

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 10, 2023



THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

We are excited to finally dedicate the Memorial Garden after lots of generosity from the congregation and hard work by the Memorial Garden Board. We have a special morning planned, and we hope you'll join us!

9:30am - Westminster Hall North - Educational Forum with Thomas Sayre

This presentation will be led by North Carolina artist Thomas Sayre, who designed the cross sculpture in the garden. He will talk about its creation and the theological underpinnings of his work. Please join us for this special opportunity! **The Seekers, Ponderings, and The Nine O'Clock Class will not meet this Sunday-- These classes will resume November 19.**



10:30am - Sanctuary - Worship

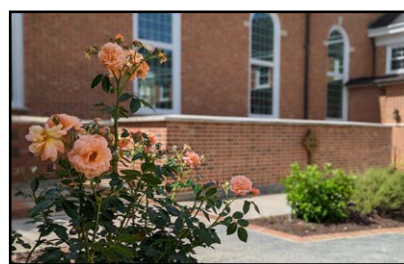
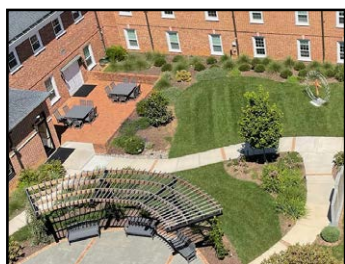
We will begin Worship in the Sanctuary and conclude the service in the Memorial Garden. Our Worship service will be centered on scriptures in the Bible that speak to gardens.

End of Worship - Communion in the Memorial Garden

We will celebrate the re-dedication of the beautiful Memorial Garden. At the end of worship, the Lord's Supper will be served outdoors in the garden. Communion will be served by Intinction.

After Worship - Memorial Garden - Fellowship

Following worship, we invite the congregation to stay in the Memorial Garden for a time of fellowship and a chance to look around and enjoy the garden. Refreshments will be on the patio outside of the Chapel doors.



The Keystone of Faith

MINUTE FOR MISSION - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - SHARON COLE

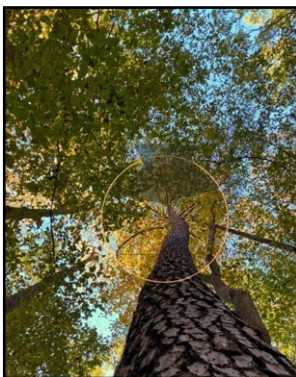


It's been my pleasure this year to serve on the Giving Ministry Team. I'm proud and thankful for GMT Committee Chair, Steve Parker, and for Giving Ministry Team members Scott Baker, Christine Bond, Jeffrey Coonse, and Jimmy Hulsey. This final week of our Giving Campaign and Nov. 5 Commitment Sunday is a time when we can highlight the beautiful verse from Ephesians

that called to our team as being a theme to illuminate Hudson's annual pledge campaign:

Fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Jesus Christ as the Keystone. – Ephesians 2:20

There's a story behind the theme verse and how Giving Ministry Team started thinking of the word, "Keystone." The story actually is my own, as the word, "Keystone," started presenting to me in my life in a couple of different ways; I kept running into it.



The first was in Fall of 2021 (*photo to left*). This is a photo of a tall pine tree in my back yard. If you have oak trees at home or at work, you may remember this Season as what PBS North Carolina informed me was a "Mast Year" for the Fall oak acorn drop. We have oak trees at home, and at that time, also a new roof on the house. That Fall, Sean,

Hollie, and I would sit in our home while the roof was bombarded with acorns, like no quantity that we'd ever experienced in over 10 years of living there. Concerning, with our new roof, as you might imagine. I called a highly recommended tree service, and I scheduled an appointment with Mike Brafford, a skilled arborist and NC State graduate who works as part of his family-run business. Mike was to provide an assessment of my oak trees and a recommendation for pruning such that would protect our new roof and also leave the White Oaks healthy, each able to support the ecosystems that they each represent.

During the course of the pandemic, I developed a hobby of planting trees and plants that support this area's indigenous caterpillars, butterflies, and birds, and so I was already mindful that the White Oak trees at our house are important to our local food chain. Mike arrived, imparting valued knowledge, and though our appointment was about oaks, I asked if he'd like to walk and see a very large pine tree down at Barton's Creek Branch, a creek that runs through the back edge of our lot. Upon arriving to the large pine, Mike took in the tree and said to me, "That's a keystone." That really stuck with me.

