



the weekly Window

December 20, 2020

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

Christmas Eve Communion and Worship

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, December 24th	3-4 pm	Drive-Thru Communion	West Parking Lot

For those who would like to receive the Lord's Supper in a safe manner while it is still light out on Christmas Eve, the pastors and Sacristy Guild will serve drive thru communion. The pastors will serve the elements to people in their cars and offer a Christmas prayer with individuals and families. [RSVP here.](#)

Thursday, December 24th	5 pm	Tree Lighting & Candlelight Service	West Lawn
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This worship service will have a tree lighting for children and families during the children's message. It will conclude with our traditional candle lighting (weather permitting). [RSVP here.](#)

Thursday, December 24th	8 pm	Luminary & Candlelight Service	West Lawn
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This worship service will light up the West Lawn with luminaries and conclude with our traditional candle lighting (weather permitting). The Fellowship Committee will be providing hot chocolate as you arrive. [RSVP here.](#)

Thursday, December 24th	Anytime	Virtual Lessons & Carols Service	Online
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This service will be recorded in the beauty of HMPC sanctuary in the evening. It will feature a string quartet, scripture lessons and Christmas carols. It will be available to all who wish to worship from home on Christmas Eve.



THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS JOY!

We hope you're enjoying the Advent Calendar of Christmas Joy. Get ready for something really exciting: THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS JOY!

Beginning on Christmas Day and over the course of the next 12 days, you can relive an entire Christmas Joy Celebration, compiled from videos of past concerts.

Every day's offering will include one or two wonderful musical numbers, from Christmas Time Is Here, to all our Hudson ensembles, with three excellent featured guest artists, an organ/piano duet, and ending on January 5th with All Is Well. We hope you'll enjoy this special holiday treat!

Session Update

- On recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Session has approved the addition of a new full-time communication coordinator position
- The number of attendees allowed for weddings and funerals inside the sanctuary is reduced to 30
- Outdoor worship will take a short break for the holidays, and will resume depending on weather conditions
- Recorded video worship services via YouTube will continue indefinitely
- There are no plans to return to indoor worship in the near term

Youth



Four helpful Hudson Youth or
How many Presbyterians does it take to move a
table?

Waking Up with the Word



Tuesday, December 22nd

A men's bible study group that meets every Tuesday morning at 6:30am. **This coming Tuesday, we will meet at the WH Patio.** The group studies the scripture text that will be preached on the following Sunday. No previous Bible study experience is needed. The group centers their study around three questions: What is a word or phrase that stands out to you in the text? Allow that word or phrase to prompt a memory from your life, a thought on the passage or a metaphor. What is Christ calling you to through the scripture text? Contact Mac Schafer (mschafer@hmpc.org) for more information.

Seeing the Word

Monday, December 21st

This group uses the art work from the Saint John's Illuminated Bible to study scripture texts. Presently it is meeting via Zoom on the third Monday of the month at 12 noon. Contact Mac Schafer (mschafer@hmpc.org) to receive the Zoom invitation.



Women at the Well



Daytime Winter Semester

Women at the Well Winter Semester begins on January 6th via Zoom. Women of all ages and stages meet from 9:15-10:00 am each Wednesday for conversation and prayer using a book that guides our personal and communal reflections. Our winter selection is *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp, best selling author and spiritual director. She creatively illustrates how the ordinary cups we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect readers with life and bring them into closer union with the Divine. She explores how the cup is a rich symbol of life, with its emptiness and fullness, its brokenness and flaws, and its many blessings. During this difficult time, many of us are being more attentive to the sense of the divine we find in ordinary things and *The Cup of Our Life* will be a wonderful resource for women who would like to be filled at the deep well of fellowship where Holy Spirit meets us.

Current participants have received the information about registration and book purchase, we would love others to join us. If you have not already ordered a book through the office, you should purchase the book on your own.

2021 Pledge Campaign Update

Sunday, November 8th 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 168 households that have pledged out of 374 member households for a total of \$697,568.84. This time last year we had collected 189 pledges for a total of \$708,931.96

It is not too late to pledge. You may [pledge online here](#), mail your pledge to the church, email your pledge to [Pat Cash](#), Church Business Administrator or call her 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!

End of Year Gifts

If you wish to make a contribution to complete your annual pledge or make a designated gift payment for the 2020 financial year, deliver your payment to HMPC by Thursday, December 31st or mail it with a postmark date no later than December 31st so it can be posted this year. If you have any questions, contact Pat Cash, Church Business Administrator at pcash@hmpc.org or 919-787-1086.

2021 Offering Envelopes

2021 Offering Envelopes for those who have requested them will be mailed by the end of the year.

Year-End Statements

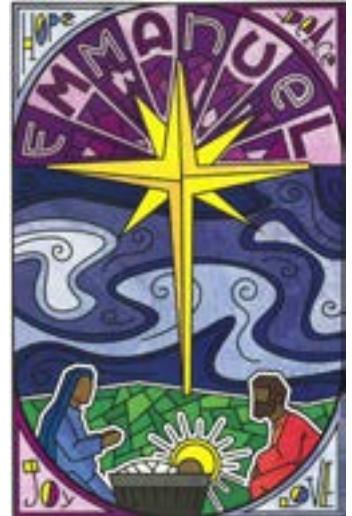
Those who have donated to the church during the year should not file their 2020 Federal tax return until you have received your year-end contribution statement, which will be mailed before the end of January 2021.

