

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

DECEMBER 1, 2023

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## ADVENT BEGINS THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

### *What is God Like?*

Friends, we welcome you to the church Season of Advent. Our *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship* (2018) says:

*“Advent means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ, our Savior. The origin of the season of Advent is uncertain. It may have been patterned after the season of Lent as a period of penitence before Christmas, or as a time of preparation for baptism at Epiphany.”*

Hudson's theme this Advent is “What Is God Like?” This idea came from a magazine issue of *Reformed Worship* (September 2022) by Matt Ackerman & Bailey Carver Attema. They based some of this series on a children’s book by Rachel Held Evans & Matthew Paul Turner entitled *What Is God Like?* At the beginning of their article they write,

*“During Advent we anticipate Christ’s coming as an infant as well as Christ’s return, when the earth will be renewed and all will be well. We should be startled and amazed by that reality - that Christ, a member of the Trinity, God’s own self, came down from heaven to earth. What kind of God does that? Who is this God that became like one of us? What is God like?”*

During worship each week during Advent, we will be looking at different attributes of God: God is like a **Fort**,

like a **Gardener**, like **Light**, and like a **River**. To supplement this, we have asked members of this congregation to answer the question, “What is God like?” Their thoughts and reflections are included in a daily devotional booklet that will be available at the church this Sunday or you can download a digital copy [here](#). We trust the Spirit will move you each day as you reflect with fellow church members about their understanding of God.



*Detailed Advent information on pages 2-3!*

# Advent & Christmas at HMPC

## CHRISTMAS JOY RECEPTION SIGN UP LINK FOR VOLUNTEERS & FOOD DONATIONS

HMPC's "Christmas Joy in the Morning" is Sunday, December 17, in place of our regular morning Worship Service. Please sign up [HERE](#) for a volunteer position and/or to contribute a food item for this most joyous reception of the year. You can also sign-up by emailing your selected volunteer post to Sharon Cole at [sharoncole@carolina.rr.com](mailto:sharoncole@carolina.rr.com).

## ADVENT COIN DRIVE



All through the month of December, the children will be collecting coins to pay off school lunch debt for families at Green Elementary. Help families start off 2024 with no school lunch debt! Be on the

lookout for collection boxes this month. Reach out to Cary Dickerson with any questions.

## CHILDREN'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC NEWS

The children have been working hard getting ready for the pageant! Parents: It is very important that your pageant participant be at all of the rehearsals! If you have any questions, please reach out to Rich.

### Rehearsal & Performances:

#### Next Rehearsal:

Sunday, December 3 after Worship/Sunday School  
11:30am to 12:15pm



#### Pageant Rehearsal (Mandatory!):

Saturday, December 9 | 10am - 11am



#### Christmas Pageant:

Sunday, December 10 | 10:30am | Call time is 9:45

#### Children will also participate in

#### Christmas Joy In the Morning Worship:

December 17 | 10:30am | Call time 10:00am

## Family Christmas Celebration

This Saturday, Dec. 2  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Westminster Hall

Nativity Scavenger Hunt  
Hot Chocolate Bar  
Ornament Making  
Gingerbread Nativities

## 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 17th 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 10th**. You can also use [the link](#) on the homepage of [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org) to order. Designate 'Chancel Guild/Poinsettias' on your check. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CAROLING & HOT CHOCOLATE

5:00pm | This Sunday, December 3



Middle School youth (5th-8th grade) will be caroling in the local neighborhood on December 3. Youth, join us for this festive evening!



# Advent & Christmas at HMPC

THIS SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 3

## HANGING OF THE GREENS



After worship, help us decorate the church for the Christmas season! There are decorating tasks for all ages. Meet after worship in WH for instructions. Contact Grace Hutchinson with any questions.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

**6:00pm | Sunday, December 3 | Chapel**

As we enter another Advent season, the season evokes many feelings, images, memories, and stories. We may be filled with excited anticipation or anxious dread. For many of us, the season is a mixture of both. The frenetic pace of the holidays may cause the time to pass quickly, while the extended hours of darkness can make days seem endless. Each moment is unique as winter's changing lights that cast shadows inviting us into the sacred presence of God.