For Commitment Sunday presentation, I wanted to share a photo of this keystone tree from my yard. Because there is still too much foliage for me to get a clear view of the pine, I wondered if I might find the tree in a photo on my phone from a winter season. I did not have to look too far back in time. From December 2022, I found a photo that captures the pine tree in Winter off to the side of the frame, while the main subject of the photo is Hudson's Handy Helpers (*photo below*) at my home when Sean was hospitalized out of town for 12 days. Done as an act of loving kindness, these Handy Helpers, Mike Law, Ken Krause, and our family friend, Chris Nichols, are pictured standing up a



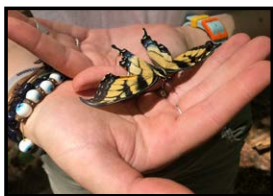
hot/cold field shower on the deck of our home, which does not have a full bath on its main level, so that Sean would be able to shower while recovering from a serious orthopedic injury.

I did not have to look very far to find my tall tree, and I did not have to look very far to find the love that this Church pours out to members of its congregation and to our community. Another photo shared on Commitment



Sunday was from this past Summer's 'VBS Tree Sapling Extraction Event.' In another scene from my backyard (*photo to left*), depicted is 2023's bounty from the 2021 Mast Year for

acorns, when Hudson youth and adult volunteers extracted approximately 125 White Oak tree saplings from my back yard for science teaching and for our VBS students to take home to plant at their homes or around Raleigh. The hope in these trees is that they bring well-being to our VBS children for many years as well as being food and shelter for the foundational wildlife around us.



The photo (*on left*) of this beautiful double tailed Swallowtail butterfly was taken at Umstead Park a few years back by one of Hollie's camp counselors with Piedmont Wildlife Center. This beautiful creature represents the success of a keystone

tree in nature. Just like our theme Bible verse that parables Jesus like the Keystone in a building, a keystone in nature is that same concept of the core supporting the many, of being a foundation; and if that foundation were gone, then the structure would fall apart. We see that in our community. Hudson Church is a Keystone. The speakers who have come before me in our Campaign weeks have made reference to community good works that have sprung from right here at



Community Garden at HMPC

Hudson. We've heard from prior speakers about the Frankie Lemmon School, the Sudan School, and North Raleigh Ministries. I'd add to this list the Raleigh Ringers, another community mainstay that came from right here at Hudson.

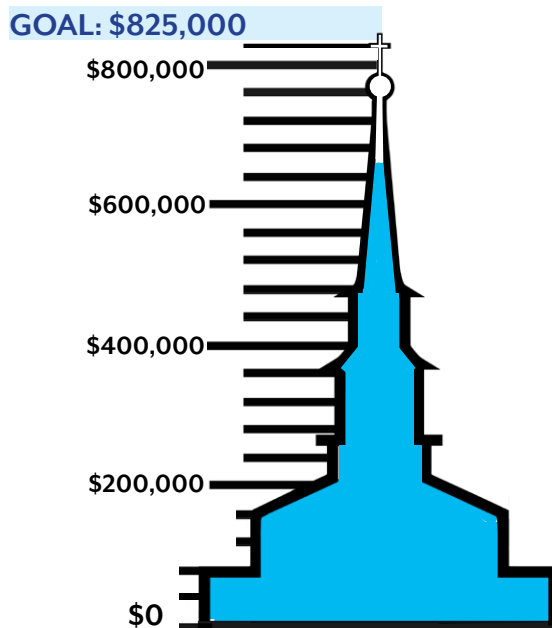


The work that comes from this congregation, from right here, it's enduring, and it lasts; we need to maintain it. I look around and I still see it. I see the work that happens in quiet ways when members need us, and I see it driving by outside on the banner sign that says, "All Are Welcome Here." I see us being a Matthew 25 Congregation. I believe that this work will last, and we need to

make sure that it lasts. I hope that you feel good about making your pledge, and I hope that you feel good about being part of the Hudson congregation. I'm really proud to be. Thank you for considering our Keystone of Faith campaign and for [submitting your pledge](#) for 2024.

