

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A Note From Marguerite How Does it All Fit Together?

This summer, I preached a sermon series about mission, vision, and goals to lay the groundwork for the mission study work you all are doing this fall. As we look to wrap up this phase of the work on Sunday, I thought a quick refresher of how all this connects might be helpful to some of you.

HMPC's mission statement is: To know, love, and serve God in Jesus Christ. The nouns in the mission statement tell us whose and who we are. The verbs tell us what we do because of whose and who we are. **We are NOT rewriting HMPC's mission statement.** We are rewriting a vision statement to speak to the direction HMPC feels God is calling you in this particular time and place. It will and should change in time. Vision is a stop along the journey - and then God will take us toward a new direction again.

Here's an example of how it all connects together. If the mission statement were a pumpkin pie, the vision statement would be a slice of it. A goal would be to get the slice on a plate. An objective would be to get a fork and eat the slice, thereby fulfilling the mission, vision, goal and objective. Yum!

The verbs in our vision statement don't have to repeat those in our mission statement, but they should extend ways in which we should demonstrate knowledge, love, and service that best meet today's needs of church and community. For example, to serve God in Jesus Christ, we could have a vision of proclaiming the Good News better online. Goals to accomplish that may include developing a social media strategic plan to coordinate online messaging across all platforms. Another may be funding additional resources to create video and additional content. What would be an objective to help accomplish these goals? Perhaps creating a committee to develop the strategic plan, or hiring a consultant to develop it, within the next six months. And having a ministry team or the Session start talking with staff and volunteers already involved in social media development about serving on this committee when they next meet.

I hope these examples help "prime the pump" for your creative energies on Sunday. Hope to see you then!

Blessings,

THE SECOND BRUNCH CHURCH IS THIS SUNDAY

Nov. 23 | 9:30AM | Westminster Hall
NO 10:30 SANCTUARY WORSHIP!

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! It's casual - if you have an HMPC shirt or sweatshirt, we hope you will wear it. Be willing to sit with new people, share your opinions, and listen generously.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
7:00PM | GRACE LUTHERAN

Grace Lutheran (5010 Six Forks Rd) is hosting this year's Six Forks Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 7:00pm. Hudson Memorial is a part of this ecumenical service, which brings together Six Forks Road congregations in worship and thanksgiving. Musicians from all participating congregations (including Hudson!) will join together to provide special music through the Adult, Children's, and Handbell choirs. Following the service, Grace Lutheran will host a fellowship time with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to sharing in this celebration of gratitude with you—hope to see you there!

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY

Second Brunch Church

This Sunday, November 23, at 9:30

Come even if you forgot to RSVP!



If you missed the first Brunch Church, be sure to come this week. If you were at the first one, we know you'll want to come back! In

addition to good food, wonderful fellowship and Spirit-filled worship, this week we will have table discussions to develop goals and objectives to help our church live into the vision expressed in our new vision statement.

To help get us started, Pastor Marguerite has provided the following:

Understanding Goals

The purpose of planning is to organize our ministry. The best way to plan is to give ourselves some goals to achieve. The goals should relate to some part of the new vision statement. The goal extends the vision in a practical way.

For goals to be workable, they must have three characteristics:

S - Specific: Peace on earth is too broad, safety in our neighborhood is specific.

A - Attainable: Can it be done in the time allotted and with the resources available?

M - Measurable: Will you know when you have attained your goal? How?

Goals begin with some kind of verb: for example, CHOOSE, DECIDE, RESOLVE, BUILD, EXPAND, SERVE, STUDY, INCREASE, DESIGN.

As you think about the church, imagine several kinds of goals: goals that MAINTAIN a solid existing program; goals that DEVELOP a weaker existing program; goals that ADD brand new programs, and goals that REMOVE the ineffective programs. (Sometimes adding a new program requires deleting an old one).

Understanding Objectives

An objective is a way to begin to reach the goal. For instance, if your goal is to grow in membership by 10% each year for the next five years, your objectives would be specific things you could do to help you attain that goal.

Once again, groups will need to apply the SAM characteristics: S — Specific, A — Attainable, M — Measurable.

Thank you to all who shared their comments on the draft vision statement with the Mission Study Team! All have been given consideration as we develop the final statement, which we will share at Brunch Church this Sunday.

Needs & Strengths Revisited

Throughout the Mission Study process, the congregation has been asked in various ways about the needs and strengths of our church and what needs in the community we could serve. As we prepare to develop lists of goals and objectives to carry out our vision, here are some of the answers we've received:

Explore ways to...