To assist us in framing our Advent journeys, the Deacons are leading a special worship service on Sunday, December 3, in the Chapel at 6:00pm. We emphasize the color blue as distinct from the traditional liturgical color, purple, and the popular holiday colors, red and green, as a reminder of the range of emotions experienced during the holidays. The service is for everyone who would like a quiet reflective time with the reading of scripture, prayers, contemplative music, and the lighting of candles in recognition of God's presence



in our places of greatest need. The liturgical space will be created by Rich Richards to reflect the shadows of the season.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

**Saturday, December 2**

Family Christmas Celebration  
10:00-12:00 | Westminster Hall

**Sunday, December 3**

Hanging of the Greens  
After Worship | HMPC Campus

**Sunday, December 3**

Blue Christmas: A Service of Shadows  
6:00pm | Chapel

**Sunday, December 10**

Christmas Pageant  
10:30am Worship | Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 17**

Christmas Joy in the Morning  
10:30am Worship | Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 24**

Christmas Eve

**10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary**

*Children's Sunday School  
(after Children's Message)*

**5:00pm - Candlelight Service**

*Nursery will be available (ages birth to 5)*

**8:00pm - Communion & Candlelight Service**

*Nursery will not be available*





# Blessing of the Animals

NOVEMBER 26, 2023







# Blessing of the Animals

NOVEMBER 26, 2023



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

# CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER



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*).



## CHRISTMAS JOY IN THE MORNING!

**10:30am Worship | Sunday, Dec. 17**

We invite you to attend worship on December 17, lead by Hudson's talented music ensembles and instrumentalists! You'll hear children, youth and adults singing and playing festive Christmas music, as we worship and celebrate the Christmas season. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!



## BIRTHDAYS



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Elizabeth Lewis, Ian Cox
- 2: Chandler Christenbury, Emily Carpenito, Matthew Rahn
- 3: Tiya Komono, Scott Billman
- 4: Benjamin Rahn, Olivia Nduka
- 5: Jude Davidson, Yvonne Peterson, Jill Priester
- 6: Ellie Gatten, Ronnie Strickland-Apple, Elisa Komono
- 7: Brandon Keever, Mark McDougal
- 8: Taryn Reed
- 9: Angela Baker-James, Peggy Grady, Mac Schafer
- 10: Scarlett Maxwell, Maddy Ward, Marsha Flueckinger
- 11: Tom Carpenito, Wes Maxwell, Margot Davidson, Bella Anderson
- 13: Ella Grace Edmister, Karlene Perry, Gerry Bowles, Lucille Nicholas
- 15: Diane Marbach-Morgen, Lem Buruah
- 16: Nancy Law Rogers, Henry Dudeck, Elizabeth van Die
- 17: Monica Maxwell
- 18: Christine Bond, Nicholas Billman, 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: Natalie Hnat, Kayla Dilger
- 27: Gary King, Dottie Burch, Hannah James, Zachary Hughes
- 28: Cheryl McDougal, Irene Fleming, Rose Barford, Gracey Ash
- 29: Clark Johnson, Keto Komono, John Williams, Michele Walker, Bob Crawford
- 30: Lauren Klimczyk, Griffin Rogers, Barbara Coleman
- 31: Hunter Schafer, Shirley Blanks, Malcolm Cox

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Youth Schedule for Sunday

10:30am - Worship

11:30am - Hanging of the Greens! (No Sunday School)

11:30am - HMPC Youth Drama Troupe  
(rehearsal for Pageant)

12:00pm - Youth Hand Bells



5:00- 7:00pm -  
Middle School  
and 5th grade  
Youth Caroling  
and Hot Cocoa!

*(Photo on left:  
Last year's  
caroling group)*

### Coming Up...

Friday, December 8

High Schoolers will attend "Mamma Mia"  
at Wake Forest High School

## SINGLE WAY

### Single Way

SINGLE  
WAY



Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. New people are always welcome to join!

### December Luncheon

December 5th at 11:30am

Outback Steakhouse - 7500 Creedmoor Road

Please call Dee Blackerby at 919-846-6241 by Dec. 3rd if you plan to attend.

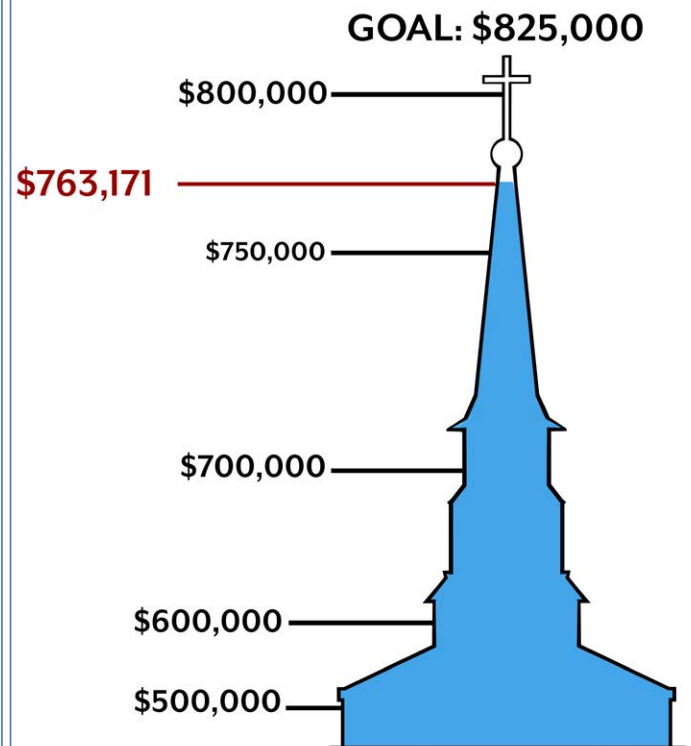
**We ask that you bring one personal care item to be donated to Hannah Circle's Christmas gift bags for Capital Towers.** Suggested items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, disposable razors, and/or any other item you feel would be appreciated.

