

the weekly Window

December 31, 2021

Out to the life and ministry of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)

PERSONNEL

Celebrating the Ministry of Carol Yeargin



Carol Yeargin has served as the Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church organist for 14 years. Her ministry through music on piano and organ have guided the congregation in voice and song in extraordinary ways. She has accompanied the choir, handbells, youth and children with steadiness and joy. Of course, Carol's playing has been foundational at weddings, memorial services, concerts and recordings, and we all have been comforted by her preludes, postludes and special music during the offertory. With all of this, Carol's warm and gentle personality has been easy for everyone to work with. Carol is retiring following worship on Sunday, January 9th. We invite the congregation to come on the 9th and celebrate Carol's ministry during worship and at the reception to follow.

EPIPHANY

A Star Gift for Epiphany



On Sunday, January 9th, we will be passing out a Star Gift to you. It is a paper star with a word on it. We ask that you stick your star word up somewhere in your house where you will see it on a daily basis. You are invited to ponder what the significance of this word might be in your life and what God might be saying to you through this simple message of a word. The magi brought gifts to Jesus after they received the gift of a star to follow. The star symbolizes God's generosity in our lives.

As the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship* says, "The symbolism of light (at Epiphany) is important—not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests, the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ."

We hope you will pick up your star gift on Sunday, January 9th as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord.

A Note from Barbara

Join the Hudson Choir!

New Year's resolutions are hard to keep, but I have one for you which will add joy and health to your life, yet doesn't include strenuous exercise... JOIN A CHOIR! A February 2021 study done by the University of Helsinki, found that singing in a choir created master musical multitaskers which equals better verbal flexibility and brain activity. Another study in a cancer journal found that cancer patients and caregivers experienced a boost to their immune systems and moods while lowering stress after only one hour of singing in a choir. The Oxford Brookes University studied choral singers, solo singers, group and solo instrumentalists with team sport and solo sport enthusiasts and found similar levels of happiness, self-esteem, and psychological well-being. Singing may lower your blood pressure, too. In a Harvard study, a woman whose blood pressure was so high the surgeons postponed her operation was able to lower her BP over 20 points by singing six favorite hymns! For all of these reasons as well as singing praises to God with your church friends, I recommend joining a choir - we always have room for you.

Here are our upcoming rehearsal details for 2022:

January 5th at 6:15PM – Hudson Handbell Ringers begin 2022 rehearsals

January 5th at 7:30PM in the Sanctuary – Chancel Choir begins 2022 rehearsals

January 9th at 11:30AM in Geneva Hall – Children's Music Ministry begins – Joyful Noise (elementary) & Wee Worshipers (3&4 year olds)

January 9th at 4:30PM in Westminster Hall – Youth Music begins – Handbells for 5th-12th graders

Please contact [Barbara](#) for more details.



Mac's Meanderings

The Spiritual Exercise of Examen

In my sermon on Christmas Eve I talked about how exhausted we are culturally right now. We are



exhausted for a variety of reasons, and I highlighted that mental health professionals are overrun with people who are struggling.

In that sermon I suggested that our faith should be a source of relief and hope during these exhausting times. But like going to a counselor or psychiatrist regularly, your faith needs similar regularity, rhythm and commitment. I suggested an ancient spiritual practice called Examen. Here's a short section from my sermon:

Just last week I got together with one of my groups in the church that is studying the theology of Presbyterians. I know, that sounds really riveting! (It actually is, in my humble opinion.) However, one of the daily practices our study recommended was engaging two questions:

- *Recall the moment of your day when you felt most like the person God created you to be, when you felt most happiest, most productive, or most at peace.*
- *Recall the moment of your day you felt far from God, when you felt unhappy, troubled, or stressed.*

What if each of us ended our day by lighting a candle, like the light of Christ on our communion table, and grounding our day in these two questions? Questions that frame things differently than the questions the larger culture wants us to answer. Questions that ground us mentally, spiritually and physically in proximity to God. For if there is a God, and particularly a God who came as a vulnerable child, in the flesh, to be near us, and show that they care, what questions could possibly be more important than these?

In this season of Christmas, I invite you into committed faith formation practices that ground you in the hope and peace of Jesus Christ.

With Care & Hope,

YOUTH MINISTRY

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 2...

No youth activities scheduled for our regular morning or afternoon meeting times.

RETREATS & CONFERENCES:

Montreat Youth Conference

July 17 - 23, 2022

(for rising 9th grade to graduated 12th grade)

Massanetta Presbyterian Middle School Conference

June 21-24, 2022

(for rising 6th, 7th and 8th grades)

For both trips, forms and money will be due on

Monday, January 3, 2022

Contact Rich Richards if you plan on going.