- Schedule church events to better fit needs of families and all generations
- Increase spiritual vitality
- Increase the visibility of our programs, including online presence and outreach to area residents and those not attending church
- Increase member involvement through small group activities to build relationships and better support ministries of the church
- Deepen educational offerings, such as Bible study, especially for adults
- Make necessary changes, while managing discomfort

Taking advantage of our strengths...

- True community—warm, welcoming, authentic and inclusive
- Passion and energy of lay leadership, congregation and staff
- Children's ministry
- Music program

And looking outside our walls to serve those experiencing...

- Hunger, immediate or systemic
- Living on the margins of society
- Mental health challenges or isolation

By increasing partnerships with local and national relief organizations.

November Deacon's Bench

BY JILL HOVIS

A Deacon's calling is to show care and compassion.



We engage with members in several different ways, one of which is prayer. We pray for members by request, we pray with them when we visit, and we provide several opportunities for them to offer prayers of their own apart from the weekly service.

Our congregational card ministry is one in which we assure members that they are each being prayed for by a deacon. We send cards twice yearly.

All deacons take part in our Lenten "Simple Suppers" followed by meaningful prayer services. Each year we hold a "Blue Christmas" service to offer prayer and support to those who may be struggling with a difficult holiday season, whether HMPC members or not. This is a wonderful opportunity to request a prayer or share with a deacon in a more somber setting. All of these experiences are deeply moving to both deacons and attendees.

Anyone may request a prayer by using the prayer line, putting a blue card in the offering plate, or simply speaking with a serving deacon. You may choose to have only the pastor pray for you or to include the deacons. You may be asked if you would like to have Prayer Partners included. Unlike many churches, these volunteer members do not meet but pray for you in their homes. Prayers are composed for them by the Deacon's Prayer Ministry team and kept confidential.

The Deacons are here to serve the members' needs and the Prayer Ministry exists to help express those needs for healing, guidance, consolation, or



peace for oneself or others. In our denomination, we are each blessed to take our prayers directly to God in a conversation. Let us remember to wait patiently to hear Him speak.

- Jill Hovis, Prayer Ministry

Blue Christmas

The HMPC Deacons will assist Pastor Marguerite in leading new type of Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 7th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service is for everyone, not just HMPC family, but anyone who may find the holidays a particularly difficult time to keep up the charade of happiness amidst all the hustle and bustle, sparkly lights, and holiday cheer of the Christmas season. It will focus on the metaphor of God and Jesus as shepherd and include the anointing of oil, as in Psalm 23. The service will provide a safe place to come to worship and wonder about God, whether you are grieving

the loss of a loved one, or just grieving the state of the world, or hardships in life. The HMPC choir will also lift their voices in a way that will soothe your soul. All are welcome, we hope to see you there.



Deacon Liturgists

On many Sundays leading up to Lent, various HMPC Deacons will be assisting as liturgists. One of the reasons deacons are doing this is so that you can see who we are. You may know we have a diaconate, but it may not always be clear to you who is currently serving the congregation as a deacon. Deacons are elected by the congregation each year and we serve a three-year term. We are here to serve the congregation in many ways including grief care, visitation, prayer, meals, friendly connection and support, and we also sponsor a few church-wide educational or inspirational programs throughout the year. We are here for you and we encourage you to reach out to any one of us when life gets challenging so we can walk with you in the light of Christ.

Winter Fox, Judie Greenawalt, Jill Hovis, Linda Meeks, Mary Schindo, Jeffrey Coonse, Gil Graybill, Lisa Williams, Caroline Rohs, Fred Woodward, Jenn Autry, Nancy Eyre, Joanna Husley, Hope Parangi, and Iva Stowe

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Draw Near:

***Lighting the Advent Path
with Hope, Peace, Joy And Love***

Written by Teri McDowell Ott



Each day of Advent, this devotional offers a gentle invitation to draw near — to Scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you'll light the way week by week with hope, peace, joy and love,

preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us. Alongside daily reflections, this journey is enriched by artwork from children — tender, honest interpretations of sacred texts that remind us what it means to receive the kingdom like a child. Their drawings offer not just illustration, but illumination — echoing the wonder and welcome of the season.

The devotional will be available online on November 28, and printed copies will be available at Sanctuary doors on November 30. If you would like a printed copy to be mailed to you, let [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) know.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 6

10:00am-12:00pm | Westminster Hall



Join us for this family-friendly event in Westminster Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This celebration is always a fun-filled, festive morning! Activities include ornament-making, a nativity scavenger hunt, and making gingerbread nativities. Hot chocolate and treats will be available as well!

