



the weekly Window

December 16, 2022

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

Christmas Joy Concert

THIS SUNDAY!

DECEMBER 18 | 6:30PM

Reception afterwards hosted by Presbyterian Women



BLESSING OF THE CHAPEL LABYRINTH

ON THE LONGEST NIGHT

Wednesday, Dec 21 | 9:00pm | Chapel

Please join us for a simple service of blessing and a guided labyrinth walk on the longest night of the year. Blessing at 9:00pm, and the space will be open until 11:00pm for those who wish to walk the labyrinth and practice quiet meditation.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

Sunday, December 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary

6:30pm - Christmas Joy Concert

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm - Candlelight Service
(Nursery available)

8:00pm - Candlelight &
Communion Service



Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS

10:30am - Christmas Day Service - Sanctuary

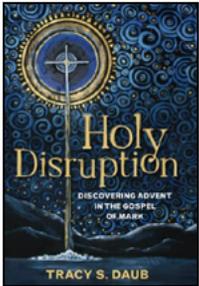
ADULT ED ADVENT SERIES

The Seekers

9:30am | Westminster Hall South

This Sunday, December 18

Facilitated by Pastor Debbie



Discussion using *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* will continue as we consider how we are invited to join the magi in searching for the Messiah who is likely to be revealed to us in poverty, jeopardy, and obscurity.

COLLEGE STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER



All students in college or that are of college age are welcomed to join us for dinner after the Christmas Joy Concert, at 8:15pm at Chuy's in North

Hills. All food and non-alcoholic drinks are covered by the church as a gift. Contact Rich Richards if interested in attending.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program

provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

You can donate [online](#), mail your donation to the church, or give in the offering plate on Sundays in December.



CHRISTMAS JOY RECEPTION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We still have plenty of volunteer opportunities available for the Christmas Joy Reception. Contact Judie Greenawalt or [sign up here!](#) Link can also be found on the front page of HMPC.org



A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



The children of HMPC performed their annual Christmas Pageant last Sunday, December 11. It was a large (and very enthusiastic!) group of children sharing songs and acting out the Christmas story during worship. The congregation loved it!

Thanks to our narrator, Winter Fox, as well as Rich Richards, Director of Children's Music; Barbara Loehr-Fox, Director of Music Ministries; and Cary Dickerson, Director of Children & Family Ministries!



MISSION

December Tend My Sheep:

TOILETRIES FOR HEALING TRANSITIONS



This month we will be collecting items for Healing Transitions. Healing Transitions is a local organization that provides services to members of our community who are fighting addiction. Their mission is to offer innovative peer-based, recovery-oriented services to homeless, uninsured and underserved individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions. Their program is specifically designed to rekindle a person's desire and ability to return to a meaningful and productive life. They say, "We believe that all people struggling with addiction (especially the homeless, uninsured and underserved) deserve services on demand – as many times as it takes – to find recovery. And we never turn away anyone who's seeking help. BECAUSE recovery can't wait."

Many of the participants of these recovery programs arrive at Healing Transitions with only the clothes on their backs. We would like to help provide the basic necessities for their stay. Please consider donating

toiletries including: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (with case), Hairbrushes, Combs, Q-Tips, Shampoos, Conditioners, Deodorant, Soap, and Body Wash. **We will be collecting through the end of December.**



CARE & CONCERN

Congratulations to Daniel & Amanda Anderson on the birth of Isabella Kay Anderson! Amanda is the daughter of members Sonja & Mitchell Puryear and sister to Laura Puryear. Bella was born on December 9th and was 7 lbs.



Prayers for HMPC member Steve Guy upon the death of his father Charles Allen Guy, Sr.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Changes in Music Ministry

By Barbara Loehr-Fox



We have been blessed during my 16-month tenure to have wonderful musicians at our keyboards. Sue Newton stepped in last Christmas Eve to play for worship and accompany our multiple large groups, small groups, and soloists. As you well know, she plans her music to match our worship and

she plays beautifully. What is not as readily seen is her consummate professionalism, warm spirit, and fun personality. She has been a joy to work with and we plan to have her on speed dial for any needs we have in the future. One of our members summed it up best, "Could you share with Sue Newton how much I am enjoying her piano pieces? Her emotive touch is really something special. I just get lost in her playing and have been tearing up a lot, in a good way."



