



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## September 2023 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

I just started a book called *Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage*. It is written by Steven Charleston who is a Choctaw elder and Episcopalian priest.

He starts the book by describing a kiva which is an underground chamber, covered by a roof with wooden beams and an opening in the center. You enter a kiva by descending a ladder and once inside, it is rather dark except for the light that comes from the ladder's opening above you. Instead of a sprawling cathedral, which draws your gaze up toward beautiful mosaics and murals, the kiva is meant to ground you. It turns your focus inward, toward the earth and toward yourself. The kiva is like a womb and like a womb, it can be a place of formation and growth.



Charleston gives each rung of the ladder a different focus and name. They are faith, blessing, hope, community, action, truth, renewal, and transformation. Throughout the book, Charleston reframes the idea of darkness reminding the reader that together, we can always climb toward the light.

I wanted to share one of his meditations with you:

“STRONGER THAN DARKNESS: Imagine you walked onto a large open field at night when there was no moon. Standing there silently in the darkness were hundreds of people, each holding an unlit candle. Only you were carrying a candle that was burning, a single light alone. How quickly would the field be glowing once you used your candle to light others, and they used their candles to do the same, and all the people began sharing their light with those around them? You may never know exactly, but you do know over time what the outcome will be: a field aglow in the darkness where people can see one another clearly. Your life matters. What you have started will carry on. You are a source of light. You help others in ways that will continue. You are a single candle, but you are stronger than darkness.” (*Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage*, Steven Charleston, pgs. 12-13)

Where can you go to feel grounded? What can you do to turn inward and check in with yourself? How do the rungs of the ladder resonate with you and your faith journey? How will you shine your light? Who is sharing their light with you? As we move into the fall, may we seek hope and courage. By God's grace and by our willingness to climb the rungs of the ladder...we, too, will move to the light. May it be so.

Emily



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar September 2023

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
3	Jack & Ross	Karen	Karen	Set Up: Elsa Serve: Henry & Elsa
10	Jack & Ross	<b>Luncheon</b>	Alan	
17	Jack & Ross	Elsa	Gary	
24	Jack & Ross	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

August 2023	
Plate Income:	<b>\$5,129.30</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$7,047.07</b>
Total:	<b>-\$1,917.77</b>



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 August 1st and August 29th, 26 people received groceries.

## World Communion Day

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday. It is a celebration of our oneness in Christ with Christians around the globe. The concept spread slowly at first but during WWII, it quickly spread as a symbol of holding things together spiritually.

Now, World Communion Day is celebrated all over the world, bringing together the unique flavor of all denominations with a strong individual spirit, just like the world we live in.



# SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 HOB	4 Labor Day	5 Food Pantry Int'l. Day of Charity	6 Hosea Eyob's Birthday Read a Book Day	7	8 Gautham Singavarapu's Birthday Int'l. Literacy Day	9
10 Luncheon Grandparents Day	11 Joe & Elsa Aleman's Anniversary Patriot Day	12 Food Pantry	13	14 Gary Brizendine's Birthday Day of Democracy	15 Wedding Rehearsal	16 Steven Navarro's Birthday Wedding
17 Shannon Spilman's Birthday ASH Session	18	19 Food Pantry	20 Charlie Eyob's Birthday	21 Int'l. Day of Peace	22	23 Violin Recital Start of Fall
24	25 Nat'l. Daughter's Day	26 Candace Prose's Birthday Food Pantry	27	28 Nat'l. Son's Day	29 Wedding Rehearsal World Heart Day	30 Travis (TK)'s Birthday Wedding



Relax, stay home, have a picnic, or spend time with friends and family as you enjoy a long weekend in celebration of Labor Day on **SEPTEMBER 4TH!**

Our world needs peace now more than ever. Think of how you can contribute to unity and acceptance on International Day of Peace on **SEPTEMBER 21ST!**

