

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 5, 2025



## *This Weekend at Hudson*



### **FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, Dec. 6 | 10am - 12pm | Westminster Hall**

Join us for this family-friendly event in Westminster Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, 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!



### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 7 | 10:30 | Sanctuary**



As Advent begins, we're thrilled to introduce a new way to experience the joy of the Christmas story—our intergenerational Paper Bag Pageant! This year, the entire congregation is invited to take part as we bring this beloved story to life together. This playful, meaningful approach is designed to bring all ages together, spark new connections, and create shared memories that last well beyond the service.

What makes it a Paper Bag Pageant? When you arrive, you'll receive a sealed paper bag with simple costume pieces for a surprise role in the nativity. During worship, you'll open your bag, discover your part, and join the story as it is read by a narrator. All roles are silent and assigned at random—children might become angels, adults may find themselves as Baby Jesus or a Wiseperson—and the joy is in experiencing it together. For those with mobility issues or who are more hesitant to participate, you will be given a bag to be in our Hallelujah chorus, with colorful ribbons to wave from your seat.

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, December 7 | 4:00 | Sanctuary**

The fact that Christ was born at night, that the message was proclaimed in the darkness to shepherds and wise men



following a star, should not be lost in the bright joy of celebrating on Christmas morning. Christ came in the darkness and it did not overcome His light. In this service, Pastor Marguerite will share a sermon exploring the Biblical image of God as shepherd, the deacons will be available for prayer after the service, the Chancel Choir will be singing beautiful music, and anointing of oil will be available to all during a time of reflection on Psalm 23. If you or anyone you know needs a special word of hope in a tough time, please come and invite them along.

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## YOUTH ARTS-LED SUNDAY

Last Sunday was the 4th Youth Arts Sunday this year, and once again, the youth did a wonderful job sharing their gifts of drama, music, and worship leadership. Thanks to the youth, Rich Richards, and all who helped make it a very special worship service!



## POINSETTIAS

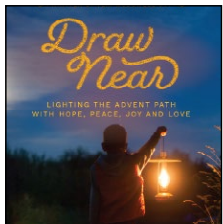


The Chancel Guild invites you to honor or remember a special person with a donation of \$15 toward Advent preparations, including poinsettias and greenery. Names will be listed in the December 21st and Christmas Eve worship bulletins. Return an information form (located on the flower calendar board outside of room #103) with your check to the office, or place it in the offering plate by December 14th. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check, and please specify if your donation is in honor or memory of anyone. You may take your poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

### ***Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love***

Each day of Advent, this devotional offers a gentle invitation to draw near — to Scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you'll light the way week by week with hope, peace, joy and love, preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us.



The devotional is available for download [HERE](#), or printed copies are available at Sanctuary doors. If you would like a printed copy to be mailed to you, let [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) know.

## CHRISTMAS JOY MUSIC WORSHIP

**10:30 Worship | Sunday, Dec. 14**

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 14 in the Sanctuary. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!



### ***PW Needs Your Help!***

All our wonderful music ensembles and choirs participate in Christmas Joy, and Presbyterian Women hosts the reception following this joyous worship service. **This year's reception will also recognize and thank Rich Richards**, Director of Youth Ministries and Children's Music Director, for his talented leadership at Hudson these past years. We are in need of volunteers! **Please sign up [HERE](#)** for a volunteer position and/or contribute a food item for this joyful celebration. You can also sign up for a position or food item by emailing Sharon Cole at [sharoncole@carolina.rr.com](mailto:sharoncole@carolina.rr.com).





# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## *Second Sunday of Advent*

**THIS Sunday, December 7**



10:30 - Worship - Sanctuary  
Intergenerational Pageant

4:00 - Blue Christmas - Sanctuary  
"A Service of Healing & Hope"

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

**Sunday, December 14**

10:30 - Sanctuary - Christmas Joy Music Worship

Following Worship there will be a reception in Westminster Hall celebrating the musicians, the joy of Christmas, as well as honoring Rich Richards (His last day as Director of Youth Ministry & Children's Music is 12/19).

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Sunday, December 21**

10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary

## *Christmas Eve*

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:00pm - Candlelight Service

7:00pm - Candlelight Service

Nursery will be available at the 5:00 service only.  
Only the 5:00 service will be livestreamed.

