

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FEBRUARY 27, 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARGUERITE

Greetings HMPC family and friends,



It's wonderful to address you as "family" and feel that deeply in my heart. Can you believe it has been almost one year since we started on this transitional journey together? You have been such a blessing to me and to Mark, and we continue to do our best to bless your ministry during our time with you.

Speaking of time with you - as a transitional pastor, I am called by your Session on a contract basis for one year, eligible for renewal at the end of 12 months. At their February 23 meeting, Session did approve the motion to renew my contract for another twelve months through April 7, 2027. I am grateful for such solid support from the Session and so many members, and excited about the spiritual work ahead to integrate the mission study vision, goals, and objectives into our conversations and ministries.

It seems appropriate at this time to talk about some of the restrictions and guidelines PCUSA follows for transitional pastors. For example, some of you have been asking if I could be your installed pastor. As I have told a few of you, and now tell all of you, it is OK to fall in love with your interim/transitional pastor. Number 1: all of us are called first and foremost to love God and one another as ourselves! Number 2: anyone working in transitional ministry is especially appreciative of the love from folks as they are asking to take a hard look at their church and their current situation, and perhaps make difficult decisions. Number 3: the more love you have, the more you have to pass on to your next pastor. I am sure part of the warm welcome Mark and I have experienced was due to the loving relationships Mac and/or Debbie had with so many of you. Continue to build on this HMPC strength - the world (and your next pastor) need it!



Now, back to the PCUSA guidelines. Calling an interim/transitional pastor into an installed position is discouraged, for reasons I won't go into here but will happily talk with any of you about if you are curious. In my first transitional call,

I actually did agree to be considered for the installed position in a church that fit the profile for those granted an exception to call their transitional pastor: a small rural church with a history of high turnover. That experience taught me not to do that again. It turned out we couldn't make it work and everybody had a hard time with that emotionally.

Finally, as I've mentioned a few times since April 6, 2025, HMPC is my final "port of call." Once my time of transitional ministry here has ended, I will be retiring. I can think of no better way of making that personal transition than retiring from a church who is doing transition so well. I'll be applying some of our mission study principles to my own life! The timing of all that depends on several things, most importantly the work of the PNC. A contract position like mine can be ended with a 30-day written notice by either party, Session or me.

As always, I am available for lunch, coffee, phone calls and hallway conversations on any of this or other topics you'd like to discuss. I'm really looking forward to this next year of ministry together. God will reveal much to us!

Blessings,

## About The PNC Nomination Process

Now that Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has approved our Mission Study Report, HMPC can work on forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This article explains where we are and what to expect next.

On February 2, Session appointed a PNC nominating subcommittee of Harry Bowles, Ken Krause, Elizabeth Peeler and Dan Vig to nominate a slate of HMPC members to the seven-person PNC. Their first meeting was held February 18.

The Session has set the number of PNC members at 7 and specified these criteria for representation:

- \* Active and contributing HMPC members
- \* Diversity of age and membership tenure
- \* Diversity of gender and theological perspective
- \* At least some leadership experience at HMPC
- \* At least one person with experience in hiring processes and/or personnel work

These representation criteria ensure that the PNC reflects as much as possible the diversity of the congregation as well as skills particular to the task of searching for and nominating a candidate for the next Head of Staff.

Because the Session has set representation criteria and a seven-person limit, not everyone nominated will be able to serve. But if you feel you or an HMPC member you know would help meet the criteria and aid the work of the PNC, **you should submit a nomination by March 15. Paper forms will be available in the bulletin on Sunday, or you can nominate someone via online form by clicking [HERE](#).**

Once the subcommittee and the Session agree on the slate of nominees to be put before the congregation, Session will schedule a congregational meeting following worship for the subcommittee to present their slate and hold the election. As you can see, the formation of the PNC is a collaborative process between the Session and the congregation, ultimately elected by and functioning as a committee of the congregation.

