmas.



Christmas Joy in the Morning!

Next Sunday, December 17 | 10:30AM

WORSHIP SERVICE LEAD BY THE MUSICIANS OF HMPC

CHRISTMAS JOY WORSHIP

Dec. 17 | 10:30am in the Sanctuary

We invite you to attend worship on December 17, lead by Hudson's talented music ensembles and instrumentalists! You'll hear children, youth, and adults singing and playing festive music as we worship and celebrate the Christmas season. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!



CHRISTMAS JOY RECEPTION

**SIGN UP LINK FOR VOLUNTEERS
& FOOD DONATIONS**

After Christmas Joy each year, we have a wonderful reception. We rely on volunteers to help make it a success. Please sign up [HERE](#) for a volunteer position and/or to contribute a food item for the most joyous reception of the year. You can also sign-up by emailing your preferred volunteer post to Sharon Cole at sharoncole@carolina.rr.com.

Advent & Christmas at HMPC

ADVENT AT HUDSON

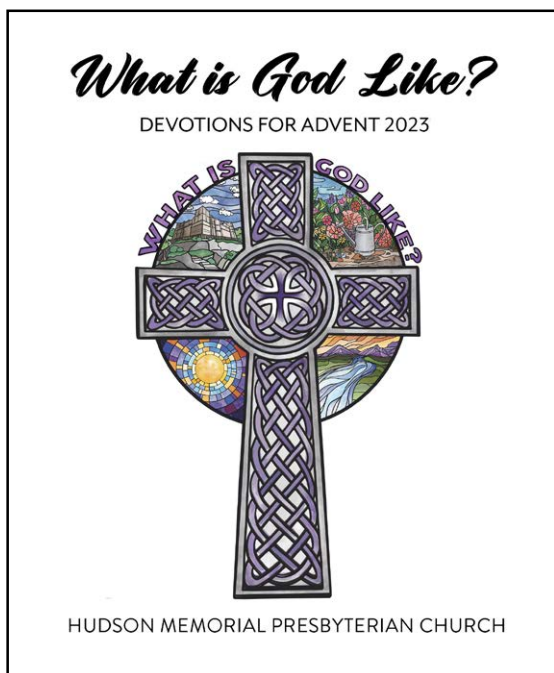
What is God like?

Hudson's theme this Advent is "What Is God Like?" This idea came from a magazine issue of *Reformed Worship* (September 2022) by Matt Ackerman & Bailey Carver Attema. They based some of this series on a children's book by Rachel Held Evans & Matthew Paul Turner entitled *What Is God Like?* At the beginning of their article they write,

"During Advent we anticipate Christ's coming as an infant as well as Christ's return, when the earth will be renewed and all will be well. We should be startled and amazed by that reality - that Christ, a member of the Trinity, God's own self, came down from heaven to earth. What kind of God does that? Who is this God that became like one of us? What is God like?"

Devotionals

During worship each week during Advent, we will be looking at different attributes of God: God is like a **Fort**, like a **Gardener**, like **Light**, and like a **River**. To supplement this, we have asked members of this congregation to answer the question, "What is God like?" Their thoughts and reflections are included in a daily devotional booklet that will be available at the church this Sunday or you can download a digital copy [here](#) (or on the homepage of [hmpc.org](#)) We trust the Spirit will move you each day as you reflect with fellow church members about their understanding of God.



POINSETTIAS

Final Day to Order - December 12



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 17th worship bulletin. 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 12th**. You can also use [the link](#) on the homepage of [hmpc.org](#) to order. Designate 'Chancel Guild/Poinsettias' on your check. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

Sunday, December 10

Christmas Pageant

10:30am Worship | Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

Christmas Joy in the Morning

10:30am Worship | Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

Children's Sunday School

(after Children's Message)

5:00pm - Candlelight Service

Nursery will be available (ages birth to 5)

8:00pm - Communion & Candlelight Service

Nursery will not be available



Advent & Christmas at HMPC

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Visit the Chapel for Prayer & Reflection



Last Sunday the Deacons held a Blue Christmas service in the Chapel. Throughout Advent you are invited to stop by the Chapel, sit with the liturgical

installation (created by Rich Richards) and rest in "the sacred presence of God breathing in the shadows."