## 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 [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org).



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

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



## Goals and Objectives

Hudson's second Brunch Church on Nov. 23 was a wonderful, spirit-filled event! About 140 people of all ages sat around tables to worship, share food and fellowship, and discuss goals that the church might adopt to carry out our newly updated Vision Statement. The Mission Study Team is thrilled with the level of involvement of the congregation! We are also amazed at the long list of goals and objectives that came out of that time together.

The job of the MST is to identify the goals that support our new vision statement and represent the congregational input we've received over the course of the activities this fall. We need time to make sure we represent what we think we heard from the congregation, and we are busy categorizing the goals and objectives developed on Nov. 23. We're also connecting them to the new vision statement, CAT priorities, and brainstorm ideas. One challenge we're facing is that not one of the goals or objectives is a SAM – Specific, Attainable, and Measurable. We know we were pressed for time so participants didn't get down to that level, but we also know that level is where "the devil is in the details." We anticipate being able to add some ideas based on guidance from Holy Cow! and our transitional pastor, but many of the goals and objectives are going to need leadership's help in determining feasibility.

Meanwhile, we are meeting at least through Dec. 10, and possibly Dec. 17 as well, to bring this work to a good and useful conclusion. We'll write up our takeaways for Session and the congregation in the final sections of the Mission Study Report. The date we originally set to deliver the report to Session for approval was January 19, 2026. Pray that we might be guided toward an earlier completion!



Once again your support and participation has been outstanding and we are committed to capturing the Holy Spirit in action at Hudson Memorial through this process. Stay tuned for more articles featuring other CAT results not previously shared.

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST WEEK

## Hudson's New Vision Statement

**WE SEEK TO  
WELCOME WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST,  
TRUST IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND  
GROW WITH THE HELP OF CHRIST.**



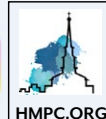
## WEATHER & SAFETY

### Inclement Weather Info

In case of inclement weather, the church will notify the local **ABC (WTVD)** and **NBC (WRAL)** television stations if worship will be delayed or cancelled. We will also post on the **church's website, Facebook, and Instagram pages**. Please check the closings before venturing out in bad weather. We will do our best to have the sidewalks and steps cleared, but there is no guarantee that there will not be slippery spots. It is also possible that there will not be child care on Sunday morning or youth activities in the afternoon.

On weekdays, typically if Wake County Public Schools are closed, the office will also be closed, so check television stations and our website before heading to the church. The preschool will always

be closed on days Wake County public schools are closed.





## End-of-Year Gifts FOR YOUR 2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

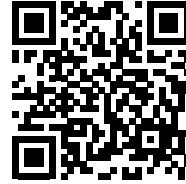
As you consider your end-of-year giving, we want to make you aware of IRS guidelines that allow for a donation to be included on your 2025 giving statement for tax purposes. Simply dating a check in December is insufficient according to the IRS guidelines – therefore please consider the following deadlines:

- Given in the offering plate or hand-deliver 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 23 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.

The church office will be closed December 24-26 but otherwise be open regular hours. We are open 9am-4pm Monday through Thursday and 9am-12:30pm on Fridays, so please consider this for any in-person deliveries. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Erica Hairston, Business Manager, at [ehairston@hmhc.org](mailto:ehairston@hmhc.org) or 919-390-2664.

## Call for Officer Recommendations

Elder and Deacon nominations will take place during December. If you have a recommendation of church members (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. 7, Dec 14, and Dec. 21. 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 2026. Please contact Caroline Smart, 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

