



the weekly Window

March 21, 2021

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

Lenten Theme - What It Means to Me

What If?



Lent is a season to confront and confess our weaknesses, faults and failings. So as a part of my Lenten journey this year, I confess that at times in my life I can be a

bit of a worry wart. Although usually happy, hopeful and optimistic, sometimes I have a tendency to overthink things and fret excessively over making decisions or encountering difficulties; I can't stop thinking about "what if?" situations or "worst case" scenarios. In my head and heart I know this is not only unhelpful, it is a total waste of time and energy. Certainly, this past year of COVID has been a year in which all of us have probably done quite a bit of worrying. We have worried about many things: our isolation and loneliness, the safety of our elderly parents and friends, our children's school studies, economic difficulties, loss of employment or changes in our workplace, the divisive rancor of politics, our increased awareness of racial

Throughout Lent the HMPC staff will be doing a weekly series on what our theme - *Naming Our Loss, Claiming Our Faith* - means to each of them.

and economic inequities, the uncertainty of what is safe. All these things are real concerns but could incapacitate us if we let our worries overwhelm us. What can we do when plagued by excessive worry?

I appreciate our theme for Lent this year, *Naming our Losses and*



Claiming our Faith. If we have lost our peace of mind due to worry, let us claim our faith as that which allows us to contend with our fears and anxieties. Certainly, scripture is a strong support which can help ground us. Here are just a few verses that come to my

mind when struggling with worries and fears:

- The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want... (23rd Psalm)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)
- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear (Psalm 46:1-2b)
- Let not your heart be troubled.... (John 14:1)
- Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (I Peter 5:7)

continued on page 2

Lenten Theme - What It Means to Me

Let us name the worries which cause us distress and then take the next step in claiming our faith as the way in which we deal with them. What worries cause you the loss of your peace of mind? Pray to God for the strength, wisdom, guidance, and hope to contend with them. During Lent, I think of Jesus himself that night in the garden when he was worried and feared what lay ahead for him, said, "Father, take this cup from me...yet if it be Thy will...." God gave Jesus the strength to rise from his knees, meet the ones who had come to arrest him, and make that journey to the cross. He named his fear and claimed God's strength.

Life presents all of us with struggles and concerns in our journey through life. We are never alone in our struggles. I would suspect I am not the only one who is sometimes troubled by a loss of peace and calm due to worries and concerns. If so --

- Name the worries that cause you to lose your peace of mind.
- Use scripture to reassure and teach you.
- Look to your church family for prayer and emotional support.
- Pray for patience, guidance, and strength.
- Recognize God's blessings and be grateful and thankful at all times.
- Trust in God's presence with you always. Claim your faith!

I think it is so appropriate that Lent starts in the late Winter and culminates with the coming of Spring, Yearly, we are vividly reminded of new life, change, renewal and growth. Winter is over, we have endured the days of darkness; the cycle of life continues; and God journeys with us through it all. We are an Easter people --we will always proclaim, "Alleuia, Christ is Risen, Christ is risen indeed, Christ is with us still". In that we place our hope and trust.

Aleta Ash
Minister of Visitation

Easter and Hunger Action

For many years we had a congregational pancake breakfast on Easter morning and we look forward to the time we are able to do that again. As we celebrate Easter this year we are mindful of those who COVID 19 has affected, especially individuals and families who are food insecure. The Hunger Action Team invites those who are attending outdoor worship on Easter to bring non perishable breakfast items to stock the North Raleigh Ministry food pantry: cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal, pancake mix, fruit that is canned or in individual cups, shelf stable or powdered

milk, syrup, instant coffee, boxed tea bags and English muffins. All should be in date and unopened.



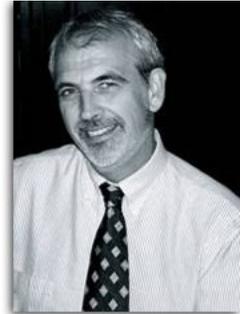
Save the Dates For Holy Week & Easter

- Online Maundy Thursday Worship Service April 1st
- Outdoor Good Friday Worship - Friday at 12 noon on April 2nd
- Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for Children Saturday, April 3rd - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Easter Sunday Worship - Sunday, April 4th
 - Sunrise Service - the Langley Chapel Property - 6:57 a.m.
 - Outdoor Easter worship & Communion - West Lawn - 9 a.m.
 - Outdoor Easter worship & Communion - West Lawn - 10:30 a.m.
 - Online Recorded Easter Sunday Worship from the HMPC Sanctuary

Ted Churn Preaching

Sunday, March 21st

The Reverend Dr. Ted Churn, Executive Presbyterian for the Presbytery of New Hope will be preaching on Sunday, March 21st (both outside & in recorded online worship). Ted recently announced that he was retiring in May of 2021 after serving a decade as the Executive Presbyterian & Stated Clerk. When Ted and his wife Moffett moved to North Carolina, Ted served a brief period of time as the Minister of Visitation at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church. We hope you will give a warm welcome to Ted through your attendance at Outdoor Worship.



