



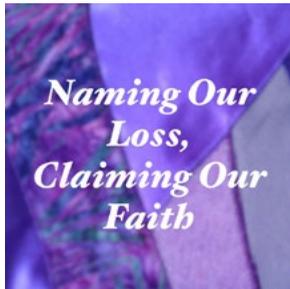
# the weekly Window

February 28, 2021

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

## Mac's Meanderings

# Contortions of Christ's Peace



As mentioned in my sermon last week, our Lenten theme for 2021 is, "Naming Our Loss, Claiming Our Faith." A year into the pandemic, your staff thought it was important for

- Real God-given energy is passed from one person to another.
- A hand is held for a moment and through that touch you know that you exist. Not just seen and heard, but felt.
- Two human hands touching is a physical sign that bridges can be built "in Christ."

each of us to name aloud those people, places and things we have lost, and then, claim the faith we have in Jesus Christ. This claiming of faith gives us hope that Christ helps us deal with our loss.

One of the losses I'd like to name is the physical touch during the peace of Christ in our worship liturgy. While I can continue to offer my hand to my family members as we worship in front of the computer or television screen, I miss the physicality of offering a hand to those attending worship at HMPC, friend and stranger.

You see this moment in worship is multifaceted. So much is communicated through respectful, physical human touch:

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.

I name this loss. Now let me claim my faith...

The hope and peace of Christ cannot be contained by the suspension of touch outside my pod. To be "in Christ" is to believe that God is at work in community. God is molding us and fashioning us

into the people we are called to be. Sometimes we push against this, but God's light, love and hope will always prevail.

Before it got cold, when we were worshipping outside, I loved watching y'all pass the peace without touch: You sent Christ's peace with your eyes, with "air hugs," by putting your hand on your heart, by making the peace sign with your fingers, putting your palms together

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## Mac's Meandering, cont.

and bowing and more. There was so much creative goodness going on. I also heard lots of laughing during those creative contortions of peace. Lots of beauty and laughter emerges when we aren't contained by one way of doing things. You all were doing your "vulnerable" best to express and pass on those all important, real, faithful words, "The peace of Christ be with you...And also with you."

Part of claiming our faith during this pandemic is continuing to offer the "no touch" peace of Christ with creative and reckless abandon. I will continue to vulnerably laugh as I move and contort my body to offer you peace. I exhort you to continue to contort and laugh the peace of Christ over to me. As the scriptures say, let's be fools for Christ! Through our laughter and contortions Christ defeats death.

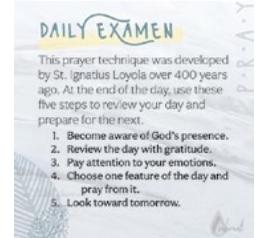
And until we can touch hands again, know Christ fills the space between us with all we need.



## 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 will be emailed on a daily basis, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will also mail the print version of the devotional for those who need it- just call Pat Cash - 919-787-1086.



### 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.

## Worship & The Arts

### 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

# Popcorn and Presbyterians Pondering



**Sunday Evening February 28 7-8 pm**



In recognition of Black History Month and our new Vice President Kamala Harris, the Adult Committee is hosting a ZOOM conversation on the movie *Hidden Figures*. It tells the story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who

served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Participants should watch the movie ahead of time and may also want to read the book *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margo Lee Shetterly. Both are available on multiple platforms and devices. We anticipate an informative and lively conversation and hope you will join us! [Click here for the ZOOM link.](#)

# Waking Up with the Word



**March 2 - 6:30 am**

Waking Up with the Word will meet at 6:30 am via ZOOM. 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.

# Brown Bag with Pastor Mac

**March 1st**

Brown Bag meets the first Monday of the month at 12 noon. Presently the group is meeting via Zoom. This group has done book studies, discusses articles and thinks through issues of faith and culture. Contact Mac Schafer ([mschafer@hmpe.org](mailto:mschafer@hmpe.org)) to receive the Zoom invitation.



