



the weekly Window

September 30, 2022

2023 Pledge Campaign Kickoff

Last Sunday, September 25, Giving Ministry kicked off the HMPC 2023 Pledge Campaign! During worship, Shawn Jackson introduced the campaign, and Jimmy Hulsey, Ron Cole and Fred Woodward shared remarks about Hudson being their Home Base.

HUDSON HOME BASE



Remember the game of Tag from childhood? There was one person who was “IT”. Everyone else was running around trying not to get tagged by “IT”. One place was identified as a safe place called (home) base: A place where, despite the chaos of the game or the stress of getting tagged, you were safe. Safe to collect

your thoughts, safe to rest and be thankful, safe to conjure your next move. Home Base plays an important role in surviving the game of Tag.

And, you know how serious mountain hikers, like the ones who set out to scale Mount Everest, stop at base camps along the way? Base camp is where climbers begin their quest to reach the summit. Did you know that the first Mount Everest Base Camp takes 8 days of hiking to reach and sits 17,650 feet above sea level? So, it is truly a commitment to simply reach base camp to rest, acclimate, restore, and then prepare for the next ascension in the journey.

The Giving Ministry sees Hudson as our Home Base, our Base Camp. A “time out” from the complications of life and, maybe, the work ahead of you. A nourishing place where we can release any burdens or lists we bring, receive God’s word to guide us, then return to our daily routines with renewed clarity and grounding.

For this year’s campaign theme, we have chosen Genesis 28:15 to guide us, which reads, **“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back...”**

We are also inspired by Hymn #177, *I Will Come to You*. The refrain reads (from the voice of God), **“Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home, I love you and you are mine.”** We are, in fact, encouraged to Release, Receive and Return each Sunday.

“**RELEASE**”: As Pastor Mac often says at the beginning of worship: “So friends, let’s all take a deep breath and move from getting here to being here for worship.”

“**RECEIVE**”: Pastor Debbie read Psalm 112 a few weeks ago and remarked, “These are ancient words, but through the movement of the Holy Spirit they are alive in each of our lives this day, so listen for God’s word to you.”

“**RETURN**”: Pastor Aleta recently closed worship with the benediction, “Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has a purpose in your being there. Christ who indwells you has something he wants to do, through you, right where you are. Believe it and go in His grace and love. Amen.”

And, though we haven’t heard it in a while, we can’t forget this one that says it all: “Be strong and courageous. Stand firm in your faith. Let all you do be done in love, and may you know God’s smile and that you are loved beyond your wildest imagination.”

On Sunday, November 6th, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Between now and then, as you think about Hudson as your safe space, your calming place, your center of worship, your Home Base where you can Release, Receive, then Return, remember that our Home Base depends on your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Whether making a pledge in an amount that makes sense for your family or volunteering for a task or a ministry, please explore the ways you can contribute in 2023.



I’m Shawn Jackson. On behalf of the Giving Ministry, thank you for your prayerful consideration.

2023 Pledge Campaign : Hudson Home Base

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Release

BY JIMMY HULSEY



God was with Jacob on a journey that took him away from home and led him back home. On the way, Jacob had to struggle with his past, and through wrestling with a night foe til dawn, he received a new name and a blessing. With God, Jacob had to learn to let go fears of coming home.

Similarly, to receive the gifts of something. As we think about Hudson as our Home Base, what do we need to release in order to appreciate the gifts this congregation affords us? In short, how do we reopen our hands and hearts to receive Christ at this place?

A number of years ago, a friend made this comment on turning forty: "Life is harder than I thought it would be." Pursuing the good stuff, just keeping up with the routine and coping with all the challenges, we can lose track of our journey home. We can take our Home Base for granted.

With a white knuckle grip on the roller coaster ride, our hands and hearts may atrophy in a self-enclosed fist. In fairness, we grasp at any padding we can find against life's rough edges. It is an understandable way to take this journey.

Yet, Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That is what Hudson as our Home Base offers. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

To come home again, I need to let go of life as a burden I carry all by myself. I need to hear and heed again that great invitation, "come unto me." And the only place I know where that is heard is our Home Base.

