

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 14, 2025



BRUNCH CHURCH



HUDSON'S NEW VISION STATEMENT

Thank you to all who attended our first ever Brunch Church and helped draft our Vision Statement! About 150 people attended and enthusiastically ate, worshiped, and brainstormed statements. The Mission Study Team has prayerfully considered all the statements, and from those has discerned that God's vision for HMPC at this time is below.

We welcome your comments! Please send them to mst@hmpc.org by Monday, Nov. 17.

*To be a community that
Thinks with the mind of Christ,
Loves with the heart of Christ,
Serves with the hands of Christ,
Grows with the help of Christ, and
Heals with the brokenness of Christ.*

Another Brunch Church? YES!

We will have our second Brunch Church next Sunday, November 23! It will again be at 9:30 (not 10:30)! Westminster Hall (not the Sanctuary)! Just like last week, we will eat, worship and work together to plan the future of Hudson! There will be no Gathering/Adult Ed classes. Our scripture will be Hebrews 12:1-2. **In discussion at our tables, we will develop goals consistent with our vision for the church and objectives to help us accomplish the goals.**

Please sign up by clicking [HERE](#) or leave a printed form at the Sanctuary entrances.

2025						
NOVEMBER						
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What did the CAT tell us?



Future Priorities– The CAT asked a series of seventeen questions about goals for the future. Respondents were asked to rank how much “additional energy” should be devoted to expanding or improving various ministries. Six of the listed priorities were ranked more highly than the rest by respondents:

1. **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy** to reach new people. Our consultant pointed out that this has been the first priority of 96% of churches taking the CAT for the last 25 years. A good exercise before leadership considers adopting this priority is to ask, WHY we want to grow membership. If it is to increase giving or attendance, perhaps we need to look deeper.

2 and 3. **Expand outreach ministries to those living on the margins and to those broken by life circumstances.** By ranking external mission as second and third priorities, HMPC demonstrated more of an external focus than most other churches taking the CAT the last 36 months. Research about “transformational churches” (which is how the survey results characterize Hudson) shows that churches engaged in transformational ministry in the community are more successful in growing membership.

4. **Making necessary changes to attract families and young people into our church**, ranked as a lower priority than most churches taking the CAT (meaning that most churches rank it 1 or 2). That suggests satisfaction with the direction of HMPC family and children’s ministry and a healthy recognition that external missional focus is a larger driver of attracting younger generations than a “join us” membership drive.

5. **Develop the spiritual generosity of people to financially support the ministry of the church.** As this priority also scored high compared to most other churches, it is something leadership would be encouraged to focus on.

6. **Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships**, for example in small groups or shared meals.

Interestingly, age groups ranked the priorities differently. **The first priority listed by people under 35 was to work for social change.** This group also put **provide more opportunities for Christian education** ahead of some of the others.

Opportunities for creating meaningful relationships ranked as higher priority for the 35-64 age group than for the total number of respondents. And the over 65 group included revitalizing the **community around the church by building coalitions with outside organizations.**

The nature of these priorities demonstrates a **good balance of internal and external focus.** While a fully vital and transformational congregation may have uniquely external focus, our priorities demonstrate a desire to address several internal needs while extending ourselves outward.

Do you have questions about the CAT?

Join us on THIS Sunday after worship!



Anyone who would like to have a copy of the summary and slides from our 10/30 Zoom meeting on the results of the Congregation Assessment Tool can send a request to mst@hmhc.org. On Nov. 16 after church, in Room 200, members of the Mission

Study Team will be available to answer questions about the CAT for those who missed the Zoom presentation or who want further information about any of the work, including the vision statement and upcoming goals and objectives exercises.

A GLIMPSE OF NOVEMBER 9 BRUNCH CHURCH



While the adult and youth HMPC members crafted Vision Statements for the church, the children discussed what church means to them and how it makes them feel. They built the church out of LEGO as they brainstormed words or phrases they associate with Hudson.

Thanks to our awesome musical worship leaders- Rich, Lindsey, Barbara, and Hunter!

♪ A Note from Rich: Joyful Noise through December ♪

Advent is quickly approaching and what that means is Songs, Hymns and Carols about BABY JESUS! We have three more Children's Music times together to get THREE CAROLS down. I have confidence in these kids that they will be ready for Christmas Joy in the Morning Worship on December 14! **The kids will be singing during this worship service on December 14 - Call time is 10:00am. Please let me or Cary Dickerson know** if you will be a part of the Christmas Joy in the Morning Sunday worship. This is ONLY going to work if the kids STAY until 12:00-12:15pm. I will not have them sing if they don't know the material...



I'll be sending parents the usual MP3s for y'all to listen to...and potentially "get tired of hearing" the three selections. This is not to substitute from being there with us after church for Children's Music, it is only continued ear training and repetition.

The three selections are: Mary Had A Baby, Go Tell It On the Mountain, Angels We Have Heard On High - 1st verse ONLY and the "Glorias".

