

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



October Worship Focus: Trust in the Grace of Christ A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARGUERITE

Happy Fall, HMPC friends and family!

You may feel like it was only by the grace of Christ that you survived one of the hottest stretches of weather on record in Raleigh. All the more reason to welcome fall with the love of Christ, I think! Every fall, HMPC has many special events and this year is no exception – I wanted to highlight a few.

As we continue study of our vision statement, October's theme is **"trust in the grace of Christ."** That coincides nicely with the launch of our 2027 Giving Campaign this Sunday. How can we give such precious treasures such as our time and money to the church without trusting in the grace of Christ? The grace which catches us when we're too focused on our own wants and not enough on our neighbor's needs, the grace that helps us receive as well as give.



Members of the Giving Team will help lead in worship throughout the season, and on **October 4**, the Mission team will step in to help lead a World Communion Sunday focused on how your giving supports people outside the walls of HMPC. I'll be joined by Raleigh Rescue Mission CEO John Luckett for a dialogue sermon to learn more about how HMPC support goes out into a community of people who may not even know about HMPC. World Communion Sunday always invites us to see beyond the walls of our own church and having Raleigh Rescue Mission as our guest, prior to the Rise Against Hunger meal packing event, is a great fit for the theme of the day.



On **October 11**, we actually WILL go outside our walls to celebrate those who almost never come inside our walls – our animals, both domestic and in nature will be blessed and prayed over. (The exceptions may be a few dogs and a few squirrels who find themselves in the building). Worship team is planning this outside service on the west lawn and asks everyone to bring a chair, a pet or a picture of a pet, and celebrate all of God's creation.

Rev. Jimmy Hulsey, as chair of the Giving Team, will bring our message on **October 18**, lifting up this year's theme of "Rooted in Christ, Growing in Generosity." I can't stress the importance of this year's campaign enough. Candidates looking at coming to HMPC are going to be very interested in the financial and volunteer support the congregation provides. If you have never pledged, please give prayerful consideration whether this year is the year to try it. If you have pledged we thank you and hope you will prayerfully consider whether an increase could be possible for 2027. Rev. Jimmy has told me how impressed he is with HMPC members' generosity and I look forward to his message that day.



We round out October with more celebration – **Oct. 25** is Reformation Sunday with bagpipes, followed by the Youth Group's pancake brunch fundraiser and the Fall Festival at St Mark's UMC. Reformation Sunday means so much to us who find the most honest Christian home is one of the Presbyterian Reformed tradition that admits to our limits and brokenness at the same time living into the good news of the gospel. I hope to see all of you in worship during a full and festive October!

Bridging the Summer Gap: 2026 Giving Update & Pledge "Catch-Up"

The Summer Impact & Current Shortfall

-84%

Operating Surplus
Plummeted 84%
in August

July Surplus:
\$30,170

August Surplus:
\$4,852

The "Summer Lull" Deficit:
August saw a monthly operating
deficit of over \$25,000

Last Year
YTD (2025)

Pledges Trailing 5.1% Behind Last Year

Current
YTD (2026)

\$26,782 Behind

Visualizing the Gap: YTD Actual vs. Budget

Giving Category	YTD Actual	Variance vs. Budget
Regular Pledges	\$495,879	(\$18,013) UNFAVORABLE
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$68,915	(\$969) UNFAVORABLE
Total Offering Gap	\$564,794	(\$18,982) BEHIND BUDGET

Our Path Forward: The Strength of Catch-Up

A Proven History of Year-End Resilience:
Late-year contributions consistently allow
HMPC to meet or exceed budgets.

Historical Late-Year "Catch-Up":
Pledges received at year-end historically
surpass the initial budget projections.

Help Us Close the \$19,000 Gap

catching up on annual pledges now ensures
our vital ministries remain fully funded.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

An Update from the PNC

Hudson Memorial's Pastoral Nominating Committee, which began its work in earnest in April, is chugging through its checklists of tasks and following all proper procedures to find a new head of staff for our congregation. For the last month, we have been interviewing candidates from all over the country, with some near home and some more than 2,000 miles away.

While we still have a long way to go, we believe we have thoroughly covered a wide spectrum of promising possibilities who might fit comfortably into our community. May we all remember that God is patient, and so are we. To date, we have conducted interviews with five candidates and have an aggressive schedule of additional interviews on our committee calendar.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Emily
Cobb

Sarah
Edge

Joanna
Hulsey

Monica
Maxwell



Tim
Peeler



Mary
Schindo



Don
Slater

The weight of our discovery and discernment is real, as we carefully consider questions that we hope will identify the best fill the needs the congregation has identified through various forms of feedback and personal conversations.

