

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 20, 2026



## JOIN US FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

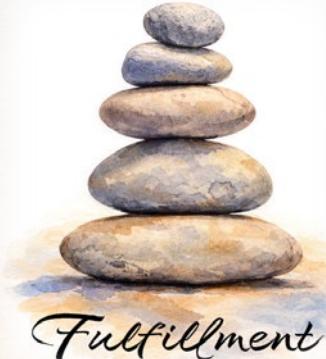
Our annual congregational meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 22, at 11:30am**. The agenda includes: a review of 2025 finances; presentation of the 2026 budget; a report from the HMPC Foundation; update on the Pastor Nominating Process; and the annual meeting of the corporation. We will also distribute the 2025 Annual Report. We hope to see you all there.

## HOLY WEEK UPDATES FOR 2026



Friends, we wanted to let you know that at their last committee meeting, the Worship team decided not to have the Good Friday noon worship service this year. We based the decision on two sets of numbers: the number of full-time pastoral staff we currently have, and the numbers of people who have been attending the service. Both are lower than we think they need to be to support this service in addition to our other planned Holy Week services - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae, ecumenical Easter Sunrise and two HMPC Easter Sunday services. Since Easter is on the first Sunday of April this year, Session also approved the Worship team recommendation for moving the sacrament of communion to the following Sunday, April 12. HMPC has traditionally chosen to do this. We appreciate all who would rather have communion on Easter, as well as those who've made the effort to attend the Good Friday service over the years. Worship Committee would want to invite you and everyone to please mark your calendars for the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service (4/2 at 7:00pm) which will include both a more intimate serving of communion and the reading of the passion story amidst gathering darkness. Please let us know if you have any questions about the schedule and we look forward to worshiping with you in faith and truth this Lenten and Easter season.

## LENTEN SERMON THEME FEBRUARY 22 - 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

# SEASON OF LENT

## Lent Services

FEBRUARY 25; 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--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 **February 25; 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



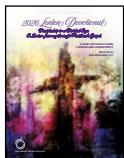
to be anointed with oil for yourself or on behalf of someone else. The services conclude with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

## Easter Lilies



Lilies may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. Each plant is \$15. Order forms will be available next week. The lilies may be picked up after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

## 2026 Lenten Devotional: Discipleship in a Divided Age



In a world marked by division, uncertainty and competing narratives, Matthew's Gospel speaks with striking relevance. Matthew's first audience — a young, fragile community navigating conflict, identity and fear — sounds a lot like the church today. This Lenten devotional by *Presbyterian Outlook* editor Teri McDowell Ott invites readers to journey through Matthew's Gospel to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion and faithful discipleship amid the fractures of our age.

Grounded in Scripture and written with pastoral warmth, this resource guides individuals and congregations through daily reflections, including a weekly *visio divina* practice. Each entry includes Scripture, a focus verse, a theologically rich reflection, guided questions, and a closing prayer — making it ideal for personal prayer, small groups, session devotions, or congregational Lenten study.

A digital copy of the devotional is available on the Lent page of our website [HERE](#), and hard copies will be available at Sanctuary entrances this Sunday.

## 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, I will organize an orientation meeting with them and our vacancy counselor from Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, Jerry Slaymaker. Our transition process then officially moves from developing the mission study report to the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The next question most congregations ask is, "How long will it take to call a new pastor?" In the post-COVID era of ministry, my answer is, "Longer than you'd probably like." But my job as your transitional pastor shifts from ensuring the completion of the Mission Study Report to ensuring that the Session acts on the report's conclusions.

That means the vision, goals and objectives you, the congregation, identified in the process, and which the Session will prioritize, will be the focus of our ministry while the PNC does its work. This enables the congregation to focus on the calling God has put before us rather than the wait for the new pastor. That work also ensures we are the church that we say we are in our job posting on the Church Leadership Connection. So no matter whether it takes nine months or two-plus years for the PNC to present its candidate to the congregation for election, HMPC will be working on living into the vision you feel God has put before you at this time.

That's an overview of the next steps in our transition process. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, do not hesitate to ask your Session members or your transitional pastor any questions about the process.

- Pastor Marguerite

## PROPERTY

### ADA Restroom Preparation and Asbestos Remediation Notice

#### INFO AND A Q&A SESSION

As we prepare for our new ADA restroom, the hallway between Westminster South and the elevator corridor will be closed briefly for asbestos remediation. The work will begin after preschool on a Friday (likely the 27th) and finish on Saturday, in time for Sunday services.