# Youth Group News

## Youth Programs This Week

- **The Explorers 5-6-7 Sunday School Class** will meet this coming Sunday February 28 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, so please watch your email and text messages on Saturday.
- **The Middle School Youth (grades 5-8)** will have a Fellowship & Food Hike to North Hills this Sunday, February 28, for Burgers & Ice Cream (4:30 -6:30). Join us for some exercise, delicious food, and fellowship. Please bring money for your food at 5 Guys Burgers/Fries & Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. Also, wear comfortable shoes and please bring a mask. We will gather at 4:30 PM at the "Twin Oaks" behind the church and parent pick-up will be at 6:30 at the church. If the weather looks extra cold or rainy, please watch your email and text messages closely for updates.
- **The High School Youth Group** will meet Sunday, March 7. Please watch for details.
- **Mission Trip Dates – June 15-18, 2021 - All 8th-12th graders** please mark your calendar and watch for details. This is a great way to accumulate community service hours that you will need for high school
- **Special Lenten Devotional Offer - Any** youth families that are interested in receiving a copy of *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery* by Cheri Mills, please contact Frank Boyd, as we have several more copies to share. This powerful book, with 40 daily devotions, invites readers to journey towards antiracism and to reflect on "Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance."
- **Graduation Sunday is May 16th**
- **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. It might just be the best week of your life! If you have questions, please contact Frank Boyd at the church office or one of the High School Youth Volunteers.

# Children's Message This Spring: We need ALL (ages) of You!!

We're bringing the Old Testament to Life this Spring, in a fun and inter-generational fashion!

We need all ages to help bring the Children's Message to the family of Christ which is Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Adults/Youth: We need you to record a reading of a script (provided!) of a favorite Old Testament Story.



Children:  
We need you to act out (no speaking needed) the story. We're

going to put the two together and build the story! Just use what you have around the house as props, use your awesome imaginations and creativity!

If you feel like switching it up, go for it! If the younger members of the family want to read and the adults act it out, that is welcome too! We just want to come together and tell the great stories of how God and God's people were in relationship and what they can tell us about how God loves us still today!

Once you sign up, Rachael McConnell will provide the script to the readers. Readers, please send Rachael the voice file by the date on the sign up.

Actors, Rachael will send you a copy of the reading so that you can act the story out while listening. Rachael will e-mail you a link to the MASV file drop once you sign up. Please send the video by the date on the sign up Genius.

[If you have any questions, please email Rachael McConnell. Sign up here to be a part of sharing the great stories of God!](#)

## 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 Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday and when in-person outdoor worship begins again in March. 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 look for a Sign Up Genius coming soon, as reservations will be required for this socially-distant event.



## 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 February is Jeffrey Coonse.

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

- *Angela Baker-James & John, Hannah, Lillian and Molly James*
- *Judy & Phil James*
- *Phyllis Frye & Stuart James*
- *Jerillyn, Davis and Carr Jennings*
- *Jeff Johnson & Linda Burton*
- *Mimi Johnson*
- *Leigh, Paul, Maddox and Madelyn Sue Johnson*

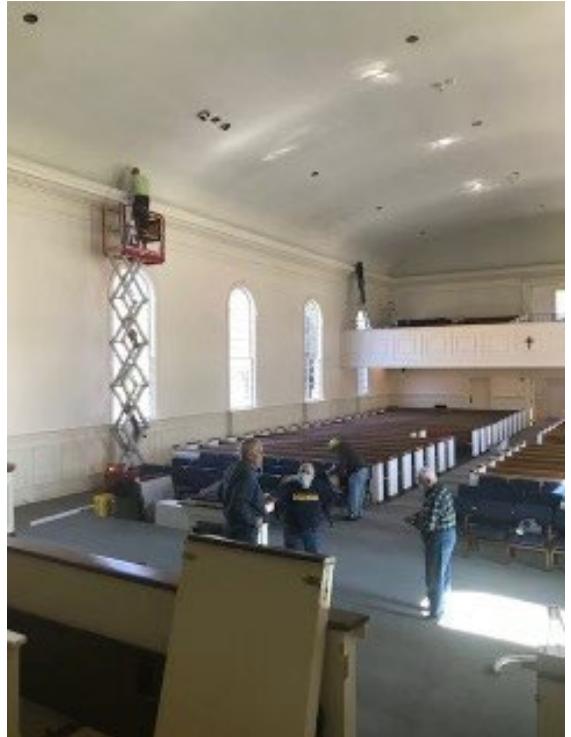
## HMPC Building

# Let There Be Light!

### New Sanctuary Lights

Last weekend, a crew headed up by Ken Krause replaced the old fluorescent light fixtures along the ceiling in the sanctuary with new LED fixtures. Now all the lighting in the Sanctuary is the same warm tone and is more energy efficient. Thanks so much to the following members who put in their time and energy to improve the Sanctuary:

