

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

OUT TO THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF HUDSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MAY 15, 2026

HMPC Sets Trend With “Make It This Summer!”



On May 11, just three weeks after we announced our summer worship theme as “Make it This Summer” to celebrate the creative spirit God has given all of us, our local *News and Observer* paper ran an article entitled *Why Creative Retreats Are The Biggest Travel Trend in 2026—From Knitting to Painting*

To Writing. The article states, “Creative retreats are shaping up to be one of the defining travel trends of 2026, with more travelers swapping pool-side vacations for trips built around making something — whether that’s knitting, painting, writing, photography or ceramics. The shift accelerated after 2020, when many people picked up creative hobbies during long stretches at home and never put them down. Now those passions are hitting the road. Stitchtopia, one of the largest craft holiday providers, has reported a 55% increase in passenger volume since 2019, along with 254% growth in yarn-related trips alone. The pull isn’t purely creative. Paula Redmond, one half of Creative Restoration, told *The Independent* that hobby-based holidays can support mental health and nervous system regulation by giving travelers a way to rest without abandoning the productive part of themselves.”

I don’t doubt that explanation as true, but I do doubt that it’s the whole truth. I suspect it’s no coincidence creative retreats are blossoming because we all see the human creative impulse and essence being uploaded into artificial intelligence. Do we have value beyond what we can teach AI, and for any greater purpose than to have AI become more proficient than we are? Is our creative impulse indeed from God the Creator, or is it an electronic impulse that can be reproduced by zeroes and ones in data centers?

This summer, we’re going to celebrate creativity —what has been uniquely human and uniquely individual in each of us—our voices, our vision, our dialects. In our submersion in our own experiences of creativity and our study of others’ creativity, we’ll look together at Fujimora’s “theology of



making” and see if we agree that it’s more faithful to the Creator as a foundation for ministry, rather than the “theology of plumbing” that tells us we need to fix the world.

Even if you painted something in high school, did needlepoint twenty years ago, if you have kept these works, [submit one of them to our art show](#). During the month of June, come hang out during our 9:30 hour and after worship in Westminster Hall and learn what has inspired people worshipping around you to create. In July, we’ll explore the creativity of music for worship and in worship. [Fill out this Google form](#) as we’ll look for ways to incorporate your favorite hymns, carols and songs in our worship services. For August, consult our reading list (on next page). One of the books was just released as a Netflix movie, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. You can read the book or see this and get the gist. Each novel will form the sermon theme as heard through the gospel that constantly proclaims, God is doing a new thing.

In us. At Hudson Memorial. In our world.

- Pastor Marguerite

WORSHIP WITH MUSIC THIS SUNDAY

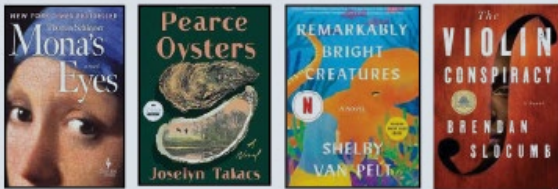
“Let the World in Concert Sing!”

May 17
10:30am in the Sanctuary
Reception to follow, hosted by PW

Summer Reading List

As part of our summer worship theme, August will be focused on literature. Pastor Marguerite has created an adult summer reading list for you to prepare for the literature portion of the summer. Enjoy!

- Mona's Eyes* - Thomas Schlessler
- Pearce Oysters* - Joselyn Takacs
- Remarkably Bright Creatures* - Shelley van Pelt
- The Violin Conspiracy* - Brendan Slocumb



CALLING ALL HMPC ARTISTS!

SUBMIT TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL ART SHOW!

- ➔ FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM BY MAY 28. FORM CAN BE FOUND AT HMPC.ORG/SIGNUP OR CLICK LINK BELOW.
- ➔ DELIVER YOUR ARTWORK TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BETWEEN MAY 17 AND MAY 31.
- ➔ THE ART SHOW WILL OPEN ON JUNE 7, AS WE KICK OFF OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES "MAKE IT THIS SUMMER!"
- ➔ ALL AGES WELCOME.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP or CLICK [HERE](#)

FINANCE

Financial Summary Through April 2026

Key Performance Highlights



Total General Fund Surplus

This reflects a favorable budget variance compared to the year-to-date budget.

