



the weekly Window

November 18, 2022

Advent 2022

Waiting

ADVENT 2022



We are approaching another Advent, the season that evokes many feelings, images, memories and stories. For each of us, these may be joyful or sorrowful, and for many of us, the season is a mixture of both. We are entering into a stretch of the year that gives stories of our biblical forbearers on journeys: Mary's visit to Elizabeth; her journey to Bethlehem with Joseph; the arrival of the shepherds; the road taken by the mysterious Magi. The landscape of Advent and Christmas is marked by routes traced by those who responded to God's invitation to set out, and so the season beckons us into the journey that unfolds in the weeks ahead.



Advent takes us through the time when the light falls into darkness earlier and earlier until we reach December 21, the longest night of the year. One of the things I notice as this

occurs is how shadows emerge differently each day and there are many metaphors that shadows encompass that mirror our life's journeys. Beautiful artwork contains both light and shadow, sometimes hardly discernible but both relying on the other to express the truth that one does not exist without the other.

In the company of those whose stories we hear in these weeks, Advent invites us to consider the lay of our own land: what are we searching for, what are we waiting

on, what do we need right now? It poses questions about our own lives: What are our dreams, fears, and hopes? What inspires us to keep going, to move deeper into the landscape, to venture into unfamiliar territory? How do we stay open to the surprises the journey holds, the treasures that are hidden so often in the dark and revealed only in the shadows?

We invite you to journey through the season in ways that are meaningful. Participating in worship in person and virtually will engage you in the biblical narrative through word and song.



Personal devotions may be helpful and we are providing a guide with scripture and simple practices you may find helpful: *Shadow and Light: An Advent Devotion* is available in hard copies and [this link](#) on our website. On November 27 at 9:30 in Westminster Hall we are providing all the materials for you to create an Advent wreath or ornament with a symbol of the season for use

at home. On December 4, the Deacons are hosting a "Blue Christmas" Service in the Chapel, as a time for contemplative reflection on the places of shadows in our lives where we find holy moments in the places that feel the darkest. The labyrinth on the north end of our campus is always open for use, and in the dark nights it is beautifully lit with lights that cast interesting shadows along its path.

Peace,

Pastor Debbie

A Look at Advent at HMPC...

Make Your Own Advent Wreath

9:30am | Sunday, November 27

Kick off the Advent season by creating an Advent wreath for your home. All ages are welcome! Gather in Westminster Hall North.



Hanging of the Greens

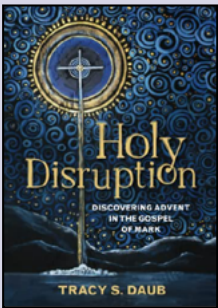
11:30am | Sunday, November 27

Come help decorate our building for the Advent and Christmas season! Gather in Westminster Hall for instructions after worship.



Adult Sunday School

9:30am | Sundays During Advent



Using *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub, the Seekers will be reading selected scripture from Mark and looking for the amazing and joyous message of waiting for Emmanuel, God with us, during Advent. Discussion will center around what difference

the Incarnation makes in our lives, and where we see evidence of God's love in our lives and in the world.

Advent Devotionals



"To be human is to live by sunlight and moonlight, with anxiety and delight, admitting to limits and transcending them, falling down and rising up. To want a life with only half these things in it is to want half a life."

—Barbara Brown Taylor,
Learning to Walk in the Dark

Advent is a season of looking forward to the new light of Christ, but as Barbara Brown Taylor says, we'd be missing out on half the story if we didn't also find grace and wonder in the midst of shadows. Each week you'll use scripture, song, prayer, and practice to prepare yourself for the birth of the Christ child, finding what is holy in the spectrum from shadow to light.

Please take one! These will be available at the Sanctuary entrances and the narthex. If you would like one mailed to you, or you would like a [digital copy](#) emailed to you, contact [Lesley](#) in the church office.

Advent Hymn

Our Advent Hymn this year is #92 in our *Glory to God* hymnal. It is a text by Claire Cloninger from 1986. A simple and meditative hymn that reads, "While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come."



Advent Devotionals



HMPC Youth are using *Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent* as one of their devotionals this year.

In her beautifully written, imaginative meditations for each day of Advent, Okoro looks closely at the doubts and longings of Zechariah and Elizabeth. As you explore their story, Okoro guides you to reflect on your own experiences

of waiting and longing, of grief and the need for community, and of hungering for God. These poetic and poignant meditations will linger with you long after Christmas. Reflection questions and a prayer challenge accompany each week's meditations.

Family Christmas Celebration



Saturday, December 3

2:00-4:00pm

Westminster Hall



**Nativity Scavenger Hunt 🌸 Hot Chocolate
Ornament Making 🌸 Gingerbread Nativities**

Sign up to attend or volunteer HERE
or by using the link on the front page of hmpc.org



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 18th worship bulletin. 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 11th**. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

Blue Christmas "A Service of Shadows"

6:00pm | Sunday, December 4



As part of their ministry of care and compassion, the Deacons will be hosting a "Blue Christmas Service" on Sunday, December 4th in the Chapel at 6:00pm. The service is especially for those who find the holiday season difficult, and for others who want a quiet reflective time when so much is hectic. It will include the reading of scripture, prayers, contemplative music and the lighting of candles in recognition of God's presence in our places of greatest need.

