

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



AUGUST 9, 2024

A FUN WEEK AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2!



SUMMER SUPPER LAST ONE OF THE SEASON!

Wednesday, August 14 | 6:00pm
WH North | Suggested donation \$6

Join your friends for a delicious meal and fellowship!
This week's menu: Tomato Pie, Cornbread Salad, Green Salad, Delectable Desserts...and more!



RSVP using this [link](#) (also can be found on the homepage of hmpc.org), or you can call the church office to make a reservation. **Please RSVP by August 12.**

BIRDS OF THE BIBLE ADULT SUMMER SERIES

Sunday, August 11 | 9:30am
Westminster Hall North



Don Slater will lead a conversation on Birds of the Bible. As some of the oldest creatures in our world, they have been understood in particular ways and humans have used them for many things. Don will share the references to them throughout scripture in preparation for our conversation on August 18th about the special significance of pigeons and doves.



Vacation Bible School



Being an Advocate at Massanetta

By Hayes Atkinson, HMPC Youth



My name is Hayes Atkinson, son of Rob and Connie Atkinson, and this past summer I had the opportunity to become an Advocate (counselor) at Massanetta Springs

Youth Conference. Massanetta hosted around two hundred middle schoolers for this conference. Let me just tell you it was the best two weeks of my life. It started off with meeting my fellow Advocates and planning for the days to come. The kids then came and we introduced ourselves in a little skit on stage. I then met the small group I was leading for the next couple of days and I knew this was meant for me. Watching kids explore their faith and ask questions strengthening it for themselves overall made my faith stronger and filled me with joy. The theme Massanetta had this year was “Keep calm and rejoice” Philippians 4:4-7. Keep calm and rejoice really stuck with me because I normally either keep calm or I am rejoicing. I sometimes forget to do both at the same time. During the day, we did workshops like connecting with nature, yoga, windchimes, mental wellbeing exercises, and more. I was beyond grateful to share the positive impact of God's love and work with younger generations. The week our church's group came made me so happy to see others I recognized and having them see me doing something I love. Bonding with all of my fellow advocates was so much fun and I made friends that personally will be my friends for life. I loved every single one of them. I was heartbroken that I wouldn't see some of them again for a good amount of time but we are all planning a reunion and will see each other again. Overall this experience was so fulfilling and brought me so much joy. But oh wait! I saw many of them at Montreat already! Montreat is what I would call the high school version of Massanetta. They hosted around seven hundred to eight hundred high schoolers on the week we went, week four. Eight out of the nine advocates at Massanetta that came to week four of Montreat did *Jeremiah's Project*. We were trying to find a time to spend more time together and we

figured if we all did Jeremiah's Project we could see each other more. Jeremiah's Project is a program Montreat hosts, where the youth who attend can help out with worship. We might bring items up on stage, do a skit, or say the passing of the peace and call to confession. There were around fifteen people doing Jeremiah's Project. Doing this in front of 700-800 high schoolers



and adults could seem nerve-racking but for me already doing all of this at Massanetta really opened me up to being on stage and, well, doing my thing! It was so much fun to be on stage and speak in front of everybody while getting to know new people and participating in projects for worship.

Overall, this summer I had the best time of my life meeting new people, doing new things, and having so much fun. Thank you.



Matthew 25 Mini-Conference Report

Workshop #1 - By Joan Lester

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 six weeks.



This week's report is by Joan Lester about the workshop she attended led by Alonzo Johnson.

Alonzo Johnson is the Coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) program of PCUSA. He led a discussion on "Exploring

Ways to Activate and Engage your Community in the Work of Discipleship and Effective Mission." He discussed advocacy as a spiritual discipline. Two essential questions:

1. How do we do ministry (mission) in a way that is nonpaternalistic?
2. Where in our community do we see Jesus?

We talked quite a bit about the second question. We have to learn to see Jesus in people we innately dislike, or even in people whom we find repulsive. This involves spiritual discipline.

There are three R's:

- righteousness
- relationships
- resources

Decolonization is questioning the prioritization of Western thought and approaches that are considered superior & privileged.

Paul Tillich said that the first duty of love was listening. Matthew 25 poverty engagement involves spirituality, leadership, discipleship, and evangelism.

Post Traumatic Jesus, by David Peters, is a good book about reading the gospel with the wounded.

SESSION

Session Report: HMPC Now a Gun-Free Campus

On Monday, July 29th, the Session voted unanimously to become a gun-free campus and to post signage indicating this new policy.

As many of you know, more than a year ago, the Session created an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Team. The goals of this team are as follows:

- Reduce the risk of harm
- Have a simple, safe, and understandable plan
- Have effective training processes
- Have a seamless communication system
- Have capital improvements to enhance security

On July 29th, the Session received a recommendation from the EAP Team to become a gun-free campus along with a rationale of why. The Session also considered

correspondence from a church member/preschool parent on this issue. Some of the reasons Session considered adopting this policy were as follows:

- The 221st Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly recommended it.
- The safety of the 150-student preschool at HMPC.
- Wake County Public Schools are gun-free campuses.

Please know that the EAP Team and Session continue to discern thoughtfully the security and safety of the community we serve. We thank you for your continued prayers as we attempt to be faithful to Christ's calling.

Mac Schafer, Pastor & Head of Staff
Glenn Schindo, Clerk of Session

Update on David LaMotte Fall Book Study

Sunday evenings Oct. 13 - Nov. 10

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



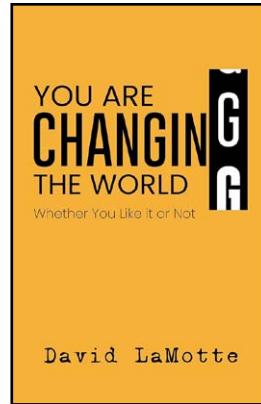
talk focused on the downside of hero narratives, and how stories that we tell in order to inspire people can often have the opposite effect. It's a hopeful message, reminding us that we don't have to be extraordinary to make change, we just have to work together.

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

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

*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

Waking Up With The Word Tuesday, August 13 - 6:30am - WH 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.

MISSION

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, or texting the donation amount with the word "PDA" to 888-906-0744. *Example text: 25 PDA*



CALENDAR

Sunday, August 11

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
 4:00pm - EAP Meeting

Monday, August 12

7:00pm - Personnel - Zoom
 8:00pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, August 13

6:30am - Waking Up With The Word - Patio
 9:30am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
 5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200
 6:00pm - Welcoming Team - Offsite
 6:45pm - Preschool Board - Welcome Lounge
 7:00pm - Adult Ed - Zoom
 7:30pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Rm 234

Wednesday, August 14

6:00pm - Summer Supper - WH North

Thursday, August 15

11:30am - Amazing Grays

Friday, August 16

5:45pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Weekday Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

AUGUST DATES

Tuesday, August 13 - 6:30am - WH Patio
 Waking Up With The Word

Monday, August 19 - 12:00pm - Chapel
 Seeing the Word (Topic: The Lindesfarne Gospel)

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

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

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

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