7% Reduction in Total Expenses

Actual spending was lower than the budgeted amount.

\$495,024 in Operating Cash

The church maintains a healthy liquidity position in its primary checking accounts.

Comparative Performance Data

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance (\$)
Pledges	\$307,907	\$301,639	\$6,268 +
Non-Pledge Offering	\$40,165	\$49,183	(\$9,018) -
Other Income	\$62,083	\$55,031	\$7,052 +
Total Income	\$412,014	\$408,142	\$3,872 +
Expenses	\$309,969	\$333,540	\$23,571 +
Total	\$102,045	\$74,602	\$27,443 +

Critical Operational Insights



Pledge Stability vs. Offering Volatility

While pledges exceeded targets, non-pledge offerings underperformed by 18%.



Property & Personnel Savings

Property and staff costs remained significantly under budget, contributing to the surplus.



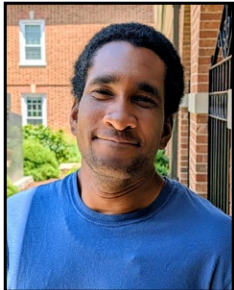
Year-Over-Year Revenue Growth

Total General Fund revenue is up 5% (\$20,496) compared to the same period in 2025.

Welcome Hudson's New Sexton!

We are pleased to welcome Laric Copes as Hudson's new part-time Sexton! Laric will be helping care for our campus in a variety of ways, supporting the many needs that help our church run smoothly.

Originally from Maryland, Laric has called Raleigh home for many years. He has a love for music and plays the tuba, though he can play just about any brass instrument!



When you see Laric around campus, we hope you'll take a moment to introduce yourself and offer a warm Hudson welcome. At the same time, to help him settle into his new role, we ask that any requests for assistance be directed through Hannah Woodcock at hwoodcock@hmpc.org.

We're grateful to have Laric with us and look forward to the many ways he will support the life of our church.

**NEXT
Sunday,
May 24,
is
PENTECOST.
We invite
you to wear
RED to
worship!**



YOUTH MINISTRY

Interested in Helping with Youth Ministry? LOTS OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!



From baking cookies to spending time with our middle and high schoolers each week starting this fall, there are so many ways to support youth ministry here at HMPC! If you feel

called to any of the roles listed on the form, please indicate your interest, and Merritt will reach out to you. Find the form [HERE](#).

The youth program is growing - students are bringing friends, and we have 19 people from Hudson going to Massanetta this summer and 25 heading to Montreat. We are excited for this momentum to continue and for all the ways our youth and the greater HMPC community can connect!

5TH-12TH GRADE FAMILIES:
JOIN US FOR OUR
FINAL COOKOUT
SUNDAY, MAY 17
5:00-7:00 PM
DURANT TRAILS POOL
EMAIL YOUTH@HMPC.ORG
TO RSVP AND TO SIGN UP TO
BRING A SIDE DISH.

WORDS OF BLESSING SHARED BY HMPC YOUTH AT THE END OF EACH GATHERING:

**"MAY YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOVED,
MAY YOU GO KNOWING YOU MATTER, AND
MAY YOU CARRY GOD'S LIGHT WHEREVER
YOU GO. AMEN."**



MISSION

May & June Special Offering - Shelter Ministries



For May and June, our Special Offering will support the Shelter Ministries fund - which covers our contribution to the annual Habitat Build, the Avery County Adult Mission Trip, and maintains reserves to send aid when disaster strikes, as we saw most recently with Hurricane Helene in Western NC. You can give by placing in the offering plate (designated to "Shelter Ministries"), or giving online (go to hmhc.org or scan the QR code).

