



# the weekly Window

December 10, 2021

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

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

### HMPC Family Christmas Celebration

Our first annual Christmas Family Scavenger Hunt was held last Saturday, December 4th. It was a beautiful day outside filled with fun and festivity for our 100 attendees! Items from the Nativity were hidden around the campus for families to find together. There were stations for ornament making, and the children decorated gingerbread houses. Thanks to Ms. Cary and all of the volunteers for making this a special day!



*The children working hard on their Nativity gingerbread houses.*



### Christmas Pageant This Sunday, December 12th

It's almost time for our annual Christmas Pageant! **The pageant will take place in Worship on December 12th.** We will have a rehearsal on Saturday, December 11th, from 10:00-12:00 for our Elementary children and 11:15-12:00 for our Pre-K children. Your family does not need to be a member of Hudson for your children to participate - the more the merrier!



### Christmas Joy Concert Sunday, December 19th at 6:30pm

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 concert will be Sunday, December 19th at 6:30pm. A reception, hosted by Presbyterian Women, will follow the celebration on the front patio. Please join us!



## Advent Devotionals Available

### "Come to Bethlehem and Be Nourished"

This year's Advent Devotional is *Come to Bethlehem and Be Nourished*. Bread is a key theme of the devotional which carries us through Advent and the Season of Christmas, November 28 – January 6. Bread has a dual role in the scripture and reflections provided for our use each day. While our souls are nourished as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we are invited to nourish our bodies by making or purchasing a particular kind of bread each week to enjoy and to share with others. As a Hunger Action Congregation, we are encouraged to remember those who are food insecure as we gather around holiday tables and to do what we can to be sure all have enough to eat.



The devotional is available online [here](#) and we have hard copies available.



## 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 19th worship bulletin. 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 12th**. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service.



## 2021 Advent:

### "While We Are Waiting, Come"

Our theme for Advent this year comes from Hymn #92 in our *Glory to God* hymnal. It is a text by Claire Cloninger from 1986. A simple and meditative hymn that reads, "While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come." Often the early days of December feel less like waiting and more like a frantic scramble to squeeze everything in to the point of exhaustion. What we really need to do is have moments of waiting for the relief of Jesus Christ to break into our chaos. We hope Advent worship, faith formation and other opportunities will help create space for Jesus during this season of waiting.



## Advent & Christmas Dates



**Sunday, December 12th** at 9:30 am in Room 200  
Painting Glass Ornaments (Adult Faith Formation)

**Sunday, December 12th** at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary  
Worship on the Third Sunday of Advent featuring the  
Children's Christmas Pageant

**Sunday, December 19th** at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary  
Worship on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Sunday December 19th** at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary  
The Christmas Joy Concert

**Friday, December 24th** at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service

**Friday, December 24th** at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Friday, December 24th** at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Candlelight & Communion Worship Service

**Sunday, December 26th** at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary  
First Sunday of Christmas Worship

## DEACONS

# Advent Retreat

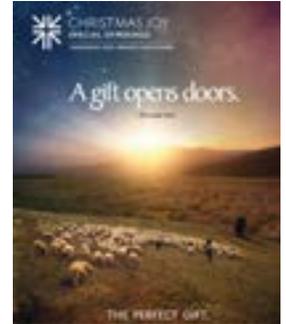
Some of the Deacons and Pastor Debbie participated in an Advent Retreat in the beauty of God's creation at New Hope Camp and Conference Center in Chapel Hill. A highlight was walking the labyrinth created with white granite found throughout the property and crushed glass especially made for the walking path. They also enjoyed reflecting by the water, participating in devotions led by Christian Educator Mary Todd Peters, sharing communion and a picnic lunch together.



## MISSIONS

# Christmas Joy Fund Special Offering for PCUSA

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



You can donate [online](#), text, mail your donation to the church, or give in the offering plate on Sundays in December. **Here is how to text to give:** Text amount to 888-906-0744 (*Example: 25 Joy*).

# Volunteer at the Food Bank

The Mission Committee has scheduled designated times for HMPC as part of our commitment to the Food Bank. We have set up two standing monthly volunteer shifts: the second Wednesday evening from 6:00-8:00pm and the third Saturday morning from 9:00am-12:00pm. Use the link below to see the dates we will be working and to sign up to participate. The Food Bank does require that volunteers be masked inside the warehouse. Youth ages 12-16 may volunteer with a parent, over 16 do not need a parent in attendance. Youth may be able to count these as service hours.

Please contact [Beth Billman](#), with any questions.