Lent

Congregational Devotional “Lent Micropractices” by Jo Nygard

Owens

A micropractice is a small spiritual practice. Instead of engaging the same spiritual practice throughout Lent, the micropractices are meant to give a sample across many different styles of practices. These are emailed on a daily basis.

[If you have not been receiving them, please contact Pat Cash.](#)

Wednesday Services of Evening Prayer 7-7:30 pm

On the five Wednesday evenings prior to Holy Week, the Deacons will host gatherings on Zoom where we can pray with and for each other. Each service will include reading of scripture, simple liturgy, and several forms of prayer for ourselves, others, our nation and the global community. You will receive the ZOOM link with the Wednesday emails of the Lent Micropractices.

Adult Faith Formation

Seeing the Word

Monday, March 22

This group uses the art work from the Saint John's Illuminated Bible to study scripture texts. We'll be studying Matthew 5:1-12 and an illumination for the Beatitudes. Presently it is meeting via Zoom at 12 noon. Contact [Mac Schafer](#) to receive the Zoom invitation.



Evening Women at the Well

March 25th

The evening version of Women at the Well will meet on Thursday, March 25th at 6 pm via Zoom. Women of all ages and stages enjoy a lively conversation about current topics of interest informed by a variety of podcasts and other resources. Participants will receive the topic, resources and Zoom link. All are welcome to join anytime. For info contact [Debbie Kirk](#).



Worship & The Arts

Palm Sunday Ramp Walk-Thru

Following outdoor, in-person worship on Palm Sunday, March 28th, the congregation is invited to walk through the sanctuary and down the new accessibility ramp in a socially distance "Parade of Palms." This will be a chance for members, friends and supporters of the 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign to celebrate this beautiful and practical addition. Pastors Mac & Debbie will be present to add a liturgical touch this celebration of thanksgiving. We hope many of you will wave your Palms down the ramp on Palm Sunday!



Music Director Search Update

Over the past six weeks the Personnel Committee has worked vigorously to prepare for the search for a new Director of Music Ministry. John James & Bruce Cox are on the church Personnel Committee and are co-chairs of the Music Director Search Committee. Also on the committee are: Emily Brown, Sean Cole, Lynne Dawkins, Kate Fertin and Judie Greenawalt. For weeks, the committee has gathered information, feedback and data to help them with their search. Most recently they have been preparing to post the job opening with relevant organizations. Please pray for the Music Director Search Committee and for the person who is called to lead our Music Ministry into the future.

Youth Group News

Youth Programs This Week

- **The Explorers 5-6-7 Sunday School Class** will meet this coming Sunday, March 21, from 9:30-10:15 AM with teacher Katy Waugh. If the weather is nice, we will meet outside at the church under the Twin Oaks. Please bring a mask, a lawn chair, and a water bottle. If the weather looks extra cold or wet, the class may meet on Zoom or meet outside for a shorter timeframe, so please watch your email and text messages on Saturday.
- **The Middle School Youth Group** will be doing a Campfire Micro-Mission Project this week with Dental Kits, Hot Dogs, S'Mores, & Games. Please join us this coming Sunday evening, March 21, from 5:00 - 6:00 for some games, a cookout, and a very important service event. Everyone is encouraged to bring the following supplies for our Dental Hygiene Kits that will go to Alliance Medical Ministry: Individually Packaged Toothbrushes (soft), Toothpaste (0.85oz. or larger), and Dental Floss. We will gather at 5:00 PM at the firepit and parent pick-up will be at 6:00 at the same place.
- **The High School Youth Group** will be Hiking to North Hills this Sunday, March 21, for "Burgers & Ice Cream. (5:30-7:30). Wear comfy walking shoes and please bring a mask, a water bottle, and money for food and ice cream. Also bring your Montreat registration forms to turn in. If the weather is "iffy", please watch your phone/email for updates. Friends welcome.
- **Mission Trip Dates – June 15-18, 2021**
- All 8th-12th graders please mark your calendar and watch for details. For safety purposes, this year's Mission Trip will be local, as we will be working with Raleigh Youth Mission, learning more about the City of Oaks, and doing service learning at various non-profit agencies. This is a great way to accumulate community service hours that you will need for school.
- **College Student Exam Time Care Packages** will be happening April 11, so if you have a college student in your family, [be sure and send Frank Boyd their name and package addresses \(must be a street address\).](#)
- **Graduation Sunday is May 16th** - All graduating seniors are encouraged to send in your picture and the answer to the bio-questions that were recently mailed and emailed.
- **Massanetta Middle School Conference** is June 22-25, 2021.
- **Montreat 2021 (July 18-24)** – Now is the time to sign up for current 8th -12th grade youth. Flyers can be found on the church website and have been emailed. This will likely fill up fast, so the sooner you sign the more likely it is that you will get to go. If you have questions, please contact Frank Boyd at the church office.

College Graduations – If you are or have a member of your family graduating from college this spring, please send this information to Pat Cash at pcash@hmpe.org. It is helpful for us to know the name, the degree, the institution, honors, and anything else you think might be helpful.