Gary Alexander, long-time member with 30 years of experience in this industry, will be on site to oversee the work and ensure everything is done safely. There may be lingering odor from the solvent afterward, which will fade.

**Gary will also host a Q&A on Thursday, 2/26, at 12:30pm in Westminster South** to talk about the process and answer any questions from our community.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Confirmation Class Trip: An Enriching Interfaith Experience



As part of their Confirmation journey, some of our Confirmants recently visited the Islamic Association of Raleigh. We were able to meet Muslim neighbors, hear about their faith in their own words, and see firsthand how they pray and worship as we observed an afternoon prayer service.

Confirmation is not only about learning what we believe — it is also about understanding our faith in the world in which we live. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and in order to love our neighbors well, we must first understand them.



Engaging with other faith traditions helps strengthen our own. When we encounter different perspectives, we naturally reflect more deeply on what we believe and why. This process helps move faith from something we simply inherit to something we more fully understand and embrace. When we see how others understand prayer, scripture, and community, it encourages us to reflect more deeply on what it means to follow Christ. It's about loving neighbors, strengthening faith, and growing into mature disciples of Jesus.

Rather than fearing what is unfamiliar, they practiced curiosity. Rather than relying on stereotypes, they listened to real people.

When they seek to understand others, our youth become bridge-builders in their schools, friendships, and communities. They learn that strength and gentleness can go hand in hand—and that respectful understanding is not weakness, but wisdom. In doing so, they reflect the love of Christ in a world that deeply needs it.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

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!

Thank you for helping us make this event extra special!

### HMPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**COME ENJOY CRAFTS,  
SNACKS, A VISIT FROM THE  
EASTER BUNNY, AND MORE!**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## 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 or 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



**Sign up to Volunteer!**

**VBS**

**9:00 - 12:00 AUGUST 3-7**

**Our 5-day volunteers will get a 50% tuition discount AND will receive a pre-registration link to skip the line and register their kids now!**

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](#).

## FELLOWSHIP

### **Young-ish Adult Outing**

**Saturday, February 21st**

**5:00-7:00pm | Edit Beer Company**

Food can be ordered from Scooter's Bar and Grill.

As always, if you are unable to find childcare please do not



let that deter you from coming. This place is family friendly with activities for kids. Contact Christine Bond ([cnoldenburg@gmail.com](mailto:cnoldenburg@gmail.com)) with any questions you may have.

# MEMORIALS

## Service of Witness to the Resurrection

**ROLF KOLCONAY**



Hudson member, Rolf Kolconay, entered God's everlasting kingdom on February 14, 2026. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of Life will be held Friday, **February 20th 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](#). It can also be found on the homepage of [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org).

**Rolf's obituary can be found [HERE](#).**

In lieu of flowers, **memorial gifts** may be made to the [Memorial Garden Fund](#) at HMPC (specify MG in memo), [JC Raulston Arboretum](#) or [Charleston Horticulture Society](#).

# FAITH FORMATION

## Waking Up With The Word

**Men's Bible Study Every Tuesday at 6:30am**  
**Meeting Location Alternates Weekly on Zoom & In-person on the Westminster Hall Patio**



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*. 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.

### Next meetings:

**Tuesday, February 24, 6:30am - WH Patio**

**Tuesday, March 3, 6:30am - Zoom**

# FAITH FORMATION

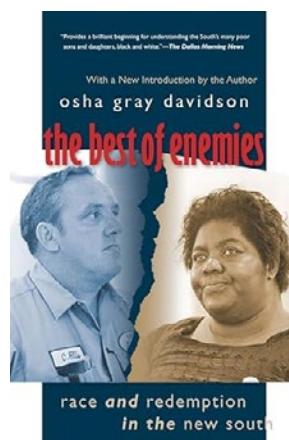
## Special Evening Book Study

**Facilitated by Joan Lester | March 8-May 3**

The Presbyterian Church enjoins us to address/eliminate systemic racism. We are offering an upcoming book study that 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).



## Presbyterian Pint

**February 26 | 6:45pm | Manchester's Grill**



Men of the church are welcome to join us for fellowship and faith in a friendly environment. We discuss relevant questions of theology and culture. Contact [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](mailto:Lesley_Ash_Jacobsen) to be added to the distribution list. This Thursday we will meet at Manchester's at 6:45pm. For questions, contact John James.

