

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

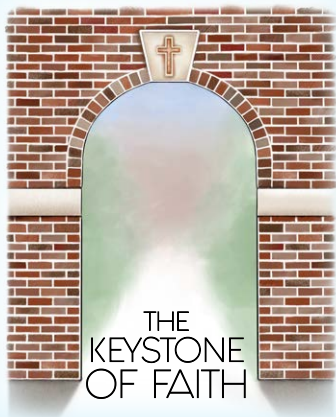
OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 3, 2023



November 5 is Commitment Sunday

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND MAKE YOUR 2024 PLEDGE!



Over the last six weeks, you have been hearing people's testimonies about God's work through our church. These stories have been spiritual, practical, and personal. We know *you* have your own story about how God has touched and used you through the ministry of this church.

We invite you to pledge your time, talent, and treasure for 2024 this Sunday in worship. We have mailed pledge brochures, which you can bring on Sunday or mail to the church. There will also be brochures available in the pews in the Sanctuary. If you cannot make it Sunday, you can [pledge online](#) through our website. Our financial goal is \$825,000 in pledge income for 2024 to meet the budget requests from our various ministry teams in the church. This is a 9.1% increase from last year.

Fall Festival

AN AFTERNOON OF COMMUNITY & FUN!

A good time was had by all at the Fall Festival last Sunday! This was a community event hosted by HMPC and St. Mark's UMC. We had approximately 500 people in attendance! There was a cake walk, inflatable obstacle course, crafts, games, and 15 families decorated a trunk for Trunk-or-Treat. Fourteen HMPC Youth created a Lorax-themed trunk that was a hit with the trick-or-treaters. BIG THANKS to the Welcoming Team and all of the volunteers and snack donors!

MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 2!



FALL FESTIVAL



A few more photos
from last Sunday's
Fall Festival!



Reformation Sunday



Last Sunday was Reformation Sunday and we were joined by NCSU's Pipes & Drums ensemble! They played during and after the worship service.



This month we have been learning about 4 reformers: Katharina Schutz Zell, Uldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, and Marie Dentiere. We hope this has deepened your understanding of the tradition you walk in.



This Sunday ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

To commemorate All Saints' Sunday, we will toll the bell and remember the Saints who entered God's everlasting kingdom this year: Dottie Davis, Jane Hamner, Judy James, Virginia Lilyquist, Jean Macomber, Tere Mendoza (*not pictured*), Rachel Moore (*not pictured*), Juanita Ross, Bob Terry, and Ron van Vactor.



Memorial Garden Dedication & Events SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 9:30AM



We are excited to finally dedicate the Memorial Garden after lots of generosity from the congregation and hard work by the Memorial Garden Board over the course of multiple years. The events on Sunday, November 12th begin at 9:30am in Westminster Hall with an educational forum 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. We will then begin worship in the Sanctuary and conclude worship in the Memorial Garden with communion and the dedication. Following worship, there will be a time of fellowship in the Garden.

Christ As Our Keystone

MINUTE FOR MISSION - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 -MARIE WALLDEN



In early 2021, my younger brother, a COVID nurse, died. In the midst of the loneliness of the pandemic, I was bereft. I didn't know where to go or what to do with such overwhelming grief. But somehow I knew without knowing that Hudson was my safe place, where I could sit with difficult questions and feelings in a community

where I felt accepted without needing to be understood. As we return again and again to the idea of Christ as our Keystone, each one of us is a brick, distinct, yet together a mighty fortress, a refuge for each other in a bruised and battered world. This mighty fortress is a place where we can rest in the confounding "Both/And" of life: the world is both broken and, with Christ as our Keystone, we continue to believe in its beauty and promise.

Many of us have wandered over to Presbyterianism from different faith traditions, often ones with a dogmatic or hierarchical approach. In churches with such prescriptive directives, questioning can be seen as a dangerous challenge to piety and holiness. When one has been told what to do, one must follow those rules. Those churches are entities quite separate from their members.

