

Out to the life and ministry of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)

COVID-19

A Message From Mac About COVID-19 Policy

Dear Hudson Friends,

After a time of discernment, on February 28th the Session, Hudson’s leadership board, decided to go "mask optional" on our campus beginning March 7. They also decided to update our policy to allow eating/drinking in the building. Throughout the pandemic, the Session has been advised by a COVID-19 Sub-Team and has discerned policy when requested by various ministry teams within the church.

As we continue to adjust and make changes related to COVID-19, I encourage you to be a welcoming congregation: Welcoming to those who choose to continue to wear masks and welcoming to those who choose not to. We all will handle this shift in different ways and we ask God to give us the grace to be a loving people as we make these changes.

It is interesting that this shift is happening just as we begin the season of Lent. As the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship* says, “Lent is a time for growth in faith...” Many of us, through the years, have made adjustments to our life and spiritual practices during Lent. As we make changes to our masking policy and how we can be together in the building, may we see our common humanity through the lens of Christ.

With Care,
Mac Schafer, Pastor



A full list of Hudson's current COVID policies can be found on page 3.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship in Westminster Hall is Back!



The Fellowship Committee is pleased to welcome everyone back to Westminster Hall for post-worship fellowship! In the last two years, the space has been completely renovated and is fully

accessible with the indoor ramp. We encourage members and guests to join us for light refreshments and good fellowship each week at 11:30!

Earlier in the morning, before Adult Education, coffee will be available in the Welcome Lounge (formerly the John Knox Room).

LENT

Evening Prayer Services

Wednesdays Through April 3

**Simple Supper: 6:00pm in WH North
Service: 6:30pm in the Chapel/Parlor**



Hosted by our Deacons, these are simple, reflective services that include scripture, liturgy, several forms of prayer, and the opportunity to be anointed with oil (with Covid precautions) for yourself or on behalf of someone else. Anointing is a

sacred rite of the church affirming that healing in body, mind and spirit comes in many ways. The service will conclude with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

The 6:00pm simple supper before the service is at no cost.

LENT 2022

"CREATE & RESTORE A FREE SPIRIT"

Lent 2022: Create & Restore a Free Spirit!

"Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. - *Book of Common Worship (2018)*

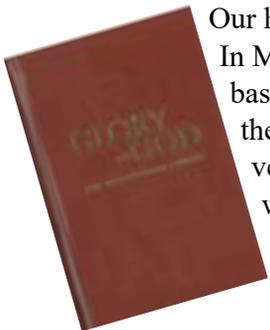
Devotionals

The Lenten devotional this year is *Return to Me* by Vibrant Church Communications. These are available at the Sanctuary and church entrances. **You can find a digital version [here](#) or on the homepage of the church website.** Use the prompts in this devotional as a guide in a daily practice of seeking God.



Lenten Hymn

Our hymn for Lent will be #423 "Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God" which is based on Psalm 51:10-12. Each week, the congregation will sing the first verse of this hymn during Sunday worship.



"Good News" Lenten Sermon Series

Throughout Lent, Pastor Mac will be preaching a sermon series called "Good News". We are in a time and place where we are so hungry for some relief and restoration. Our scriptures have lots of Good News that can help to build us up and strengthen us. It is our hope that these Biblical stories will restore and free the spirit within us as we move into Spring together.

Adult Faith Formation

Conversations for Lent

Sunday mornings at 9:30am in WH South
March 20 & March 27 ; April 3 & April 10

Debbie Kirk will lead our conversations as we consider how we prepare to be present at the cross when we know how the story ends. We will discuss how to engage the narrative in a personal way that is authentic and relevant for our lives today. We will be using material from *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine.

Friday Morning Labyrinth Walks for Lent with Pastor Mac

During the Lenten season, Pastor Mac is offering guided labyrinth walks at various labyrinths around the city of Raleigh. Last week's walk was at the Hudson labyrinth. **The next one will be at Millbrook Baptist Church on Friday, March 18th at 7:30am.** Our faith is spiritual, mental and PHYSICAL. These walks will allow space and guidance for silent reflection. If you have questions, contact [Pastor Mac](#).



