

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

MAY 22, 2026

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THERE'S STILL TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK!

PARTICIPATE IN OUR
CONGREGATIONAL ART SHOW!



Fill out the online form by May 28. Form can be found by scanning the QR code or clicking [HERE](#).

➔ Deliver your artwork to the church office (Karl Hudson Room or Room 103) on / before May 31.

➔ The art show will open on June 7, as we kick off our summer worship series "Make it This Summer!"

➔ All ages welcome.



THIS SUNDAY

May 24 is Pentecost.

We invite you to wear **RED**
to worship!

**NO Adult Education
this Sunday.**



NEXT SUNDAY

May 31

Adult Summer Series Begins!

9:30am - Chapel

"Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice"

Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, God calls believers to welcome the stranger. We find numerous examples in scripture of God's people modeling ways both to extend hospitality and to receive it. Jimmy Hulsey and John James will co-lead a discussion on how to live into hospitality as a congregation and as individuals.



**10:30am - Worship
Graduation/Senior Sunday**

Come to worship and hear our seniors preach and help lead worship. Celebrate our grads after the service in Westminster Hall.

Construction Update

We are happy to announce that the elevator and 1st floor men's restroom in the main hallway are back in business! The floor work in the elevator lobby is complete, so the construction zone is now smaller. However, please note that the area in front of Westminster South will remain closed off while construction continues. You will still need to use the ramp when moving from the Sanctuary to Westminster and Chapel.

We appreciate your patience and will keep you updated as the project progresses.

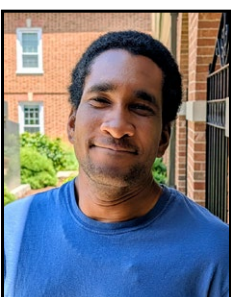
Session Update: Highlights from the May 19, 2026 Meeting

- **Welcoming New Leadership and Members:** The Session unanimously sustained the nominations for the Class of 2029 Elders and Deacons and officially welcomed 12 confirmands to the Active Roll. We also noted the transition of the HMPC Corporation, with Barry Cobb re-elected as President, Caroline Smart as Secretary, and Harry Bond as Treasurer for the 2026-2027 year.
- **Superior Fiscal Performance:** The church continues to operate with exceptional financial discipline. As of April 30, the Year-to-Date (YTD) surplus stands at \$102K, which is \$27K **higher than the budgeted expectation**. This strength is driven by YTD revenue trending 1% ahead of budget and total expenses remaining 7.1% (\$23K) under budget.
- **Strategic Property Investment — HVAC Chiller:** In a major move to protect our facilities, the Session approved a **\$140,000 budget** for a new HVAC chiller system to replace the current end-of-life units. This strategy includes two chillers to ensure redundancy. Funding for this project will be a collaborative effort between the Finance Committee, the Preschool, and the Foundation.
- **ADA Bathroom and Exterior Maintenance:** The ADA bathroom project is nearing its final stage, with completion expected by the end of June pending tile and carpet delivery. Additionally, the Session is reviewing an \$18,000 estimate for painting exterior windows and trim to maintain the campus's integrity.
- **Future Staffing and Pastoral Care:** To ensure the congregation remains well-supported during our current transition, the Session approved the concept for a **part-time Parish Associate** position with the expectation a final job description will be presented to Session in June. Furthermore, in preparation for our next called leader, the Session approved a salary range of **\$110,000 to \$140,000** for the next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. This range is in line with other area churches.
- **Mission and Vision Goal Prioritization:** Following the completion of the Mission Study, the Session has prioritized four key goals for the coming year: 1) Expanding community connections, 2) Deepening relationships with mission partners, 3) Improving spiritual vitality/education, and 4) Innovating worship to attract younger generations. Committees have been tasked with developing specific SMART objectives for each.
- **Preschool Performance:** The Preschool continues to be fully enrolled and is running a YTD surplus of \$80K, which is \$39K ahead of budget.
- **Anti-Racism Policy:** In alignment with the Book of Order, a three-person subcommittee (Grace Hutchinson, Barry Cobb, and Ken Krause) has been formed to draft an official anti-racism policy for the church. The anti-racism policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) declares that racism is a sin against humanity and God, inherently contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It mandates that all church governing bodies adopt active anti-racism policies.

PERSONNEL

Welcome Hudson's New Sexton!

We are pleased to welcome Laric Copes as Hudson's new part-time Sexton! Laric will be helping care for our campus in a variety of ways, supporting the many needs that help our church run smoothly.



Originally from Maryland, Laric has called Raleigh home for many years. He has a love for music and plays the tuba, though he can play just about any brass instrument!

