

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 15, 2023



Christmas Joy in the Morning

**This Sunday, December 17
10:30am Worship**

Join us for a very musical worship
experience! You can sing carols and enjoy
selections from the Chancel Choir,
Joyful Noise, Youth Bells, Hudson Handbell
Ringers, and solo musicians!

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Last week, the preschool children shared their annual Christmas program!



Last Sunday's Christmas Pageant



BAPTISMS

Congratulations

TO BURKE & MARY MAC WOMBWELL
ON THE BAPTISM OF THEIR CHILD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3



TO SCOTT & ERIN BARTOW
ON THE BAPTISM OF THEIR CHILDREN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Holiday Cheer!

**PW CIRCLES ENJOYING THEIR
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS**



*Above: Hannah Circle packing gift bags for
residents of Capital Towers.*



Elizabeth/Rachel Circle

Visit the Chapel for Prayer & Reflection This Advent Season

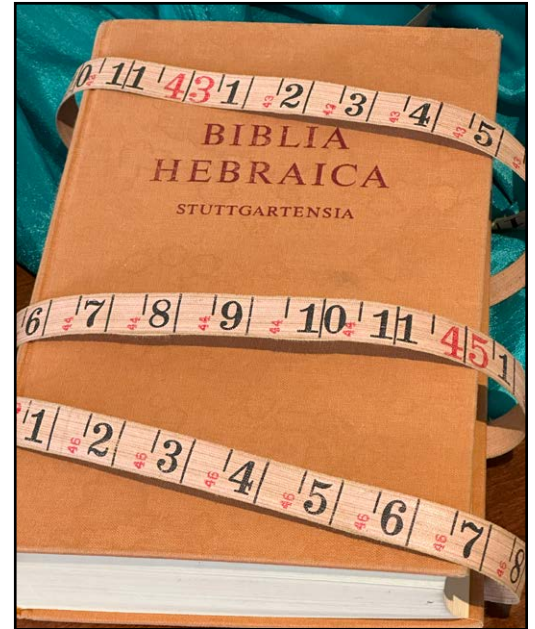
Rich Richards, Director of Youth and Children's Music Ministries, created an art installation in the Chapel. Throughout Advent, you are invited to stop by the Chapel, sit with the liturgical installation, and rest in "the sacred presence of God breathing in the shadows."

Here is a description of the artwork:

"Seasonal Tzelem and the Most High"

Found objects, window panes and light sources
Rich Richards (2023)

During this time of year, looking through windows both physically and metaphorically, is commonplace. "Seasonal Tzelem and the Most High" is a liturgical art installation that attempts to illustrate the idea of time, pace, feelings, images, memories, and stories of past and present while using ancient text. The Hebrew word for "shadows" is *Tzelem* or in modern Hebrew, *Tzel*. This word is used in Psalm 91:1-2 to create an image of safety and security, but the literal translation is "image" and "dark". The Hebrew word for *Tzelem* is found on the walls and ceilings of the Chapel to not only illustrate a "shadow", but also to connect us to the original language of the text. The found objects in this installation are intended to stir up some of those deep, warm memories that many experience during this season.



This prayer may be helpful as you spend quiet time in the space:

Eternal God, during this season of Advent, help us prepare Christ's way. Help us center our hearts, minds, and prayers on your holy presence in our midst. As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and for rest. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world, let us drop our facades and the masks we hide behind. May this season of Advent prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love. May it be so. Amen.



MISSION

December Tend My Sheep HEALING TRANSITIONS

The Tend My Sheep offering for December is for Healing Transitions, an organization dedicated to assisting those afflicted by substance abuse with a recovery program, emergency shelter, non-medical detoxification, and family services. We are collecting **socks, hats, gloves, blankets, and coats.**



WORSHIP & THE ARTS

Christmas Eve Services SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

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



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth News Sunday Schedule:

10:30am - Christmas Joy Worship (Youth Bells playing)
11:30am - Sunday School - Youth SS Room
11:30am - College Student Lunch - Off-site
Afternoon: Sabbath Sunday (at home or restaurant)

Photos: HMPC Youth caroling in the neighborhood earlier this month!