Liturgical Arts

You will see window panes in the Narthex (back of the Sanctuary) and in the Chancel area of the Sanctuary. During Lent and Holy Week, you are welcomed to grab a marker (specifically for writing on glass) and write directly on the glass either a prayer of repentance or something you wish to release from your heart or your



patterns. Please do not sign your name -- These are to be anonymous. This is a participatory element of worship (before or after) so please do feel free to use this opportunity of communal confession and repentance. These windows will also be available during the week.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - April 10
10:30am Worship - Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday - April 14
Tenebrae & Communion Service
7:00pm - Sanctuary

Good Friday - April 15
Noon - Hudson Sanctuary

Easter - April 17
7:00 am - Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Diab Amphitheater
at St Timothy's School

Breakfast available in WH from 8:00-10:00am

9:00am & 10:30am - Hudson Sanctuary

Hudson's Updated Policies

The below policies have been set or reviewed by Session, the COVID-19 Sub-Team, Personnel Committee and/or the Hudson Memorial Preschool Board. All below policies are subject to change.



- The interior of the church building is mask-optional as of Monday, March 7th.
- Eating and drinking is allowed inside the church building as of Monday, March 7th.
- Church staff can work from the office or at home.
- For preschool drop-off, no parents come inside the building.
- The preschool is following NCDHHS tool kit guidance and as of Monday, March 7th is mask optional.
- Employees of HMPC (church and preschool) are required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination to their supervisor.
- Any volunteer working with children 12 and under at HMPC will be required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination to the Director of Children and Family Ministries or the Interim Director of Youth Ministries prior to volunteering with children 12 and under.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Flower Donations

Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room #103.



The Gathering

Sunday Mornings | 9:30 -10:20am



WH South

Exploring a Hunch Through the Lens of Faith
Here's the Deal: Led by Rev Jimmy Hulsey
 Through March 13

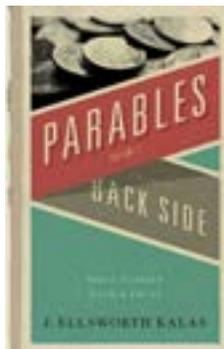
All are invited to explore a hunch: that we Christians have known God's special care throughout our lives, and we are also troubled by so much that seems wrong in the world. In short, we are curious about what God is up to. The image I have in mind for this study is a magnifying glass. Let's look through the lens of our faith to see more clearly how God cares for us and how God's heart beats with a suffering world.



WH North

Parables from the Back Side
Led by Gil Graybill, John James, John Oldenburg, and Fred Woodward
 Through Mid-spring

"Ponderings" is a conversation all are welcome to join any Sunday, no preparation needed. We use scripture, commentaries, and current events to frame our discussions. Gil Graybil, John James, John Oldenburg, and Fred Woodward facilitate the group. We'll begin 2022 with the book *Parables from the Back Side, Bible Stories with a Twist*, in which J. Ellsworth Kalas offers fresh insight into 12 of Jesus' parables by considering them from the perspective of a minor or unsympathetic character. We hope you will explore them with us.



Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, March 15 | 6:30am | Zoom

All men are invited to join this group via Zoom for scripture reflection, discussion, fellowship and coffee. The group uses an ancient Bible study process called Lectio Divina. We look at the passage that will be preached on the upcoming Sunday.

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 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 Pastor Mac.](#)

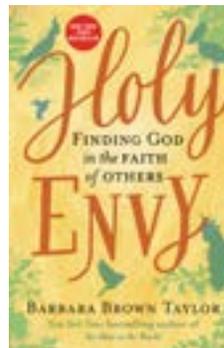
Upcoming Book Study

5:00-6:30pm Sunday Evenings

March 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 24

Room 200

As our congregation participates with members of the Interfaith Coalition on the Habitat Build this spring, it is a good time to learn more about different faith traditions. The Adult Committee is offering a Sunday evening study and conversation using the book *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor.



The study will be facilitated by Debbie Kirk. The cost of the book is \$12.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information contact Debbie Kirk at dkirk@hmpc.org

Montreat Women's Connection Conference

Update from Debbie Kirk

*"Claimed For More:
Wholehearted Living When We Are All Out Of Sorts"*
with Keynote Speaker Sarah Bessey
August 12-14

There is still space available to attend, though much of the housing is full. If you have registered, please let me know where you are staying so I have an accurate list of where our group is. If you have not registered, check the Montreat [website](#) ASAP. All fees are refundable until the end of June, less a small processing charge, so if you are considering attending you should go ahead to secure accommodations. If you need assistance, contact Susan Akduman, the Conference Registrar at 828.419.9829 or email her at susana@montreat.org. She is very helpful and will work with you on what you need. Contact me at dkirk@hmpe.org with any questions about the conference and our group!