Just imagine the feeling of gradually opening hands that have been tightly clenched. Not only are we able to give, but first and foremost, we open ourselves to receive the life God gives. That keeps me coming home. How about you?

Receive

BY RON COLE



I want to talk to you about "Receive" as a part of the trilogy of words that we put together for our giving campaign. What will you receive when you become a part of the support team of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church? I've been thinking about this over several nights as I try to put something together in my head to say to you. There are many beautiful

words written in the Bible and other books of wisdom in the world, and yet one comes to me when I talk about Hudson Memorial that is ascribed only as an Arabian proverb. It says, "A friend is one to whom one can pour out the contents of one's heart, the wheat and the chaff, knowing it will be sifted in the gentlest of hands keeping what is important enough to be kept, and with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away."

What you get here is friendship. What you get here is seeing a friend who is waiting to shake your hand when you arrive. What you get here is somebody who needs someone to give them a hug and you're the one to do it. What you get here are a group of ladies who form the Presbyterian Women who go about and do the work of the church as only ladies can do. What you get here if you have a problem with your home that you can no longer repair, is that you can get in touch with Mike Law and he'll tell a group at HMPC called Handy Helpers. They will come to your home and help you repair what's needed. What you get here is a chance to see angels. Have you ever seen an angel? Look to your right. Now look to your left and straight ahead of you. And, if you can turn, look behind you. There's an angel sitting beside you. When people talk about how many angels God can send for this, that, or the other, or could you put 10,000 angels on the head of a pin, the angels are here. We're all here. Today you see angels. Tomorrow you may be an angel. We all get our turn. God uses us to love each other. That's how he does it.

2023 Pledge Campaign : Hudson Home Base

(Continued from Page 2)

When you pray, He hears your prayers and instead of sending some fiery creature with a blazing sword, he sends one of your neighbors and they supply your needs. That's the way He loves you, through somebody that you already love and trust and depend on. So what you get here, the greatest gift, is the promise of salvation where, when we leave this family on earth, we step into the midst of our Heavenly family which will be forever. We will all be there together in God's church in Heaven. So, what do you get here? Happiness, friendship, love. Those are the things that you receive from supporting this campaign at Hudson.

Return

BY FRED WOODWARD



Release. Receive. Return. You've heard some thoughts on *release* and *receive*. It's time to talk about *return*. As related to church, you could think about return in a number of ways. Please return your backsides to these pews every week. And while you're at it, return your time, talents, and treasure to this community. But, we want

to emphasize a different return: your return to the world beyond these walls, to whatever you do and whomever you encounter when you leave here.

Home base is an important element of many games kids play, but home base is not the point of those games. Home base is a place to catch your breath, to regroup, to get a plan. The point of those games is to PLAY: to run, to chase, to hide, to capture, to rescue. Whatever the game calls for. Can you remember the sheer fun of it? Exhilarating and exhausting. Arguments break out about rules and fairness. Sometimes people get hurt. Players take turns being IT. And you need a safe place, a home base.

So it is with Hudson as a home base for life. Being here is not the main point of the game. We are here

as creatures of life, taking a moment, regrouping, remembering God's love, and enjoying each other. The main point of Christian life is to be God's people in the world. We gather here to open up, to fill up, to encourage each other, and to head back out. We return to what we do. Is it arrogant to suggest that the world needs Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, that the world needs each and every one of you? I think not. We are called to be the body of Christ, the bearers of peace and love in a world that needs it.

So go on, to wherever you go, generously pouring out the love you have received. Spill it and splash it about, like a kid would. It's no matter. There's plenty where that came from. Play hard. Play with joy and courage. Play with the assurance of God's love and the support of this community. Then come back for a refill.

Tag ... You're IT!