As we bid Sue a fond farewell, we welcome a new talented musician to our Music Ministry. Al Hyde will begin as our organist and pianist in January. Coming from Nashville, NC, he started his studies at a young age. He brings thirty-three years of leadership in church music. In addition, Al enjoys directing

and playing simultaneously for a choir and has a lovely voice. (His minor in college was Vocal Performance.) This quote is straight from Al, "The joy of providing music is my ministry and it continues to be an integral part of my life."

An enormous thank you is due to the Organist/Pianist Search Committee for their support and 16-month commitment to finding this wonderful new musician – Emily Brown, Carol Cox, Dan Vig, Martha Chapman (audition/interview adjudicator), and Carol Yeargin (audition/interview adjudicator). We hope you will help us give Al a warm Hudson Memorial welcome.

Youth Caroling

Last Sunday, December 11, the HMPC Youth went caroling in the neighborhood. They had a great time!



Youth This Sunday

Sunday, December 18

Explorers Class and Growing Disciples

5th-12th grade

11:40am to 12:15pm

(Last one of the year!)

Youth Group Next Meeting:

Sunday, January 8 - See you then!

Looking Ahead to January

Mac's Sabbatical Forums:

STORIES, INSIGHTS AND WONDER
ALONG THE VIA FRANCIGENA

Sunday, January 8th & 15th

9:00am | WH North



As we kick off the new year, please join Pastor Mac as he shares stories and insights from his sabbatical. Mac visited Reformation sites in Germany and Switzerland

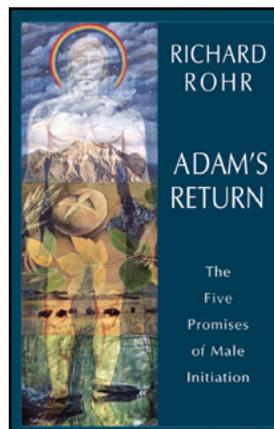
via train and then put on his walking shoes and walked approximately 1200 kms along the Via Francigena. The Via Francigena is an ancient pilgrims' route that goes from Canterbury, England all the way to Rome, Italy. Mac picked up the path in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Presbyterian Pint



The Presbyterian Pint group will be reading *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation* by Richard Rohr. We will be meeting every two weeks over 4 session for this study:

The dates are: January 26, February 9, February 23 & March 9.



This book deals with five challenging concepts: Life is hard, you are not important, your life is not about you, you are not in control and you are going to die. Please purchase the book on your own and read through p.34 before our first meeting. All men of the church are welcome to join us! Contact [Pastor Mac](#) to be added to the distribution list.

Adult Faith Formation This Week

Women at the Well

Final Meeting of 2022: December 21

Women at the Well is made up of two groups, each with a different format, time and content. 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. The **Weekly Group** will wrap up for the year at 9:15am on December 21. We'll start up again in January.

The **Monthly Evening Group** enjoys good fellowship and lively conversation at our monthly gatherings using podcasts on a variety of topics. This month's podcast was a wonderful conversation with Brené Brown and Bono: "Songs of Surrender and Carrying the Weight of our Contradictions." The 2023 meeting dates will be published soon.

All women are welcome to attend! To be added to the contact list contact [Debbie Kirk](#).

Presbyterian Pint

**Watching *The Banshees of Inisherin*
This Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm**



The Presbyterian Pint men's group will be meeting at Pastor Mac's house (1408 Dogwood Lane, Raleigh, NC 27607) this coming Thursday, December 22nd at 7:00pm to watch and discuss *The Banshees of Inisherin*. Please be aware that this movie does deal with some difficult subject matter. Please bring two beers/sodas to share. Mac

will provide popcorn and other "nibbles." For more information, please email Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org

Adult Education This Sunday

**9:30-10:20am | WH North
"Presbyterian Ponderings"**

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



From a Presbyterian perspective, we will look deeply at big concepts of our faith such as Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Salvation. Each week's discussion is stand-alone, with no advance prep or reading required. Come join us for fellowship and good conversation!

