

# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

DECEMBER 12, 2025

OUT TO THE LIFE  
AND MINISTRY OF  
HUDSON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THIS SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 14  
10:30 | SANCTUARY

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.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER & CONTRIBUTE FOOD!

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](mailto:sharoncole@carolina.rr.com).

## LAST WEEKEND AT HMPC



A busy weekend at HMPC! See pages 2 & 4 for more photos of events from Dec 6-7.



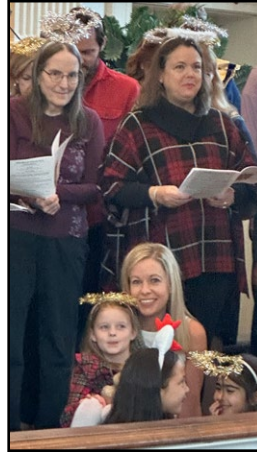


# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## Paper Bag Pageant

### A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Our livestream congregation got a much different view of our in-person congregation last Sunday, December 7. Instead of a few backs of heads, they saw almost the entire congregation's faces as they came forward to play the parts of angels, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, and goats, sheep, shepherds, and more. Our intergenerational paper bag Christmas pageant reflected the Bible story as a community event - which it most certainly was. HMPC lived into that truth on Dec. 7 thanks to Cary Dickerson, Rich Richards, Barbara Lochr-Fox, and the gracious support of all who participated.





# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## Reflections on 2025 at HMPC

We'd love to hear from you! Whether a particular ministry or event strengthened your spiritual life or sense of community... whether a new initiative inspired or excited you... or whether a single gathering, act of service, or meaningful moment stayed with you—your story matters.

As we prepare our Annual Report, we're collecting brief quotes that reflect the experiences that made an impact this year. Parents, children's voices are welcome too—feel free to submit a quote on their behalf.

Click [this link](#) to share your story and help us celebrate all the ways God has been at work in our community throughout 2025.



## Poinsettias

**Final Week to Order!**



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 poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online [HERE](#).**

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

**THIS Sunday, December 14**

**10:30 - Sanctuary - Christmas Joy Music Worship**

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 - 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 5:00 service will be livestreamed.**

## Christmas Joy Offering

**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DECEMBER**

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders can need help themselves. This Special Offering provides for Presbyterian church workers in need and furthers leadership development for communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the PCUSA Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, helping hundreds to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care or to otherwise meet financial challenges while Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development and so nurture racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to "Joy"), or you can give online by scanning the QR code, or visiting [hmpe.org](http://hmpe.org).



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

## The Seekers

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 14 | WH South  
"Global Advent & Christmas Traditions"

Facilitated by Ron Ash



Advent and Christmas are celebrated by Christians in many ways throughout the world. For example, in one country, the congregants roller skate to church on Christmas Eve. In another place, the Christians fast for all of Advent. These

classes will explore the diversity of Advent celebrations in various parts of the world. Some of these traditions are quite unusual and different from our seasonal religious practices.

## Family Christmas Celebration

FILLS WESTMINSTER HALL WITH JOY!

On December 6, more than 100 people gathered in Westminster Hall for a lively Family Christmas Celebration. Children created edible nativity scenes, played games, participated in a nativity scavenger hunt, made festive crafts, and enjoyed hot cocoa and treats while families shared time together in a warm, cheerful atmosphere.

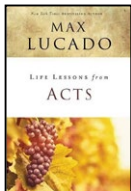
It was a joyful afternoon that highlighted the creativity of our kids and the strength of our church community. Many thanks to everyone who joined in and helped make the event such a success!



## Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 14 | 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.

Sensing that he is coming close to "finishing his race," Paul reflects upon the hardships that he has encountered in his missional journeys doing what God has chosen him to do, trials we all face in some way as we live as God has ordained for us.

## Seekers & Ponderings Christmas Gathering 12/13



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.



## What is the Mission Study Team Doing Now?

*Survey, research, interviews, Zoom meetings, Brunch Churches—ALL DONE! What now?*

The MST's next job is to put together a report containing all we have studied and learned about Hudson's past, the surrounding community and the ideas and opinions of all its members. We are currently collating information and writing and editing our report. It will be delivered to Session for approval and sent to the Presbytery of New Hope's Commission on Ministry. After their approval, perhaps in February, the Session can start forming the slate for our Pastor Nominating Committee.

At this time it seems appropriate to remind the congregation of the big picture concerning the Mission Study Report we are now trying to wrap up. Here is a description of the process and scope of this report, from the Presbytery's document *Guide for Churches Entering the Interim Time*.