HOMECOMING



HMPC
HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION
BARBECUE

Food • Fellowship • Entertainment

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 | 11:45am

SINGLE WAY

Single Way Fall Fun & Games

Tuesday, October 4th at 1:00 pm
Westminster Hall North



Lunch provided (Pizza, salad, dessert)
Bingo after luncheon
Fall prizes for winners!

Please RSVP to Phyllis Cheeley
pcheeley@aol.com

MISSION

Hunger Action Event



The NC State Fair is coming up next month and the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC has partnered with Smithfield Food for the Annual Hunger Relief Day, **Thursday,**

October 20. Since 1993, this has become one of the largest one-day canned-food drives in the state.

Come volunteer at one of the gates – register at Smithfield Foods Hunger Relief Day at the NC State Fair - Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (foodbankcenc.org) or simply come with 6 cans to donate, and enjoy the fair!

This volunteer opportunity also gives community service hours for students.

October Tend My Sheep BREAKFAST FOR NRM



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and sadly, not everyone is fortunate enough to regularly have access to it. Please consider bringing breakfast items to donate to

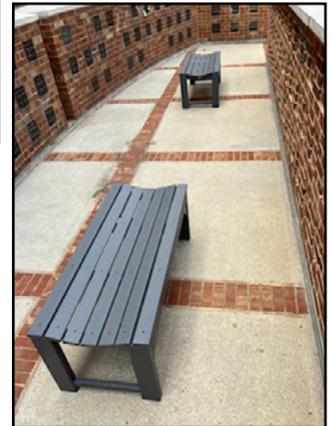
North Raleigh Ministries. They are looking for boxed cereal, shelf sustainable milk, packaged oatmeal, jelly, and apple juice. **Please bring items into the church by October 28.** The mission committee thanks you for not only your offerings, but also your prayers and support. We are a hunger-centered congregation and strive to feed those who are in need.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Memorial Garden Update New Benches



Stop by the Memorial Garden this Sunday to try out our new benches. Thanks to Keto Komono, John Whisler and Fred Woodward for their help setting them up!



SESSION

Session Update

- Session has engaged the services of an attorney to represent Hudson in the City of Raleigh Six Forks road-widening project eminent domain process.
- General fund revenue is \$6,294 favorable to budget while general fund expenses are \$4,413 unfavorable through August. General fund cash balance is \$309,875.

Sabbatical Update: Lard, Rice Fields & Cypress

Since my last few articles have been on specific themes, I thought it would be good to update you on some of the places I've been since entering Italy.

I have walked through the Aosta Valley, the Piemonte, Lombardia, Emilia-Romagna, Liguria, Tuscany and now, Lazio.



My favorite section in the Aosta Valley was the medieval town of Borgo di Bard and its simple neighboring town, Donnas. (Photo: left top) Strangely, portions of the movie *Avengers: Age of Ultron* were filmed in these towns. In Borgo di Bard I tried the regional specialty, The Lard of Arnad (Photo: left bottom).

This aged, salty, fatty bacon (emphasis on *fatty*) is fabulous on rye bread with nothing else!



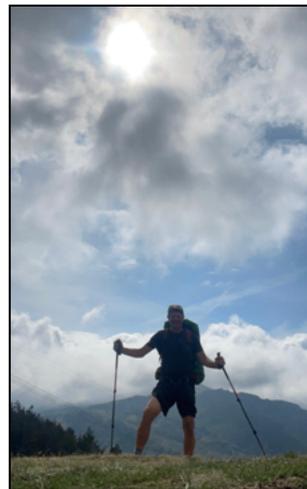
In Donnas, there is a beautiful ruin of a Roman archway carved out of the rock face of a cliff and the town has the most fabulous B&B run by a mother and her daughter: Le Coeur du Pont. The breakfast they prepared is a dessert lovers paradise, all homemade!

The Piemonte and Lombardia regions brought the most grueling days of the pilgrimage, as I walked through miles and miles and miles of rice paddy fields. While the first few days were interesting, I was thankful to pass the time in conversation with other pilgrims through the shadeless heat of these rice farms.

