

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 7, 2025



FIRST BRUNCH CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

November 9
9:30am
Westminster Hall

Our First Brunch Church is this Sunday, November 9!

9:30 (not 10:30)!

Westminster Hall (not the Sanctuary)!

Plan to eat, worship and participate! There will be no Gathering/ Adult Ed classes, no Joyful Noise, and no Youth music. If you haven't responded and find you're available, come anyway!



Dress casual, with comfortable shoes. If you have an HMPC shirt, wear it! Be willing to sit with new people: couples, older children, and extended families may be seated at separate tables in order to have a mix of ages and views at each table. Share your opinions, but sparingly, and listen generously.

We will use Philippians 3:12-14 for inspiration as we look at our strengths and needs as a church and in our community.

Our shared insights will guide us as we draft vision statements for the church based on the results of our brainstorming session in October.

See page 3 for details on what a Vision Statement is.



2026 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN OFF TO A GOOD START!

Thank you to all who submitted your pledges on and before Commitment Sunday! As of November 5, 2025, our received pledges total **\$521,730** (still \$314k away from our goal of \$835,630). We currently have **101**

households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 95 pledging households for a total of \$460,524.

It is not too late to pledge! You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Manager. You can call the church office 919-787-1086 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.



GOAL: \$835,630

\$800,000

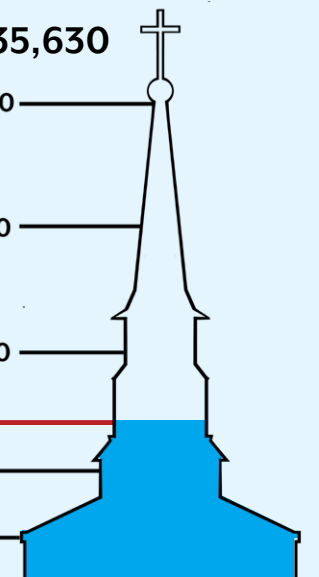
\$700,000

\$600,000

\$521,730

\$500,000

\$400,000



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARGUERITE

Hudson Memorial Friends & Family,



In a world where bad news consistently blares at us, you consistently bear good news to the church and to the world. I am proud to serve as your transitional pastor.

You are fulfilling the promise many of you made when you answered the CAT questions about whether you intended to be more or less engaged during this transition period: 25% of you indicated you would be more involved in the church; 31% of you said you would be more available for transition work; and 17% of you said you planned to give more. **That is all showing up in our numbers: 154 of you have RSVP'd for Brunch Church on November 9. 58 of you pledged prior to November 2 to raise one-third of our \$835,000 budget ask. 231 of you responded to the 106-question**

Congregational Assessment Tool. Over 120 of you attended the MST Zoom presentations on 9/21 and 10/30.

WELL DONE, good and faithful HMPC servants!

In addition, all of our ministries continue to thrive. Of course we are sad about losing yet another staff person with Rich Richards' last day on December 19. But we celebrate that he has found a position more in line with his current sense of call, and also the ways this church has grown in ability and resilience so that staff transitions neither make nor break any of our ministries. We will adapt – as our CAT Adaptability score indicates that we will.

HMPC could not be entering the crux of the mission study process with any better momentum than this, friends. On Nov. 9, I and the Mission Study Team will be asking for all the energy, intelligence, imagination, love and PATIENCE we can get as we work to help all voices be heard and listened to in the discernment of Hudson's new vision. **Please arrive promptly, at least by 9:20, and be ready to start right at 9:30.**

And then on Nov. 23, the real test of commitment arrives – it's the start of Thanksgiving week, and we are asking you to attend another Brunch Church to complete our final Presbytery mission study requirement: identify the goals and objectives that will organize the work it will take to fulfill the vision you feel God has put before you at this time. In some ways, this second congregational discernment is more consequential – the goals and objectives you set will end up on the agendas of Session, deacons, and committees while the transition process pivots from the Mission Study Team to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

I am privileged, honored, and excited to be serving among you at this blessed moment.



SAVE THE DATE!

On November 23, we will have a second Brunch Church to develop goals and objectives. It will be held at 9:30 in Westminster Hall.

You can RSVP for 11/23 Brunch Church [HERE](#).

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY

What is a Vision Statement?

The vision is faithful to the congregation's best understanding of its religious heritage.

The vision statement is oriented to the future.

The vision is appropriate to this congregation.

The vision statement is realistic in terms of the congregation's context.

The vision statement contains both judgment and promise, good news and bad news.

The vision is, in so far as is possible, a shared image of the desired future.

The vision statement is specific enough to provide direction for the congregation's life, but broad enough to encompass multiple but complementary visions important to groups within the congregation.

Want to hear more?

Join us on 11/16 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@hmpc.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.

What did the CAT tell us?



Satisfaction and Energy – While measuring overall levels of satisfaction and energy at HMPC, the CAT also measured what "drives" people's satisfaction and energy. This knowledge helps leaders focus their efforts on areas that are of importance to the congregation. HMPC's drivers of satisfaction are:

- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.
- The leaders of our church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.
- The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.
- Problems between groups in this church are usually resolved through mutual effort.

When people feel these areas are going well, their satisfaction increases. Interestingly, the CAT detected no drivers of energy. This simply indicates that no particular issues were significant enough to score an influence on the amount of energy our members bring to their work at HMPC.

In addition, there were direct questions about members' satisfaction with our church and whether there is excitement (energy) about church activities or if we are "just going through the motions." 68% of respondents clearly agreed that they are satisfied, 29% were "on the fence," and only 2% clearly disagreed. On energy, 50% disagreed with the statement that we are just going through the motions, 43% were on the fence on this question, and only 7% clearly agreed.

