# ADVENT BEGINS THIS SUNDAY!


# THE WEEKLY WINDOW

Out to the Life and Ministry of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church

NOVEMBER 27, 2026


## HANGING OF THE GREENS

### THIS Sunday, November 29

Meet members of the Chancel Guild in Westminster Hall North following the service to find your assignment and decorations for Hanging of the Greens! There's plenty to do as we prepare our church for Advent and Christmas, from setting up and decorating Christmas trees to hanging wreaths and other festive decorations. All ages are welcome to lend a hand!



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

### NEXT Saturday, Dec. 5 | Westminster Hall

Children and families, join us on December 5 for some festive Christmas fun! Enjoy crafts, games, and activities for the little ones as we celebrate the season together. No RSVP required, just come and enjoy!

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### NEXT Sunday, December 6

Last year, our congregation came together for a memorable "Paper Bag Pageant," and it was a huge success! This year, we'll return to our traditional Children's Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 service on Dec. 6. Join us as our youngest members bring the Christmas story to life through costumes and storytelling!



## Update from Session

**Session has provisionally scheduled a congregational meeting following worship on December 20, 2026**, for the purpose of hearing the report from the Pastor Nominating Committee on the candidate they are recommending the congregation elect for HMPC's next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. The date will be confirmed if the PNC's candidate is approved at the Presbytery's Examinations and Transfers (E&T) Sub-commission meeting on December 8. So please mark your calendars now and continue to check your Weekly Window and your worship bulletins for confirmation of this meeting, pending the E&T outcome on December 8. And please continue to keep the PNC, the candidate, and the E&T in your prayers. Thank you for your support!




## ADVENT ADULT ED SERIES



We invite you to join both Ponderers and Seekers in Westminster North for the Sundays of Advent. On November 29 at 9:30, Jimmy Hulsey will be leading a discussion on Visualizing Hope as we compare a Rembrandt painting and a related gospel passage. All are welcome.

Next week, December 6, Ron Ash will be leading a class on the topic of Peace.

**There is NO Nine O'Clock Class this Sunday, November 29.**

# BIRTHDAYS

## December Birthdays

**1:** Ian-Callum Cox

**2:** Chandler Christenbury, Emily Carpenito, Matthew Rahn

**3:** Tiya Komono, Scott Billman

**4:** Benjamin Rahn, Olivia Nduka

**5:** Yvonne Peterson, Jill Priester

**6:** Ellie Gatten, Ronnie Strickland-Apple, Elisa Komono, Alice Wombwell

**7:** Brandon Keever, Mark McDougal

**9:** Angela Baker-James

**10:** Scarlett Maxwell, Maddy Ward, Marsha Flueckinger

**11:** Tom Carpenito, Wes Maxwell, Bella Anderson

**12:** Max Delgado, Holt Burnsed, Ava Farrell, Forrest Carter

**13:** Karlene Perry, Gerry Bowles, Lucille Nicholas, Will Eichler

**14:** Ezechial Hawkins

**15:** Lem Buruah

**16:** Nancy Law Rogers, Henry Dudeck, Elizabeth van Die

**17:** Monica Maxwell

**18:** Christine Bond, Linda Measamer, Jennifer Mercer

**20:** April Morris, Dickens Sanchez

**21:** Durban Rhame

**22:** Leo Buruah, Mary Schindo

**24:** Blake Ayers, Ron Ash

**25:** Susan Spencer, Holly Burge

**26:** Kayla Dilger

**27:** Dottie Burch, August Tweedie

**28:** Irene Fleming, Gracey Ash

**29:** Keto Komono, John Williams, Jackson Autry

**30:** Lauren Klimczyk, Barbara Coleman, Bryar Dunn

**31:** Shirley Blanks, Malcolm Cox




# TECH TEAM

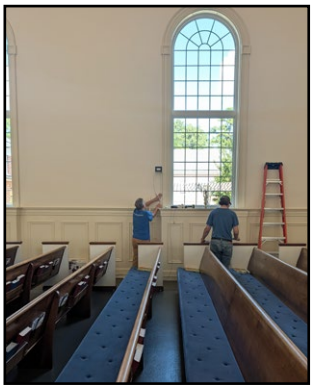
## A New and Improved Worship Livestream!