At Hudson, and in my experience of Presbyterianism as a whole, we are called to start with the soul and move outward. In our togetherness, we create the *church*, and our church is circular—it gathers us to refresh our weary souls, to support us in discernment. We are better than we might otherwise be alone. The source of our strength is not that we are all the same. Our strength is that we are in communion with others who are also seeking a just path in life.

We are called together as a loving, supportive community not to be told what to do, certainly not to tell others what to do, but to rest in stillness and discern God's call for each one of us as individuals. In a noisy, angry, partisan world with so much black and white thinking, this Keystone and these bricks are a shelter where we can humbly acknowledge that sometimes we have more questions than answers. And our community tells us that

we are accepted as we are, assuring us that questions lead us to deeper truths and grow our faith. Hudson reminds us who we are in Christ, so that we might in turn go out to love and serve others, living in Christ's image.

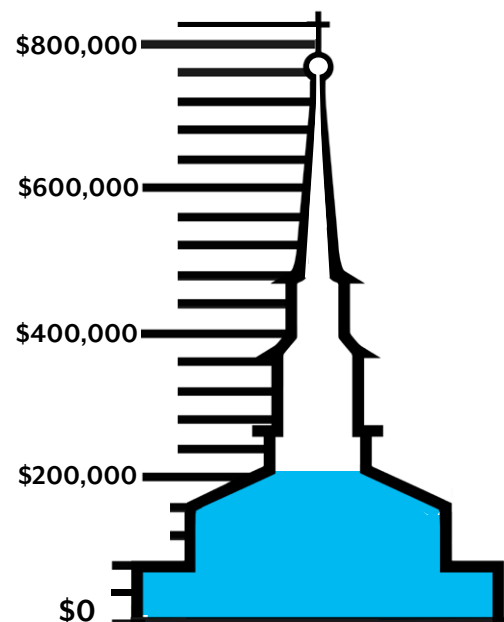
With Christ as our Keystone, we are held together in a faith that is unafraid to keep growing and learning. Hudson reminds me that we live in abundance—an abundance of love, of refrigerators full of food, of warm houses in the winter. With an increase in our annual giving, we strengthen the circle of our Hudson family and the outreach Hudson can accomplish in the larger community, where so many need so much. With this intentionality, I'm considering what more I can give of my time and resources to keep our community supported, to carry out Christ's ministry, and I invite you to do the same.

2024 Pledge Campaign Progress

AS OF NOVEMBER 3, 2023

We are on our way to reaching our pledge goal! So far, our leaders and early pledges have contributed \$209,912. We will provide an update each week.

GOAL: \$825,000



Update About HMPC's Rise Against Hunger Project



• Meals packaged at our Rise Against Hunger Experience have shipped! At this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. RAH shared with us that meals we packaged are headed to the Philippines!

Rise Against Hunger said:

The Philippines consists of over 7,000 islands in the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean. One of the most environmental-disaster prone countries in the world, it faces near constant threats of natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions. These disasters cause displacement and major loss of livelihoods and infrastructure, and they disproportionately affect poor communities in rural areas, where people rely on agriculture and fishing. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes the Philippines as having a “moderate” level of hunger overall. Rise Against Hunger serves the regions of the Philippines where hunger is most urgent.

Your impact

To address some of the food security challenges families and communities in the Philippines face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations providing meals in educational settings that support health and livelihood training. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. The meals HMPC packaged will help ensure that people have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives, while also creating opportunities to learn valuable skills and trades that will serve their families for years to come. Read more about the impact your meals are making by checking out [this story](#) on the Rise Against Hunger blog!



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.

PRESCHOOL

Firetruck Visit to HMP

This week HMP was treated to a visit from Fire Station #9. The firemen showed us their tools and uniforms and even let us sit in the firetruck! Shout out to Ms. Jen for putting on the uniform; the kiddos loved it!



PROPERTY

The Grass is Growing

Recently, the church got an anonymous donation to try and grow grass on two rectangular plots of land south of the sanctuary. We are grateful for the members who are keeping watch over it and watering it! Thanks be to God for so many of you who are invested in making our campus a welcoming place for all.