When you see Laric around campus, we hope you'll take a moment to introduce yourself and offer a warm Hudson welcome. At the same time, to help him settle into his new role, we ask that any requests for assistance be directed through Hannah Woodcock at hwoodcock@hmpc.org.

We're grateful to have Laric with us and look forward to the many ways he will support the life of our church.

A MESSAGE FROM MARGUERITE

Dear HMPC Friends and Family,

While I am all for more Americans getting back to church and increasing their gratitude to God for our many gifts, the event on the National Mall on May 17 was disappointing to me. The event organizers invited no ordained clergy from the Presbyterian Church USA, the Episcopal Church, or the United Methodist Church, even though the only clergy signer of the Declaration of Independence was a Scottish Presbyterian who was then president of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University and Princeton Seminary). Many of those who were invited to speak were from traditions who question whether our denomination, or the Episcopalians, or the United Methodists, are Christian anymore. In addition, of the 15 ordained pastors at the event, only one was female, ordained in a Pentecostal tradition.

The omission of the mainline denominations by the organizers of this event tells us how they define American Christianity. They are also promoting a narrative of America being founded as a "Christian nation" on our 250th anniversary.

For those that felt disheartened by the event, remember Jesus' words from Matthew 7:21-23. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." And many times, in our Reformed tradition, we believe that we're not sure if we're hitting the mark when we think we're doing the will of God, so we constantly confess and work together and try to keep following Jesus so we will know when to reform our ways. That message was glaringly missing from the National Mall on May 17.

I am sympathetic and agree with frustrations some of my brothers and sisters in Christ feel about the ways secular humanism has stripped prayer from schools, God from the public square, and continues to fight against a way of living that embraces both reason and faith. But my stand on these issues corresponds with our denomination, a stand which is summarized to the right from an AI response. I share this with you to confirm together our identity as Presbyterian Christians proud of our heritage, and also **the limits our theology places on the pride we have in our heritage**. As the descendant of a Scottish Presbyterian immigrant whose grandson served in General Washington's Continental Army, I especially commend point #3, Protection of Religion, in the following summary of PCUSA's view of whether our country was founded as a Christian nation.



Marguerite



A SUMMARY OF PCUSA VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES BEING FOUNDED AS CHRISTIAN NATION:

• 1. Values vs. Law

- **The Mainline View:** The Founders were undoubtedly influenced by Christian ethics, but they intentionally built a secular legal structure.
- **The Critique:** Some Christians often mistake the personal faith of individual Founders for a legal mandate to establish a Christian government.

• 2. The Enlightenment Factor

- **The Mainline View:** The U.S. government was born from the Enlightenment, not just the Bible.
- **The Critique:** Mainline scholars argue that some Christians ignore the influence of thinkers like John Locke, who prioritized reason and individual rights over religious dogma.

• 3. Protection of Religion

- **The Mainline View:** The "Wall of Separation" was designed to protect the church from being corrupted by the state.
- **The Critique:** By seeking government endorsement, mainline leaders argue some American Christians are actually endangering religious purity and repeating the mistakes of the state-run churches the Founders fled.

• 4. Religious Pluralism

- **The Mainline View:** The Founders intended to create a "haven for all," including Jews, Muslims, and "infidels."
- **The Critique:** Mainline groups argue that calling the U.S. a "Christian nation" creates a hierarchy of citizenship that violates the Equal spirit of the Constitution.

• The "Gospel of Freedom" Argument

- Mainline leaders often cite James Madison (the primary author of the Constitution) as their best evidence. Madison argued that "religion flourishes in greater purity, without than with the aid of Government."

MUSIC MINISTRY

Last Sunday's Musical Worship Service



On May 17th, we worshiped through music as Hudson's choirs and ensembles helped lead a beautiful service filled with joy and praise. Dan Vig and Hunter Cox opened worship with a wonderful four-hand piano prelude, followed by musical leadership from Joyful Noise, Youth Bells, the Hudson Handbell Ringers, and the Chancel Choir. We give thanks for the many musicians who shared their gifts and helped make the morning so meaningful.



There was a delightful reception after the service. Big thanks to Presbyterian Women, volunteers, and all those who donated food for the occasion.

HMPC Sets Trend With “Make It This Summer!”



On May 11, just three weeks after we announced our summer worship theme as “Make it This Summer” to celebrate the creative spirit God has given all of us, our local *News and Observer* paper ran an article entitled *Why Creative Retreats Are The Biggest Travel Trend in 2026—From Knitting to Painting To*

Writing. The article states, “Creative retreats are shaping up to be one of the defining travel trends of 2026, with more travelers swapping pool-side vacations for trips built around making something — whether that’s knitting, painting, writing, photography or ceramics. The shift accelerated after 2020, when many people picked up creative hobbies during long stretches at home and never put them down. Now those passions are hitting the road. Stitchtopia, one of the largest craft holiday providers, has reported a 55% increase in passenger volume since 2019, along with 254% growth in yarn-related trips alone. The pull isn’t purely creative. Paula Redmond, one half of Creative Restoration, told *The Independent* that hobby-based holidays can support mental health and nervous system regulation by giving travelers a way to rest without abandoning the productive part of themselves.”