You may have noticed a few changes to our worship livestream recently! HMPC has installed a new camera and livestream system that will improve the viewing experience for those joining us for worship from home or wherever they may be.

This upgrade was a team effort, and we want to extend **a big thank-you to John Whisler, Erik Jacobsen, Ken Krause, Winter Fox, and everyone else who helped make it happen!** From installing and wiring the new equipment to carpentry work, concealing cables, and putting the finishing touches on the space, many hands helped bring this project together.

We're grateful for the time, talent, and hard work that went into this upgrade. Whether you're worshiping with us in the Sanctuary or joining us online, we hope these improvements will help everyone feel more connected to the life and worship of HMPC!







Our new system provides opportunities for a wide range of camera angles and additional graphics!

# Christmas Joy Music Worship

## 10:30 Worship | Sunday, December 13




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 13 in the Sanctuary. A reception hosted by Presbyterian Women will follow the celebration. Please join us!

## PW Needs Your Help!

We are in need of volunteers to help with the reception! Please sign up HERE for a volunteer position and/or contribute a food item for this joyful celebration. You can also sign up by emailing Sharon Cole at sharoncole@carolina.rr.com or Judie Greenawalt at jkgreenawalt@bellsouth.net. PW thanks you!



## Poinsettias

The Chancel Guild invites you to honor or remember a special person with a donation of $15 towards this season's poinsettias. Names will be listed in the December 20th 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 15th. Designate 'poinsettias' on your check, and please specify if your donation is in honor or memory of anyone. You may take your donated poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **You can also order and pay online HERE.**



**Thursday, Dec. 24**
**CHRISTMAS EVE**
**Candlelight Services**
**5:00 & 7:00pm**

***There will be nursery care during the 5:00 service. Only the 5:00pm service will be live-streamed.***

# November & December Tend My Sheep

## NOTE IN THE POCKET




Note in the Pocket is our designated agency to support for November and December through your Mission Committee. Note in the Pocket has locations in Raleigh and Durham where they provide clothing to impoverished and homeless children and families with dignity and love. This short video explains how and why our contributions are so important: VIDEO HERE.

If you are unable to provide clothing but want to contribute financially, contributions are always appreciated. GIVE HERE.

The following list reflects our most urgently needed items at this time. They will accept new items as well as gently-used items, but please make sure used items are in **good, clean condition.**

### CHILDREN

Girl Hoodies & Jackets – Sizes 7, 8 & 10
Girl Jeans & Leggings – Sizes 8, 10, 12 & 14
Girl Shoes – (Athletic Shoes) Sizes 3 & 4
Boy Hoodies & Jackets – Sizes 7, 8, 10 & 14
Boy Pants (Jeans & Athletic) – Sizes 7, 8 & 10
Boy Underwear – All Sizes (5-18)
Boy Shoes (Athletic Shoes) – Sizes 4, 5 & 6

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Women Shirts (Long Sleeve & Hoodies) – Sizes M & L
Women Pants – (Jeans, Athletic, Leggings) – 14, 16, 18, XL
Women Underwear – All Sizes
Women Shoes (Athletic Shoes) – Size 8 & 9

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Men Shirts (Short & Long Sleeve & Hoodies) – Sizes S, M, L
Men Pants (Athletic Pants & Joggers) – Sizes S, M, L
Men Underwear – Sizes Medium: 32-34 & Large: 36-38
Men Shoes (Athletic) – Sizes 8 & 9

### OTHER NEEDS

GIFT CARDS – Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohl's, etc.

# 100 Gather for Youth Friendsgiving

HMPC Youth Ministry Friendsgiving this past Sunday was so much fun! Around 100 people made up of our youth and their friends and family members shared a meal together, practiced gratitude with a few different activities, and ended the evening with trivia. We are so grateful for the people who make up our youth ministry program and for such an awesome year together!