This section ended in a wonderful town called Orio Litta. I happened to arrive as they were celebrating 50 years of their town festival (The Festival of John the Baptist). I think the whole town of 2,000 people were out dancing to a live band the evening I stayed there. Seven of us pilgrims enjoyed the food and watching the townspeople celebrate.

Emilia Romagna got me out of the rice paddies and into beautiful, hilly, farm lands. The best pasta of the trip was found in the small town of Costamezzana where I was enthusiastically welcomed by a restaurant owner. This region specializes in mushrooms, so I had the most wonderful Tagliolini ai Funghi.

I entered Tuscany by crossing over the Apennines Mountains at the Passo della Cisa. This incredibly beautiful, but long day had me arriving exhausted in the tiny village of Previde. To the first person I ran into, I asked if he could direct me to the local B&B. In a stroke of good fortune, he was the B&B owner! Needless to say, I was overjoyed. B&B Eremo Gioioso was a small taste of heaven; they had a "pilgrims oasis" on the back of their property. From fruit trees to river pools to soak weary feet in, Previde and its neighboring



Passo de Cisa



Cypress Trees of Tuscany

villages was hard to leave!

By far, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of this whole pilgrimage runs from Lucca to Siena in Tuscany. The number of pilgrims on the Via Francigena increases dramatically at the walled city of Lucca.

The seven stages from Lucca to Siena are filled with rolling hills, towering cypress trees, wineries, churches, and magical hilltop towns, including San Gimignano (with its 15 towers) and the walled village of Monteriggioni.

If any of you want to do a small stretch of the Via Francigena in the future, I recommend this section from Lucca to Siena. During this portion of the trip, a friend from Raleigh joined me. We have crossed paths with pilgrims from Spain, Denmark, Ireland, France, Canada, Switzerland, Brazil and Germany. Few are hiking the full length of the pilgrimage (from Canterbury,

England, to Rome, Italy), but instead choosing to do a section or two.

One of my favorite sections was a 32 km stretch from San Quirico d'Orcia to Radicofani in Tuscany. On this day, as we walked the ridge over rolling farmland, you could see for miles in every direction. It was a "thin place," where the Divine and earthly felt close together.

The beauty of walking pilgrimage is it slows you down and connects you with the land; Spiritual connectedness to the stunning and the mundane.

To quote Beldon C. Lane, author of *Backpacking With the Saints: Wilderness Hiking As Spiritual Practice*, "Attentiveness is hard to sustain... That's why backpacking remains an essential practice for me. It requires a consistent mindfulness and self-presence. It demands my keeping an eye on the trail, attending to variations in the terrain and weather patterns, noticing changes in my body as weariness rises or blisters start to form. It necessitates a reading of the entire landscape, learning to dance and flow with the interconnectedness of its details."

I want to thank the congregation for this opportunity to step away and care for my body, mind & spirit.

With Care,

Children's News

Communion Education Class

DATE CHANGE!



We will have a Communion Education class for children and their parents immediately following Worship on **November 20**. Debbie will walk the children through the meaning of communion in an age appropriate way. A light lunch will be served, so please RSVP [here](#) to help us know how many to expect.

Fall Festival Sign-up for Trunks

Our Fall Festival is Sunday, October 23rd, from 4-6 pm. We are looking for 20 trunks for the Trunk Or Treat portion of the Festival. We ask that you provide your own candy/treats to distribute. Thank you for helping to make this event a success! Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445ADA82CA46-fall>

Children's Movie Night

On **October 15th** we will have a Children's movie night at the church! Come enjoy a kid-friendly movie and popcorn with our church family!

Volunteer Opportunity

Join us for a child-friendly volunteer opportunity at the Food Bank on **October 22nd from 2-4 pm**. Please register both you AND your child [here](#).



Youth News for

Sunday, October 2

Sunday Morning

Bagels in the Balcony this Sunday! After bagels, youth are invited to stay in the balcony to worship together at 10:30.

MS/HS Sunday School

Explorers' Class: 5th-7th grade youth
Sundays, 11:35am - NEW LOCATION!! This will now be held in Room 226 - the former Game Room.