I don’t doubt that explanation as true, but I do doubt that it’s the whole truth. I suspect it’s no coincidence creative retreats are blossoming because we all see the human creative impulse and essence being uploaded into artificial intelligence. Do we have value beyond what we can teach AI, and for any greater purpose than to have AI become more proficient than we are? Is our creative impulse indeed from God the Creator, or is it an electronic impulse that can be reproduced by zeroes and ones in data centers?

This summer, we’re going to celebrate creativity —what has been uniquely human and uniquely individual in each of us—our voices, our vision, our dialects. In our submersion in our own experiences of creativity and our study of others’ creativity, we’ll look together at Fujimora’s “theology of making” and see if we agree that it’s more faithful to the Creator as a foundation for ministry, rather than the “theology of plumbing” that tells us we need to fix the world.

Even if you painted something in high school, did needlepoint twenty years ago, if you have kept these



works, [submit one of them to our art show](#). During the month of June, come hang out during our 9:30 hour and after worship in Westminster Hall and learn what has inspired people worshipping around you to create. In July, we’ll explore the creativity of music for worship and in worship. **Fill out [this Google form](#)** as we’ll look for ways

to incorporate your favorite hymns, carols and songs in our worship services. For August, consult our reading list (below). One of the books was just released as a Netflix movie, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. You can read the book or see this and get the gist. Each novel will form the sermon theme as heard through the gospel that constantly proclaims, God is doing a new thing.

In us. At Hudson Memorial. In our world.

- Pastor Marguerite



As part of our summer worship theme, August will be focused on literature. Pastor Marguerite has created an adult summer reading list for you to prepare for the literature portion of the summer. Enjoy!

Mona's Eyes - Thomas Schlessler

Pearce Oysters - Joselyn Takacs

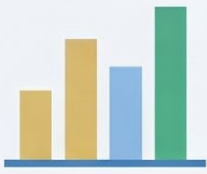
Remarkably Bright Creatures - Shelley van Pelt

The Violin Conspiracy - Brendan Slocumb



Financial Summary Through April 2026

Key Performance Highlights



Total General Fund Surplus

This reflects a favorable budget variance compared to the year-to-date budget.

7% Reduction in Total Expenses

Actual spending was lower than the budgeted amount.

\$495,024 in Operating Cash

The church maintains a healthy liquidity position in its primary checking accounts.

Comparative Performance Data

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance (\$)
Pledges	\$307,907	\$301,639	\$6,268 +
Non-Pledge Offering	\$40,165	\$49,183	(\$9,018) -
Other Income	\$62,083	\$55,031	\$7,052 +
Total Income	\$412,014	\$408,142	\$3,872 +
Expenses	\$309,969	\$333,540	\$23,571 +
Total	\$102,045	\$74,602	\$27,443 +

Critical Operational Insights



Pledge Stability vs. Offering Volatility

While pledges exceeded targets, non-pledge offerings underperformed by 18%.



Property & Personnel Savings

Property and staff costs remained significantly under budget, contributing to the surplus. However, this may change as new needs in Personnel and Property arise.



Year-Over-Year Revenue Growth

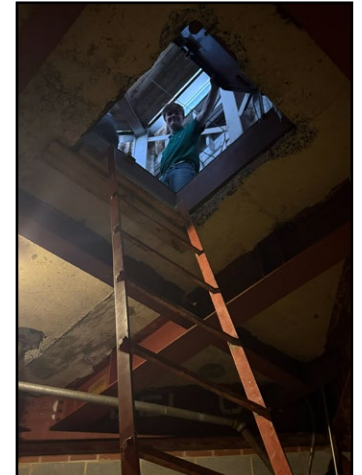
Total General Fund revenue is up 5% (\$20,496) compared to the same period in 2025.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Steeple Climb



Did you know it's a tradition for our Confirmation Classes to climb up to the steeple? Last Sunday we had youth from our last two confirmation classes climb a series of ladders and catwalks to get to the top of Hudson's steeple. The group had a great time and enjoyed the cool view!



MISSION

May & June Special Offering - Shelter Ministries



For May and June, our Special Offering will support the Shelter Ministries fund - which covers our contribution to the annual Habitat Build, the Avery County Adult Mission Trip, and maintains reserves to send aid when disaster strikes, as we saw most recently with Hurricane Helene in Western NC. You can give by placing in the offering plate (designated to "Shelter Ministries"), or giving online (go to hmpc.org or scan the QR code).