**There is NO youth group this Sunday, 11/29, due to Thanksgiving!**

**NEXT Sunday, December 6, we are kicking off the Christmas season at youth group!**

- Middle schoolers will eat dinner together and do a Christmas craft, go caroling, and enjoy a fire and s'mores!
- High schoolers will work on a secret Christmas project and go to Cookout for dinner, looking for Christmas lights and decorations along the way!

## Help With A Youth Meal!

**If you are able to support the youth ministry program this spring with a Sunday night dinner,** you can sign up to do so **HERE**. If you'd rather donate money toward youth meals, please do so **here** and specify that it is for 'youth meals.' We are so grateful for the support that ensures each Sunday our youth can share a meal together each Sunday. You can always reach out to Merritt with any questions (youth@hmpc.org).

## Youth Schedule

**Sunday, December 6**
Caroling and Cards (grades 5-12)

**Sunday, December 13**
Youth Christmas Party (grades 5-12)

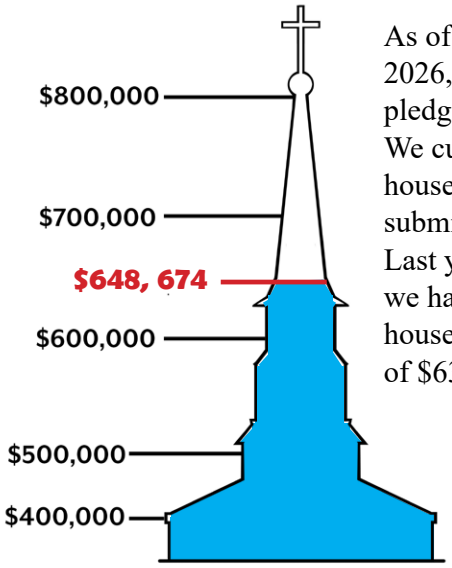
**Wednesday, December 16**
Dec. Chipotle Check in (grades 9-12)

**Sunday, Dec. 20**
Christmas Movie Night (grades 5-12)

# GIVING MINISTRY

## November 24 Pledge Update

### PROGRESS UPDATE




As of November 24, 2026, our received pledges total **$648,674** We currently have **133** households who have submitted pledges. Last year at this time we had 128 pledging households for a total of $635, 640.

### *Still need to submit your pledge?*

- 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 2027 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.

# FELLOWSHIP

## December Luncheon

### Tuesday, December 1, 11:30am

### Cape Fear, Spring Forest Rd




Single Way is a group of mostly retired singles that meet once a month for lunch and fellowship. **Please contact Ruth Herpich at (919) 280-0049 by November 28** if you plan to attend so she can give the restaurant a seating count. If you know of anyone who would like to come enjoy fellowship with us, please extend the invitation. New people are always welcome, so please join us!

## Recommendations for Ruling Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee will soon consider members to begin their service in May 2027.
It is essential the committee recommend individuals who reflect the diversity of our congregation as these new officers will join with current ones in seeking the will of Christ for all the matters before us. As prescribed in the Book of Order, we seek able, gifted persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship because of their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Your perceptions as to fellow members who possess such gifts are essential to the committee's work.
If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself), fill out a form (found at Sanctuary entrances) and drop it off at the church office, or talk with Grace Hutchinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Click here to fill out a recommendation form online. We are grateful for your help in identifying the next group of faithful individuals whom God is calling to serve.