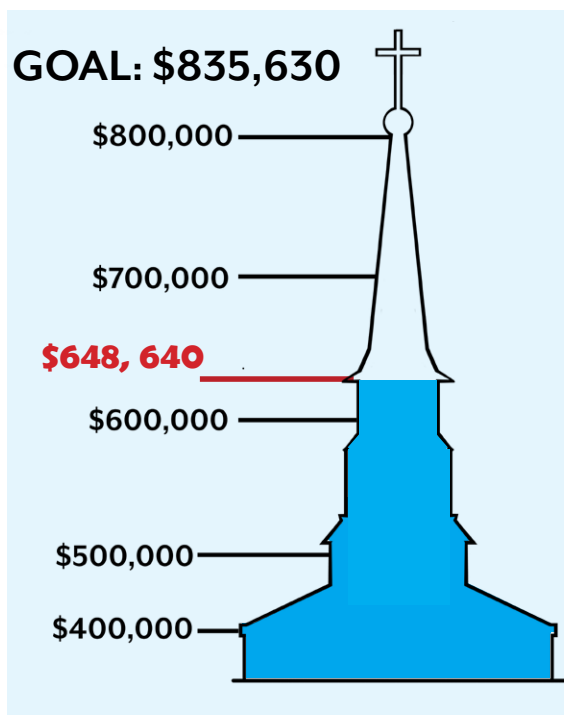
### Youth "Friendsgiving"

A group of 60 students, parents, advisors, staff, and an adorable dog attended a youth Thanksgiving meal at the end of November.

It was a great time of friends, family, fellowship, and fun!



## 2026 Pledge Campaign PROGRESS UPDATE



As of December 4, 2025, our received pledges total \$648,640. We currently have **132** households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 130 pledging households for a total of \$622,244.

***There's still time to pledge for 2026!***

***Here's how:***

- You may pledge online [here](#)
- You can call the church office 919-787-1086 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.
- Email your 2026 pledge amount to HMPC Business Manager, Erica Hairston, at [ehairston@hmhc.org](mailto:ehairston@hmhc.org). Please include in the email your planned method of giving: Monthly EFT bank draft initiated by HMPC; Bill Pay initiated within your online banking service; Check/cash donations made throughout the year.

## 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

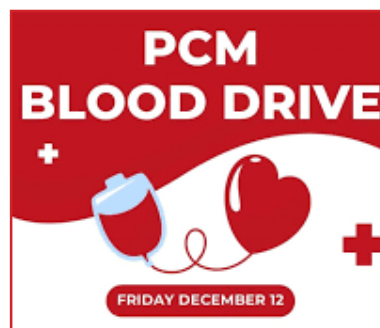
Transitions offers both a men's campus and a women's campus tailored to serve the unique needs of each group which includes shelter beds, meals, and basic clothing while providing, among other things, a long-term recovery program, an emergency drop-in shelter, non-medical detox, and family services. As winter nears, their clients' need for both women's and men's warm clothing grows and specific items and toiletries are always in need.

Thus, **Tend My Sheep for December is gathering underwear (male or female, all sizes needed), socks, gloves, beanies/knit caps, toothpaste and toothbrushes w/case to help meet their needs.**



## Presbyterian Campus Ministry IS SPONSORING A BLOOD DRIVE

**Friday, December 12  
12:30-5:00pm**



**West Raleigh  
Presbyterian Church  
27 Horne St  
Raleigh, NC 27607**

**Information and  
sign-up for the  
blood drive [HERE](#).**

***Thanks for helping us save lives this Advent!***

# FAITH FORMATION

## Nine O'Clock Class

9:00 | Sunday, Dec. 7 | Room 200

Facilitated by Don Slater

This week the class will discuss the topic "How Biblical Poetry Communicates". All are welcome to join.

## The Seekers

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 7 | WH South

"The First Christmas"

Facilitated by Bob Stowe



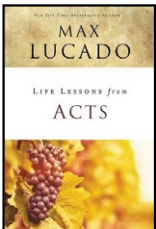
**This Sunday** the class will learn about "The First Christmas" using the various versions of the Biblical Christmas stories.

## Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 7 | WH North  
"Jesus Is Gone! Now What Do We Do?"

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

This fall, the Presbyterian Ponderings class is studying the Acts of the Apostles, guided by *Life Lessons from Acts* written by Max Lucado. We will look at the struggles and successes of the early church and examine how the foundations of our faith, established by Christ, were shared. The Presbyterian Ponderings class is discussion-based, and team-led.



## Seekers & Ponderings Christmas Gathering

The Seekers & Presbyterian Ponderings are cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 13th, at 3:00pm** at the home of Shirley & Richard Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are also invited.



## Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Dec. 9 - 6:30am - Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets via Zoom and in-person (on the WH Patio, often around a fire), alternating weekly. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. At in-person meetings we provide coffee and Bibles. On Zoom we invite you to use an online Bible or pull out your own hard copy and brew some joe at home. 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 Lesley at [lash-jacobsen@hmpe.org](mailto:lash-jacobsen@hmpe.org). Contact Tripp Bradshaw with any questions about the group you may have.

## DEACONS

### Deacons' Bench

BY JOANNA HULSEY,  
DECEMBER DEACON ON CALL



Making phone calls. Sending cards. Preparing and delivering meals. Offering prayers. Dropping by to visit. Attending memorial services. These are many of the ways the Deacons at Hudson carry out our call to "compassion, witness, and service." The early church recognized the importance of caring for their community, of being the heart and hands of Jesus for one another, and so appointed Deacons to this healing ministry. We now continue that ancient tradition of compassionate care.

This Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm our church will be gathering in the sanctuary for a worship service that will offer time and space for reflection and hope. For some, the Advent journey to Christmas is joyful, for some it is hectic, for some it is lonely, for some it is sad. However you are traveling this season, we trust that you will know comfort and healing in the presence of Christ in community. Do come, bring family and friends, find Jesus on the way to Bethlehem.



## Church Doors - Access Update

We recently switched to keeping our exterior doors locked during evening activities. We got positive feedback about the added security and decided to continue this practice moving forward. Church doors will only be unlocked during worship services and certain special events. If your group meets in the evenings, please contact your group leader for the door code. The keypad is located at the Cranbrook Road entrance.

### CALENDAR

#### **Sunday, December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200  
9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North  
9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South  
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary  
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva  
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North  
11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall  
11:45 am - Coffee and Conversation - Chapel  
11:45 am - Youth Bells - WH South  
4:00 pm - "Blue Christmas" Service - Sanctuary  
5:00 pm - Youth Activities (MS caroling/HS cookies)

#### **Monday, December 8**

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary  
7:00 pm - Finance Committee - Zoom  
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

#### **Tuesday, December 9**

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom  
11:00 am - Elizabeth/Esther Circle - Chapel  
11:30 am - Hannah Circle - WH South  
6:45 pm - Preschool Board - WH South  
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall  
7:00 pm - Adult Ed Committee - Zoom  
7:00 pm - Miriam Circle - Off site

#### **Wednesday, December 10**

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel/ Zoom  
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South  
6:00 pm - MST - WH North  
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

#### **Thursday, December 11**

11:00 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge  
6:30 pm - Mission Committee - WH South  
6:30 pm - Staff Christmas Party - Richards' House

#### **Saturday, December 13**

9:00 am - Christmas Joy Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### BIRTHDAYS



## December Birthdays



- 1: Daina Carter, Ian-Callum Cox
- 2: Chandler Christenbury, Emily Carpenito, Matthew Rahn
- 3: Tiya Komono, Scott Billman
- 4: Benjamin Rahn, Olivia Nduka
- 5: Yvonne Peterson, Jill Priester
- 6: Ellie Gatten, Ronnie Strickland-Apple, Elisa Komono, Alice Wombwell
- 7: Brandon Kever, Mark McDougal
- 9: Angela Baker-James
- 10: Scarlett Maxwell, Maddy Ward, Marsha Flueckinger
- 11: Tom Carpenito, Wes Maxwell, Bella Anderson
- 12: Max Delgado, Holt Burnsed, Ava Farrell, Forrest Carter
- 13: Karlene Perry, Gerry Bowles, Lucille Nicholas, Will Eichler
- 14: Ezechial Hawkins
- 15: Lem Buruah
- 16: Nancy Law Rogers, Henry Dudeck, Elizabeth van Die
- 17: Monica Maxwell
- 18: Christine Bond, Linda Measamer, Jennifer Mercer
- 20: April Morris, Dickens Sanchez
- 21: Durban Rhame
- 22: Leo Buruah, Mary Schindo
- 24: Blake Ayers, Ron Ash
- 25: Susan Spencer, Holly Burge
- 26: Kayla Dilger
- 27: Dottie Burch
- 28: Cheryl McDougal, Irene Fleming
- 29: Keto Komono, John Williams, Jackson Autry,
- 30: Lauren Klimczyk, Barbara Coleman, Bryar Dunn
- 31: Shirley Blanks, Malcolm Cox