May & June Tend My Sheep Offering - Raleigh Rescue Mission

In May and June we are collecting men's boxer brief underwear in all sizes, men's sizes M-XL white t-shirts, toothpaste, and wide-tooth and fine-tooth combs for Raleigh Rescue Mission. For nearly 60 years, the Raleigh Rescue Mission has served those experiencing homelessness in our community - offering shelter, hope, and the love of Christ to more than 750,000 men, women, and children. Through comprehensive life programming and a steadfast commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty, Raleigh Rescue Mission walks alongside individuals and families toward lasting transformation.



Wake Interfaith Immigration Event on June 7

On Sunday, June 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm, people of many faiths will gather at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in downtown Raleigh for Interfaith United for Immigrants, a gathering with music, prayer, learning, and witness in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Attendees will hear from speakers who work alongside immigrant communities every day, lift our voices in song from across faith traditions, and explore what it means to be a people of welcome. The event is free and open to all, with no registration required. There is plenty of free parking in the church's lot. Come ready to listen, reflect, and take action alongside neighbors of many faiths.

More information at wakeinterfaithimmigration.org.

(Shared by Jay Cummins, who is involved with Interfaith United for Immigrants)

INTERFAITH UNITED FOR IMMIGRANTS
A WAKE INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION EVENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
at Edenton Street United Methodist Church
228 West Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27603

RESPECT FOR IMMIGRANTS BRINGS US TOGETHER
Join people of many faiths to affirm the dignity of our immigrant neighbors - welcoming, protecting and standing with them. Through song, Word, learning and witness, we turn respect into action.

Light overcomes darkness
Dignity over fear

All are welcome. No registration required.

PNC

Update from the PNC

The Pastoral Nominating Committee, led by moderator Mary Schindo, continues to meet on a regular basis as we undertake the process of finding Hudson's next head of staff. We continue, as Corinthians tells us, to do "all things decently and in order."

We are dissecting the feedback we have received from congregational meetings, surveys and instructions from our Presbytery Vacancy Counselor. Our next order of business will be to meet with existing church staff for their feedback and suggestions.

Transitional Pastor Marguerite Sirrime met with the committee in recent weeks to help us understand our responsibilities in preparing the Ministry Discernment Profile, which we will post to the Presbyterian USA's Church Leadership Connection.

That process is underway but not yet complete.

As we continue this process, we ask for God's guidance and prayers of support from the congregation.



Summer Fellowship

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Summer Suppers

Wednesday, June 10 - 6:00pm

Wednesday, July 8 - 6:00pm

Wednesday, August 12 - 6:00pm

\$6 per person - Ages 5 and under eat free.



Fellowship Events



Fellowship Fun: Movie Night

Saturday, June 27 at 4:30pm

Beat the heat with an indoor movie!

Feel free to bring a picnic dinner.

Popcorn will be provided.

Fellowship Friday: BINGO

Friday, July 31 at- 6:30

Doors open at 6:00. Bingo begins at 6:30.

All ages welcome.

Bring a picnic dinner if you'd like.

Desserts provided!



Fellowship Friday: Live Music

Friday, August 21

Music from 6-8pm, Event begins at 5:00.

Hudson's West Lawn

Adult Summer Series

First Session on May 31 at 9:30am

"Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice"

Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, God calls believers to welcome the stranger. We find numerous examples in scripture of God's people modeling ways both to extend hospitality and to receive it. Jimmy Hulsey and John James will co-lead a discussion on how to live into hospitality as a congregation and as individuals.

GRADUATIONS

Celebrating Graduates!

If you are or have a member of your family who is graduating from college, grad school, or high school this spring, we invite you to share the below information with [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) by **May 24th**.



Let us know the...

Name

Degree

Institution

Honors, etc

Feel free to share a photo as well. These will be published in the May 29 issue of the Weekly Window.

CALENDAR

This Week at Hudson...

Sunday, May 24

10:30 am - Worship (Pentecost) - Sanctuary

10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva, Playgarden

11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster North

Monday, May 25

Office Closed - Memorial Day

8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

Tuesday, May 26

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom

11:30 am - Hannah Circle - Off site

7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troop 376 - Geneva Hall

Wednesday, May 27

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, May 28

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge

6:00 pm - Pastor Nominating Committee - Room 200

6:00 pm - Women at the Well (Monthly) - Grace's House

7:00 pm - Presbyterian Pint - Manchester's Grill

Saturday, May 30

11:00 am - Senior Sunday Rehearsal - Sanctuary