Please know that God has walked with us every step of the way. We have laughed, explored, examined and prayed with each other and with our candidates as part of our process. Our meetings are lively with discussions that concern every aspect of our church.

All that we, the seven members of the congregation chosen to make this carefully considered decision, ask for is continued prayers from each of you as we move toward our final decision.

A Message from CRE Intern, Eric Earle



It has been said that you are the same person you were yesterday except for the books that you read and the people that you meet. Both, I've figured out over time, expose one to thoughts and perspectives that you would never find on your own; they both show us how we solve problems and view the world, and from each one learns. I had no idea just how much of an impact walking through the doors for the first time of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church on June 29, would make on me.

It has been a true privilege and pleasure to have had the opportunity to do my Commission Ruling Elder internship with all of you at HMPC. You, the congregation, have made both Karen and I feel welcomed and a part of your family at Hudson from the beginning.

I, personally, have enjoyed preaching my first sermon, leading a Sunday school class, being a liturgist, visiting members homebound, attending a Session and the staff meetings, but the highlight of my time with all of you has been getting to know you. Getting to know your welcoming spirits, hearts and minds that are Christ-centered. I would also like to thank Marguerite for helping me along the way, being a role model for me, keeping me focused, and teaching me through honesty with compassion, that allowed me to give my best.

Thank you, Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, for allowing me the privilege to come into your lives and worship with you. I will not forget you.

Pastoral Care Staff Changes at Hudson

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST WEEK

Thank You, Aleta!



HMPC's Personnel team invites the whole congregation to say a big thank you to Rev. Aleta Ash for her amazing service as Minister of Visitation since 2019. Gifted with experience in nursing and hospice, Aleta has offered wise counsel and heartfelt pastoral presence to dozens of members

and their families. She is retiring from active service on September 30, but will stay a beloved friend and participant in HMPC ministries thereafter. You'll still see her singing in the choir on Sundays! **We will recognize her this Sunday during worship.**

I especially want to thank Aleta personally. HMPC would not be in such great shape in its transition if not for her ability to take care of members whom I did not have time to know well enough for the best end of life care. She has been a friend and comfort to me and the best colleague in ministry I have ever had. Let me add my best wishes for Aleta and Ron – we are so grateful for the gifts that will continue blessing this congregation for many years.

- Pastor Marguerite

HMPC Hires Parish Associate



Our Personnel team wishes to announce that our new half-time Parish Associate, Rev. Becca Kuiken, will begin ministry at Hudson on October 1, 2026.

Becca is a retired pastor with decades of experience and a desire to offer her gifts of congregational care in a more structured setting as Parish Associate. In

her twenty hours a week, she will work with deacons and Rev. Marguerite to call on those experiencing health issues, those who cannot make it to the HMPC campus for events, and others who need an extra pastoral presence.

She will also share her teaching skills beginning Oct. 11 with a six-week course on Christian Doctrine. Join the Ponderings class in WH North to get to know Becca and our Christian teachings better.

As a Parish Associate, Becca works on contract at the invitation of the Senior Pastor with the approval of the Session. Once the Senior Pastor leaves, her contract will come to an end, and can be renegotiated with the next Senior Pastor if both parties feel a call still pertains.

Rise Against Hunger Meal-packing Event

Sunday, October 4 - 4:00-6:00pm

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that 80 of our members and children have signed up for the meal packing event at Rise Against Hunger on October 4 at 3200 Wellington Court, Suite 112, Raleigh. Setup is at 3:30 and packing begins at 4:00. Given the available volunteers, the Committee voted to increase the number of meals to be packed to 14,256 with an additional donation of \$1,000. We look forward to seeing you there.



A Stand for Dignity

If you are concerned about the way our nation is treating our immigrant neighbors, come to downtown Raleigh for A Stand for Dignity on Sunday, October 11 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. People of many faiths will gather on the South Lawn of the North Carolina State Capitol to proclaim the vision of dignity, decency, and due process that we know is possible.

Sponsored by Wake Interfaith Immigration Network, the program will include prayer, song, and shared witness and will provide you with ways to bring about the changes we seek. Free and open to all. Sign up at wakeinterfaithimmigration.org to receive updates.



Tend My Sheep COLLECTING FOR DIAPER TRAIN

This month we are collecting diapers, pull-ups, and wipes for Diaper Train. No family should have to worry about how they will afford their next diaper, yet this is the reality for 1 in 2 families. For more than 10 years, Diaper Train has been committed to improving the lives of children and families in Wake County by providing direct access to diapers, ultimately working to end diaper poverty.