# FAITH FORMATION

## Nine O'Clock Class

**Sunday, Feb. 22 | 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!

## 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 6 week class focusing on navigating the negativity, finding common ground and disagreeing better.

**Week 3 – Finding Common Ground:** We hear from leaders and organizations focused on what all sides hold in common, and look at strategies for constructive, sustainable dialogue.

This series is open to the whole Hudson community. Join us on Sunday, February 22, at the 9:30 hour in Westminster Hall North.

## The Seekers

**9:30am | WH South**  
**Sundays, Feb 22-March 29**  
**"Seeking God's Presence"**

**Facilitated by Jimmy Hulsey**

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, February 22 thru March 29. Since the class was inspired by a congregational survey, all are especially welcome.

## **Evening Women At The Well** **SPRING DATES**



The monthly group meets at 6:00pm on the third or fourth Thursday of each month. This group uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest. The podcast for February is from *Poured Over* (a Barnes & Noble podcast). It features Anne Lamott, the author of *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*. We would love to have you join us for fellowship and lively discussion! **Please RSVP for February (Winston's Grille) to Kay at [ckemanuel@gmail.com](mailto:ckemanuel@gmail.com)**

**February 26 - Winston's Grille - 6401 Falls of Neuse Rd. | March 26 - Home of Beth Billman**

**April 23 - TBD | May 28 - Home of Grace Hutchinson**

## New Director of Youth Ministry

### MERRITT LIEBMAN

The Youth Director Search Committee is excited to announce that we have concluded our search for our new Director of Youth Ministry. We believe everyone will be as thrilled as we are to see a familiar face among our ranks again. Please welcome Merritt Liebman as the newest staff member of HMPC. Merritt comes to us from Wake Forest Presbyterian, where she has served for a year and a half as the Director of Youth Ministries. Please see Merritt's bio below to read more about her history with Hudson and how she was called to youth ministry.

Merritt's first day will be Monday, March 16. Please join us in welcoming Merritt back to HMPC into this important leadership role!



Hi all! I'm Merritt Liebman, and I am thrilled to serve in the role of Youth Director here at Hudson. I grew up at HMPC and am so excited to return in a staff position. My faith has been deeply nurtured by the people of this church, through my time serving on the New Hope Youth Council, through working at conferences at Massanetta Springs and Montreat Conference Center, and through participating in Presbyterian campus ministry at NC State.

My husband, Paul, and I are members of HMPC, and we have two dogs who are not church members but have participated in a pet blessing. For the past few years I have served as Director of Youth Ministries at Wake Forest Presbyterian Church, where my love for youth ministry and sense of calling were affirmed. Prior to that role, I was actively involved here at Hudson as a youth advisor, youth committee member, and chair.

I believe that the youth of our church are the living church right now - not some future version of it. I feel deeply called to nurture their faith, build meaningful relationships, and point out God's presence whenever and however I see God working in their lives. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside our youth and their families, and come home to this church.

I am looking forward to meeting those of you I do not know, and reconnecting with those I have missed! Thanks be to God for this opportunity, and this place.

#### Sunday, February 22

9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200  
 9:30 am - Making Peace - Westminster North  
 9:30 am - The Seekers - Westminster South  
 10:00 am - Session Group - Chapel  
 10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary  
 10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva Hall  
 After Worship - Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary  
 11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster North  
 11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall  
 11:45 am - Youth Bells - Westminster South  
 2:30 pm - Spanish for Pilgrims (Camino) - Room 200  
 5:00 pm - Youth Group/Bible Exploration

#### Monday, February 23

9:30 am - HMP Chapel  
 7:00 pm - Session - Westminster South  
 8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva

#### Tuesday, February 24

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio  
 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall

#### Wednesday, February 25

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

#### Thursday, February 26

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge  
 6:00 pm - Women at the Well - Winston's Grille  
 6:45 pm - Presbyterian Pint - Manchester's Grill

#### February 27-28

Youth Mission Trip to Charlotte

## MISSION



**MISSION IS COLLECTING  
OATMEAL & CEREAL  
FOR THE FOOD BANK!  
YOU MAY PLACE IT IN THE  
BINS LOCATED BY THE  
SANCTUARY DOORS DURING  
THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.**