

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

DECEMBER 19, 2025

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Merry Christmas!

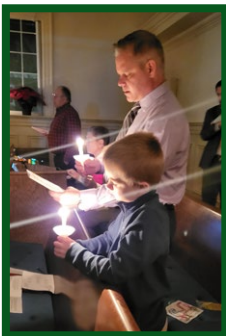


*From the
Hudson Staff*

The staff at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church wish all of you the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of new years. We are deeply grateful for your support of HMPC – the campus, the office, the offerings and pledging, and the ministry to so many people both inside and outside of our congregation. You don't just put the Christ in Christmas, you put the Christ into our year-round witness. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ be yours this season and throughout the years to come.



Christmas Eve 2025



Like Brunch Church, like the paper bag intergenerational Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve will feature a new thing at Hudson Memorial this year. Well, it may be new to us, but this “lessons and carols” worship service format has a long tradition dating back to the 19th century. Only at that time did carols first appear in worship services. They had been criticized by clergy as secular until a publication of them began to be used by choir masters in the UK to insert carols into worship services.

We are presenting a shorter, modified version of the traditional liturgy, featuring younger and older readers for the 5:00 pm readings and college-age youth for the 7:00 pm readings. Lessons & Carols services do not include communion. Both services end with candlelight and “Silent Night,” followed by the benediction and a resounding “Joy to the World.”



Please join us for an extended time of praise and worship through Scripture and carols—a beautiful opportunity to once again welcome Christ this Christmas season.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Festive Fellowship this Christmas Season!



Above: The Mission Committee enjoyed a Christmas gathering this month.



Above: Office Volunteer "thank you" brunch.



Left & right: Hannah Circle packed gift bags for residents at Capital Towers.



Polar Express Day at the Preschool



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Christmas Joy in the Morning



Our annual Christmas Joy worship service last Sunday was a truly joyful celebration, and we were grateful for the wonderful turnout from our congregation and community. The service was filled with music and praise, featuring the Youth Bells, Hudson Handbells, Joyful Noise children's choir, the Chancel Choir, and both the men's and women's choruses. We were also delighted to have instrumentalists Jenn Autry, Lindsey Richards, Dan Vig, and Tetyana Ryabchikova join us, adding even more beauty to the morning.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this service such a meaningful and uplifting experience, especially Music Director Barbara Loehr-Fox, organist Hunter Cox, and Children's Music Director Rich Richards. This service marked Rich's final Sunday at Hudson, and we are deeply grateful for his years of faithful leadership, musical gifts, and dedication to our children, youth, and music program. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him every blessing in the next chapter of his journey.



**FAREWELL,
RICH!**



2 photos above, left: A goodbye cake for Rich Richards, as well as a gift from the youth of HMPC.

Nine O'Clock Class

9:00 | Sunday, Dec. 21 | Room 200

"A Middle Eastern View of the Nativity"

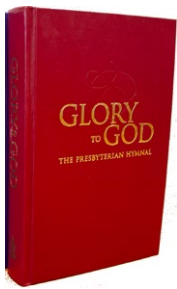
Facilitated by Don Slater

The Seekers

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 21 | WH South

"The Story of Christmas Songs in the Church"

Facilitated by Ron Ash



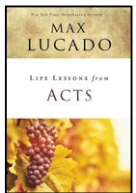
St. Augustine said "He who sings prays twice." In Advent we honor this sentiment with many hymns and carols but most of us are not familiar with their origins. This class will explore the stories behind our most-loved Christmas hymns.

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30 | Sunday, Dec. 21 | WH North

"Jesus Is Gone! Now What Do We Do?"

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



Presbyterian Ponderings class has been 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.

When Paul becomes a prisoner (again) and knows that his own death is close at hand, he shows his faith in God and wields a steady hand that saves the lives of his captors. Do you have God in your heart when the seas are rough AND when the sailing is smooth? Join us as we discuss Acts 27 to wrap up our study of the book of Acts.

We will **not** be having Sunday School on Dec. 28.

Worship Themes for the New Year

Each January, the Christian liturgical calendar begins with Epiphany Sunday to celebrate those "God moments" when we feel we've seen God or evidence of God that transforms how we see things (the story of the Magi in Matthew's gospel), followed by the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when Scripture tells the story of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the Jordan. The sermon title for Jan. 4 is "The Seekers" and Jan. 11 is "The Messes." The human relationship with the divine takes us on a journey; it also acquaints us with the messes we make along the way.

January 18, we'll start a sermon series that takes a closer Scriptural look at our new vision statement and how we can start living into it right away. That Sunday, the sermon "First of All," will examine the role of "Christ" in the statement and in human life. January 25, the sermon "One of Many" will take on division in the church - the variety of belief and perspective that we can either welcome or not. On February 1, the focus will turn to what makes diversity of belief and perspective become the great unifying force - nothing less than Jesus Christ our Lord.