Mission Trip to Memphis

(Rising 9th to Graduated Seniors)

Tentatively we have this wonderful opportunity to go to Memphis through Youth Mission Co. for a High School Mission Trip.

The dates (not yet confirmed) are June 26-July 1.

2022 GIVING MINISTRY

Pledge Campaign Update Almost There!

We are filled with gratitude for all of you who have pledged your time, talent and/or financial resources to Christ's ministry through Hudson for 2022! We are closing in on our goal of 200 households pledging and \$800,000 committed towards mission, congregational care, fellowship, education and worship!

Currently there are 174 pledging member households for a total of \$731,658. This time last year we had collected 172 pledges for a total of \$712,669.

It is not too late to pledge. You may pledge online [here](#), email your pledge to Cheri Thomas, HMPC Bookkeeper, or call Pat Cash at 919-787-1086 to request a pledge form be mailed to you. Thank you for your commitment to Christ through the church during these challenging times. Thanks be to God for your commitment!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Taking Down Decorations

The time has come to welcome the New Year and that means we have to "un-decorate". While we are grateful for the many helping hands that made Hudson so beautiful for the Advent/Christmas season, we need help to remove and store the decorations for next year. We will gather at **10:00am on Saturday, January 8th**, working out of Westminster Hall, to begin this process. Join us when you can, for as long as you can, to help with this process. All skill levels are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Grace Hutchinson at fghtdukefan@aol.com. Hope to see you then!



TECH TEAM NEWS

Get involved with the Technology Team at Hudson!

Hudson's Tech Team provides Sound and Livestream support for all events at Hudson and provides building WIFI.

OBS has officially launched as our streaming platform, and we had a great training on December 19th with 8

people in attendance. The Tech Team welcomes Davis Boone to our ranks and Lesley Ash-Jacobsen as staff member in charge of livestream setup each week. You can expect to see new and improved graphics appearing over time in the HMPC livestreams on YouTube. Check them out!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Next Tech Team class will be January 23rd immediately after worship at the soundboard (back row of the sanctuary). More info will be posted closer to the date.

Thanks to the current Tech Team for the great quality presentations over the last month: John Whisler, John Oldenburg, Tiya Komono, Gil Graybill, Barton Meeks, Chekwes Nkpa, Olsen Richards, Erik Jacobsen, and Skye Schafer. Additional thanks to consultants to the team, Clark Johnson and Winter Fox.

The Gathering

Sunday Mornings | 9:30 -10:20am



Info
for
2022

WH South

Exploring a Hunch Through the Lens of Faith
Here's the Deal: Led by Rev Jimmy Hulse
 January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27

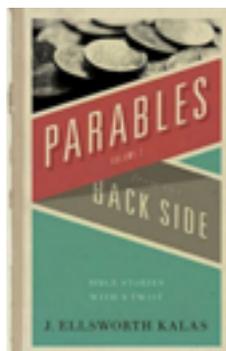
All are invited to explore a hunch: that we Christians have known God's special care throughout our lives, and we are also troubled by so much that seems wrong in the world. In short, we are curious about what God is up to. The image I have in mind for this study is a magnifying glass. Let's look through the lens of our faith to see more clearly how God cares for us and how God's heart beats with a suffering world.



WH North

Parables from the Back Side
Led by Gil Graybill, John James, John Oldenburg, and Fred Woodward
 January 2nd through Mid-spring

"Ponderings" is a conversation all are welcome to join any Sunday, no preparation needed. We use scripture, commentaries, and current events to frame our discussions. Gil Graybil, John James, John Oldenburg, and Fred Woodward facilitate the group. We'll begin 2022 with the book *Parables from the Back Side, Bible Stories with a Twist*, in which J. Ellsworth Kalas offers fresh insight into 12 of Jesus' parables by considering them from the perspective of a minor or unsympathetic character. We hope you will explore them with us.



Waking Up with The Word

Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30am

All men are invited to join this group via Zoom for scripture reflection, discussion, fellowship and coffee. The group uses an ancient Bible study process called Lectio Divina. We look at the passage that will be preached on the upcoming Sunday.



The study revolves around 3 questions:

- What is a word or phrase that stands out to you?
- Allow that word or phrase to develop into a memory from your life, a thought on the passage or metaphor
- What is Christ calling you to through the passage?

No previous Bible study experience is needed. It is a great group of guys who are welcoming and wise in their comments. For our in-person meetings, coffee and Bibles are provided. [If you have questions or would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Pastor Mac.](#)

Brown Bag with Mac



Date Change!

January 10th at Noon

In-person location TBA depending on the weather. Join us for Session #5 on the Belhar Confession.