Gary Alexander, Harry Bond, Harry Bowles, Bill Flueckinger, Ken Krause, Mike Law, John Oldenburg, Scott Sipprell, Johan van Die, John Whisler and Fred Woodward.



# Commissioned Cross Installed

On Ash Wednesday, as 2021 Lent began, a bronze cross commissioned by the Memorial Garden Committee was installed on the front of the new niches in the Memorial Garden. The cross was created by artist and blacksmith Scotty Utz. Scotty lives in Weaverville, NC and has been sculpting crosses out of various materials for over 20 years. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary and is now active in a Quaker congregation near his home. Scotty's father was Thornton Utz who painted covers for the Saturday Evening Post during the same period Norman Rockwell was painting covers.

This type of cross is sometimes referred to as an Iona or Celtic or Presbyterian cross. You'll find versions of it all over Hudson property. Pastor Mac Schafer filmed a 15 minute conversation with Mr. Utz about the cross and its meaning. We will share that conversation in coming weeks. The columbarium cross is "back lit" for evening time and adds beauty to this sacred space where the saints of HMPC are remembered.



## Calendar

### Sunday, February 28

- 9 am Sunday Stroll - HMPC Parking Lot
- 9:30 am - Explorer's 5-6-7 SS
- Online Worship - Anytime
- 4:30 pm - MS Youth Fellowship & Food Hike
- 7 pm - Popcorn and Presbyterians Pondering

### Monday, March 1

- 12 Noon - Brown Bag Lunch
- 5:30 pm - Personnel

### Tuesday, March 2

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

### Wednesday, March 3

- 9:30 am - Women at the Well

### Thursday, March 4

- 5:30 pm - Ministry Team Chairs Meeting

### Sunday, March 7

- Online Worship - Anytime

All meetings by Zoom unless otherwise noted.

## Fellowship

# Sunday Stroll

Your Fellowship Committee invites all of you that are willing and able to join us for a walk. A chance to see each other, visit from a distance, get some fresh air and exercise.

### February 28 9am

**HMPC Church  
Parking lot.** Let's

walk around the neighborhood! Follow up with a Labyrinth walk if you choose to. If you would rather sit and chat while others walk, bring a chair and sit apart. Bring your masks!



## Staff Directory

Mac Schafer – Pastor & Head of Staff - [mschafer@hmpc.org](mailto:mschafer@hmpc.org)

Debbie Kirk – Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth & Nurture - [dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org)

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation – [aash@hmpc.org](mailto:aash@hmpc.org)

Philip Hayden, Music Director & Composer– [phayden@hmpc.org](mailto:phayden@hmpc.org)

Frank Boyd, Director of Youth Ministries – [fboyd@hmpc.org](mailto:fboyd@hmpc.org)

Rachael McConnell, Director of Children & Family Ministries – [rmcconnell@hmpc.org](mailto:rmcconnell@hmpc.org)

Gina Hayek, Director of Joyful Noise – [ghayek@hmpc.org](mailto:ghayek@hmpc.org)

Carol Yeargin, Organist – [yeargin@bellsouth.net](mailto:yeargin@bellsouth.net)

Pat Cash, Business Administrator – [pcash@hmpc.org](mailto:pcash@hmpc.org)

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director – [droche@hmpc.org](mailto:droche@hmpc.org)

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director – [jhawkins@hmpc.org](mailto:jhawkins@hmpc.org)

Hope Parangi, Church Hostess – [hparangi@yahoo.com](mailto:hparangi@yahoo.com)