I'm so looking forward to diving into study and mission next year that move this congregation closer to its vision of bringing God's kingdom to North Hills.

- Pastor Marguerite

FELLOWSHIP

Single Way New Year's Eve Potluck

Single Way group will be holding our New Year's Eve potluck gathering from 4:00-6:00pm in Westminster Hall at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church on December 31.

Fellowship, fun, and games with a gift bag exchange. Some of our members suggested gift bags of goodies instead of the usual grab bag gifts. Your option.



Please call Lucille Nicholas at (570) 614-3291 if you plan to attend by December 29th.

All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend to ring in the new year.

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY

What did the CAT tell us? - Magi Church



You may have heard the Mission Study Team or Pastor Marguerite refer to Hudson as a “Magi church.” What does this mean? The name may come from the three wise men from the East who brought gifts to the baby Jesus in Matthew’s birth narrative, as they are thought have been scholars and astronomers.

In the Holy Cow consultant’s interpretation of our CAT survey results, aspects of each church’s culture or style are given nicknames for convenience. Hudson’s responses, which indicate a diversity of theological perspective and a willingness to consider change, though with some discomfort, place us in the Magi church category. To provide a bit more detail from the survey, responses reflected a range of theological perspectives and interpretations on matters of faith and belief. More than half of those responding indicated progressive views on theological questions, while a third hold more conservative views on the same questions. These differences are theological in nature and reflect the diversity we reference—not political viewpoints. The other part of the culture definition came from our comfort or discomfort with change, with 81% expecting that some amount of change will be needed to carry out our vision. We don’t all feel the same level of comfort with change!

Quoting the consultant’s summary, “Magi cultures are analytical, valuing deep knowledge, open discourse and intellectual curiosity.” Also, “open to different faith journeys, demonstrating a welcoming inclusiveness.” Less positive, “Magi cultures can over-think issues and avoid emotion.” A more specific characteristic of Magi churches is that creating a clear and compelling vision for the church takes considerable study and discussion. The MST applauds the congregation for participating in our two Zoom meetings and two Brunch Churches. We heard plenty of discussion and many wonderful ideas!

You may hear or see this phrase “Magi church” again as we go deeper into finding our way through the transition. Let’s feel good about taking our name and cues from wise ones and continue to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit at Hudson.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am - Nine O’Clock Class - Room 200

9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - Westminster North

9:30 am - The Seekers - Westminster South

10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary

10:45 am - Children’s Sunday School - Geneva Hall

11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster North

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom

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

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent

THIS Sunday, December 21

10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary

"Happy Birthday Jesus!" Service Project during
Children’s Sunday School



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

5:00pm - Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service

7:00pm - Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service

Nursery will be available at the 5:00 service only.

Only the 5:00 service will be livestreamed.

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

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.

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,

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. 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.

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.

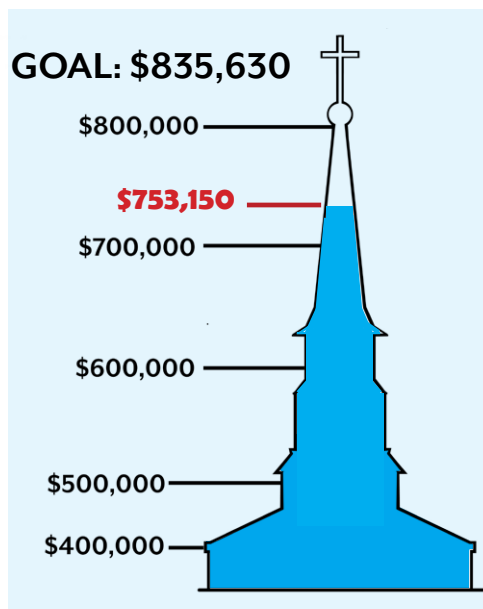
This year, we were grateful to donate \$13,500 to our community partners, including:

- \$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.

2026 Pledge Campaign



As of December 11, 2025, our received pledges total \$753,150. We currently have **144** 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@hmpc.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.



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.

Items can be placed in the bins at Sanctuary entrances.

HMPC OFFICE

Office Holiday Closings

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE:

Open regular business hours through Dec 23

Closed Wednesday, December 24

Closed Thursday, December 25

Closed Friday, December 26

Closed Thursday, January 1, 2026

FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word - Tues, December 23 - 6:30am - Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets via Zoom and in-person (on the WH Patio), alternating weekly. WUWTW uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. 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. 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.