End-of-Year Gifts for 2023 Giving Statements

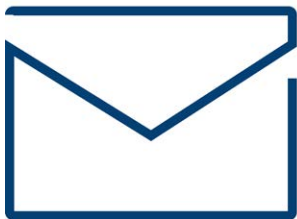


As you consider your end-of-year giving, we want to make you aware of IRS guidelines that allow for a donation to be included on your 2023 giving statement for tax purposes. Simply dating a check in December is insufficient according to the IRS guidelines – therefore please consider the following deadlines:

- **Given in the offering plate: by Dec 31**
- **Hand delivered to the office: by Dec 31**
- **US Mail: Postmarked by Dec 31**
- **Private delivery service (FedEx/UPS): Received in office by Dec 31**
- **Online credit card gifts: must “fully process” by credit card issuer no later than Dec 31 – we recommend that you initiate an online gift by Dec 21 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.**
- **Stock donations: received in the church’s brokerage account by Dec 29 – we recommend you initiate a stock transfer by Dec 21 to allow 5 business days.**

The church office will be open until 12:30pm on Friday, December 29, so please consider this for any deliveries. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator, at lflint-morris@hmpc.org or 919-390-2664.

Offering Envelopes

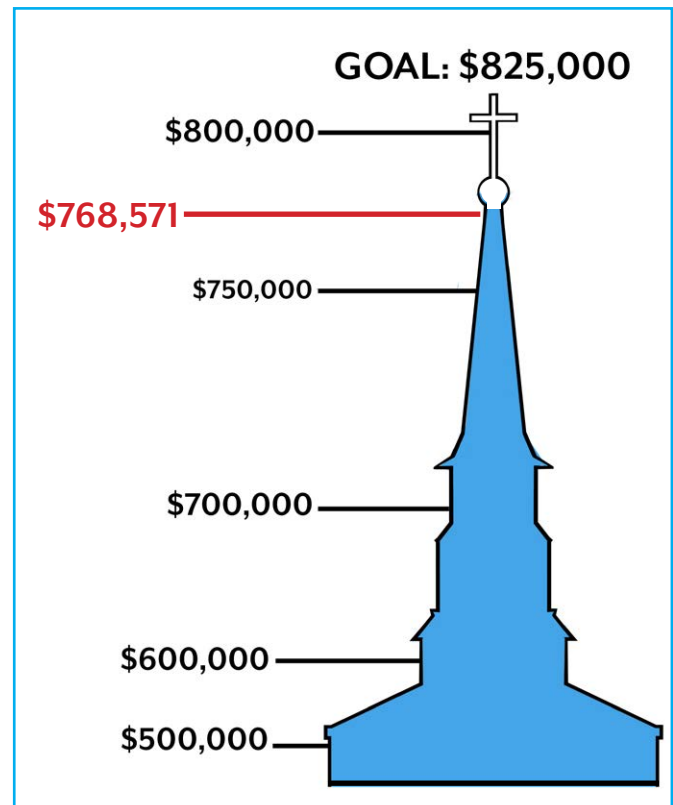


For those who wish to mail their offering in monthly envelopes, the office can provide those for anyone interested. Contact Erica Hairston, Business Administrator, at 919-390-2630 or

ehairston@hmpc.org to let her know you would like 12 months of pre-labeled envelopes.

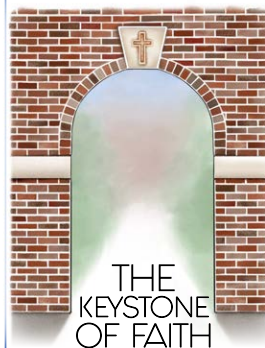
2024 Pledge Campaign Progress Update

AS OF DECEMBER 14, 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 December 14, 2023, our received pledges total **\$768,571** (still \$56k away from our goal of \$825k). We currently have **164** 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.

Seeing the Word

Next Meeting: December 18 at Noon



Seeing the Word occurs the Third Monday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Chapel. Monday, December 18 is our next meeting. This group meets once a month and uses music, scripture, and illustrations from the *St. John's Illuminated Bible* for an hour-long time of study and reflection. This is led by Pastor Mac Schafer. Participants are welcome to bring their lunch; we provide water and napkins. We use an ancient Bible study method called *visio divina*. No previous Bible study experience necessary. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group, please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmhc.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Officer Recommendations

Recommendations for Elders and Deacons from the congregation will take place through January 12. If you have a recommendation of a Hudson member (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 by using the provided QR code shown below.