Thank you for your participation in this community project!

## GIVING MINISTRY

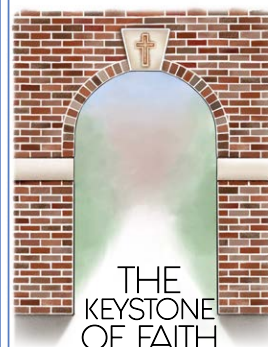
### 2024 Pledge Campaign Progress Update

AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2023



Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges thus far. Collectively, our pledges provide our Finance Committee and Session with vital information as they work to prepare our 2024 budget.

As of November 30, 2023, our received pledges total **\$763,171** (still \$62k away from our goal of \$825k). We currently have **161** households who have submitted pledges--Last year we had a total of 185 pledging households.



**It is not too late to pledge.** You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Administrator, or Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator. You can call Erica at 919-390-2630 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.

## SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

# THE GATHERING

## Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

"What God Wants for Christmas" &  
"How to See God in Everything, Every day"

Facilitated by Susan Bradshaw

On December 3, we will watch and discuss Darius Rucker's music video *What God Wants For Christmas*, as well as the video *How to See God in Everything, Every Day (and How to Respond)*. Join us!

## 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 Love**

**Fulfills The Law.** 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.

## The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

### The Season of Advent

Facilitated by Roger Howard

Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, are the 4 themes of Advent. Advent (from the Latin *adventus*) is a season observed in western Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. This Sunday,



come to share how these themes have informed your Advent experiences in the past and in the coming season. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity.

## WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

# Women at the Well

LAST MONTHLY GATHERING OF 2023



Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! Our last monthly meeting for this year will be on **Thursday December 14, at Bonefish Grill North Hills at 6:00pm** for a holiday gathering with dinner and fellowship. Due to the busy season, reservations are required; to attend please let Debbie Kirk know no later than **noon on Monday December 11.**

## Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, December 5 | 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 winter months, we do the study around a fire. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group please contact Pastor Mac.

## HMPC OFFICE

# Offering Envelopes

For those who wish to send their offering in monthly envelopes, the office can provide those for anyone interested. Contact Erica Hairston, Business Administrator, at 919-390-2630 or [ehairston@hmhc.org](mailto:ehairston@hmhc.org) to let her know you would like 12 months of pre-labeled offering envelopes.





## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Scholarships Available THROUGH PW

The Presbyterian Women offer two scholarships every year. Starting January 1, both PW college and campership scholarship applications will be open. The deadline for submission is March 1st. They do require letters of recommendation.

To apply for the campership scholarship, Youth (for grades 6 through 12) must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a church in the Presbytery. Campers may attend the camp/youth event of their choice, but preference may be given to those who are attending a Presbyterian-related camp. Value of the campership is \$250.

To apply for the college scholarship, applicants must live in the Presbytery and be a member of a church in the Presbytery. Applicants may attend the college of their choice, but preference may be given to those applicants who are attending a Presbyterian-related college. The amount awarded depends on the funds available and number of awards.

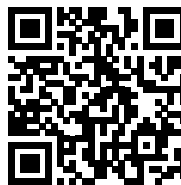


For additional information contact Grace Hutchinson at fghdukefan@aol.com.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Officer Recommendations

Elder and Deacon nominations will take place during December. If you have a recommendation of someone (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. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17. 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 2024. Please contact Carol Cox, 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."

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 3

9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200  
9:30 am - The Seekers/Ponderings - WH  
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 - Hanging of the Greens - HMPC Campus  
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North  
12:00 pm - Youth Music - WH South  
5:00 pm - MS Youth Group - Caroling  
6:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service - Chapel

### Monday, December 4

Morning - Preschool Polar Express - West Lawn/Lot  
6:30 pm - Children's Committee- Zoom  
8:00 pm - How It Works (Al-Anon) - GH Rooms

### Tuesday, December 5

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio  
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge  
6:00 pm - Nominating Committee - Welcome Lounge  
6:30 pm - Giving Ministry - WH South  
6:30 pm - Youth Committee - HS SS Room  
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

### Wednesday, December 6

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel  
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South  
6:30 pm - Chipotle Check-in for Youth  
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Choir Loft

### Friday, December 8

11:30 am - Preschool Christmas Program - Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

### Saturday, December 9

10:00 am - Pageant Rehearsal - Sanctuary