

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 28, 2025



DRAW NEAR THIS ADVENT

After so many of you drew near to HMPC in November for services and mission study work, it's fitting that the 2025



Advent theme is "Draw Near." I hope you will take advantage of the [online devotional](#) by Teri Ott. We turn from doing a whole lot of work, to waiting for the One who did the most important work – who became flesh and dwelled among us.

November 30 begins the season with the First Sunday of Advent – a Youth Worship and Arts Sunday that you will not want to miss if you are in town. Youth Ministry and families got mentioned a lot in Brunch Church on Nov 23 – draw near to work on the goal of supporting our younger Presbyterians.

I hope you've been reading about the Christmas Pageant, scheduled for the Second Sunday of Advent this year. Once again, we're trying something a little different from years past – an intergenerational, spontaneous pageant marked by readings and carols, and fun! More intergenerational opportunities were also mentioned frequently at the Nov. 23 Brunch Church. Draw near to achieve that goal with this unique service. The pageant will serve as the sermon, and there will be Communion.

Advent themes remind us that the reason we have Christmas is because the world needed a Savior, that all is not "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" for many people this time of year. Hardships can feel harder because of the pressure to be happy and celebratory. When times are tough, we need to draw near to each other and God. I invite you to do so at 4:00 pm on Dec. 7 for a different style of Blue Christmas service, in the sanctuary, with choir, sermon, and anointing of oil for all who wish to live into the hopeful vision from Psalm 23. If you or someone you know is dreading the holidays this year, this service is for you and them.

By the time the Third Sunday of Advent arrives on Dec. 14,

the focus turns to the joy that draws near to us through God's faithfulness. It will be celebrated at the annual Christmas Joy service where the Music Ministry's melodies of the season, presented by many of the choirs, will uplift and inspire us. Afterwards, draw near to a special reception that will celebrate the music ministry and Rich Richards' last Sunday, who has been a vital part of Music Ministry as well as our Youth Ministry, the last four and a half years.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent arrives on Dec. 21. At this point, some of you will be wanting this to be all over. Some of you will be anticipating Christmas Eve with great joy. All of you are invited to draw near for a service that, for one hour at least, stops all the running around, fretting about gifts that aren't good enough or decorations that aren't festive enough, to hear the Good News that yes, for God, you ARE enough.

Happy Advent.

Blessings,

Marguerite

**HANGING
of the
GREENS**

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love



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 is available for download [HERE](#), or printed copies will be available at Sanctuary doors. If you would like a printed copy to be mailed to you, let [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) know.

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.



The Deacons will join Pastor Marguerite on Sunday, December 7th, at 4:00 for a Blue Christmas service created for anyone seeking a moment of healing in a difficult season. The service will offer anointing with oil, quiet reflection, and music from the Chancel Choir. All are welcome to come, breathe deeply, and find a safe space where God's tenderness meets our wounds.



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](#).**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

10:30 Worship | Sunday, December 7

As Advent begins, we're thrilled to introduce a new way to experience the joy of the Christmas story—our intergenerational Paper Bag Pageant! This year, the entire congregation is invited to take part as we bring this beloved story to life together.

What makes it a Paper Bag Pageant? When you arrive, you'll receive a sealed paper bag with simple costume pieces for a surprise role in the nativity. During worship, you'll open your bag, discover your part, and join the story as it is read by a narrator. All roles are silent and assigned at random—children might become angels, adults may find themselves as Baby Jesus or a Wiseperson—and the joy is in experiencing it together. 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.

This playful, meaningful approach is designed to bring all ages together, spark new connections, and create shared memories that last well beyond the service.

Join us on December 7 as we celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth in a fresh, joy-filled way!

ADVENT SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

THIS 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.