If you prefer, you may complete a recommendation form that will be included in the Sunday morning bulletins on Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17. The forms will also be available at each of the three Sanctuary entrances through January



12. The Nominating Committee will compile the forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received. The newly elected officers (elected by the congregation) will begin their service in May 2024. Please contact Carol Cox of the Nominating Committee if you have questions. Thank you for your prayerful considerations, 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."

FINANCE

Review of Actual vs Budget HMPC GENERAL FUND YEAR TO DATE (YTD)

	YTD 2023 <u>ACTUAL</u>	YTD 2023 <u>BUDGET</u>	Favorable/ (Unfavorable) ACT VS <u>BUDGET</u>	YTD 2022 <u>ACTUAL</u>
PLEDGES	\$ 667,027	\$ 700,200	\$ (33,173)	\$ 693,999
NON-PLEDGE/OTHER GENERAL FUND OFFERING	\$ 102,444	\$ 101,013	\$ 1,431	\$ 82,757
TOTAL GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS	\$ 769,471	\$ 801,213	\$ (31,742)	\$ 776,756
 TOTAL GF REVENUE	 \$ 888,428	 \$ 899,889	 \$ (11,461)	 \$ 864,276
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	\$ 905,499	\$ 930,496	\$ 24,997	\$ 896,030
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (17,070)	\$ (30,607)	\$ 13,537	\$ (31,754)
 2023 APPROVED BUDGET DEFICIT	 \$ (40,112)			
NET GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (57,182)			
 AVAILABLE TO BORROW-NS BANK	 \$ 50,000			
 CASH BALANCE	 \$ 292,186	Current Year		
BORROWED FROM BANK	\$ -			
NET GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE	\$ 292,186			



THE GATHERING

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 topic is "Liberty, Not License".

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

Sunday, December 17

"How Much Do We Need to Celebrate to Be Joyful?"

Facilitated by Jimmy Hulsey

The Seekers Christmas Party

The Seekers class is cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 16th, at 3:00** at the home of Shirley Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are included as well as any members of the former Mixed Adults and John Knox classes.



Women at the Well



Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us!

The next session of the weekly Women at the Well begins **January 10** in the season of Epiphany. Our book for the

winter semester is *Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age* by author Katherine May. She lifts up enchantment, or wonder, as an antidote to this age of fear and anxiety, a fitting lens through which to see the New Year with all of its possibilities. And when many of us may experience a letdown after the holiday season, Epiphany reminds us that our journeys are always unfolding as we retell the ancient story of the first visitors to find Christ. One of our favorite hymns reflects the journey of the wise men and can be appropriate for us as we gaze at the night sky all these generations later. "*Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light.*"

If you are not a current participant and would like to join, contact Debbie Kirk.

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, December 19 | 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.

FAITH FORMATION

Women at the Well End of Year & Holiday Gathering



MISSION

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).

SINGLE WAY

Single Way Holiday Gathering



December 31, 2023 in Westminster Hall

4:00-6:00pm

The Single Way group will be having their annual Holiday covered dish gathering on New Year's Eve. Please have reservations and the covered dish you will bring to Dee Blackerby by December 29. We will be having a grab bag gift exchange. Limit of \$10.00 for gift.

SINGLE
WAY



Come and join us for music, games, and adult fellowship.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am - The Seekers/Ponderings - WH South/North
10:30 am - Christmas Joy Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am - Christmas Joy Reception - WH North
11:30 am - College Student Lunch (off-site)
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School
Evening - Youth Sabbath Sunday

Monday, December 18

12:00 pm - Seeing the Word - Chapel
7:00 pm - Session - WH South
8:00 pm - How It Works (AI-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Patio
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge
10:00 am - Sewing Guild Luncheon - WH North
10:30 am - Esther Circle - Chapel
6:30 am - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge
7:00 pm - Fellowship - Zoom
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, December 20

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

Friday, December 22

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200