Growing Disciples Class: 8th-12th grade youth
Sundays, 11:35am in the High School Room

Sunday Evening

Youth Music & Dinner

(5th-12th grade)

4:15-5:00pm (Dinner is 5:00-5:45)

Pick-up for 5th graders is 5:45pm

Middle School Youth Group

No MS Youth Group this week.

High School Youth Group

Meet in Westminster Hall North at 5:00pm to
Walk to NH Shopping center for dinner!
Please bring at least \$10 with you.

HMPC Youth Group can now be found on Instagram! Follow us!
Our handle is [@HMPCYM](#)



Photos below: Youth Handbells last Sunday, September 25



Sunday Adult Education

THE GATHERING

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Facilitated by
Susan Bradshaw, Dottie Burch and Linda Meeks

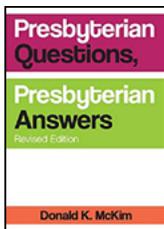
"The Nine O'Clock Class"

This week we are finishing up *The Same Kind of Different As Me*. October 9 will kick off our exploration of "Pilgrimages around the World".

9:30-10:20am | WH North

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

"Presbyterian Ponderings"

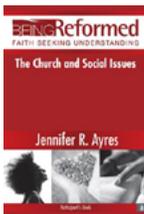


From a Presbyterian perspective, we will look deeply at big concepts of our faith such as the Bible, Humanity, the Church, and Salvation. We use *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* by Donald McKim as a primary resource.

9:30-10:20am | WH South

Facilitated by Susan Grigg, Jimmy Hulsey, Ron Ash

"The Church and Social Issues"

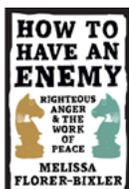


Discussion class based on various Scripture selections each week as we think about how we as Christians should act in our public lives. How do we deal with the world that we live in today? Each session is a separate study and you are welcome to attend any Sunday.

5:00-6:30pm | Room 200

Facilitated by Debbie Kirk

"How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace"



We are reading *How to Have an Enemy* by Melissa Florer-Bixler, Pastor of the Raleigh Mennonite Church, as the foundation for our conversations.

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, October 4 | 6:30am | Patio



All men are invited to join this group (in person this week) 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 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 [Don Slater](#) (while Mac is on sabbatical).**

Women at the Well



Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! There are two groups, each with 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. Contact [Debbie Kirk](#) if you are interested in joining the distribution list for either group.

The Monthly Group

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. **Fall Dates: October 20, November 17, December 15**

The Weekly Group

The weekly group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:30am and is currently using the book *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. Conversations will cover our longing for spiritual wholeness found in the church and in other places as we experience the grace and love of God.

CALENDAR

This Week...

Sunday, October 2

9:00 am - Adult Ed "Nine O'Clock Class" - Room 200
9:30 am - Adult Ed Classes - WH South and WH North
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH/Playgarden
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30 am - Children's Music - GH
11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation for Parents - Chapel
11:35 am - Youth Sunday School - GH
4:15 pm - Youth Music - WH South
5:00 pm - Youth Dinner & HS Youth Group
5:00 pm - Book Study with Debbie - Room 200

Monday, October 3

6:00 pm - Children's Committee - Zoom
7:00 pm - PW Leadership - Zoom
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/AlaTeen/AlaKid - GH 227, 236

Tuesday, October 4

6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - Patio
9:30 am - Staff Meeting
1:00 pm - Single Way - WH North
7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - GH 234
7:00 pm - Property - WH South

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

7:00 pm - Worship Committee - Karl Hudson Room

Friday, October 7

6:00 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Join Our Social Media Community!



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@HudsonMemorialPC



@HudsonMemPC

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DEVOTIONALS

These Days

The fall edition of *These Days* has arrived! Copies are available at the sanctuary entrances. Please contact [Lesley Ash Jacobsen](mailto:lash-jacobsen@hmpc.org) or the church office (919-787-1086) if you would like one mailed to you.