Christmas Pageant

During 10:30 Worship | December 11



Watch the children of HMPC act out a Christmas story in the Annual Christmas Pageant!

Parents: See full rehearsal schedule on page 6!

Christmas Joy Concert

6:30pm | Sunday, December 18



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 concert will be Sunday, December 18th at 6:30pm. A reception will follow the celebration. Please join us!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Create an Advent Wreath

WH North at 9:30am

10:30am Worship in Sanctuary

Hanging of the Greens

Meet in WH North after worship

Saturday, December 3

Family Christmas Celebration

2:00-4:00pm in Westminster Hall

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:00pm - Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

5:00pm - Youth Christmas Party & Carolling

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:30pm Christmas Joy Concert - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00pm - Candlelight Service (Nursery available)

8:00pm - Candlelight & Communion Service

Sunday, December 25

Christmas

Christmas Day Service - 10:30am in Sanctuary

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 7:00PM

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4523 SIX FORKS ROAD, RALEIGH

Join Us This Tuesday, Nov. 22!

Every year since the 1980s, churches along Six Forks Road have gathered together for worship around the Thanksgiving holiday. These churches include Grace Lutheran, St. Mark's United Methodist, Trinity Baptist, The Fountain Fellowship, North Haven Church, Saint Timothy's Episcopal, and Hudson. This is a great opportunity to express our connectedness in Christ. Let's get a lot of Hudson folks down to St. Timothy's for worship and fellowship! In a time when so many people are looking for things that divide, let's celebrate our unity!

HUDSON MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL

Preschool Food Drive FOR NORTH RALEIGH MINISTRIES

If you would like to contribute to the Preschool Food Drive, drop off canned goods/non-perishable donations in WH South this Sunday, November 20. NRM is in great need of food donations this holiday season!



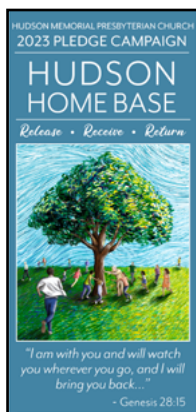
GIVING MINISTRY

2023 Pledge Update

Sunday, November 6th was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge in or made your commitment online.

Currently there are 127 households that have pledged out of 364 member households for a total of \$549,225.

This time last year we had collected 129 pledges for a total of \$593,391



It is not too late to pledge. You may pledge online [here](#), email your pledge to Amy Claprood, HMPC Business Administrator, or call Amy at 919-787-1086 to request a pledge form be mailed to you. Thank you for your commitment to Christ through the church during these challenging times. Thanks be to God!

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

Search For New Financial Coordinator

We want to let the congregation know that Cheri Thomas is concluding her tenure as HMPC's Bookkeeper on November 18th. We appreciate her service to Hudson and will miss her. Changes in Cheri's personal life do not allow her to continue in the position.

We are grateful to the congregation for your understanding and patience as we go through multiple staff transitions and re-evaluate administrative responsibilities.

The Personnel Committee has begun a search for a new Bookkeeper. We are changing the name of the position to Financial Coordinator to better match the responsibilities of the job. John James is chairing the search, and Bill Flueckinger (Finance Chair), Amy Claprood (Business Administrator), and Mac Schafer (Pastor) are serving on the search team. If you know of people who may be interested in the position, details about the job can be found on the church website by clicking [here](#).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Recommendations for Ruling Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee will soon consider members to begin their service in May 2023.

It is essential the committee recommend individuals who reflect the diversity of our congregation as these new officers will join with current ones in seeking the will of Christ for all the matters before us. As prescribed in the Book of Order, we seek able, gifted persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship because of their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Your perceptions as to fellow members who possess such gifts are essential to the committee's work.

If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself), fill out a form and drop it off at the church office or talk with Cary Dickerson, Chair of the Nominating Committee. [Click here to fill out a recommendation form online](#). We are grateful for your help in identifying the next group of faithful individuals whom God is calling to serve.

MISSION

November Special Offering

HMPC 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 long term effects of COVID-19 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 clicking the QR code, or visiting hmpc.org. To give by phone, simply text the donation amount



with the word "Samaritan" to 888-906-0744. (Example text: 25 Samaritan) If you have not done this before, you will be prompted to enter your information. Once it has been entered, you will not have to enter it again.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Christmas Pageant

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

We will use the remaining Sundays after worship to work on music, staging, wardrobe etc. for the pageant. It is very important that your pageant participant be at all of the rehearsals.