Taken together, these responses to key questions about our congregation's feelings about the church told Holy Cow! Consulting (the creators of the survey) that our level of satisfaction and energy are high compared to the 2800 churches who have taken the CAT the last 36 months. Only 15-20% of these churches score high in both satisfaction and energy - most of them since COVID are scoring low in both. According to Holy Cow!, high levels of satisfaction and energy indicate a healthy and vital church!

How does this apply to us now?

Our Mission Study process, with Brunch Churches, Zoom meetings and the CAT survey itself, carry out the desire of Hudson's lay leaders and transitional pastor to discern God's vision for HMPC!

Personnel News: Rich Richards



We hope everyone got [the email](#) on Tuesday about our Youth Director, Rich Richards, taking another position. His last day at work will be Friday, Dec. 19, with some days around New Year's for cleaning out his office. Given that schedule, Personnel thought it would be fitting to honor Rich at the reception after Christmas Joy worship on Dec. 14. The children's choir and youth bells will all be in attendance, and we hope you already have plans to be there. It is a joyful time for Rich and Lindsey and we want to celebrate this new chapter with them, even as we do acknowledge it is another loss for our staff.

Rich and Pastor Marguerite are already in conversation about the documentation and arrangements needed to make this staff transition as easy as possible – although we know the words “easy” and “transition” don't often go together. However, because of Rich's recent paternity leave, Children's Ministry Director Cary Dickerson, Director of Music Barbara Loehr-Fox and Youth Committee Moderator Jenn Autry have some experience carrying on in his absence. We are also aware that Confirmation class is coming up and Pastor Marguerite will be in close contact with the team to make sure that is covered.



Personnel is already working on forming a search committee that will look for the new Youth Director. We have a great deal of confidence in our lay leaders and our staff to make this next transition an opportunity, and ask your prayers for all of them while we end our time with Rich and begin an interim period in Youth Ministry. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

DIACONATE

Annual Deacons' Retreat

New Hope Camp and Conference Center, between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough, was the setting for the annual Deacons' Retreat last weekend.

The natural environment of rolling hardwood forest provided a unique space apart for all deacons to grow in their relationship with God, themselves, and each other.



We began our day around the communion table with Rev. Aleta Ash, followed by discussion of Sailing Life, then on to Rocks, Rambling, Labyrinth, Soup and Story. Our day concluded in song with the group singing a few rounds of “Sail, Sail, Sail Your Boat” on the dock of New Hope Lake. *(Linda Meeks)*



Delivery of Letters to REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH ROSS



Last Friday U.S. Representative Deborah Ross welcomed Katherine Neighbors, Roger Howard, and Steve Jesseph in her Raleigh office to receive letters from HMPC members written at the Mission Committee's Offering of

Letters. Rep. Ross asked Katherine to read the letter she wrote aloud. Katherine, Roger and Steve presented Rep. Ross with 41 letters written to her. Ross thanked Hudson for our faithful witness to our elected officials in the Congress on behalf of hungry folks in North Carolina and across the country.

Our OLs were written in support of restoring the SNAP benefits which were cut in a Congressionally passed bill. The loss of SNAP benefits will affect over 42 million people nationally and 1.4 million people in North Carolina. Many of us also wrote to ask the Congress to restore and strengthen Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) benefits. Congresswoman Ross encouraged all voters to continue pushing all NC State and national leaders to restore the lost benefits as well as restoring the State Medicaid funding as the NC Legislature cut state medicaid reimbursements by 3-10% to hospitals and doctors.

Deborah Ross is a strong proponent of legislation in the U.S. Congress that protects and expands nutritional benefits for families in need.

November Tend My Sheep Baking Essentials for the NC State Food Pantry

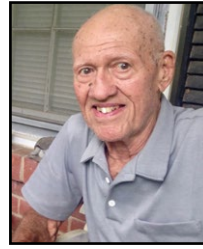
"The mission of the *Feed the Pack Food Pantry at NC State* is to help meet the food needs of all members of the NC State community with dignity and respect." Feed the Pack is the food pantry on NC State's campus, and is student-led and open to all members of the campus community (students, staff, and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

FEED - the - PACK educational security. **Learn more at their website [HERE](#).**

THE FOOD PANTRY AT NC STATE

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.

To the Church Triumphant Charles "Pete" Peterson



Hudson charter member, Charles Mervin "Pete" Peterson, entered God's everlasting kingdom on October 30, 2025, at 99 years old. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church on **Friday, November 7th, at 2:00pm.** For

those who cannot attend in person, the service will be **livestreamed [HERE](#)**. The link is also available on [hmhc.org](#). In lieu of flowers, [memorial gifts](#) can be made to HMPC. His obituary can be found [here](#).

Please keep the Peterson family in your prayers.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 9

9:30 am - Brunch Church - Westminster Hall

5:00 pm - MS Youth Group/ HS Bible Exploration

Monday, November 10

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary

7:00 pm - Finance Committee - Zoom

8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

Tuesday, November 11 (Office Closed)

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

11:00 am - Elizabeth/Esther Circle - Chapel

11:30 am - Hannah Circle - Rm 200

6:00 pm - ACA- Room 200

6:45 pm - Preschool Board - Westminster South

7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall

7:00 pm - Adult Ed Committee - Zoom

7:00 pm - Miriam Circle - Off-site

Wednesday, November 12

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel/ Zoom

6:00 pm - Mission Study Team - Westminster

6:00 pm - Mission Team Meeting - Off Site

6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - Westminster South

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, November 13

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge

6:30 pm - Mission Committee - Westminster South