After the PNC's election, an orientation meeting will be held with the PNC, our vacancy counselor from Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, Jerry Slaymaker, and Pastor Sirrine. They will then begin this work, which could be completed at the earliest by early 2027, at the latest, in 2028.

**On February 22, we had five new members join our congregation. Be sure to say hello!**

### Chris Hutchinson



Chris is a retired Elementary Music Teacher, born in Charlotte, NC, and grew up in Western, NC. Her sister is member Grace Hutchinson. She enjoys needlework, reading, music, concerts, working with children, community service, and family time. She joined the Hudson Chancel Choir last year.

### Sarah Goodin & Tito Rivera



Sarah and Tito have two kids - Emilia (Kindergarten) and Savanna (Pre-K). Sarah is originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, and is an Attorney at Ellinger & Carr. In her free time Sarah enjoys exercising, reading, and weekend trips to the mountains or the beach with her family. Tito was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Buffalo, NY. He is a Designer for Truist Bank, and enjoys mountain biking, golf, trades, travel, and hiking.

### William "Bill" Murchison



Bill is from Raleigh, married to Marian, with two grown daughters and two grand kids. Bill is a retired Structural Engineer, retired from NC State. Bill enjoys reading and watching sport car and NASCAR Racing.

### Walker Sanderson



Walker is a Senior Quotations Specialist at Mayer Electric. He is originally from Greensboro, NC. His hobbies include golf, exercise, attending Carolina Hurricanes hockey games, reading, and spending quality time with family and friends.

## Young-ish Adult Fun!

The Young-ish Adults had a great time out at Edit Beer Co. last Saturday. A total of 24 adults, 3 kids, and 2 dogs joined us for an evening of fun, laughter, and great conversation. We also got lucky and spotted a Leprechaun!

Stay tuned for future outings - We are planning to have another this spring.



## To The Church Triumphant MARGARET SHARPE



Hudson member, Margaret Sharpe, entered God's everlasting kingdom on February 25, 2026. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of Life will be held **Thursday, March 5th at 3:00pm**, in the Hudson Memorial Sanctuary. A reception will follow. If you cannot make it in person, the livestream can be found [HERE](#).

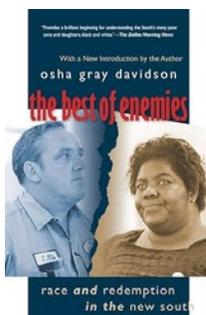
[Memorial gifts](#) can be made to the Hudson Memorial Music Ministry.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Special Evening Book Study Facilitated by Joan Lester | March 8-May 3

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to offer a new book study that describes a true story of racial reconciliation in Durham. The book study explores a technique, called a "charrette," used to bring diverse people together to work out differences. The book is *The Best of Enemies*, the true story of C.P. Ellis, Exalted Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan of Durham, and of Ann Atwater, a single mother from the poor black part of town, who became a dynamic black activist. They met in 1971 on opposite sides of the school integration issue, and through guided charrettes, they were each transformed. They "forged a longstanding friendship that flourished against a backdrop of unrelenting bigotry." Their story is remarkable.

The book study will occur beginning March 8 on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. The first session (two hours) will involve passing out books and watching the DVD of *The Best of Enemies*. The remaining sessions will each be one hour. We will skip Easter Sunday and go through May 3, for a total of eight sessions. The first ten people to sign up will get free books. Additional persons are welcome to sign up and can order books on Amazon, including a Kindle version. Joan Lester is conducting the book study. Sign up by calling or texting her or by emailing her at [joanlester2@gmail.com](mailto:joanlester2@gmail.com).



## March Special Offerings PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

For March and April, our Special Offering and Tend My Sheep collection will support Presbyterian Campus Ministries (PCM). HMPC is a partner congregation of PCM, and we are proud to help sustain their vital outreach to students at NC State.



PCM provides a welcoming community where students gather for weekly meals, fellowship, and meaningful connection - offering both spiritual support and a safe place to belong. You can make a monetary donation by scanning the QR code, or clicking [HERE](#).