At the close of the Blue Christmas Service of Shadows, this prayer was shared by those gathered:

Eternal God, during this season of Advent, help us prepare Christ's way. Help us center our hearts, minds, and prayers on your holy presence in our midst. As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and for rest. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world, let us drop our facades and the masks we hide behind. May this season of Advent prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love. May it be so. Amen.



If you have a particular concern during the holidays that you would like to share with one of the Ministers or Deacons, do not hesitate to let us know.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC NEWS

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Christmas Pageant during worship - 10:30am

Meet in Geneva at 10:00am

NO post-worship Children's music, due to the pageant.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Christmas Joy in the Morning 10:30am Worship
Joyful Noise will sing. Meet in Geneva at 10:00am.

HOLIDAY COOKIE WORKSHOP

December 10 | 9:00am | WH

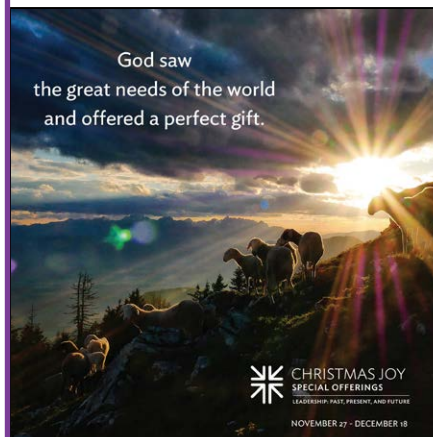


Come to Westminster Hall for a jolly time of baking, decorating, and packaging cookies to take to those with mobility issues who can't get to church, to residents at area retirement homes, and to be sampled during

Fellowship Hour this Sunday. Smells are free and taste testing is a must! Hosted by Adult Ed. Committee.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to

Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

You can donate [online](#), text, mail your donation to the church, or give in the offering plate on Sundays in December. Here is how to text to give: Text amount to 888-906-0744 (Example: 25 Joy).

Family Christmas Celebration

Last Saturday was a wonderful morning filled with fellowship, crafts, games, learning about the nativity, and lots of fun!



Christmas at the Preschool

As the saying goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" This week at school we celebrated Polar Express Day. The children went on train rides, played in snow, danced to Christmas music, had a sweet treat, and visited Santa! There were even some grown ups who joined in the fun...we had a walking Christmas tree, a giant gingerbread girl, a snowman, a penguin, and even a Christmas Elf. It's anyone's guess who had the most fun!!!

We are looking forward to the three and fours Christmas program, *Let Us Adore Him*, on Friday, December 8.



End-of-Year Gifts for 2023 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 2023 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 21 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 21 to allow 5 business days.**

The church office will be open until 12:30pm on Friday, December 29, so please consider this for any deliveries. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator, at lflint-morris@hmpc.org or 919-390-2664.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

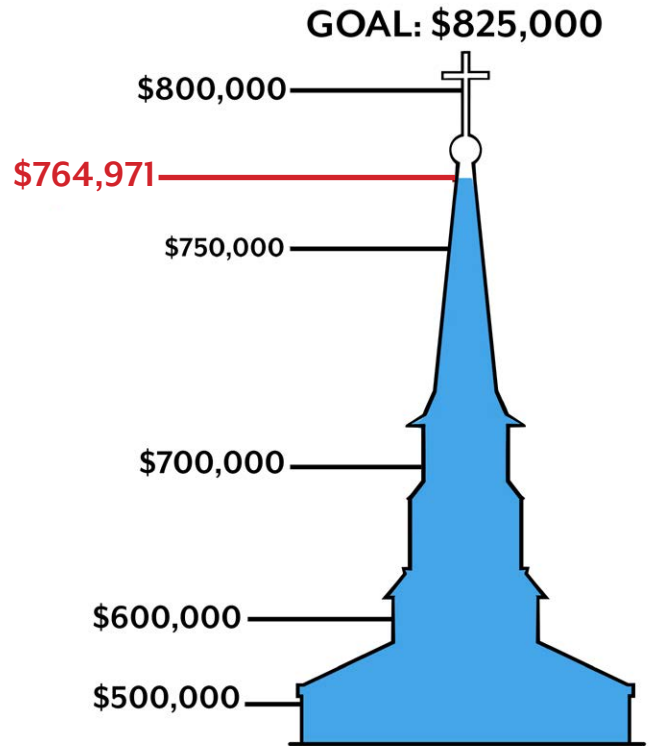
Children's Mission Project

This week the children packed 48 Birthday Bags for Urban Ministries of Wake County. Each bag contains cake mix, frosting, and candles to be distributed to the families they serve.