Below photos: Chris Robbins of Red Oak Landscaping preparing the seedbeds and then spreading the seed/peat moss mixture. John Oldenburg performing site supervision.



BOY SCOUTS

New Woodshed by the Fire Pit



Special thanks to Boy Scout Will Horton, HMPC member Billy Branch's grandson, who coordinated the building of this new woodshed for his Eagle Scout project. The project was approved by the Property

Committee and completed two weekends ago. The woodshed is filled with wood, chopped up by HMPC members Todd Wadford and Craig Morris from a fallen tree on the Langley property. This wood gets used by the Waking Up with the Word men's Bible study and events held at the fire pit. We are grateful to Will and all the Scouts who worked with him on this project.

SINGLE WAY

Single Way

This week! November 7 at 11:30am

Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. We are so pleased to have some new faces in our group this fall! New people are always welcome to join!



Join us for our next gathering!

November 7, 2023 at 11:30am
Imperial Garden
7713 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh

Please call Dee Blackerby at 919-846-6241 by November 4 if you will be joining us so we can give the restaurant a head count.

Save the Date!

Single Way Holiday Luncheon

December 31, 2023 | Westminster Hall

Fun and Games, Festive Music, and Holiday Cheer!
Further information will be provided soon.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Schedule

This Sunday

11:30am - Youth Sunday School

12:15pm - Youth Bells - Sanctuary

5:00-7:00pm - Middle School Youth Only!



Going along with the theme for the year, "In Joy", please come with \$5 for dinner. Also bring with you (in mind) a SONG that you enjoy that brings you JOY!!! We will be sharing these with one another.

Looking ahead...

November 12 - High Schoolers packing "Care Exam Packages" for HMPC College students. Please bring treats like homemade cookies or sweets with you.

November 17-19 - Middle School Retreat at Camp Kanata--Registration is closed for this trip.

November 19 - "Friendsgiving Meal" for ALL youth!

November 26 - NO Youth Group

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Triangle Interfaith Service

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

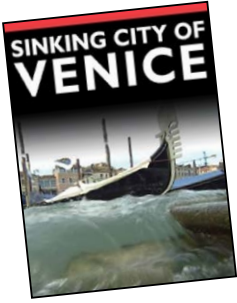
THE GATHERING

Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Sunday, November 5

Climate Change - Part 2



Facilitated by Susan Bradshaw

We will view and discuss PBS's
Nova: Sinking City of Venice |
Weighing the Solutions

The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

Sundays, November 5 and 19

"Christianity & The History of America"



Facilitated by Ron Ash

Religion and politics have been intertwined since the first settlers arrived on this continent. This class will take a look at the role Christianity has played in the

thinking and actions of the American people. The notion of a "Christian Nation" to describe us will be examined.

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 *Freed***

to Become an Heir. 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.

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, November 7 | 6:30am | Patio



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@hmpe.org.

Women at the Well

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@hmpe.org. Current participants will receive an email to confirm participation.

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 5

9:00am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200
9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South
9:30 am- Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
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 - WH North
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
12:00 pm - Youth Music - WH South
3:00 pm - Jane Hamner Memorial Service

Monday, November 6

6:30 pm - Children's Committee - Zoom
8:00 pm - How It Works (Al-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, November 7

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Patio
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge
7:00 pm - Confirmation Ministry - Zoom
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

5:30 pm - Worship Committee- Karl Hudson Rm
6:30 pm - Giving Ministry - WH South

Friday, November 10

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Saturday, November 11

8:30 am - Session Retreat - First Presbyterian, Raleigh

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Sharpe Family! Ron and Margaret Sharpe were blessed with the birth of two great-granddaughters during the month of October. Wren Iris Clements was born on Oct. 12th to Victoria and Bryant Clements, and Piper Logan Sturgis was born on Oct. 19th, to Michelle and Jonathan Sturgis. Piper is also church member Kathy Sharpe's granddaughter.



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