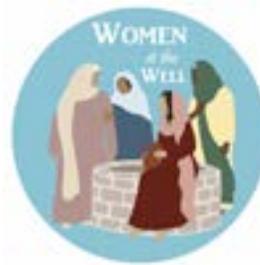
Women at the Well

Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! The two groups have a different format, time and content.

The weekly group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:30am and uses a particular book chosen each semester as a guide for shared conversation, reflections, and prayer. The winter semester began in January using *If God is Love Don't Be A Jerk: Finding A Faith That Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz. Please contact Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpe.org for more information.

The monthly group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm and uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest. This group typically meets over dinner in a local restaurant with meetings on Zoom if necessary. Recent podcasts have included those with Diana Butler Bass, Anne Lamott, Kate Bowler, and Bishop Michael Curry. 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. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, let Debbie Kirk know dkirk@hmpe.org.



Coffee & Conversation

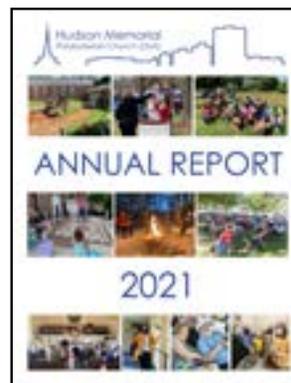
A Time for Parents
During Children's Music

Hey Parents! While your children are enjoying music from 11:30-12:15pm, we invite you to join us in the Parlor for Coffee and Conversation! We hope this can be a weekly time of community which will allow you to deepen relationships with other families in the church. This Sunday, Pastor Mac will be leading the discussion.



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 Annual Reports



If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on February 13th, hard copies of The 2021 Annual Report are available on the first floor hallway of the church. This 40 page booklet highlights the ministry from 2021 and is a great way of getting an overview of the church's ministries, our strengths and growth areas.

Interfaith Build Kickoff A Success!



Presbyterian Church, Unity of the Triangle, Triangle Interfaith Alliance, First Church of Christ Scientist, Hindu Society, Kadampa Center and Sai Center.

Registration for volunteers is open, and each workday will be staffed by three faith communities. For more information, contact Cary Dickerson cdickerson@hmpc.org or Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpc.org

TO REGISTER, please sign up using BOTH links (Habitat's link and Hudson's SignUp Genius Link):

HMPC link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445ada82ca46-habitat>

Habitat link here: <http://vhub.at/interfaithbuild>

Last Saturday was the kickoff for the 2022 Interfaith Build. It was a great kick-off weekend! On Saturday, we built all of the interior and exterior walls for the 1st



floor in the warehouse in less than 2 hours! Then we had a great kick-off ceremony and stood most of the walls. *(Photo on left)* Habitat Wake is one of the largest affiliates in the country and its

mission is to address the tremendous need for affordable housing in our community. Hudson Memorial has a long history with Habitat of Wake County since 1998, when we were the first church to individually sponsor a home. In all these years, we have participated in countless builds, and a decade ago participated in an Abraham Build with members of the Jewish, Islamic and Christian communities. Out of that shared experience was born the Interfaith Coalition which includes more faith communities and groups who share the core belief that loving our neighbor requires commitment to people who are in most need.

HMPC members have found the Interfaith Build a wonderful opportunity to establish relationships with our coalition members as we work alongside one another. This year's coalition participants are: Islamic Association of Raleigh, Sikh Community, Beth Meyer Synagogue, St. Paul's Christian Church, Raleigh Mennonite Church, Highland United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, Jewish Family Services, Temple Beth Or, Hudson Memorial

Special Offering for March HMPC General Mission Fund

Our Special offering for March is for the General Mission Fund. These funds will be used at the discretion of the Mission Committee and will enable us to expand our outreach into the community.

You may place your donation in the offering plate, mail it, [donate online](#) or text to give. Here is how to text to give: Text donation amount with the word "GenMission" to 888-906-0744 (Example: 25 genmission).