For Tend My Sheep, we will be collecting gas cards and snacks for the PCM student lounge. Their most requested items include peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, Gatorade, fruit snacks, pretzels, Capri Sun pouches, and individual iced coffees.



## Do you knit or crochet?

You may have noticed the handmade pineapples adorning our visitor gift bags — a small but meaningful symbol of the warm welcome we extend to everyone who walks through our doors. The pineapple has long been a historic sign of hospitality, and this tradition has become a special part of our church's ministry of welcome.

We're looking for a few helping hands to help us



continue it! If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, we would love for you to create pineapples for our gift bags. Instructions from previous makers are available.

If you're interested in being part of this creative and welcoming ministry, please contact Lesley Ash Jacobsen in the church office or Lucille Nicholas.



## PRESCHOOL

The preschool kids had a blast last week celebrating the Olympics with a parade! They all earned a gold medal during a ceremony in their classrooms for acts of kindness and love.



## FELLOWSHIP

### Single Way March Luncheon

MARCH 3 AT 11:30AM



Single Way is a group of mostly retired singles that meet once a month for lunch and fellowship. On March 3rd, we are meeting at Hibernian Irish Pub and Restaurant (8021 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh).



Please call Ruth Herpich at 919-280-0049 by March 1st with your reservation. If you know of anyone that would like to join us, please extend the invitation. All are welcome.

## Lent Services

MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25  
Lenten Suppers & Services  
6:00pm Supper, 6:30 Service

MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY  
10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY  
7:00pm - Communion & Tenebrae Service

## Easter

Sunday, April 5



7:00 - Ecumenical Sunrise Service  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church



9:00 - Worship in HMPC Sanctuary  
8:00-10:30 - "Cancake" Breakfast  
11:00 - Worship in HMPC Sanctuary

Nursery for children in Kindergarten and under will be available from 8:45-12:15. Please note there will be NO Adult Education, Children's Sunday School, Kids' Music or Youth activities on Easter.

## Lenten Prayer Services

Simple Supper: 6:00pm in WH North  
Service: 6:30pm in the Chapel

HMPC Deacons invite you to join them on Wednesdays for supper and worship during Lent. These services honor practices that began with the early Christians who gathered to share a meal and fellowship, then worshiped together where the rites of anointing with oil and communion were offered. Your participation may be a regular part of your Lent commitment or you can attend as you are able. Dates for these services are **March 4, 11, 18, 25**.

Each week we provide healthy, delicious, simple suppers and a time of fellowship around the tables in Westminster North. There is no cost for these meals. Following the meal, the services of evening prayer take place in the Chapel. These are contemplative, reflective times that include scripture, liturgy, several forms of prayer, music, and the



opportunity to be anointed with oil for yourself or on behalf of someone else. The services conclude with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

## Easter Lilies Available To Order!



Lilies may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. Each plant is \$15. Order forms are available [HERE](#) or at Sanctuary entrances. The lilies may be picked up after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

## LENTEN SERMON THEME THROUGH MARCH 29: "FULFILLMENT"



Lent is that Christian season of discipleship where we acknowledge the ways we tend to sabotage ourselves and our world, giving into temptations that prevent us from fulfilling God's plan for us. The sermon series explores the idea of fulfillment (that word that many younger Americans use to describe what they're looking for in marriage and career), and the idea of God's vision for humankind coming to fruition, especially through Jesus Christ. In a time when Hudson Memorial is beginning a journey toward fulfilling its new vision and the goals needed to achieve it, we'll explore Biblical wisdom on navigating that journey with faith, hope, and love. - *Pastor Marguerite*

## Children's Music Director

As many of you know, our Children's Music Director, Rich Richards, concluded his 4.5 years of joyful leadership in December. We are deeply grateful for the creativity, energy, and care he shared with our children during his time at Hudson. In the interim, we have been blessed by the leadership of Sarah Bedini.