Labyrinth Walking Meditations

An outside option for Sunday mornings that will require social distancing but not masks, will be a self-guided Labyrinth Meditation option. A guide to walking meditations and suggested material for reflection and some Sundays tokens of focus to carry on your journey will be available at the Labyrinth on or in front of the Welcome Box. You may also come walk the labyrinth during the week if you wish.

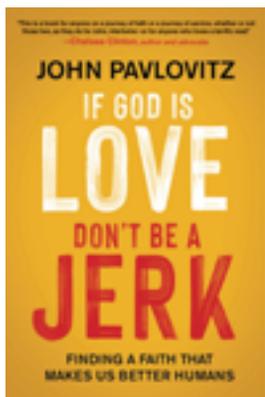


Women at the Well

January 2022 Information

Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! The two groups have a different format, time and content.

The weekly group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:30am and uses a particular book chosen each semester as a guide for shared conversation, reflections, and prayer. The winter semester begins January 12 using *If God is Love Don't Be A Jerk: Finding A Faith That Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz. In this book, the author helps us explore the value of spiritual communities marked by compassion and interdependence that enable us to authentically love our neighbors, especially those who are different than we are. Cost of the book, if ordered through the church, is \$12.00. Please let Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpc.org know if you are planning to attend.



The monthly group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm (sometimes adjusted to avoid holidays etc.) and uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest. This group typically meets over dinner in a local restaurant with meetings on Zoom if necessary. Recent podcasts have included those with Diana Butler Bass, Anne Lamott, Kate Bowler, and Bishop Michael Curry. Both groups are wonderful opportunities for women to get to know each other as we discuss the intersection of culture and faith



and our own spiritual journeys. Current members are included on the distribution list, if you would like to be added let Debbie Kirk know dkirk@hmpc.org. The next gathering is **Thursday, January 27.**

Special Offering for January Capital Towers

Our Special offering for January is for Capital Towers.



A few years ago, Presbyterian Homes and DHIC in Raleigh partnered to take over operations at Capital Towers.

As a result, wonderful physical improvements to the property have taken place. The other great addition they have spearheaded is a Service Coordinator who helps Capital Towers residents with things like veteran affairs, healthcare and therapy, medication management, transportation, and other needs.

This month, our financial offering will be to help cover the cost of the Service Coordinator position. This person supports residents in so many meaningful ways. Please consider donating to our neighbors.

You may place your donation in the offering plate, mail it, [donate online](#) or text to give. Here is how to text to give: Text donation amount with the word "cap" to 888-906-0744 (Example: 25 cap).



Hudson members delivering hot meals to residents of Capital Towers this Christmas season.

BIRTHDAYS

January Birthdays

- 1: Nnenna Nduka
- 3: Noelle Newnam
- 4: Benley Crone, James Dudeck
- 5: Dan Vig, Katherine Meeks, Sarah Bedini, Donna Lynch
- 6: William Keever, Ed White
- 7: Christine Schneider, Richard Moser, Kelly Capps
- 8: Natalie Randolph, Tate Brandt, Jim Seitz
- 9: Davis Jennings, JoLee Carpenito
- 10: Shirley Bennett
- 12: Mary Carmen Dawkins, Jacob Frelich, Annabelle Pate
- 13: Emily Brown
- 15: Glenn Kennedy, Leigh Magee, Hayden Moriarity, Kristin Moriarity, Hunter Moriarity
- 17: Jake Richardson, Beth McIntire, Corey Stafford, Patti Saleeby, Hayes Atkinson
- 18: Maria Plentl
- 20: Amanda Anderson, Susan Davis, Phil James, McNeill Kelley
- 21: Zoe Edge
- 22: Kay Emanuel, Pat Brown
- 24: Becky Hughes, Burns Boyce Jr., John Mitterling, Carr Jennings
- 25: Aubrey Martin, Maggie Bunzey, Sonja Puryear, Richard Rogers, Kurt Conger
- 26: Dylan Coonse, Jenny Crosson, Talley Krause, Suzanne Story, Sandy Schilder
- 27: Craig Morris
- 28: Catherine Cox, Richard Rodgers
- 29: Jason Huesgen, Remy Huesgen, Jeanna Gatten, Virginia Lilyquist
- 30: Jack Llewellyn
- 31: Wilson Cheeley, Tom Priestler, Libby Hnat

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Flower Donations



Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement soon. To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside room #103 The 2022 calendar has just been posted..

MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Image below: HMPC Elder Ken Krause giving Pastor Mac his COVID booster! Ken was kind enough to also give Mac a lollipop and a tie-dye band aid. Pastor Mac did not throw a tantrum or cry, at least while the picture was being taken...