[https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console\\_id=0225&console\\_type=event\\_list&event\\_id=21&ht=1&res\\_code=HudsonMemorial](https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console_id=0225&console_type=event_list&event_id=21&ht=1&res_code=HudsonMemorial)



## The Gathering

Sunday Mornings | 9:30 -10:20am  
WH South

In this group are members of the “John Knox” and “Mixed Adults” classes along with newer members and guests. They enjoy a presentation and discussion format. **On December 12th**, Ron Ash will facilitate the discussion, "Global Advent Traditions: Discussion and Sharing of Advent Traditions at Home and Across the World".



### WH North

Join us for “Ponderings” facilitated by Gil Graybill, John James, John Oldenburg and Fred Woodward. This informal group is for all who would like to consider faith in light of contemporary issues. If you would like a place to share what challenges and opportunities you have right now and how your faith is informing your life, please join us! Topics and resources will be guided by the group and may include information (i.e. book study) and transformation as we connect with others. Pilate famously asked Jesus "What is truth?", a pertinent question today as well. **On December 12th**, John James will explore the question: In an "Information Age" that is often indifferent to the truth, how do we pursue the truth as Christians? On Dec. 19, Gil Graybill will tidy up the mess we've made and tell you what the truth really is! We hope you'll join us.

### Parlor - Silent Reflection and Prayer

For those who need a quiet space to be still and mindful, the Parlor is available. Suggestions of ways to use the space are provided using *Words to Build On: Words of Scripture for Remembrance and Reflection* and guides for personal prayer. The opportunity to light a candle as a symbol of the light of Christ and or in memory or honor of someone will be available. This will be one option for the space, another is just to sit quietly, pray if you would like, etc. In order to keep the sanctity of the space, the area is not for visiting.

## Sacred Creations

Painting Glass Ornaments  
Sunday, December 12th at 9:30am



Join us in Room 200 on December 12th for painting a seasonal glass ornament! Enjoy conversation with friends from church around the table as you create a personalized ornament or two. Choose a scripture to write on an ornament, use paint pens to make your own creation, copy an ornament you have seen, the options are plenty!

### 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.



## Waking Up with The Word

Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30am

All men are invited to join this group on the WH Patio 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.](#)

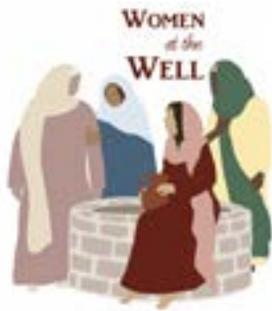


## FAITH FORMATION

# Women at the Well

## Late Fall 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. We are concluding *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things* by Sarah Bessey with a new selection beginning in January. 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. Fall 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. The weekly group concludes December 15 and begins the winter semester January 12. There will be no meeting later in December due to the holidays. Current participants will receive the location and podcast link. For more information or to participate in either group contact Debbie Kirk [dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org).



Some of the Thursday Women at the Well group enjoyed a holiday gathering and Advent reflections using material from Kate Bowler, "The Season of Almost".

## YOUTH MINISTRY

# THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12...

**Explorers Class (5th-7th grade)**  
will meet this week at our regular time, **9:30am** in the Explorers Room on the second floor.

**Confirmation Class (8th grade)**  
will also be meeting at the regular time, **9:30am** in the Confirmation Classroom.

**Youth Music with Barbara**  
4:30pm - Geneva Hall

**MS and HS Youth Group**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**5:00-6:30pm - GH**

This party will be held inside and outside, with yummy treats and a prize for whoever wears the most red and green! Come dressed in your favorite Christmas garb!

## Looking Ahead...

### Christmas Joy Concert

Youth (and their families) are invited to sit together, as a group in the balcony for the Christmas Joy Concert on Sunday, **December 19 at 6:30pm**. This is a Hudson Memorial tradition that will include some children, youth and adults of the congregation.

# Parents' Afternoon Out



Last Sunday, the HMPC Youth Group fundraiser was a success! The youth and children spent the afternoon together doing fun activities, and gave parents some much needed time to do holiday errands!



## 2022 GIVING MINISTRY

# Pledge Update

November 14th was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge in or made your commitment online.

Currently there are 151 households that have pledged out of 364 member households for a total of \$660,320. This time last year we had collected 154 pledges for a total of \$641,799.

**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!

## TECH TEAM NEWS

# Technology Updates & Training

### Interested in Getting Involved?

**Join us THIS SUNDAY, December 12th**

We will soon be changing to the popular Open Source streaming software called Online Broadcast Software (OBS). It will allow us to add scripture and hymn words to the live video. It supports smooth transitions between multiple cameras, still pictures, and pre-recorded or internet video sources. We will have some fun figuring out ways to enhance the experience of those watching at home using OBS!