Children's Ministry

Easter Eggs Needed!

We're planning another safe version of a beloved annual tradition! And we need your help!

Children's and Family Ministries are collecting pre-stuffed eggs. Find your stashes of plastic Easter eggs and stuff them full of your favorite nut-free candies or treats (stickers/tattoos). There will be collection baskets at in-person outdoor worship. If you wish to drop them off at the church at another time, please call the church to be sure someone will be there. [Mark your calendars for April 3rd 9:30 am-12:30 pm and sign up here, as reservations are required.](#)



Volunteers Needed!

Help make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a success! Due to our socially distant nature, we have different needs for volunteers.

If you are volunteering for hiding, please show up at 9:00 am and plan to hangout at your station. Bring a lawn chair and a water bottle to get comfortable.

Hunt monitors are also invited to bring lawn chairs to sit between hunts.

[There will be a bonus hunting round for any hiding volunteers under the age of 18 after all the festivities have wrapped up! Sign up here!](#)

Adult Faith Formation

Waking Up with the Word

March 23 - 6:30 am

Waking Up with the Word will meet at 6:30 am 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 - 1. What is a word or phrase that stands out to you in the text? 2. Allow that word or phrase to prompt a memory from your life, a thought on the passage or a metaphor. 3. What is Christ calling you to through the scripture text? [Contact Mac Schafer](#) for more information.



Mission

Special Offering

General Mission Fund

We will be receiving a **Special Offering for the General Missions Fund**. Money raised for this offering will help provide area ministries with healthy food, quality, affordable healthcare, safe homes for children, home repair and renovation services, shelter, and food insecurity. You may mail your donation to the church, [donate online](#) or text to give. **Here is how to text to give:** Text amount 'genmission' to 888-906-0744. (example: 25 genmission). If you have not done this before, you will be prompted to enter your information. Once it has been entered, you will not have to enter it again.

Tend My Sheep

Saturday 3/27 11 am - 1 pm

This month the Mission Committee and the Hunger Action Team are collecting goods for the Food Bank that will be distributed to two of our community's most vulnerable groups. There are 116,140 children facing hunger in the Raleigh Branch service area, and the same area has 65,881 seniors living at or below the poverty level. Please bring items from the following list to the Drive-Thru on 3/27 from 11am to 1 pm.

For Seniors - nutritional shakes, nutritional drinks, adult hygiene products

For Infants & Kids - pedialyte, infant cereal, fruit cups, granola bars, mac & cheese cups, crackers, juice boxes.

Deacon Ministry

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 March is Lynne Dawkins.

Prayer Households

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

- *Holly, Cary, Trey and Jordan Krueger*
- *Debbie & Terry Lamberson*
- *Walt Lang*
- *Carole Larsen*
- *Nancy & Mike Law*
- *Karen and Amanda Layton*
- *Suzanne, Matt, Stone and Smith Ledwith*

Calendar

Sunday, March 21

- Online Worship - Anytime
- 9:30 am - Explorer's 5-6-7 Sunday School
- 10:30 am - Outdoor Worship
- 10:30 am - Children's Sunday School - Labyrinth Area

Monday, March 22

- 12 Noon - Seeing the Word
- 7 pm - Session

Tuesday, March 23

- 6:30 am - Waking Up With the Word - WH Patio
- 9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 24

- 9:30 am - Women at the Well

Thursday, March 25

- 6 pm - Evening Women at the Well

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

- Online Worship - Anytime
- 9:30 am - Explorer's 5-6-7 Sunday School
- 10:30 am - Outdoor Worship
- 10:30 am - Joyful Noise - Labyrinth Area
- Following Outdoor Worship - Ramp Walk-Thru

All meetings by Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Staff Directory

Mac Schafer – Pastor & Head of Staff - mschafer@hmpc.org

Debbie Kirk – Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth & Nurture - dkirk@hmpc.org

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation – aash@hmpc.org

Philip Hayden, Music Director & Composer– phayden@hmpc.org

Frank Boyd, Director of Youth Ministries – fboyd@hmpc.org

Rachael McConnell, Director of Children & Family Ministries – rmcconnell@hmpc.org

Gina Hayek, Director of Joyful Noise – ghayek@hmpc.org

Carol Yeargin, Organist – yeargin@bellsouth.net

Pat Cash, Business Administrator – pcash@hmpc.org

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director – droche@hmpc.org

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director – jhawkins@hmpc.org

Hope Parangi, Church Hostess – hparangi@yahoo.com

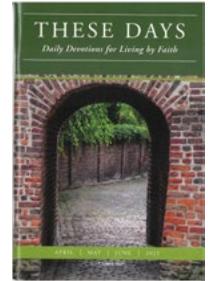
Adult Faith Formation

These Days

April - June

Issues Are Here!

The April - June issue of *These Days* has arrived.



Hudson member Nancy Law Rogers wrote the poem, *God is Watching Over Me*, that opens the devotional.

Copies are available at the north entrance in a weather protected bin.

[Please contact Pat Cash](#), 919-787-1086, if

you would like one mailed to you.