THIS WEEK: We will be finishing up our look at salvation.

**9:30-10:20am | WH South
"The Seekers"**

Facilitated by Debbie Kirk

See page 2 for The Seekers' Advent schedule!

NO NINE O'CLOCK CLASS THIS WEEK!

**Waking Up With The Word
Tuesday, December 20 | 6:30am | Zoom**



All men are invited to join this group (via Zoom 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 have questions or would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact [Mac Schafer](#).

FINANCE

2022 End of Year Giving

As we come to the end of 2022, we want to thank the congregation for their generous financial commitment to the church. The church office emailed/mailed giving statements this week so you know where you stand on your financial commitment to Christ through the church at year end. Presently, we are behind where we have been in recent years on pledge income, year to date. We are keenly aware that inflation has impacted many households this calendar year and understand that this may impact your ability to fulfill your commitment to the church. For others of you, this may be a year where



you are able to consider making a year end gift above and beyond your regular giving. We thank you in advance for considering this.

Year-end donations must be dropped off in the office by 4:00 on Friday, December 30, or postmarked on or before December 31st.

GIVING MINISTRY

2023 Pledge Update

Sunday, November 6th was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge in or made your commitment online.

Currently there are 156 households that have pledged out of 364 member households for a total of \$648,401. This time last year we had collected 170 pledges for a total of \$724,764.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!



You may pledge online [here](#), email your pledge to Amy Claprod, HMPC Business Administrator, or call Amy at 919-787-1086 to request a pledge form be mailed to you. Thank you for your commitment to Christ through the church during these challenging times. Thanks be to God!

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

Search For New Financial Coordinator

As you may know by now, Cheri Thomas concluded her tenure as HMPC's Bookkeeper on November 18th. We appreciate her service to Hudson and will miss her. We are grateful to the congregation for your understanding and patience as we go through multiple staff transitions and re-evaluate administrative responsibilities.



The Personnel Committee has begun a search for a new Bookkeeper. We are changing the name of the position to Financial Coordinator to better match the responsibilities of

the job. John James is chairing the search, and Bill Flueckinger (Finance Chair), Amy Claprod (Business Administrator), and Mac Schafer (Pastor) are serving on the search team. If you know of people who may be interested in the position, details about the job can be found on the church website by clicking [here](#).

HMPC OFFICE

Church Office Holiday Schedule

Closing 12:00 Friday, December 23

Closed Monday, December 26

Closed Tuesday, December 27

Closed Monday, January 2

Please note:

Year-end donations must be dropped off in the office by 4:00 on Friday, December 30, or postmarked on or before December 31st.



CALENDAR

This Week...

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am - Adult Education - WH North and South
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH/Playgarden
11:30 am - Fellowship - Welcome Lounge
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - GH
6:30 pm - Christmas Joy Concert & Reception
8:15 pm - College Student Dinner

Monday, December 19

6:00 pm - Youth Committee - Zoom
7:00 pm - Finance - Zoom
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/AlaTeen/AlaKid - GH

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - Zoom
9:30 am - Staff Meeting
9:45 am - Sewing Guild Association - WH South
10:00 am - Esther Circle - Chapel
6:30 pm - Youth Committee - Zoom

Wednesday, December 21

9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel
6:00 pm - Handbells - WH South
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
9:00 pm - Labyrinth Blessing - Chapel

Thursday, December 22

7:00 pm - Presbyterian Pint - Movie at Mac's House

Friday, December 23

6:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm - Family Candlelight Christmas Eve service
8:00 pm - Candlelight & Communion Service



STAFF DIRECTORY

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Join Our Social Media Community!

Hudson Memorial is active on Twitter (HudsonMemPC) & Instagram (hudsonmemorialpc), as well as Facebook (HudsonMPC). Follow us & like us! Our Facebook, Twitter & Instagram accounts have daily quotes, photos, info about upcoming events, poetry, prayer or scripture.



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