A Mission Study is a process that a congregation goes through to seek discernment about how God would have that church to be and to act in the future. It is led by a committee of Session, often called the Mission Study Team (MST) or Mission Study Committee. The process results in a Mission Study Report (MSR) written by the Mission Study Team that is presented to the Session for approval and to the Commission on Ministry for review. This review is a necessary step before a congregation is allowed to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and begin the search for a new pastor. Many people confuse a congregational Mission Study with Long Range Planning or Strategic Planning because both end up with a Vision and a list of Goals and Objectives. There are a number of significant differences, however.

The first and foremost difference is that as a church we always seek to examine ourselves and our actions in the light of scripture and prayerfully to ask God's guidance as we try to determine the work that God wants us to do in a certain time and place.

Secondly, unlike most corporations, the church is a volunteer organization. The corporate model in which leadership sets direction and tells staff to follow it does not work well in a church. It is important to involve as much of the congregation as possible in the process of self-examination and decision-making. There are two reasons for this. One is that as Reformed Christians we believe both in the priesthood of believers and in the corporate body of the church — that together we are richer and wiser than we are separately. The second is to develop a sense of ownership within the congregation of the new directions for the ministry of that church in the coming years.

## What Did The CAT Tell Us? - Spiritual Vitality

The Congregational Assessment Tool asked five questions about the role of faith and spiritual practices in our individual lives. We were asked to agree/disagree on questions about the impact of spiritual experiences on how we look at life; whether we feel spirituality serves as the basis of our approach to life; if we experience the presence of God; if we connect faith to all parts of our lives; and whether there are more pressing priorities in our lives. Our responses were overwhelmingly positive about the importance of our faith to us, differing only in degree. The report from the CAT, which we discussed on a Zoom call, indicated that compared to other churches, this is an area of challenge for Hudson. The meaning of that is unclear, looking at the 80-95% overall agreement with the statements provided (except the last one, which was stated in the negative, where we had 71% disagreement) - which is what you want to see.

Possibilities for new programs and emphasis in this area came up in our brainstorming on the CAT Zoom call and,

especially, in our Brunch Church table discussions about goals and objectives. Participants expressed interest in a Bible literacy course ("Bible 101"), small group study opportunities, spiritual growth/Bible studies geared toward different age groups, etc. The Adult Education committee is responsible for developing new class offerings as there is interest.



Current offerings are listed in most issues of the Weekly Window under the heading "Faith Formation" and include three adult classes held during the hour before Sunday worship, as well as men's and women's studies at different times during the week. Children's and youth Christian education and fellowship activities are also listed weekly. All are open to anyone who wants to visit or join. During Advent, there is a special daily devotional available which can be downloaded [\[here\]](#).

## End-of-Year Gifts FOR YOUR 2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

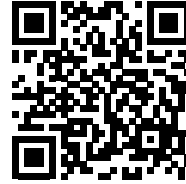
As you consider your end-of-year giving, we want to make you aware of IRS guidelines that allow for a donation to be included on your 2025 giving statement for tax purposes. Simply dating a check in December is insufficient according to the IRS guidelines – therefore please consider the following deadlines:

- 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@hmpc.org](mailto:ehairston@hmpc.org) or 919-390-2664.

## 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 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.

## WEATHER & SAFETY

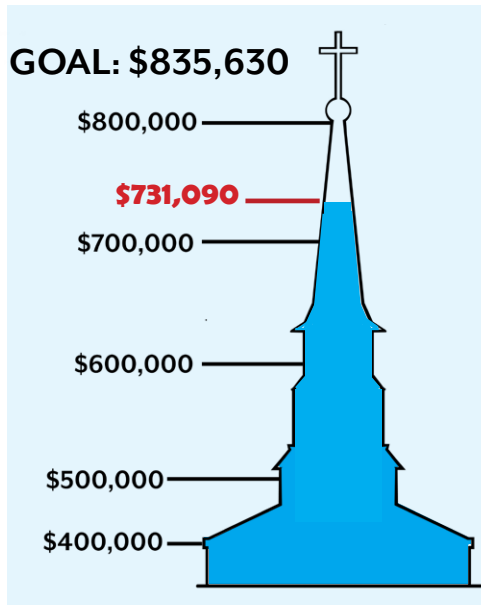
### Inclement Weather Info

In case of inclement weather, the church will notify the local **ABC (WTVD)** and **NBC (WRAL)** television stations if worship will be delayed or cancelled. We will also post on the homepage of the [church's website](#). Please check the closings before venturing out in bad weather. We will do our best to have the sidewalks and steps cleared, but there is no guarantee that there will not be slippery spots. It is also possible that there will not be child care on Sunday morning or youth activities in the afternoon.



On weekdays, typically if Wake County Public Schools are closed, the office will also be closed, so check television stations and our website before heading to the church. On snow days, despite the fact that the building is closed, church staff will be working remotely during their regular hours and you can contact them via phone or email.

## 2026 Pledge Campaign PROGRESS UPDATE



As of December 11, 2025, our received pledges total \$731,090. We currently have **139** households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 143 pledging households for a total of \$700,304.