May & June Tend My Sheep Offering - Raleigh Rescue Mission

In May and June we are collecting men's boxer brief underwear in all sizes, men's sizes M-XL white t-shirts, toothpaste, and wide-tooth and fine-tooth combs for Raleigh Rescue Mission. For nearly 60 years, the Raleigh Rescue Mission has served those experiencing homelessness in our community - offering shelter, hope, and the love of Christ to more than 750,000 men, women, and children. Through comprehensive life programming and a steadfast commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty, Raleigh Rescue Mission walks alongside individuals and families toward lasting transformation.



Wake Interfaith Immigration Event

On Sunday, June 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm, people of many faiths will gather at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in downtown Raleigh for Interfaith United for Immigrants, a gathering with music, prayer, learning, and witness in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Attendees will hear from speakers who work alongside immigrant communities every day, lift our voices in song from across faith traditions, and explore what it means to be a people of welcome. The event is free and open to all, with no registration required. There is plenty of free parking in the church's lot. Come ready to listen, reflect, and take action alongside neighbors of many faiths.

More information at wakeinterfaithimmigration.org.

(Shared by Jay Cummins, who is involved with Interfaith United for Immigrants)

INTERFAITH UNITED FOR IMMIGRANTS

A WAKE INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION EVENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
at Edenton Street United Methodist Church
228 West Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27603

RESPECT FOR IMMIGRANTS BRINGS US TOGETHER

Join people of many faiths to affirm the dignity of our immigrant neighbors – welcoming, protecting and standing with them. Through song, Word, learning and witness, we turn respect into action.

Light overcomes darkness
Dignity over fear

All are welcome. No registration required.

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 April Property Summary!

– Hannah Woodcock, Administrative Coordinator



April Property Summary

What did we accomplish in April?

ADA-Compliant/Family Restroom Construction:

Construction on our new ADA-compliant and family restroom is underway! Work began on April 6th and will wrap up in late June. This has been a long time coming, and we are excited to see it coming along. Thank you for your patience as we cope with the inconveniences of construction!

Library Supply-Side Y-Strainer Replaced: After a lengthy wait due to parts sourcing and shipping, a recurring challenge given the age of our building, the supply-side Y-strainer in the 2nd Floor Library has finally been replaced. This resolves the ceiling leak that has been a recurring item in recent summaries.

Preschool Classroom Wall Leak Discovered: A leak was found in the wall of a preschool classroom, triggered when an exterior hose is in use. This repair will be addressed during the preschool's summer break, after summer sessions conclude. The hose spigot near the preschool entrance has been marked off in the meantime.

Upstairs Janitor Closet Sink Replaced: A leaking faucet in the upstairs janitor closet was beyond repair due to the age of the fixture, so the sink was fully replaced. It is now working properly.

Property Workday & Volunteer Efforts: Our April 18th Property Workday was a success! Volunteers contributed to a variety of upkeep tasks, including power washing and staining the labyrinth stairs. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to

care for our building and grounds!



Exterior Paint Assessment & Lead Testing: Gary Alexander performed lead testing on our exterior paint in preparation for an upcoming exterior painting project. We are reviewing the results and options with paint experts. Thanks for your help, Gary! More updates to come!

Narthex Door Seals: Still in Progress: Work on the Narthex exterior door seals continued in April, but we are still not satisfied with the results. We are evaluating other options with different vendors.

Miscellaneous Repairs & Improvements: Ken Krause installed a lock on the exterior storage area under the Geneva stairs and worked on installing a cover for the fire pit. Thank you, Ken!

April Property Expenses:

Bathroom Renovation: \$35,100

Utilities: \$4,355 (water, electricity, garbage, and gas)

Monthly Cleaning Fee: \$3,200

Insurance: \$3,085

Misc. Maintenance & Repairs (*fire pit upgrade, street lamp bulb replacement, labyrinth upgrade, playground drain clearing, etc.*): \$2,261

Plumbing Repairs: \$1,806

Monthly Lawn Fee: \$1,014

Bi-Annual Drain Cleaning: \$750

Cleaning Supplies: \$739

Total: \$52,310



Presbyterian Ponderings

"Judah, from Isaiah to Exile"

May 17, 9:30 | Room 200

This spring, Presbyterian Ponderings has been following PCUSA's The Present Word series titled "Judah, From Isaiah to Exile." We will dip into the Old Testament and consider how God, through prophets and other leaders, gave help and guidance to the people of Judah so that we may come to see the hand of God in our own lives and in all human affairs.