Sundays that are left before the pageant for rehearsal:

November 27 - 11:30am to 12:15pm

December 4 - 11:30am to 12:15pm

December 10 - REHEARSAL on SATURDAY in the Sanctuary 10:00-11:00am

December 11 - Pageant during worship



The children will also perform in the Christmas Joy concert on December 18th at 6:30pm so mark your calendars!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth News

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

SUNDAY MORNING

All youth are invited to join us in the balcony for worship!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Explorers	Growing Disciples
11:40am to 12:15pm	11:40am to 12:15pm
5th-7th grade	8th-12th grade

SUNDAY EVENING

MS/HS YOUTH GROUP

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

5:00-7:00pm



5th Grade, MS and HS Youth Group will be combined to participate in an in-house mission project! Come and assemble care packages for our college students who will have another three weeks

of classes and exams. Let's gather together to support them from a distance with care boxes of love, care and SUGAR!

Please bring \$5 for dinner and feel free to bring a friend. RSVP so that we know how many mouths we will need to feed.

CALL FOR COOKIE DONATIONS!

COOKIES FOR COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES - THIS SUNDAY



Do you remember getting cookies in the mail from family or friends while at college studying for exams? If you have ever received a small care package full of wonderful treats, then here's your chance to give back (to the universe) and offer OVEN BAKED COOKIES for our HMPC college students!

Whether it's a dozen or three dozen, please feel free to bring them in **this Sunday, November 20**, in either ziplocks or any other container (with your name on it so I may return it to you) and we will put them in a small package for the students! They can be placed in the **Karl Hudson Room** labeled for *Youth Ministry*.

Thanks so much,
- Rich

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Adult Education - This Sunday, Nov. 20

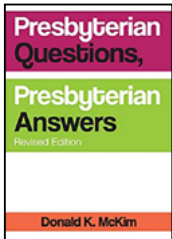
9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Hosted by
Susan Bradshaw, Linda Meeks, Dottie Burch
"The Nine O'Clock Class"

This earlier class is especially for those who have commitments preparing for worship at 10:00am, and others who would like a full hour of study, conversation, and fellowship.

9:30-10:20am | WH North

Facilitated by Fred Woodward, John Oldenburg,
John James, Gil Graybill
"Presbyterian Ponderings"



From a Presbyterian perspective, we will look deeply at big concepts of our faith such as Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Salvation. Each week's discussion is stand-alone, with no advance prep or reading required. Come join us for fellowship and good conversation!

9:30-10:20am | WH South

"The Seekers"
Encountering God Through Scripture
Facilitated by Jimmy Hulsey
This series wraps up on November 20



Over three class periods, I invite us to discuss our journeys with the Bible. By journeys, I intend for us to think about our experience of the Bible from early days

to today. How have our views changed? What questions have we had along the way? I am less concerned with the quantity of our knowledge and more with the Bible's role in our faith formation. For some, the Bible may be a text for the study of ancient history, culture and religion. For others, it has been a prayerful meeting place. How do we view the Bible? What place does it have in our journey with God?

WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

Women at the Well

Thursday, December 1 | Bonefish Grill



Women at the Well is made up of two groups, each with a different format, time and content. Both groups are wonderful opportunities for women to get to know each other as we discuss the intersection of culture and faith and our own spiritual journeys. The **Weekly Group** meets most Wednesdays in the Chapel at 9:15am. The **Monthly Group** will hold its **November/December gathering the evening of Thursday, December 1 at Bonefish Grill** in North Hills. Current participants will receive the information about the podcast and making a reservation.

All women are welcome to attend! To be added to contact list contact [Debbie Kirk](#).

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Nov. 22 | 6:30am | Zoom



All men are invited to join this group (in person this week) for scripture reflection, discussion, fellowship and coffee. The group uses an ancient Bible study process called Lectio Divina.

The study revolves around 3

questions: *What is a word or phrase that stands out to you? Allow that word or phrase to develop into a memory from your life, a thought on the passage or a metaphor. What is Christ calling you to through the passage?*

No previous Bible study experience is needed. It is a great group of guys who are welcoming and wise in their comments. For our in-person meetings, coffee and Bibles are provided. If you have questions or would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact [Mac Schafer](#).

CALENDAR

This Week...

Sunday, November 20

10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH/Playgarden
11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster Hall
11:30 am - Communion Education Class - Chapel
11:40 am - Youth Sunday School Classes - GH Rooms
4:15 pm - Youth Bells - WH South
5:00 pm - MS/HS Youth Group
5:00 pm - Evening Book Study - Room 200

Monday, November 21

9:00 am - Preschool Thanksgiving Program
6:00 pm - Youth Committee - Zoom
7:00 pm - Diaconate - WH South
7:30 pm - American Pilgrims on the Camino - Chapel
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/AlaTeen/AlaKid - GH

Tuesday, November 22

6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - Zoom
9:30 am - Staff Meeting
7:00 pm - Community Thxgiving Service - St. Timothy's
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - GH 234

Thursday, November 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 25

OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

STAFF DIRECTORY

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Join Our Social Media Community!

Hudson Memorial is active on Twitter (HudsonMemPC) & Instagram (hudsonmemorialpc), as well as Facebook (HudsonMPC). Follow us & like us! Our Facebook, Twitter & Instagram accounts have daily quotes, photos, info about upcoming events, poetry, prayer or scripture.



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CHANCEL FLOWERS

2023 Chancel Flowers

New Calendar Available!



Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. To sign up for a 2023 date, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room 103, or contact [Amy Clapgood](#) in the church office.