Their greatest need is 4, 5, & 6 diapers, 3T/4T & 4T/5T pull ups, and wipes but they will accept any size diaper including opened packages (wipes must be unopened).

Please bring your donations to church during September and October and place them in the bins by Sanctuary doors.

September Special Offering PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.

You may place your donation in the offering plate, mail it, or [donate online](#). To text to give, send your donation amount with the word “PDA” to 888-906-0744 (Example: 25 PDA)

Single Way

SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS MONTH! DINNER ON OCTOBER 8

Single Way is a group of mostly retired singles that meet once a month for lunch and fellowship.



This month, the group is doing something a little different. **We will be meeting at 5:00pm on Thursday, October 8, at 1961** (at the North Hills Club at 4824 Yadkin Drive in Raleigh).

Please text Joan Lester at 919-783-0310 with your reservation by Tuesday, October 6th, if you plan to attend, or call her after 9:30am.



This will be at 1961, the new fancier restaurant at the North Hills Club. No raggedy jeans, and no indoor hats for men.

If you know of anyone who would like to come enjoy fellowship with us, please extend the invitation.

Thanks, Welcome Team!

Last Sunday, our Welcome Team hosted a fun, pie-themed fellowship time after worship! Some of the pies even featured symbols of welcome, like handshakes and nametags. A big thank you to the Welcome Team for creating such a sweet way for our church family to gather and connect!



2027 Chancel Flower Calendar has been posted!



The 2027 calendar is ready for sign-ups! If you are interested in donating flowers for the chancel on a Sunday, please sign up on the flower bulletin board located in the main hall outside Room 103. You may also email Hannah Woodcock at hwoodcock@hmpe.org to make arrangements.

Donating flowers is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one while helping to make our sanctuary especially beautiful for Sunday worship.

WORSHIP



Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 11 10:30 Worship

Bring your pet for this special outdoor worship service!

MEMBERSHIP

INTERESTED IN JOINING HMPC THIS FALL?

Our Next Inquirers' Class

will be NOVEMBER 15 after worship.



Sign up [HERE](#) or contact Cary Dickerson if you have any questions at cdickerson@hmpe.org.

What's a Wiggle Room Anyway?

You may have noticed a new space at church called the Wiggle Room. So, what exactly is it?

The Wiggle Room is an updated take on what churches have traditionally called a “cry room.” It is an inclusive worship space where people of all ages can step out when they need a little extra room, privacy, quiet, or flexibility—while still remaining connected to the worship service through the livestreaming of the service inside the room. It is located in the narthex near the accessible entrance.

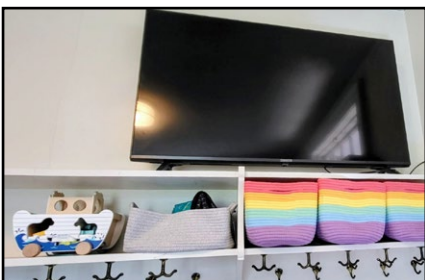
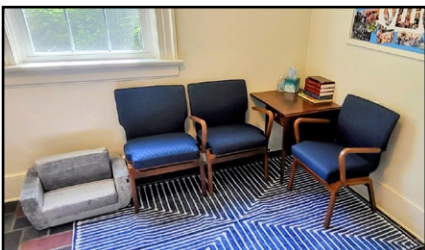
For families with young children, the Wiggle Room offers a place where little ones can move, play quietly, or take a break while parents and caregivers continue to participate in worship. It can also provide a more private and comfortable space for parents who need to breastfeed or care for a baby. There are diaper changing supplies, toys, and soft seating available to help make your family comfortable.

But the Wiggle Room isn't just for children. There may be Sundays when an adult has a tickle in their throat, needs a little extra space, or simply finds that worshipping from a quieter environment is more comfortable. The Wiggle Room makes it possible to still hear the service, participate in worship, and still be a part of the community. You will find Bibles, Hymnals, and a Friendship Pad on the table.

Most importantly, the Wiggle Room is not a place where anyone is being sent because they don't belong in worship. It is an extension of our worship space and another way we

can make room for one another.

As Presbyterians, we believe that the church is a community where all are welcome—and sometimes, welcoming means making a little extra room. Whether you are wiggly, nursing, feeling crowded, or simply in need of a different space, there is a place for you here.



Youth Ministry Sunday, September 27

11:30-11:45 - Middle School Donuts/Check-in
Middle schoolers (grades 5-8) join us upstairs in the youth room across from the game room for donuts and highs and lows!