Look forward to cooler temperatures and the beautiful autumn colors as we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall on **SEPTEMBER 23RD!**



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## August Session Highlights

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- Doris reported that June's finances were alright, but the July finances showed a negative balance due to an insurance payment. The bank balance remains good and the idea of transferring some of the money to savings was discussed again. The interest rates for savings accounts have increased recently.
- Emily will be on vacation from September 11th -15th. She will also be out on September 10th for the memorial service for her friend, Johnny Beth Dennis, which will be held at John Knox Ranch.
- The church received two gifts from Florence McElroy who passed away in May. One was a life insurance policy for \$17,000 and the other was \$5,000 from the Teacher Retirement Fund.
- PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED BEFORE LEAVING. Wooten Hall was left unlocked last week. Luckily there was no damage or sign of disturbance.
- Esther sent out 18 cards in June and 14 in July. Thank you, Esther.
- Emily applied for a \$3,000 grant for the Food Pantry from the Presbytery. We should hear soon if we get the grant.
- We have received \$2,000 in donations supporting the children in the Congo. Emily Eyob mentioned that if we make a commitment to continue our support next year, we will be eligible to apply for grants to also benefit that mission. A motion was made and passed to continue our support next year.
- Gary reported that there has been an increased number of people coming to the food pantry. He has decreased the amount of groceries he is purchasing due to the high cost. We are currently spending about \$250 monthly on groceries.
- Karen reported meeting with more couples about possible weddings. September will be a busy month for outside building use as, besides our regular House of Bread Ministry and Austin Sacred Harp meeting, there will be two weddings and a violin recital.
- Our annual Holiday Market will be held Saturday, November 11th between 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
Everyone is encouraged to start thinking about how they can help. We will need crafts to sell, baked goods, food to sell, raffle prizes, and help on the day.
- The next meeting will be September 17th following worship.



## Paying it Forward



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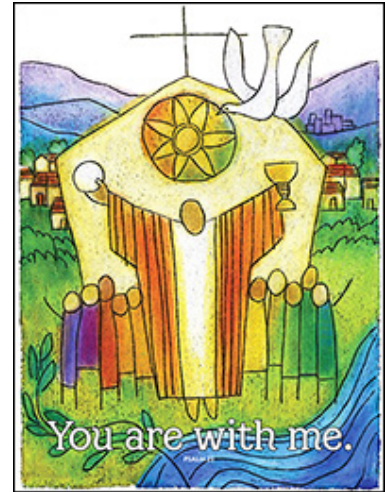
### Special Offering

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Every year, the Presbytery has four special offerings. The meaning of each is to share the love of God around the world and provide relief to those in need. This offering is “Peace and Global Witness.” It will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 1st.

This offering addresses conflict and injustice around the world. It encourages the church to get rid of anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace God’s mission of reconciliation to everyone around the globe.

It is a unique offering as half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness at the national church level. 25% of all donations go to our congregation for spreading the word about peace. The remaining portion is used for ministries on a regional level and advocacy for peace and justice in cultures of violence through projects of education and witness.



*Help us, O God, to put our faith into action – to not only talk about peace, but to put peace into our daily practice. In Christ, with Christ, we pray. Amen.*

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### Holiday Market

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Another part of our mission outreach is the annual Holiday Market which will be here before we know it. All proceeds go to organizations we support such as Manos de Cristo, Micah 6, Mission Presbytery, PC USA, and the Presbyterian Children’s Home.

Last year, many large churches had their markets on the same day. After much consideration, it was decided we wouldn’t change the date and we had a great turnout.

Raffle prizes are always a big draw and with Labor Day weekend coming up, there are great deals if you can and/or are willing to purchase something to contribute. Business connections are great as they are often willing to make prize donations.



Handmade items are popular as they are made with love and are one of a kind. Food to eat while shopping or baked goods to take home are always enjoyed. Keep in mind that nothing needs to be related to the holiday season as people often shop for birthdays and other occasions.