CHRISTMAS JOY MUSIC WORSHIP

10:30 Worship | Sunday, December 14

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 worship service will be on December 14 in the Sanctuary. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!

PW Needs Your Help!



All our wonderful music ensembles and choirs participate in Christmas Joy, and Presbyterian Women hosts the reception following this joyous worship service. This year's reception will

also recognize and thank Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministries and Children's Music Director, for his talented leadership at Hudson these past years! We are in need of volunteers! **Please sign up [HERE](#)** for a volunteer position and/or contribute a food item for this joyful celebration.

You can also sign up for a position or food item by emailing Sharon Cole at sharoncole@carolina.rr.com.

PW thanks you!



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 21st and Christmas Eve worship bulletins. 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 14th. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check, and please specify if your donation is in honor or memory of anyone. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT INTERGENERATIONAL "PAPER BAG" PAGEANT

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 Wise person 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.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30

10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

Following Worship - Hanging of the Greens

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7

10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

Intergenerational Paper Bag Pageant

4:00pm - Blue Christmas in the Sanctuary

"A Service of Healing & Hope"

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Christmas Joy Music Worship & Reception

Following Worship there will be a reception in Westminster Hall celebrating the musicians, the joy of Christmas, as well as honoring Rich Richards (His last day as Director of Youth Ministry & Children's Music is 12/19).

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21

10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

5:00pm - Candlelight Service

7:00pm - Candlelight Service

Nursery will be available at the 5:00 service only.

Only the 5pm service will be livestreamed.

2026 Pledge Campaign PLEDGE REMINDER - 210K TO GO!



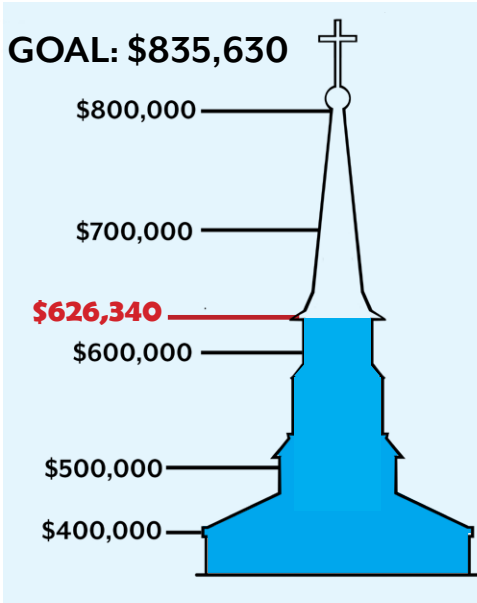
Each Fall, HMPC calls on its members and regular visitors to “pledge” their planned giving amount for the upcoming year. Everyone’s pledged totals are then added together to set the church’s budget for January 1 – December 31, 2026.

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 19, 2025, our received pledges total \$626,340. We currently have 126 households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 119 pledging households for a total of \$558,864.

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](#).

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.

FEED - the - PACK
THE FOOD PANTRY AT NC STATE

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





Sunday, November 23

9:30 am - Brunch Church - Westminster Hall
5:00 pm - Friendsgiving Youth Dinner - HMPC

Monday, November 24

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

Tuesday, November 25

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
6:00 pm - ACA - Room 200
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall
7:00 pm - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 27

Office Closed - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Friday, November 28

Office Closed

Waking Up With The Word Tuesday, November 25 - 6:30am - Zoom



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*. We read the passage that is preached on for 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. On Zoom we invite you to use an online Bible or pull out your own hard copy and brew some joe at home. 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 may have.

PRESCHOOL

Giving Thanks at HMP

We had so much at our three and four year old Thanksgiving family celebrations! Parents joined their children in Westminster Hall for the feast. Everyone enjoyed chicken nuggets, ham rolls, side dishes and lots of pie! Our younger children had classroom parties with crafts and a special treat. We are thankful for our families, our school, and chicken nuggets! (Dorothy Roche)



Cold weather doesn't stop this dedicated crew! 13 men showed up for this Bible study last Tuesday, Nov.18.



Seekers & Ponderings Christmas Gathering

The Seekers & Presbyterian Ponderings are cordially invited to a Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 13th, at 3:00pm** at the home of Shirley & Richard Blanks, 817 Northbrook Drive. Spouses are also invited.