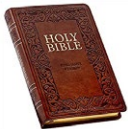
If you have any questions, PLEASE contact me. See you Sunday! - Rich

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

THE NINE O'CLOCK CLASS

9:00 | Sunday, Nov. 16 | Room 200

Have you ever wondered where the Bible came from? When Jesus referred to his Bible, he talked about the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings, what exactly was he referring to? Are these the Old Testament?



In this class, we will view videos from the Bible project and discuss the material that is presented. The class will be moderated by Don Slater.

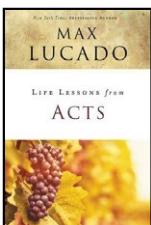
PRESBYTERIAN PONDERINGS

9:30 | Sunday, Nov. 16 | 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.

THE SEEKERS

9:30 | Sunday, Nov. 16 | WH South

"A Story Within A Story"

Upcoming in the Seekers, by Jimmy Hulseay

All are invited to the Seekers Class this coming Sunday, November 16, at 9:30am. We will complete our topic, God's Stories and Our Stories, by turning to the first few chapters of Matthew's gospel.

Marguerite has asked me to preach on the first Sunday after Christmas. The gospel text is Matthew 2: 13-23. I suggest that you work with me to come up with sermon ideas. Keeping with our theme of exploring biblical narrative, I will set the context in early Matthew. Then we may consider how to move from Matthew to today by thinking about life just after Christmas when it may seem that the doldrums roll in. Also, how does the story within a story relate to our larger neighborhoods of this congregation, NC, the nation and the world. This may be jolly fun. Looking forward to seeing you.

Remember that the next week, November 23, is again Brunch Worship. There was great affirmation and energy around our mission and vision last Sunday.

Then we move with Roger Howard leading us into Advent on Sunday, November 30th. I love Advent with its themes of expectation and hope. These are great Sundays to be together in our classes and worship services.

Weekday Fellowship & Faith Formation This Week

Tuesday, November 18

WAKING UP WITH THE WORD

6:30am - Westminster Hall Patio



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets via Zoom and in-person (on the WH Patio), alternating weekly. WUWTW uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. No previous Bible

study experience is necessary. 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@hmhc.org. Contact Tripp Bradshaw with any questions about the group you might have.

Wednesday, November 19



WOMEN AT THE WELL

9:15am in the Chapel

Women's Book & Bible Study

Thursday, November 20

AMAZING GRAYS

11:00am at Cape Fear Seafood

832 Spring Forest Rd



Note the 11:00am start time this week!

Join us at Cape Fear Seafood for lunch and fellowship! Let Mike Law or Sandy Cole know if you plan to attend.

WOMEN AT THE WELL

6:00pm at Winston's Grille

6401 Falls of Neuse Rd

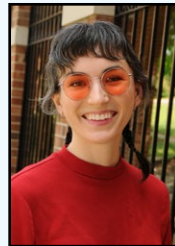
This monthly women's group meets over dinner at a local restaurant and uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest. We would love to



have you join us for fellowship and lively discussion! If interested, contact Linda Meeks at linda.meeks@gmail.com, or Kay Emanuel at ckemanuel@gmail.com.

Hello, Hudson Memorial!

The Property Committee is excited to launch a new monthly segment in the newsletter to keep in touch with the congregation. As the staff liaison, I'll be answering two key questions each month:



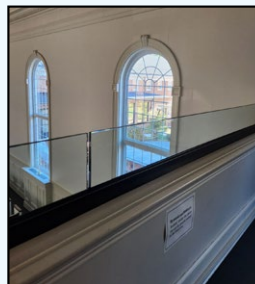
1. What did we accomplish in the month?
2. How much did it cost to maintain the church property?

Welcome to our first Monthly Property Summary!

- Hannah, Administrative Coordinator

October Property Summary

What did we accomplish in October?



- Raised the height of our balcony by installing new glass panels. (Pictured)
- Diagnosed three plumbing concerns, one of which has been fully addressed. Drain clearing and camera work were completed in the maintenance room off

Westminster South. The remaining two items are not urgent and are being monitored.

- Met with contractors for walk-throughs on the upcoming restroom project. If you didn't already know, we will be building a new single-occupant restroom by Westminster South that is wheelchair accessible!
- Oversaw tree trimming coordinated by Duke Energy to maintain our power lines.

Here's a snapshot of October's property expenses:

- Utilities: \$5,911 (water, electricity, garbage, and gas)
- Cleaning Services & Supplies: \$3,888
- Lawn Care: \$1,014
- HVAC Maintenance: \$500
- New Restroom Project: \$11,163 (This went to the design group. Contractors recently submitted bids and the task force will move forward with one soon.)
- Balcony Repair: \$5,300 (Half of the total cost. The remainder was paid in September)

2026 Pledge Campaign PLEDGE REMINDER FOR 2026



Each Fall, HMPC calls on its members and regular visitors to “pledge” their planned giving amount for the upcoming year. Everyone’s pledged totals are then added together to set the church’s budget for January 1 – December 31, 2026.