**If you would like to learn about mixing sound, livestreaming with OBS or WIFI please join us for our next orientation class. Open to adults and youth.**

It will immediately follow worship on Dec. 12 at the soundboard and will last about an hour. If interested, please contact John Whisler, 919-345-2004 (text or phone) or the church office. Space is limited but we have a couple of spots left!



Thanks to the current Tech Team: John Whisler, John Oldenburg, Tiya Komono, Mia Komono, Gil Graybill, Barton Meeks, Chekwas Nkpa, Olsen Richards, Erik Jacobsen, Skye Schafer. Also thanks to Clark Johnson and Winter Fox, who are serving as consultants to the team.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 12

9:30 am - Wee Worshipers and Joyful Noise  
9:30 am - Explorers SS - Room 226  
9:30 am - Confirmation Class - Room 234  
9:30 am - Adult Faith Formation  
10:30 am - Worship - Featuring The Christmas Pageant  
10:45 am - Children's SS - Playgarden  
11:30 am - Fellowship  
4:30 pm - Youth Music - Geneva Hall  
5:00 pm - HS and MS Youth Group Christmas Party

### Monday, December 13

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

### Tuesday, December 14

6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - WH Patio  
9:30 am - Staff Meeting  
10:00am - Esther Circle - Parlor  
11:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle - WH North  
11:45 am - Hannah Circle - WH South  
6:30 pm - HMP Board Meeting  
7:30 pm - Miriam Circle  
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - GH, 234

### Wednesday, December 15

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Parlor  
6:15 pm - Handbells  
7:00 pm - Chancel Choir

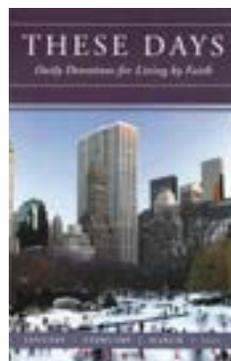
### Thursday, December 16

7:00 pm - Presbyterian Pint

### Saturday, December 18

9:00 am - HMPC at Food Bank  
5:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

## DEVOTIONAL



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.

## MEMORIAL

# Service of Witness to the Resurrection & Celebration of the Life of Dot Bass

Dot was a charter member of the church and served as elder on multiple occasions. She served the presbytery in numerous capacities and is the mother of sitting elder Dottie Burch. Please keep Dottie, her brother Bret and her children Charlotte and Graham in your prayers.

Dot's memorial service will be held **Sunday, December 12th at 3:00pm in the sanctuary.**



## WORSHIP & THE ARTS

# Baptism

We celebrate with Cyndi & Brad Harris the baptism of their two children this past Sunday, December 5th in worship.



## 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

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

### Joyful Noise & Wee Worshipers Sundays at 9:30am

**Wee Worshipers: Pre-Elementary, Room 225**

Children are invited to participate in our pre-K music program called the Wee Worshipers during the 9:30 hour. Children will sing and play instruments to age-appropriate music. They will even join Joyful Noise to perform in worship a few times throughout the year!

#### Joyful Noise: Grades K–4, GH Music Room

Joyful Noise is our Elementary age music program led by Gina Hayek. Using games and activities and playing instruments, children learn about Bible stories appropriate to their age and development. Joyful Noise children will have the opportunity to lead worship a few times a year through music and simple pageants.

## 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](mailto:Cary.Dickerson@hmpc.org)

### 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.

## FROM THE HMPC STAFF

### Staff Email Addresses

When you receive an email from one of Hudson's staff members, please verify that the email address is their first initial then last name @hmpc.org - Example: mschafer@hmpc.org. Do not respond or click in church emails if the from address is not like the example.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Mac Schafer, Pastor & Head of Staff**

[mschafer@hmpc.org](mailto:mschafer@hmpc.org)

**Debbie Kirk**

Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth & Nurture

[dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org)

**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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**Gina Hayek, Director of Joyful Noise**

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**Carol Yeargin, Organist**

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**Pat Cash, Business Administrator**

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**Cheri Thomas, Bookkeeper**

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**Lesley Ash-Jacobsen, Communications Specialist**

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**Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director**

[droche@hmpc.org](mailto:droche@hmpc.org)

**Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director**

[jhawkins@hmpc.org](mailto:jhawkins@hmpc.org)

**Hope Parangi, Church Hostess**

[hparangi@yahoo.com](mailto: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.](#)