From 5:00 to 7:00 pm - Youth Group
Our first 'regular' youth group meeting where grades 5-12 are invited for games, dinner and devotion. We will start off altogether and share a meal together in the middle of the evening, but middle schoolers and high schoolers separate for programming.



Youth and families, you are always welcome to join us in the balcony!



Help with Youth Group Meals!

Each Sunday at youth group, our youth play games, participate in a time of devotion, and share a meal together. If you are interested in providing dinner for our youth on a Sunday evening this Fall, please sign up via the Signup Genius [HERE](#) or email Merritt (youth@hmpe.org) for more information. We are so grateful for your support!



Women at the Well

Weekly Group

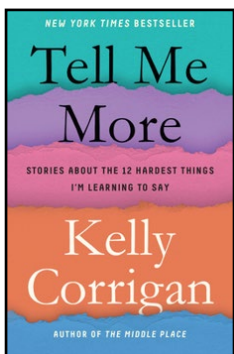
This Wednesday, September 30, at 9:15am



"Have you ever noticed how children are so great at asking questions? Sometimes annoyingly so, but their insatiable thirst to ask why, how come, you know there's a reason for that. It turns out that asking questions, as Warren Burger likes to say, is a way of thinking. Asking questions is how we make sense of the world around us. And it's essential for us to form our identity. So, we're so great at asking questions when we're young, but how come we don't find more cultures of inquiry and more curious groups?"

(Dr. Natalie Nixon)

In Jeff Wetsler's book, *ASK*, he talks about all the ways that curiosity and framing and reframing questions helps us to collaborate and build better relationships and enhance our community.



This Wednesday, September 30, we will be discussing why the phrase I DON'T KNOW is the most powerful thing you can say. (*Tell Me More*, chapter 3)

We hope you will consider joining us. For in person participation, we meet in the chapel each Wednesday from 9:15-10:30. If you are unable to attend in person you can email Judie Greenawalt for the Zoom link at jkgreenawalt@bellsouth.net. For other questions, contact Barbara Coleman at colemanbar@gmail.com.



Sunday Adult Education

Nine O'Clock Class

Sunday, Sept. 27 - 9:00 - Room 200

"Sermon on the Mount"

Facilitated by Don Slater

Presbyterian Ponderings

Sunday, Sept. 27 - 9:30 - WH North

"Faith and Fame"

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

The Ponderings class is beginning the fall with a four-week series called "Faith and Fame," where we discuss well-known people from the past and present who are good role models for Christian living (whether they were active in church or not).

The Seekers

Sunday, Sept. 27 - 9:30 - WH South

"The 12 Tribes of Israel"

Facilitated by Bob Stowe

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Sept. 29 - 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.

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 might have.

This Week at HMPC...

Sunday, September 27

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, Playgarden
11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster North
11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall
11:30 am - Youth Donuts - Youth Room
11:45 am - Coffee and Conversation - Chapel
11:45 am - Youth Bells - Westminster South
5:00 pm - Youth Group - Westminster, Geneva, Youth Rooms

Monday, September 28

9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva or Sanctuary
6:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen Event - Westminster Hall

Tuesday, September 29

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall

Wednesday, September 30

9:15 am - Women at the Well (Weekly) - Chapel/Zoom
6:00 pm - Preschool Pizza Party
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - Westminster South
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, October 1

10:45 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
6:00 pm - Pastor Nominating Committee - Hudson Room

Saturday, October 3

9:00 am - Chancel Choir Retreat - Sanctuary, WH North



Upcoming This Fall & Winter



Sunday, October 4

World Communion Sunday - 10:30am
Rise Against Hunger Workday - 4:00-6:00pm

Sunday, October 11

Blessing of the Animals - Outdoor Worship - 10:30

Sunday, October 25

Youth Trip Pancake Brunch Fundraiser - 11:30am
Fall Festival - St. Mark's UMC - 3:00-5:00pm

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Sunday & Tolling of the Bell
Commitment Sunday - 10:30 Worship

Sunday, November 15

Children's Sabbath - 10:30 Worship
Presentation of Bibles

Sunday, November 29

Advent Begins!
Hanging of the Greens - After Worship

Saturday, December 5

Family Christmas Celebration - 10:00-12:00

Sunday, December 6

Advent Week 2
Christmas Pageant in Worship - 10:30am

Sunday, December 13

Advent Week 3
Christmas Joy Music Worship - 10:30am

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services - 5:00 & 7:00pm