



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2023 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

At the end of May, we adopted two kittens. They are brothers and their names are Murphy and Milo. They have brought so much joy to my life as they show affection for us and each other, they purr loudly, curl up for a cuddle and make us laugh with their curiosity and antics. I know this is an animal-loving congregation, so I know most (if not all) of you will understand as I use them as examples of how I see God in my life.

I am a member of a group on Facebook called Clergy with Cats. It is an international group with people from all over the world that serve in every denomination of church, synagogue, mosque, and more. There are around 3,000 of us in all. It is a glimpse into the kingdom of God on a platform that is not always known to spread love, cheer, and goodwill.

Clergy will post a photo of their beloved cat and often write the message from their cat's perspective giving insight and updates about what is happening in their life (and their human's lives)...asking for prayer or encouragement or inviting others to join in celebrating with them. The responses are so loving and kind, and it is so refreshing to see people connect on something as simple as the love of their cats. I recently posted some photos of Murphy and Milo and one fellow clergy person commented, "Thank you for sharing these precious photos. They were a bright spot in my day." It was a good reminder that it doesn't take much to bring joy and a smile to others.



In Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica, he writes "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." (1 Thessalonians 5:14) I feel like we are still trying to figure out what it looks like to be people of faith in the world in 2023. In some ways, I think Clergy with Cats has figured some of this out. It is guided by love and it provides a safe space for folks to give and receive care, support, encouragement, and celebration.

As we head into these long summer days of extreme heat, I felt like it was a good reminder to look for the glimpses of God's presence around us. Look for ways to ease the burden of your neighbors and do what it takes to bring a smile to someone else's face. Cherish your cats...or dogs...or grandkids...or gardens...or whatever helps you see God is there. And when you can, share that joy with others. Joy is meant to be shared.

My prayer is that your life overflows with these glimpses of God's love and joy today and always.

Love,
Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar July 2023

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
2	Jack & Ross	Karen	Angela B.	Set Up: Karen
9	Jack & Ross	Luncheon	Thomas	
16	Jack & Ross	Alan & Kathy	Alan	
23	Jack & Ross	Elsa	Elsa	
30	Jack & Ross	Anna	Anna	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

June 2023	
Plate Income:	\$6,416.03
Expenses:	\$7,267.96
Total:	-\$851.93



Thriving through Prayer, Service & Generosity.

Thank you for your generous contributions as we continue to build for our future.

Food Pantry



As you give thanks for God's many blessings, please remember those who are hungry and in need. Your donations are greatly appreciated as we provide groceries to our neighbors.

Between June 6th and June 27th, 23 people received groceries.

Volunteer Calendar Information

We are very grateful for everyone who brings refreshments, does liturgy, sets up and serves communion. Schedules change and, understandably, you may not be available on the date your name is on the calendar. At the beginning of each month, please send your availability for the following month to Karen at karfre@aol.com. This will help avoid scrambling to find replacements at the last minute and the same people being responsible several weeks in a row.



J U L Y



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Reid & Ann Laffere's Anniversary
2 HOB	3	4 Food Pantry Zachary Zalles' Birthday Independence Day	5 Grace Recovery Ben Rosales' Birthday	6	7	8
9 Luncheon	10	11 Food Pantry World Population Day	12 Grace Recovery	13	14 Dee Dee Laurel's Birthday	15 Baby Shower World Youth Skills Day
16 ASH Emily Owen's Birthday	17	18 Food Pantry	19 Grace Recovery	20	21	22
23 Session Parents' Day	24 Int'l Self Care Day Cousins Day	25 Food Pantry Linda Bourianoff's Birthday	26 Grace Recovery	27 Juan Manuel Senties' Birthday	28 Ann Laffere's Birthday	29 Joe Aleman's Birthday Alan & Kathy Constant's Anniversary
30 Int'l Day of Friendship	31 Matthew Zalles' Birthday					



Have a picnic or fire up the grill, spend time with friends and family, and celebrate our country's birthday on Independence Day on **JULY 4TH!**



Your parents are the first hands you hold, the soft place to fall and your biggest supporters. Let them know you are grateful for them on Parent's Day on **JULY 23RD!**



You can't care for anyone if you don't care for yourself so take some time to rest and recharge on International Self Care Day on **JULY 24TH!**



July Session Highlights

- Doris reported that finances for April and May were good and the bank balance remains stable.
 - a. The group discussed putting some of the money into a savings account or another investment.
 - b. George will get some information and will report at the next meeting.
- Doris and Karen signed forms to get Karen as a secondary on the Chase investments.
- Emily will be out July 2nd. Alan will preach in her absence.
- The San Gabriel Partnership was discussed. The idea of sponsoring children for back to school was suggested. Emily Eyob will speak to the congregation about it on June 18th.
- Esther graciously sent out 16 cards in April and 8 in May.
- The Food Pantry has been running with a negative balance. Donations of food or money are needed.
- George has been looking into short-term investments and will continue to do so before the next meeting.
- Karen reported there was a wedding in May as well as a Piano Recital.
- Bennie continues to work to make the grounds beautiful. The summer will be slow for outside events although there is a baby shower in July.
- Juan Manuel will be out the last two weeks of June.
- There will be no session meeting in July. The next meeting will be on August 20th.

Church Mouse Information

The content of the Church Mouse has many purposes. Emily's message is a source of reflection and inspiration. The Volunteer Calendar, finances, Food Pantry report and Session highlights are to keep everyone informed as to where we stand on current matters.

It is my hope that each month, the additional content provides entertainment, informative information about new members of the congregation, and laughter.

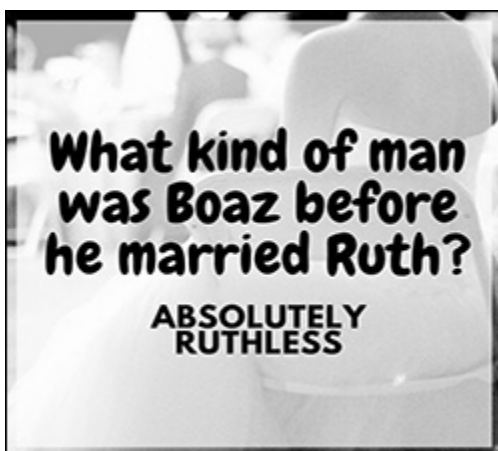
If there is anything you want to see or particularly enjoy, please email me at lindseylaffere@gmail.com. It is my hope to make each Newsletter as enjoyable as possible and am open to any feedback.



For Some Laughs



Laughter is the best medicine. Below are some jokes related to the Bible for your enjoyment.





For Some Laughs Part II