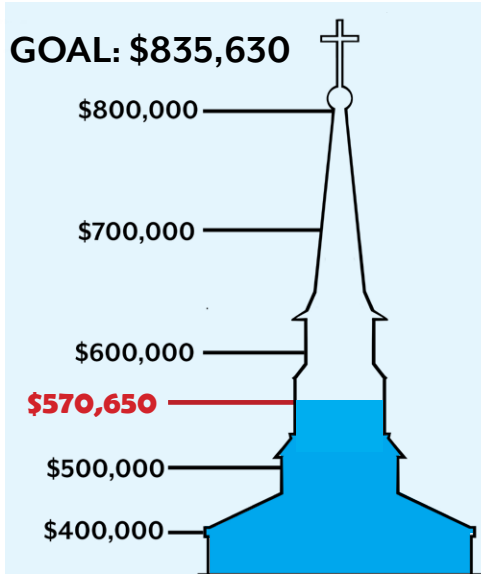
Everything at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church is made

possible with your prayerful giving, including staff salaries, building and grounds upkeep, and all church ministries such as Music, Worship, Children and Youth, Mission Outreach, and Adult Education. HMPC receives no operational funds from Presbytery or our denomination.

How do I submit my annual pledge for 2026?

- 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. 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.

PROGRESS UPDATE



As of November 13, 2025, our received pledges total \$570,650 (still \$265k away from our goal of \$835,630). We currently have 112 households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 107 pledging households for a total of \$494,864.

A Paper Bag Pageant SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!

As we move into the season of Advent, we look forward to meaningful ways to experience the joy of the Christmas story. One way we have traditionally done this is through the Children’s Christmas Pageant. This year we are inviting the entire congregation to be a part of our intergenerational Paper Bag Pageant, where participants of all ages and stages can be a part of bringing this story to life. In this time of transition, we continue to seek ways where we can all come together to grow in community with one another. An intergenerational pageant brings together the entire “Body of Christ” - the young, the wise, the energetic, the intellectual, the long time member, and the first-time guest - all bringing their gifts and perspectives to the story. In this busy season, this method provides a unique opportunity for multiple generations of a family to participate together, creating meaningful faith-based memories that can deepen family ties. Our hope is that this approach will be less performative and more transformative, encouraging conversations long after the service is over. We hope it sparks conversation between children who participate alongside their parents, between strangers who play a role together and now have a shared experience, or between members in different stages of life who have not experienced worship together before.

What exactly will this look like and why is it called a Paper Bag Pageant? As you enter the Sanctuary, you will be provided a sealed paper bag containing elements of a costume for a character in the story. When we begin the Pageant portion of the worship service, you will open your bag to reveal your part. All parts are silent, as the story is read by a narrator. Through this random assignment of roles, age and gender are removed from the equation, allowing us to all participate equally. An older adult serving as Baby Jesus or a child serving as a Wiseperson only adds to the joy and celebration of the experience. 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.

We hope you will lean into this opportunity to experience the Birth of Jesus in a new way. Please join us on December 7th as we experience the joy and wonder of the season together.

November Tend My Sheep Feed the Pack: NC State Food Pantry

"The mission of the Feed the Pack Food Pantry at NC State is to help meet the food needs of all members of the NC State community with dignity and respect." Feed the Pack is the food pantry on NC State's campus, and is student-led and open to all members of the campus community (students, staff, and faculty). NC State and campus partners have developed many programs to support students in need of food, housing, financial and educational security. Learn more at their website [HERE](#).

Feed the Pack accepts a wide variety of donations to the pantry including; food, hygiene products, technology, and more!

**This month we are collecting cooking oil,
spices, salt, sugar, and flour.**



Items can be placed in the bins at Sanctuary entrances throughout the month of November.

FEED - the - PACK
THE FOOD PANTRY AT NC STATE

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 recent elimination in assistance programs, 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 visiting [this page](#) or scanning the QR code to the left.

Sunday, November 16

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 Hall
11:30 am - Mission Study Team - Rm 200
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 - Sanctuary
5:00 pm - Youth Group/Bible Exploration

Monday, November 17

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary
6:00 pm - Property Committee - WH South
7:00 pm - Pilgrims on the Camino - WH North
7:00 pm - Diaconate - Room 200
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

Tuesday, November 18

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio
10:00 am - Sewing Guild Association - WH South
6:00 pm - ACA - Room 200
6:00 pm - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall
7:00 pm - Fellowship Committee - Zoom

Wednesday, November 19

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel/ Zoom
6:00 pm - Mission Study Team - WH North
6:15 pm - Youth 4C - Chipotle, Captain Cookie
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, November 20

Preschool Thanksgiving Celebrations
10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
11:00 am - Amazing Grays - Cape Fear Seafood
6:00 pm - Women at the Well - Winston's Grille

Friday, November 21

Preschool Thanksgiving Celebrations