Hudson's New Vision Statement

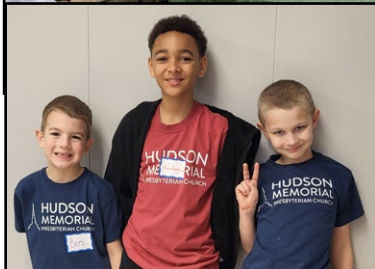
*We seek to
welcome with the love of Christ,
trust in the grace of Christ and
grow with the help of Christ.*

Second Brunch Church

Close to 140 members and frequent visitors attended our second Brunch Church on November 23! Huge thanks to the Fellowship Committee, the musicians, ushers, youth, and, especially, to all who participated so enthusiastically! The morning began with a presentation of a new Vision Statement for Hudson and an introduction to goal setting. We worshiped with singing, prayer, and an examination of Hebrews 12:1-2. Tables made up of teenagers through seniors were led by the Holy Spirit to develop their ideas into goals and objectives to carry out our Vision. Sharing around the room led to laughter and more discussion. A summary of these goals and objectives will be published in next week's Weekly Window.



The Mission Study Team is grateful to God for leading Hudson through this discernment of who we are now and who God is calling us to be as a church. The active, joyful involvement of the congregation in the Memorable Moments board, the CAT survey, two Zoom meetings, and now two Brunch Church events have affirmed for the MST the interest of everyone to ask, seek, and knock after God's vision for Hudson's next chapter. Glory to God!



Dear Friends,



I am writing to share PART II of my recent announcement regarding my departure from HMPC. After much prayerful discernment, I accepted the call to serve as the new Director of Music at Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church here in Raleigh, beginning January 5, 2026.

Over the past three years our family has experienced significant changes. These shifts have initiated a reevaluation of how best to balance my calling to the church with my calling at home. In this season of my life and career, a position with reduced hours and no nights or weekends or weeks away will allow more time spent at home; in turn allowing me to be more present with our children and family. That, for me, is a priority. In September, a long-time friend reached out to me about the upcoming opportunity at WBPC. Although I was not in search of a position that would take me away from Hudson, the discernment process presented a path that will allow me to support our family in a meaningful and balanced way while also offering an outlet of creativity that I am always seeking in my professional life. While change is never easy, it feels like the faithful next step for us.

I am grateful to share that I will continue serving at our HMPC Preschool as a weekly musician. That means I will still lead our Monday "Chapel Time" with Cary Dickerson and will be with the children from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays for "Music Mondays with Rich," which continues to be a joyful part of my week. Additionally, our "littles" will remain enrolled at HMP, which has been a wonderful, meaningful, and formative part of their daily lives.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your kindness, encouragement, and love during this transition. Your support has meant more than I can say, and I am deeply thankful for the ways this faith community has shaped and nurtured me, and my family. Please read this as a "see you soon", and not a "goodbye"...Rich & the Richards will see you around!

With gratitude and peace,

Rich

Call for Officer Recommendations

Elder and Deacon nominations will take place during December. If you have a recommendation of church members (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 using the provided QR code shown.

If you prefer, you may complete a nomination form that will be included in the Sunday worship bulletins on Dec. 7, Dec 14, and Dec. 21. The Nominating Committee members will compile the nomination forms and begin their consideration of the candidate names received.

Once the congregation elects these new officers, they will begin their service in May 2026. Please contact Caroline Smart, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you have questions. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, 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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Treats!
Games!
Crafts!
Ornament-making!

Nativity Scavenger Hunt

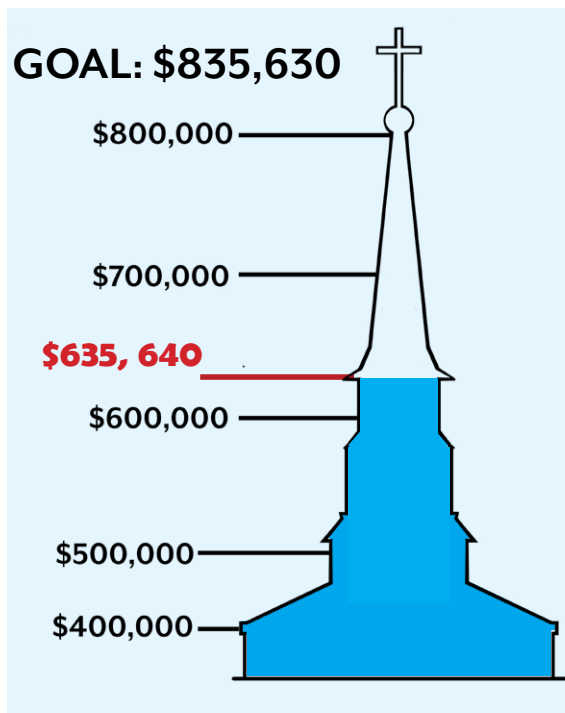
FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 6

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Westminster Hall

2026 Pledge Campaign PROGRESS UPDATE



As of November 25, 2025, our received pledges total \$626,340. We currently have **128** households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 122 pledging households for a total of \$568,244.