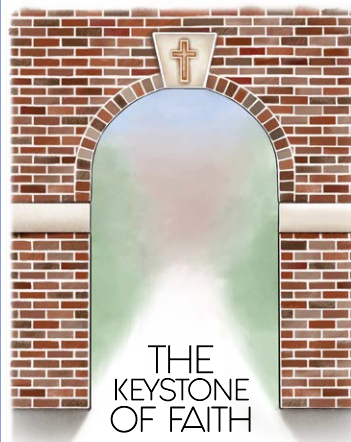
2024 Pledge Campaign Progress Update

AS OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023



Last Sunday, November 5th, was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent, and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge, or made your commitment online.

Our 2024 pledges currently total at **\$658,931**. This time last year we had collected a total of \$546,840.



It is not too late to pledge. You may pledge online [here](#), 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.

Youth Ministry is Looking for Sunday School Teachers!

We have a great group of youth here at HMPC, and we welcome new Sunday School teachers! It only requires 30 minutes of your time on Sunday mornings (11:30am to 12:00pm). NO PREP required!

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rich Richards (hmpeyouthgroup@gmail.com) or Merritt Dickinson (merritt.dickinson@gmail.com)



Youth News

This Sunday

- 11:30am - Youth Sunday School
- 12:15pm - Youth Bells - Sanctuary
- 5:00-7:00pm - High School Youth Only!



High Schoolers will be packing “Care Exam Packages” for HMPC College students before their exam time. Please bring treats like homemade cookies or sweets with you. Bring \$5 for dinner.

Middle School Retreat

November 17-19 - Slight change for the Middle School Retreat at Camp Kanata. HMPC Youth Group will leave at 8:00am Saturday morning rather than Friday. We will return Sunday, November 19 around 11:30am.

This Month

- November 19** - “Friendsgiving Meal” for ALL youth!
- November 26** - NO Youth Group

Youth Summer Trips

High School Mission Trip to Charleston, SC
June 16-21, 2024
Rising 9th grade to graduated high school senior
Registration opens NEXT WEEK!

Massanetta Middle School Conference
June 25-28, 2024
Rising 6th grade to graduated 8th grade
Registration is OPEN! Click [here](#)!

Montreat Youth Conference
July 14-20, 2024
Rising 9th grade to graduated high school senior
Registration opens in DECEMBER!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Children's Music News



Rehearsals for the Annual Christmas Pageant and Christmas Joy in the Morning Worship have begun!

If your child plans on being a part of the pageant, you need to show up for children’s music after worship up until December 11. This will allow us to have a proper cast and ensure the children know the music. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rich.

Rehearsals:

Sundays AFTER Worship & Sunday School
November 12, November 19, December 3

Pageant Rehearsal:

Saturday, December 9 | 10am - 11am

Christmas Pageant:

Sunday, December 10 | 10:30am | Call time is 9:45

Christmas Joy In the Morning Worship:

December 17 | 10:30am | Call time 10:00am



AMAZING GRAYS

Amazing Grays

Thursday, November 16 | 11:30am



Amazing Grays are invited to Shirley Blanks' home, 817 Northbrook Drive, on November 17 at 11:30 am. Reservations are a must by November 13. Please let Mike Law or Sandy Cole know if you plan to attend.

Carpooling is recommended as it is street parking. With a

steep driveway, we will try to shuttle those needing assistance up the incline.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations!

Hudson members
Merritt Dickinson & Paul Liebman
were married on November 4, 2023.



WORSHIP & THE ARTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, November 26

10:30am

All are welcome to bring pets
to this outdoor service!



TRIANGLE INTERFAITH SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 2:00PM

Join us for a devotional gathering where multiple faith traditions will celebrate gratitude for creation! Debbie Kirk is participating in this service on behalf of the Habitat Interfaith Build Coalition. You may contact Pastor Debbie with any questions.



Hosted by Greystone Baptist Church

7509 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh, NC

Outdoor service planned--Bring a lawn chair

Inclement weather plan - Sanctuary

Sponsored by Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle and
Triangle Interfaith Alliance

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, November 14 | 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 fall and winter months, we do the study around a fire. It’s a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships within the church! New participants are always welcome. If you’d like to be added to the reminder list for the group please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org.