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Sunday School Volunteers

Please join us for Sunday School as we continue to expand the Children's Ministry program! The schedule is now posted through June and we need the support of each



family to make this program a success. Each family should consider signing up at least once a month (or more!). Thank you for your commitment to the children of the church!

Please note: All volunteers working with children 12 and under must have an up-to-date Safe Sanctuary Affirmation on file, and provide proof of vaccination to the Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445ADA82CA46-hmpc4>

Note for January 2

January 2nd - There will be NO Joyful Noise or Wee Worshipers at the 9:30 hour.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Interested in Joining Hudson?

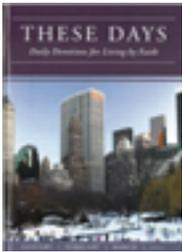
Join us Sunday, January 9th

The Inquirers Class, for those interested in membership, will be held on January 9th. The class covers what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of Hudson Memorial. [New Member Information Forms are available here](#). Please contact Debbie Kirk for more information at dkirk@hmpc.org.



DEVOTIONALS

These Days



The winter edition of *These Days* has arrived! Copies are available at the entrances. [Please contact Pat Cash](#), 919-787-1086, if you would like one mailed to you.

A BIG THANK YOU

Ron, Sean, Sharon, Hollie and Sandy Cole want to express their appreciation to our wonderful Hudson family for the delicious, tasty meals and support during my recovery. We have been so blessed by the good nourishing food, but more importantly, the love shown to us in countless ways. The healing process has gone much smoother knowing that my family has been so lovingly cared for. I am making excellent progress and my recovery is going well. I look forward to the time when I can be among you again.

Thanks and blessings to all who were my angels during this special season. Visitors are welcome in our home, please text or call first for us to be ready to receive you.

Much love in Christ,

Sandy Cole
(and family)



COVID-19

Hudson's Current Policies

The below policies have been set or reviewed by Session, the COVID-19 Sub Team, Personnel Committee or the Hudson Memorial Preschool Board.



All below policies are subject to change.

- Church staff can work from the office or at home.
- For preschool drop off, no parents come inside the building.
- The preschool is following NCDHHS tool kit and guidance.
- Groups of any size can gather outside without masks. Eating outside on church property is permitted.
- Masks are required at all times inside the church building. Exceptions to this are:
 - Vaccinated speakers, soloists and small singing groups in worship who are appropriately socially distant from the congregation.
 - Staff who are working alone in their office.
- Sunday worship children's message volunteers must wear masks when giving their talk because the children are not socially distant from the speaker.
- Employees of HMPC (church and preschool) are required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination to their supervisor.
- Any volunteer working with children 12 and under at HMPC will be required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination to the Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries or the Interim Director of Youth Ministries prior to volunteering with children 12 and under.
- Groups are not allowed to eat together inside the church buildings. The exception to this rule is preschool children have lunch and snack time in their class bubble.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



@HudsonMPC



@HudsonMemorialPC



@HudsonMemPC

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 2

9:30 am - Adult Faith Formation
10:30 am - Worship
10:45 am - Children's SS - Playgarden

Monday, January 3

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
8:00 pm - Alanon, AlaTeen, AlaKid - GH, 226, 236

Tuesday, January 4

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

Wednesday, January 5

6:30 pm - Children's Committee - Zoom

Saturday, January 8

10:00am - Un-decorating the Church - WH
5:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

PERSONNEL SEARCH

Sunday Morning Childcare Workers

Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church is looking for caring, reliable childcare workers for our church nursery! This is a part-time opportunity on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am - noon. Please send a resume or inquiry email to [Cary Dickerson, Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries](#).

Organist/Music Assistant

We are beginning our search to fill the part-time organist position here at Hudson. [Please click here for more information](#). If you know of someone who might be interested, please contact anyone on the Search Committee: Barbara Loehr-Fox, Emily Brown, Carol Cox and Dan Vig.



STAFF DIRECTORY

Mac Schafer

Pastor & Head of Staff
mschafer@hmpc.org

Debbie Kirk

Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth & Nurture
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Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation
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Barbara Loehr-Fox, Director of Music Ministries
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Rich Richards, Interim Director of Youth Ministries
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Cary Dickerson, Interim Director of Children & Family Ministries
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Carol Yeargin, Organist
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Hope Parangi, Church Hostess
hparangi@yahoo.com

LIVE-STREAMING

Attend Worship Online



For those unable to attend worship in person, we will be live streaming the services. Please know that the live streams will also be recorded and posted on the church YouTube channel, as well as the church website.

[Click here to live-stream or watch recording of this Sunday's 10:30 am service.](#)