Special Offering

Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders

for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color - offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. You may give [online here](#), drop a check in the mail, or text to give at 888-906-0744. Just text the dollar amount and Joy to that number, i.e. (25 joy).



Christmas Joy Intentional Practice

Many of us find that an intentional practice is important as part of our Advent reflections and you may want to consider this one. The Hunger Action Team suggests you set aside one food



item or a small amount of money each day to stock the Food Pantry at North Raleigh Ministries. Typically, after the holidays the Pantry is depleted, and the winter months combined with the effects of COVID-19 are expected to generate more need for food than ever. If you would like to use this practice, following COVID-19 precautions simply obtain these items in the ways you are currently shopping whether that is in person, ordering online, delivery etc. Each day you will select an item and place it on a table where you have your meals and as you offer a blessing for your food include one for those who will receive the food. Adapt the practice in a way that is simple and brings you joy:

- Choose a different item from the twenty-six on the list, one for each day in Advent
- Purchase multiples of the same item to use each day
- Make a financial donation directly to the NRM Food Pantry setting aside small amount each day
- After Christmas Day anytime in the twelve days of Christmastide, ending on January 6, you will deliver the food directly to North Raleigh Ministries (check their website for current hours) 9650 Strickland Road, Suite 175, Raleigh, NC 27615 behind the Harvest Plaza shopping center; the front doors are locked – food donations are dropped off around

to the side door to the left. Financial donations should be made directly to NRM and can be by check or online.

Please do not bring your donations to the church; if you need assistance delivering food to NRM contact Carolyn Scott carolynscott77@gmail.com or Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmpc.org and the Hunger Action Team will make arrangements. Choose from this list provided by North Raleigh Ministries and note that everything should be new, shelf stable, in date and unopened.

- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Tomatoes
- Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Boxed Stuffing
- Ramen Noodles
- Flour
- Sugar
- Cooking Oil
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Biscuit/Pancake Mix
- Canned Fruit
- Hearty Canned Soups
- Boxes/Packs Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Meat: Ham, Chicken, Tuna
- Canned or Dried Beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Applesauce
- Canned Protein Meals: Hearty Beef Stew, Ravioli
- Individual Fruit Cups/Pudding Cups



Prayers for Households

During this time when we are physically apart, we can all benefit from the prayers of others. Starting at the beginning of our church directory, the Deacons are praying for 7 member households each week, with the goal of praying for each and every member of our congregation. These households are listed below so the congregation can have the opportunity to join in praying for them as well. In addition, each household will receive a positive note of encouragement from the Deacons in the mail. As always, if you have a specific request for prayer at any time, you can submit a prayer request from the website or you may call 919-787-1086 and press 2 for the Deacon's Prayer Line. Deacon on Call for December is Ace Ornt.

Prayer Households for this week. Please keep these families in your prayers:

- *Lynne and Sam Duncan*
- *Sarah, Paul, Zoë and Nathan Edge*
- *Ashley, Zach, Katherine and Ella Grace Edmister*
- *Evelyn Elderkin*
- *Kay Emanuel*
- *Delinda Eubanks*
- *Sallie Everette*

Youth Group News

Youth Programs This Week

- **The Explorers 5-6-7 Sunday School Class** will not meet for the next few weeks. Enjoy your Holiday and please watch your email and the Weekly Window for details about our next class. Many thanks to all of the teachers who have been so dedicated and faithful in leading our classes outside under the Twin Oaks and also on Zoom.
- **Youth Groups** will not meet for the next few weeks – enjoy your Holiday and be safe. Please watch your email, text messages, and the Weekly Window for details about our next gathering. Special thanks to all the wonderful leaders who have been so creative and flexible all fall with our programs.

Looking Ahead

- **Youth Sunday is February 14** - High School Youth, please be thinking and praying as we begin the process of discerning as a group what we think God would have us share this year. What is God calling you to do? How can you share your gifts with your community of faith? Middle Schoolers (grades 5-8), are needed for help with ushering, greeting, and more. Watch for details and let Frank Boyd know what part of the service you are interested in helping out with.
- **Flyers for Massanetta (June 22-25), Montreat 2021 (July 18-24), and the High School Lock-in** this Spring can be found on the church website.

Children's Christmas Pageant 2020

This past weekend the Playgarden fence and picnic table area were transformed into Nazareth and Bethlehem as Gina Hayek and the children of Hudson Memorial put on the Annual Christmas Pageant, social distancing style. Thanks to the many hands that built the set, arranged the costumes and minded the angels: Grace Hutchison, John Oldenburg, Polly Bryant, Cary Dickerson, and Carolyn Scott. For the sound and narration provided by Phil Hayden and Fred Woodard,

respectively, as well to all the parents who came to help direct and guide all of the children! We were grateful for the beautiful weather that allowed us to practice and film on Saturday and perform on Sunday. In a year where so many things have had to change or be canceled, we are thankful that the Holy Spirit led the Children's and Family ministry team to create an experience that might just become a new annual tradition!





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:30 am - Outdoor Worship

Monday, December 21

- 12 pm - Seeing the Word

Tuesday, December 22

- 6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - WH Patio
- 9:30 am - Staff Meeting
- 7 pm - Boy Scouts - West Lawn

Thursday, December 24

- 3-4 pm - Drive-Thru Communion - West Parking lot
- 5 pm - Tree-Lighting and Candlelight Service - West Lawn
- 8 pm - Luminary and Candlelight Service - West Lawn
- Anytime - Virtual Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 27

- 10:30 am - Worship via Zoom

Meetings are by Zoom unless noted otherwise.