Women at the Well

Meeting This Thursday, November 16

Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and



stages to join us! The two groups have a different format, time, and content. Both groups are wonderful opportunities for women to get to know each other as we discuss the intersection of culture, faith, and our own spiritual journeys.

The weekly group meets Wednesdays at 9:15-10:30 in the Chapel and offers a hybrid format. Our book selection is *Life in Five Senses* by Gretchen Rubin.

The monthly group fall dates are November 16, and December 14 at 6:00pm at Vivo Ristorante. The monthly group uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on various topics.

To join either group, contact Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpc.org. Current participants will receive an email to confirm participation.

Tend My Sheep Offering for November



The Mission Committee’s November Tend My Sheep collection focuses on the congregation’s support of Housing Options for Students Today (HOST).

The Mission of HOST is to prevent college student homelessness by providing temporary safe and stable housing in the homes of local hosts, and assisting students to exit the host home into permanent housing.

HOST matches students who need short-term housing with hosts who provide a safe, private, affirming space in their home. Students prepare for long-term stable housing with support from a caring case manager advocate.

We will be collecting sheet sets, towel sets, and personal items including items of dental hygiene, deodorant, shampoo, etc. which will be part of care packages provided to students by HOST. Once students are able to find permanent housing on campus or in an apartment they will be able to take the sheets and towels to have a leg up on housekeeping necessities. **Please bring your donations to the Karl Hudson Room no later than Sunday, November 26.**

November Special Offering Good Samaritan Fund



Our monthly special offering is for the Good Samaritan Fund, a discretionary account outside of the annual operating budget that is used to assist HMPC members and others who are experiencing financial challenges. These needs have increased due to the long term effects of COVID-19

and we appreciate any amount you give so we have the funds available as needed.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to “Samaritan”), or you can give online by clicking the QR code, or visit hmpc.org.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WINTER

Sunday, November 12

Family Movie Night
4:00-6:00pm | Westminster Hall

Tuesday, November 21

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
7:00pm | The Fountain of Raleigh

Sunday, November 26

Blessing of the Animals
10:30am Worship | West Lawn

Saturday, December 2

Family Christmas Event
10:00-12:00 | HMPC Campus

Sunday, December 3

Hanging of the Greens
After Worship | HMPC Campus

Sunday, December 3

Blue Christmas: A Service of Shadows
6:00pm | Chapel

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 0-5)
8:00pm - Communion & Candlelight Service
Nursery will not be available

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 12

9:30 am - Thomas Sayre Educational Forum - WH North
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary/Memorial Garden
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH
11:30 am - Children's Music - GH
11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
11:30 am - Fellowship - Memorial Garden/Chapel Patio
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
11:40 am - Inquirers' Class - Room 200
12:00 pm - Youth Music - Sanctuary
4:00 pm - Family Movie Night - Westminster Hall
5:00 pm - High School Youth Group

Monday, November 13

5:30 pm - Worship Committee - KH Room
6:30 pm - Grandparents of Children w/ Autism - W. Lounge
7:30 pm - How it Works Anniversary Celebration - WH
8:00 pm - How It Works (AI-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, November 14

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge
10:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle - WH South
11:30 am - Hannah Circle - Chapel
6:30 pm - Preschool Board - WH South
7:00 pm - Adult Ed Committee - Zoom
7:30 pm - Miriam Circle - Off-site
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, November 15

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel
10:30 am - Volunteer Thank You Brunch
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
6:30 pm - Chipotle Check-in - Off-site
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, November 16

11:30 am - Amazing Grays - Blanks' Home
6:00 pm - Women at the Well - Vivo Ristorante

Friday, November 17

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Saturday, November 18

12:30 pm - How it Works - Geneva Hall

HMPC STAFF

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CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers 2024 Dates Posted!



Our 2024 sign-up sheet has been posted. Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room 103, or contact [Erica Hairston](mailto:ehairston@hmpc.org) in the church office.

SINGLE WAY

Single Way

Save the Date for Holiday Gathering!



Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. New people are always welcome to join!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Single Way Holiday Luncheon

December 31, 2023

Westminster Hall

Fun and Games, Festive Music,
and Holiday Cheer!

Further information will be provided soon.



GETTING READY FOR ADVENT

Hanging of the Greens

Come help decorate our building for the Advent season! Gather in Westminster Hall for instructions on Sunday, December 3rd after worship.

All are welcome!