We are now beginning the search for a permanent Joyful Noise Children's Music Director. We are looking for someone who can provide a fun, faith-filled, and musically rich experience for children ages 5–10. We are seeking a person who loves working with children, encourages joyful participation, and helps young voices grow in confidence while discovering music as an expression of worship. The role involves leading weekly rehearsals, preparing children to sing in worship throughout the year, collaborating closely with staff and families, and nurturing a welcoming, life-giving musical community.

If you know someone who might be a great fit, please pass along the job description or contact Barbara Loehr-Fox. We would love your help in spreading the word as we look for the next leader of this joyful and meaningful ministry.

Job description can be found [HERE](#).

Applications can be sent to: [musicjobs@hmpc.org](mailto:musicjobs@hmpc.org) or [bloehr-fox@hmpc.org](mailto:bloehr-fox@hmpc.org)

## ARTS CAMP

June 17, 18 & 19 | 5:30pm-7:30pm

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Join us as we explore and celebrate God's creation through drama, music and visual art. Our theme hymn for this year is *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*.

This camp is open to children currently in Kindergarten through 5th grade for the 2025-2026 school year. This event is open to the public so invite a friend to join you! Dinner

will be served each evening before we begin our art rotations.



We look forward to a time of faith and fun with your children!



REGISTER [HERE!](#)

## VBS Volunteers Needed



Vacation Bible School is coming, and we can't do it without YOU! Whether you love leading games, helping with crafts, serving snacks, or helping with science, there is a place for all ages, abilities, and talents to serve! Whether you can serve 2, 3, or all 5 days, we would love to have you join us for a week of Snowball Mountain Challenge fun! Sign up by scanning the QR code on the left or clicking [HERE](#).

## We'd love your help with our Easter Egg Hunt on March 14!

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join the fun! We need helping hands to hide eggs, supervise crafts, and assist with set-up and clean-up. It's a great way to serve and be part of a joyful community event.

Sign up [HERE](#).

We're also collecting plastic eggs stuffed with peanut-free candy and small trinkets. You can drop off donations in the Karl Hudson room, or take home some empty eggs to fill and return later.



This is an easy and meaningful way for older adults to participate, and a perfect opportunity for youth to earn service hours from home!

# FAITH FORMATION

## **Nine O'Clock Class**

**Sunday, March 1 | 9:00 | Room 200**

**"Abraham's Journey"**

**Facilitated by Don Slater**

We will be exploring Abraham's journey as he learned to walk with God. Join us for a full hour of learning and discussion!

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## **Making Peace:**

### **Adult Sunday School Series**

**9:30 | WH North | Through March 15**



What do you do when it seems impossible to have a free exchange of opinions with your neighbors, your coworkers or even the person in the pew next to you? When it feels like outrage is the new national pastime, how do you find peace? When everyone is divided and everything is divisive, what can we do? Join us for a six-week class focusing on navigating the negativity, finding common ground and disagreeing better.

**Week 4:** Two things can be true at the same time: A humble awareness of our limited experience (and the limited experience of everyone else) may be a key to finding common ground.

This series is open to the whole Hudson community. Join us on Sunday, March 1, at the 9:30 hour in Westminster Hall North.

## **The Seekers**

**9:30am | WH South**

**Sundays through March 29**

**"Seeking God's Presence"**

**Facilitated by Jimmy Hulse**

This past fall when we filled out surveys about our congregation, most observations were quite positive. There was, however, a need identified for greater "spiritual vitality." The class I offer this Lent is to help us understand that term.

I have chosen a highly respected Presbyterian educator to guide us. Years ago, Craig Dykstra was chosen to draft a study of Presbyterian/Reformed spirituality. He later wrote a book based on that report to the 201st General Assembly, entitled *Growing in the Life of Faith*. We will be following its topics and allowing it to inform our discussions.