### *There's still time to 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](mailto: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.

## Mission End-of-Year Giving

Throughout the year, the Mission Committee supports events such as RISE Against Hunger and Meals on Wheels meal-packing and the Habitat Build. We also respond to urgent needs like the flooding in Western NC in 2024 and the higher demand at the Food Bank this past fall. Any unused funds at year's end are donated to organizations that align with our Hunger Action and Matthew 25 mission.

**This year, we were grateful to donate \$13,500 to our community partners, including:**

- \$5,000 – Food Bank of Eastern NC
- \$2,500 – North Raleigh Ministries
- \$1,000 each – Women's Center of Raleigh, Helping Hands Mission, Haven House, Boys & Girls Club, A Place at the Table, and Healing Transitions



Thank you for your generosity, which allows us to support these vital ministries in our community.



## Tend My Sheep Offering HEALING TRANSITIONS

Healing Transitions believes that all people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction (especially the unhoused, uninsured, and medically underserved) deserve appropriate services on demand. To achieve that goal, Healing Transitions offers both a men's campus and a women's campus tailored to serve the unique needs of each group which includes shelter beds, meals, and basic clothing while providing, among other things, a long-term recovery program, an emergency drop-in shelter, non-medical detox, and family services. As winter nears, their clients' need for both women's and men's warm clothing grows and specific items and toiletries are always in need.

**This month we are gathering underwear (male or female, all sizes needed), socks, gloves, beanies/knit caps, toothpaste and toothbrushes w/case to help meet their needs.**

## A Thank You from Last Month's Tend My Sheep Recipient

*Dear Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church:*

*Thank you so much for your generous donation of 183 pounds of food to Feed the Pack. Your time, effort, and dedication to collect food and other items is greatly appreciated and a substantial help to our pantry. It is through people like you that our pantry can thrive. Together, we can fight food insecurity on campus. We are extremely grateful for your donation!*

*- Feed the Pack Food Pantry at NC State*



# PROPERTY

Hello, Hudson Memorial!

The Property Committee is glad to share another Monthly Property Summary to help keep the congregation connected with the upkeep of our facilities. As the staff liaison, I am here to answer two questions each month:

- *What did we accomplish in the past month?*
- *How much did it cost to maintain our church property?*

Here's your November Property Summary!

- Hannah Woodcock, Administrative Coordinator,  
Staff Liaison to Property

## November Property Summary

### What did we accomplish in November?

- Completed our annual inspection with BFPE for our kitchen hood (fire protection.)
- Hosted the NC Department of Labor for our required elevator inspections.
- Treated fire ant mounds on campus through Massey Pest Control.
- A group of HMPC volunteers removed damaged steps at the storage sheds and rebuilt new ones. Thank you to everyone who pitched in! (Photo right)
- The Van Ministry addressed a dead battery in Van 1 and completed a necessary replacement.



### Here's a snapshot of November's property expenses:

- Utilities: \$5,617 (*This is water, electricity, garbage, and gas.*)
- Monthly Cleaning fee: \$3200
- Cleaning supplies: \$1001
- Lawn Care: \$1,014
- Plumbing: \$1,308 (*Work was completed at the end of Oct. but the payment was processed in Nov.*)
- Balcony Repair: \$500
- Fire System Inspection: \$433
- Storage Shed Repairs: \$250
- Quarterly Pest Control: \$120

**Total repair & maintenance costs YTD:  
\$104,470**

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, December 14

9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - Westminster North  
9:30 am - The Seekers - Westminster South  
10:30 am - Worship (Christmas Joy) - Sanctuary  
11:30 am - PW Joy Reception - WH North  
5:00 pm - Youth Bible Exploration

## Monday, December 15

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary  
12:15 pm - Preschool Hot Chocolate Social - WH  
7:00 pm - Session - WH South  
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Room 200

## Tuesday, December 16

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WMH Patio  
10:00 am - Sewing Guild Association - WH South  
6:00 pm - Youth Committee - Zoom  
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 376 - Geneva Hall  
7:00 pm - Fellowship Committee - Zoom

## Wednesday, December 17

6:00 pm - Mission Study Team - Zoom  
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - WH South  
6:30 pm - Youth 4C - Chipotle, Captain Cookie  
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

## Thursday, December 18

10:00 am - Volunteer Thank You Brunch - KH Room  
10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge  
11:30 am - Amazing Grays - Imperial Garden

## Friday, December 19

11:00 am - HMP Christmas Program

## Waking Up With The Word

### Tuesday, Dec. 16 - 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. It's a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships within the church! New participants are always welcome.

## Amazing Grays

### Thurs, Dec. 18 - 11:30 - Imperial Garden

Join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30am on Thursday, December 18, at the Imperial Garden. Please let Mike Law or Sandy Cole know if you plan to attend so we can get an accurate headcount.