# CALENDAR

**Sunday, November 29**
9:30 am - Adult Sunday School Advent Series - WH North
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - Geneva/Playgarden
11:30 am - Fellowship - Westminster North
11:30 am - Hanging of the Greens - Meet in WH North
11:30 am - Joyful Noise Music - Geneva Hall
11:45 am - Youth Bells - Westminster South

**Monday, November 30**
9:30 am - HMP Chapel - Geneva or Sanctuary
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Hall

**Tuesday, December 1**
6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio
11:30 am - Single Way - Cape Fear Seafood Co.
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall

**Wednesday, December 2**
9:15 am - Women at the Well (Weekly) - Chapel /Zoom
6:15 pm - Hudson Handbells - Westminster South
6:30 pm - Children's Committee - Westminster North
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

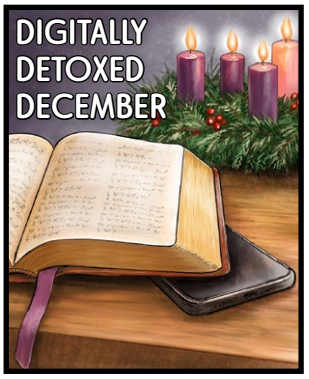
**Thursday, December 3**
6:00 pm - Pastor Nominating Committee - Karl Hudson Room

**Saturday, December 5**
9:00 am - Pageant Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:00 am - Family Christmas Celebration - Westminster Hall

# Advent Devotional 2026: A Digitally Detoxed December

## WEEK ONE: SUNDAY, NOV. 29 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5: HOPE

This week, observe how your online viewing influences your hopes. Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales can make us hope for more for less – and make it harder to track whether that's actually true when making purchases. Then there's "doomscrolling," which is spending a lot of time scrolling through negative online content. If you find yourself doing this, check in when you're done – how hopeful do you feel? If you don't feel hopeful at all, maybe it is time for a digital detox from doomscrolling, and intentionally carving out time to focus on what's good in your life, in our creation, and in your relationships. Play with what you do online and IRL (in real life) noticing what makes you more hopeful, and what makes it harder to be hopeful. Then make a plan to get more hope in your real life!




### Sunday, 11/29 – End Times and Hope (Mark 13:24-27)

*24 "But in those days, after that suffering,*
*the sun will be darkened,*
*and the moon will not give its light,*
*25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,*
*and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.*
*26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.*

The First Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical Christian year and the season where we anticipate the arrival of the Messiah once again in Bethlehem. Paradoxically, Scripture also talks about the end times, when the Messiah comes again at the end of the world. How have you found hope when times end? Seasons, lives, relationships…why do you think we light the Hope candle at the same time we hear about the end times? Today, reflect on that paradox.

***A prayer for the day:***

Holy God, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, in you we have life and life abundant. It's full of endings and beginnings. Each of them teaches us and grows us up in Christ. Give us the hope that sees more than loss in endings and more than vainglorious visions of the outcomes in beginnings. Help us to stay centered on you, Alpha and Omega. Amen.

### Monday, 11/30 – Hope & Endings

Sometimes we really want something to end and can't wait for it to be over: a class we despise; a job that isn't fulfilling; a movie we don't like but our family does. Maybe you want Advent to end so then it will be Christmas Eve! We often turn to our phones when we are waiting in a doctor's office or for dinner to arrive at a restaurant because we want the experience of waiting itself to end. Today, embrace the times you have to wait. Are there strangers you could speak to instead of looking down at your phone? Or a walk you could take instead of waiting on the couch?

***A prayer for the day:***

Patient God, thank you for giving us the gift of time. It does indeed prevent everything from happening to us all at once. Waiting for what we don't have gives us the opportunity to see more clearly what we do have, through your endless generous love. Amen.

### Tuesday, 12/1 – A.I. and Hope

We are all living in a world hyped up by the promise and threat of artificial intelligence. It may cure cancer and it may kill us all within ten years. Even as we hear of the potential impact on many jobs, even now many of us still use various A.I. chatbots as consultants to find out about many things. Today, instead of always using A.I., intentionally ask someone in your life for advice on something. It could be as small as picking out the right LED bulb to something as big as how they navigated a college or career choice. As Bono of U2 puts it, "A friend is someone who lets you help."

***A prayer for the day:***

Dear God, we live in the most amazing times. Our technologies put a world's worth of knowledge at our fingertips. They connect us to any place in the world we want. And yet, we need your help to keep rooted in the world where we live. Help us to value the wisdom of our friends and families and to seek it out, hoping that we can connect and love. Amen.