Tend My Sheep The Green Chair Project Collecting March 27

The Tend My Sheep collection for March is for The Green Chair Project. We will be collecting items needed to set up a bathroom in a new home. We would like new towels, shower curtains with liner and rings, bath rugs and other bath accessories. The Green Chair Project uses "essential furnishings donated by our community to help neighbors in need facing challenges of homelessness, crisis or disaster. Lives change when families or individuals are nurtured and sustained in well-equipped homes."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Faith Formation Library

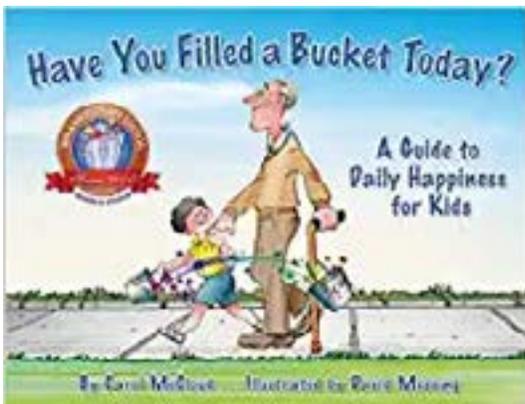
We are excited to announce new additions to our Children's Faith Formation Library!



This library is located in the lobby by the Westminster Hall church entrance and contains wonderful stories for families to borrow to read at home. There are a wide variety of stories from the Bible and books about who God is. We have also added beautiful books about Kindness, Inclusion, Diversity, Friendship, and Self-Expression. These books can serve as great conversation starters with our children about these important values at the center of our faith.

New Book of the Week: "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?"

One of our new stories is called *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. While using a simple metaphor of a bucket and a dipper, the author illustrates that when we choose to be kind we not only fill other's



buckets, but our own bucket too. All day long we are either filling or dipping into other's buckets by what we say and do. This book is a great visual representation for children of how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness and love by "filling each other's buckets." Whether you have small children at home or just have few minutes to spare after Worship, we hope you will stop by the library and take a look!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, March 13th

SUNDAY MORNING:

Explorers Class (5th-7th grade) will meet at 9:30am in the HS Sunday School Room

Confirmation Class (8th grade+) will meet at 9:30am in Geneva Hall

SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Youth Music at 4:30pm - Westminster Hall

MS/HS Youth Group at 5:00 - 7:00pm

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, May 1

Confirmation Sunday (8th grade youth)

All Confirmands and Mentors meet at 9:30am in Westminster Hall.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

This Week At School

By Dorothy Roche

This week, the children have been exploring color, mixing colors with paint, and of course creating rainbows just in time for St. Patrick's Day. In music and movement, the children have been dancing with rainbow ribbons and learning the Leprechaun dance!

We are looking forward to "Donut Days" for the first time in 2 years as we invite parents in for a classroom visit and donut at drop-off. We appreciate our families as they have patiently awaited the return of past times.



CALENDAR

This Week...

Sunday, March 13

****DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS****

- 9:30 am - Adult Faith Formation
- 9:30 am - Explorers Class - HS Sunday School Room
- 9:30 am - Confirmation Class - GH or outside
- 10:30 am - Worship - 2nd Sunday of Lent
- 10:45 am - Children's SS - Playgarden
- 11:30 am - Wee Worshipers & Joyful Noise - GH
- 11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation w/ Parents - Parlor
- 11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
- 4:30 pm - Youth Music - WH
- 5:00 pm - MS/HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm - Holy Envy Book Study - Room 200

Monday, March 14

- 8:00 pm - Al-Anon/AlaTeen/AlaKid - GH/Room 226

Tuesday, March 15

- 6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - Zoom
- 9:30 am - Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am - Sewing Guild - WH South
- 10:00 am - Esther Circle - Parlor
- 11:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle - WH North
- 11:45 am - Hannah Circle - Room 200
- 7:00 pm - Fellowship - Karl Hudson Room
- 7:30 pm - Miriam Circle - Parlor
- 7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - GH Rm 234

Wednesday, March 16

- 9:15 am - Women at the Well - Zoom
- 6:00 pm - Simple Supper - WH North
- 6:15 pm - Handbells - WH South
- 6:30 pm - Evening Prayer Service - Chapel/Parlor
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Saturday, March 19

- 2:00 pm - CR Dolby Memorial Service
- 5:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



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FOUNDATION

Foundation Birthday Gifts

Thanks to the members and friends who have recently donated to the Foundation Birthday Fund:

Richard Rodgers

Sandra Vasher