What is the basis for our life in the Spirit? What does it mean to grow in faith or to mature spiritually? Is spirituality different from faith? Is it more emotional than intellectual? Does it entail a different style of worship? Is it more or less churchy? Is it focused more on the individual and less on the community or society? How can Presbyterians be more spiritual? What guidelines from our Presbyterian/Reformed faith are there? Can spirituality even be taught?

I offer these classes for our hearts and minds to prepare again to receive new life at Easter. We will gather in the Seekers location: Westminster South at 9:30am, Sundays, through March 29. Since the class was inspired by a congregational survey, all are especially welcome.

## **Waking Up With The Word**

**Morning Men's Bible Study - Tuesday, March 3, 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. This week will be over Zoom.

WUWTW uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. At in-person meetings we provide coffee and Bibles. 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@hmpc.org](mailto:lash-jacobsen@hmpc.org). Contact Tripp Bradshaw with any questions about the group you might have.

## March Birthdays

- 1: Hope Parangi, Suzanne Schneider, Bob Stowe
- 2: Mary Ellen Heathcote
- 3: Reed Cummins, Matt Carlisle, Hadley Mason, Linda Campbell-Feingold, Jonathan Hughes, Lauren Janarella, Riley Cranford
- 4: Benjamin Mason
- 5: Mike Law, Margaret Alexander, B. Fertin, Megan Christenbury
- 6: Mia Komono, Vicki Holt, Peg Simone
- 7: Ford Sanchez, Debbie Dewar, Dirk Phillips, Ron Sharpe, Ginger Lindsey, Oliver Linden
- 8: Cal Madden, Polly Bryant
- 9: Mary Mac Bradshaw, Katy Waugh, Lynn Cummins, Karin Sandlin, Mary Cates Bevier, Fiona Bartow
- 10: Edith Horne, Stuart James, Charlotte Feurer
- 11: Joe Lindsey, Mona Knight, Marguerite Serrine
- 12: Angie Bell-Morris, Julie Webb, Banks Allard
- 13: Benjamin Peeler, Steve Guy
- 14: Frances Massey
- 15: Glenn Keever, James Mason
- 16: Jennifer Dudeck, Gavin Waugh, Nancy Crane, Margie Hanks
- 17: Dave Smart, Lizzie Graybill
- 18: Libbie Toth
- 20: Nora Cook, Maggie McIntire, Steve Toth
- 21: Paul Phillips
- 22: Holly Krueger, Elliette Swenson
- 23: Schuyler Coonse, Trey Krueger, Hollie Cole, Sonia Parikh
- 26: Hank Madden, Amanda Wolf, Justin Sykes, Evelyn Elderkin
- 27: Susan Potter
- 29: Alan Mitchell, Julie Cook
- 30: Elizabeth Peeler, Carolyn Holzinger, Cooper Glover-Hurd
- 31: Jason Bond, Katherine Neighbors



### Sunday, March 1

*VBS Registration Opens for HMPC Families*

- 9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200
- 9:30 am - Making Peace - WH North
- 9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South
- 10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva Hall
- 11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
- 11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall
- 11:45 am - Coffee and Conversation - Chapel
- 11:45 am - Youth Bells - WH South
- 2:30 pm - Spanish for Pilgrims (Camino) - Room 200
- 5:00 pm - Youth Group - WH, Geneva, Chapel

### Monday, March 2

- 9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary
- 5:30 pm - HMPC Foundation - Zoom
- 6:30 pm - Children's Committee - Zoom
- 7:00 pm - Personnel Committee - Zoom
- 8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva

### Tuesday, March 3

*Election Day*

- 6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
- 11:30 am - Single Way - Hibernian Irish Pub
- 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall

### Wednesday, March 4

- 9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel/Zoom
- 6:00 pm - Lenten Supper & Service - WH North, Chapel
- 6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Thursday, March 5

- 10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
- 3:00 pm - Memorial for Margaret Sharpe

## ANNUAL REPORT



### Annual Report

In case you missed the congregational meeting last week, [HERE](#) is a link to the 2025 Annual Report. Hard copies are also available in the brochure rack by the Cranbrook/office doors.