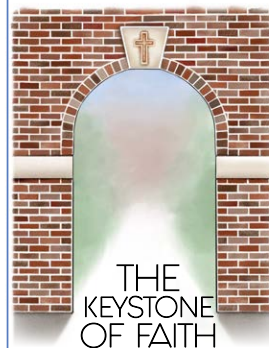
2024 Pledge Campaign Progress Update

AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2023



Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges thus far. Collectively, our pledges provide our Finance Committee and Session with vital information as they work to prepare our 2024 budget.

As of December 7, 2023, our received pledges total \$764,971 (still \$60k away from our goal of \$825k). We currently have 162 households who have submitted pledges--Last year we had a total of 185 pledging households.



It is not too late to pledge. You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Administrator, or Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator. You can call Erica at 919-390-2630 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

THE GATHERING

Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Cookie Decorating - Details on Page 3

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30-10:20am | Westminster North

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

This discussion-based class is using *The Present Word Bible Study* as a guide to engage the topic "God's Law is Love", a New Testament thematic study with scripture from Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Acts, and 1 Corinthians. **This week's theme is *Life in Christ***



Brings Freedom. No advance preparation required; only a heart for the Biblical narrative, excitement about exploring it through your particular lens of life and faith, and willingness to share with others.

The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

Advent-related Stories & Characters

Facilitated by Ron Ash

Characters in the Advent story which are not discussed too often will be the subject of this class. Those attending will also be invited to share their favorite Biblical passage or traditions about Advent.



The Seekers Christmas Gathering



The Seekers class is cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 16th, at 3:00** at the home of Shirley Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are included as well as any members of the former Mixed Adults and John Knox classes.

WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

Women at the Well

This Thursday, December 14 | 6:00pm



Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! Our last monthly meeting for this year will be on **Thursday December 14, at Bonefish Grill North Hills at 6:00pm** for a holiday gathering with dinner and fellowship. Due to the busy season, reservations are required; to attend please let Debbie Kirk know no later than **noon on Monday December 11.**

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, December 12 | 6:30am | Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets in-person and on 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. In the winter months, we do the study around a fire. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group please contact Pastor Mac.

HMPC OFFICE

Offering Envelopes

For those who wish to send their offering in monthly envelopes, the office can provide those for anyone interested. Contact Erica Hairston, Business Administrator, at 919-390-2630 or ehairston@hmpc.org to let her know you would like 12 months of pre-labeled envelopes.

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. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17. 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 2024. Please contact Carol Cox, 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth News

Friday, December 8 - TONIGHT

The High School Youth Group will attend the WFHS production of *Mamma Mia* where our very own Senior, Allie Sharpe, is in the cast!

This Sunday, December 10

- 10:30 - Worship - Advent Week 2
- 11:30 - Confirmation Meeting for Parents and Confirmands (Youth Room and Geneva)
- 12:00pm - Youth Hand Bells



Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - WH North
- 9:30 am - The Seekers - WH S; Ponderings - Rm 200
- 10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH
- 11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
- 11:30 am - Confirmation Meeting - Youth Room
- 11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
- 12:00 pm - Youth Music - WH South
- 2:00 pm - Choir Sing-a-long at Capital Towers

Monday, December 11

- 6:30 pm - Grandparents of Children w/ Autism - WH S
- 8:00 pm - How It Works (AI-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, December 12

- 6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
- 9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 11:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle- Chapel
- 11:30 am - Hannah Circle - WH South
- 5:30 pm - HMPC Foundation - Zoom
- 6:30 pm - Giving Ministry Meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 7:00 pm - Adult Ed - Zoom
- 7:30 pm - Miriam Circle - Off-site
- 7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, December 13

- 9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel
- 6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Choir Loft

Thursday, December 14

- 11:00 am - MVVG - WH South
- 6:00 pm - Women at the Well - Bonefish Grill

Friday, December 15

- 6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Saturday, December 16

- 10:00am - Christmas Joy Rehearsal



Middle School Retreat at Camp Kanata in November