We've run out of weeks, but we'll try to not shortchange Ezekiel. Unique among the prophets, he had Revelation style visions, preached a message of personal responsibility, and offered a promise of hope for the future, something we all need.

As always, the Ponderings class welcomes visitors – no advance reading or other requirements. We usually meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Westminster Hall North (near the kitchen) but this week we will be in **Room 200**. Come ponder with us!

The Seekers

9:30 | CHAPEL | May 17

Roger Howard will lead a class on what Scripture tells us about Immigrants and Immigration.

Amazing Grays

Thursday, May 21, at 11:30am

Relish Craft Kitchen (Creedmoor Rd)

Amazing Grays is a group for seniors who get together for fun, food and fellowship. Lunches are typically scheduled the third Thursday each month at some of the group's

favorite restaurants. New people always welcome! Contact Mike Law or Sandy Cole if you are interested in attending May 21's gathering at Relish.



Women At The Well

THURSDAY, MAY 28 | 6:00PM
Final Evening Gathering of the Spring
Home of Grace Hutchinson



Our evening WATW group is wrapping up until the fall - We hope you will join us for our final gathering of the spring! Our meeting will be a social and we encourage women to bring a recommendation of a book or

author (devotion, inspirational or study) for summer reading.

Contact Kay Emanuel ckemanuel@gmail.com if you are interested in attending or learning more. All women of the church are welcome!

Waking Up With The Word

Men's Bible Study Every Tuesday

Tues., May 19, 6:30am - WH Patio



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'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 might have.



Summer Fellowship

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Summer Suppers

Wednesday, June 10 - 6:00pm

Wednesday, July 8 - 6:00pm

Wednesday, August 12 - 6:00pm

\$6 per person - Ages 5 and under eat free.



Fellowship Events



Fellowship Fun: Movie Night

Saturday, June 27 at 4:30pm

Beat the heat with an indoor movie!

Feel free to bring a picnic dinner.

Popcorn will be provided.

Fellowship Friday: BINGO

Friday, July 31 at- 6:30

Doors open at 6:00. Bingo begins at 6:30.

All ages welcome.

Bring a picnic dinner if you'd like.

Desserts provided!



Fellowship Friday: Live Music

Friday, August 21

Music from 6-8pm, Event begins at 5:00.

Hudson's West Lawn

Adult Summer Series

First Session on May 31 at 9:30am

"Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice"

Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, God calls believers to welcome the stranger. We find numerous examples in scripture of God's people modeling ways both to extend hospitality and to receive it. Jimmy Hulsey and John James will co-lead a discussion on how to live into hospitality as a congregation and as individuals.

GRADUATIONS

Celebrating Graduates!

If you are or have a member of your family who is graduating from college, grad school, or high school this spring, we invite you to share the below information with [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](#) by **May 20th**.

Let us know the...

Name, Degree

Institution, Honors, etc



Feel free to share a photo as well. These will be published in the May 29 issue of the Weekly Window.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 17

9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - Room 200

9:30 am - The Seekers - Chapel

10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am - Confirmand Steeple Climb

11:30 am - Fellowship/Reception - Westminster North

5:00 pm - Youth Cookout - Durant Trails Pool

Monday, May 18

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva, Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Property Committee - Room 200

6:00 pm - Diaconate - Off-site

7:00 pm - American Pilgrims on the Camino - WH North

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

10:00 am - Sewing Guild Association - Westminster North

6:00 pm - Youth Committee - Welcome Lounge

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

7:00 pm - Session - Westminster North

7:00 pm - Fellowship Committee - Zoom

Wednesday, May 20

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Room 200/Zoom

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, May 21

11:30am - Preschool Graduation

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge

11:30 am - Amazing Grays - Relish Craft Kitchen

5:30 pm - Worship Committee - Karl Hudson Room

6:00 pm - Pastor Nominating Committee - Room 200

6:30 pm - Mission Committee - Westminster North