## Wednesday, 12/2 – Real Life and Hope

People who find it hard to hope often find it hard to see anything good in themselves or their lives. Real life can sometimes feel like it doesn't measure up to what you see online. Even if you do everything your favorite influencer does, you end up feeling like you failed to create all the great stuff you thought you would in your life. Today, recognize how much the images on screens tempt us to compare our lives to the screen and find them lacking. Look for the precious little things in your room, your neighborhood, your family members, that no one else in the world can see. See if the more connected you get to what is in your real life, the easier it is to feel hopeful about it.

### *A prayer for the day:*

Incarnate God, you chose to walk dusty streets, deal with difficult people, be misunderstood, and to follow your call anyway to heal, redeem, and love. Help us to get down on the ground with those who struggle with the holidays. Help us to appreciate the familiar carols and readings without being tempted to check our feed. Help us to be present this season with hope, rather than distraction. Amen.

## Thursday, 12/3 – Hope and Endings 2

When someone loses a job, people often say to them, "Something better will come along, wait and see." It's hard to think anything better will come along when something ends that you didn't want to end. A loved one dies or breaks up with you. You have to go away to school. Or, you have to move from your family home and into assisted living. Precious things are lost and must be grieved. Today, acknowledge some of the losses you've experienced this past year. Did something better come along, or some learning or something new come into your life? Reflect on how that might impact your understanding of hope in the face of endings. As Rev. Bob Diets wrote in *Life After Loss,* "Life after loss will never be the same. But it can still be good."

### *A prayer for the day:*

Almighty God, in Jesus you experienced the beginning and the end of human life. You experienced the beginning and the end of friendships and family, career and calling. And in your resurrection you sent us a promise that God has many beginnings and endings in store for us, and to hope in that God begins a life of peace, love, and joy. Thank you. Amen.

## Friday, 12/4 – Hope and Waiting

Some version of the concept of waiting for God occurs some 50-60 times in the Bible. Examples include: Psalm 27:14 ("Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage"), Psalm 37:7 ("Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him"), Psalm 130:5 ("I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope"), and Isaiah 40:31 ("but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength"). Passages that translate the exact same Hebrew for ***waiting*** verbs as **"hope in the Lord"** or **"look to the Lord"** (such as Psalm 33:22, Psalm 42:5, Lamentations 3:24–25, and Micah 7:7), as well as New Testament passages about waiting patiently for Christ or God's redemption (such as Romans 8:23–25 and James 5:7–8). Today, think of the experience of waiting at a stop light, in a checkout line, for a delivery, or for word about a diagnosis or prognosis, as an invitation to be still before the Lord. Memorize a verse from a Psalm to recite when you are waiting.

### *A prayer for the day:*

Holy One, waiting is not my favorite thing. But I do notice that even when I get what I want as quickly as I want it, another want follows almost immediately after. Help me to wait before going after what I think I want. Help me to wait before I want to judge someone. Help me to put my hope in the good things that come out of waiting – your signs and wonders, your love revealed even as it was on that first Christmas morning. Amen.

## Saturday, 12/5 – Hoping for a Good Ending

It's been said that every sick or lame person Jesus healed eventually died. We all do – even Jesus did. His resurrection tells us that dying to this life is one ending but not the ultimate ending, which belongs to God. We can either dread endings and deny they will happen, or we can accept that part of the gift of life on earth is knowing how precious each day is because there will be an ending to this life. Today, reflect on what you can do to realize your hope for a good ending. What preparations need to be completed for a good ending to Advent? To the year? To a season of life? To the end of life itself? Do you have a will, a funeral plan, and all the arrangements together? Planning for good endings is a sign of hope. Today, plan for something to end well.

### *A prayer for the day:*

Eternal God, you live in eternity while we live in a time of changing seasons and lives. Keep us faithful to the hope that in every season and stage of life, your gifts will show us how to experience peace, love, and joy in you. Keep us connected to you, the source of every blessing, so that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Amen.