There's still time to pledge for 2026!

Here's how:

- 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.

November Special Offering GOOD SAMARITAN FUND - FINAL WEEK



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 elimi-

nation 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 FINAL WEEK for 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.



FAITH FORMATION

The Seekers

9:30 | Sunday, Nov. 30 | WH South
"Hanging of the Green"

Facilitated by Roger Howard

Sunday, November 30, the Seekers will learn about the Hanging of the Green and discuss their memories of the practice.



HANGING
of the **GREEN**

Hudson decorates its spaces every year on the 1st Sunday of Advent and will do so this Sunday. Did you know that the Hanging of the Green has an opening prayer? That the roots of this practice have pre-Christian origins?

Come to learn and share your memories of the Hanging of the Green.

All are welcome.

On Sunday, December 7, the class will learn about "The First Christmas" using the various versions of the Biblical Christmas stories.



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.

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30 | Sunday, Nov. 30 | WH North
"Jesus Is Gone! Now What Do We Do?"

Facilitated by Gil Graybill, John James,
John Oldenburg, Fred Woodward

This fall, the Presbyterian Ponderings class is studying the Acts of the Apostles, guided by *Life Lessons from Acts* written by Max Lucado. We will look at the struggles and successes of the early church and examine how the foundations of our faith, established by Christ, were shared. The Presbyterian Ponderings class is discussion-based, and team-led.

Paul and Barnabus have been on a roll converting Gentiles to The Way, but it is causing friction with the Jewish community. This week we will look at The Council of Jerusalem where the elders try to sort it out, and think about how churches and denominations today handle internal disputes.

Presbyterian Pint

Thursday, December 4 at 7:00pm



Join us at **Manchester's Grill** (9101 Leesville Rd) this Thursday! This men's group enjoys a pint or meal together as they discuss articles that have to do with culture and faith. It is a wonderful time of community, laughter, insight, and thoughtful discussion on how we live as people of faith. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group, please contact John James.

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Dec. 2 - 6:30am - WH Patio



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets via Zoom and in-person (on the WH Patio, often around a fire), alternating weekly. 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@hmpc.org. Contact Tripp Bradshaw with any questions about the group you may have.



Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens

9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North

9:30 am - The Seekers - Westminster South

10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary

10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva

11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North

11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall

11:45 am - Youth Bells - WH South

Monday, December 1

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary

5:30 pm - HMPC Foundation - WH South

7:00 pm - Personnel Committee - Zoom

8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

Tuesday, December 2

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio

11:30 am - Single Way - Hibernian Irish Pub

6:00 pm - ACA - Room 200

7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall

7:00 pm - Giving Ministry Team

Wednesday, December 3

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

6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South

6:30 pm - Children's Committee - WH North

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 4

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge

7:00 pm - Presbyterian Pint - Manchester's Grill

Saturday, December 6

10:00 am - Family Christmas Celebration - Westminster Hall, Chapel

End-of-Year Gifts

FOR YOUR 2025 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 2025 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 or hand-deliver 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 23 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 23 to allow 5 business days for transaction to fully process by year end.

The church office will be closed December 24-26 but otherwise be open regular hours. We are open 9am-4pm Monday through Thursday and 9am-12:30pm on Fridays, so please consider this for any in-person deliveries. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Erica Hairston, Business Manager, at ehairston@hmhc.org or 919-390-2664.

FELLOWSHIP

Single Way December Lunch

Tuesday, December 2, 11:30am

Hibernian Irish Pub and Restaurant



Single Way is a group of mostly retired singles that meet once a month for lunch and fellowship. This week we are meeting at Hibernian Irish Pub and Restaurant (8021 Falls of Neuse Road). Please contact Ruth Herpich at (919) 280-0049 by Nov. 30 if you plan to attend so she can give the restaurant

a seating count. If you know of anyone who would like to come enjoy fellowship with us, please extend the invitation. New people are always welcome, so please join us!