



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

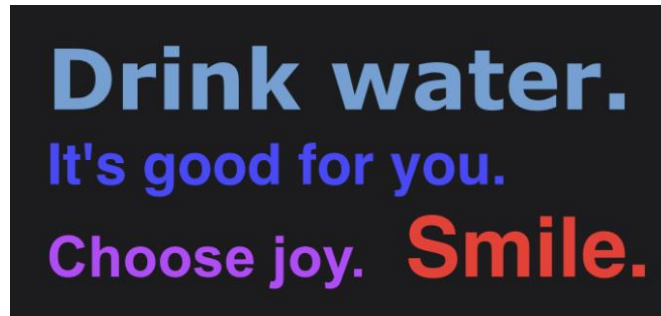
## November 2023 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Church Family,

A couple of months ago, we lost a dear friend to cancer. Her name was Johnna Beth Dennis. We first met her as teenagers when we were on staff at John Knox Ranch. She was a young, new teacher in Wimberley and spent several summers working at camp helping with various things. Her parents lived close to

where Henry and I went to college, and we went over to their farm several times to see Johnna when she was in town and got a home-cooked meal. She came to see us in North Carolina. When we moved to camp full-time over twenty years later, our friendship continued, and we got together for parties or would meet at the local arcade to play games. She taught Ross in second grade. She was well loved, and she loved well.



As a teacher, Johnna sent a *lot* of E-mails. Though it changed some over the years, for the time I knew Johnna best, her Email signature said: “Drink water. It’s good for you. Choose joy. Smile.” She was also known for saying, “God is good all the time!” This got me thinking about what we focus on in our lives and what we put into the world. Not all of us have an E-mail signature, but if you did...what would yours say?

What do you think Jesus would choose as his Email signature? I’m thinking, “Love God. Love Self. Love Neighbor. Just love.”

Considering this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving and remember to give thanks for our many blessings, I thought it would be a good time to stop and consider what we are focusing on and what we are choosing to put out into the world.

I pray you feel God’s love, that you can choose joy, and that the peace of Christ which is beyond our understanding calms your mind and heart even when the world feels uncertain and chaotic.

With love,

Emily

Choose joy. Love all. Practice gratitude. Seek peace.



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar November 2023

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
5	Jack & Ross	Ann & Gary	Ann	Set Up: Karen
12	Jack & Ross	Holiday Market goodies	Karen	
19	Jack & Ross	Kathryn	Elsa	
26	Jack & Ross	<b>Thanksgiving Luncheon</b>	Gary	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

September 2023	
Plate Income:	<b>\$3,366.00</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$5,479.52</b>
Total:	<b>-\$2,113.52</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 October 3rd and October 31st, 31 people received groceries.

## Giving

As we prepare for times of giving thanks and count our blessings, the Food Pantry is always in need of assistance especially with the holiday season coming up. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Also, a reminder that pledge cards for 2024 will be collected on November 5th, so please think of ways you can give of your time and talents to our congregation.



# NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 All Saints Day	2 All Souls' Day	3 Troy Kyle & April Kwon's Anniversary	4
5 HOB Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	7 Food Pantry Election Day	8	9	10 David Gray & Doris Lowe's Anniversary	11 Holiday Market Veterans Day
12 Luncheon	13 World Kindness Day	14 Food Pantry Kandy Savitsky's Birthday	15 Nat'l. Philanthropy Day America Recycles Day	16 Int'l. Day for Tolerance World Philosophy Day	17 Jerri Lyra's Birthday World Prematurity Day	18 Wedding
19 Thanksgiving Luncheon ASH	20 Elise Ramirez's Birthday Michael & Anna Tapsak's Anniversary Universal Children's Day	21 Food Pantry World Hello Day	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Black Friday	25 Small Business Saturday
26	27 Cyber Monday	28 Margaret Requejo's Birthday Food Pantry Giving Tuesday	29	30		



Remember to set your clocks back, kick your feet up, relax and relish in an extra hour of sleep as Daylight Savings ends on **NOVEMBER 5TH!**



Investing in our children is investing in our future. Take a moment to listen to their ideas on Universal Children's Day on **NOVEMBER 20TH!**



Help a neighbor or stranger in need or contribute to an organization you care about on Giving Tuesday on **NOVEMBER 28TH!**



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## October Session Highlights

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- Doris reported that giving was down in September, but the bank balance remains good.
- The session voted to purchase two CDs with money from the savings and checking accounts to increase earnings.
- Emily will be out on November 19th. She will find someone to preach in her absence.
- Emily will also be out on March 10th for spring break.
- Emily has completed all necessary forms to receive the funds from Florence McElroy's teacher retirement fund so the check should be coming soon.
- The church received a \$3,000 grant from Mission Presbytery for the food pantry.
- Alan Constant is ready to become ordained and wishes to have it in our church. No date is set yet. Congratulations!
- The session voted to change some of the organizations that we support with funds from the Holiday Market. The proceeds will be given to Micah 6, Mission Presbytery, Casa Marianella, Mobile Loaves and Fish, and Presbyterian Children's Home. Each elder will act as a liaison to one of the charities.
- It is time to elect new elders for the class of 2024. Henry and George will represent the session on the Elder Nominating Committee. Two to three members from the congregation will be asked to serve on the committee as well.
- Esther kindly sent out 9 cards in September. Thank you, Esther.
- Henry will give a Minute for Mission about Stewardship on Sunday, October 29th.
- November 5th was designated as Commitment Sunday at which time we will take up our pledge cards for 2024.
- Emily Eyob who writes for neighborhood newspapers, wrote a piece about our church in the Tarrytown and Highland Park West editions. She highlighted our food pantry and our Holiday Market. Thank you, Emily.
- Karen reported a group filmed a movie at the church on Oct. 21st. There will be a memorial service and reception on October 28th as well.
- Karen also signed up weddings on November 18th and January 6th.
- The Christmas Cantata will be held on December 10th.



# Upcoming Events



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## Holiday Market

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The Holiday Market is less than two weeks away. It is our chance to support organizations making a difference in the community. There's still time to help us help them. Invite everyone you know to come, buy and sell raffle tickets, volunteer your time on November 11th, bake goods, and shop.

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## Thanksgiving Luncheon

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Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon on November 19th. Please invite those you know who may spend the actual holiday alone. The following are some items that are traditionally needed but we welcome anything unique or special to you on this day.

- Turkey and ham
- Gravy
- Stuffing of any kind
- Mashed potatoes
- Vegetables (green beans, squash, yams)
- Cranberries or cranberry sauce
- Rolls
- Pies (pumpkin or pecan)

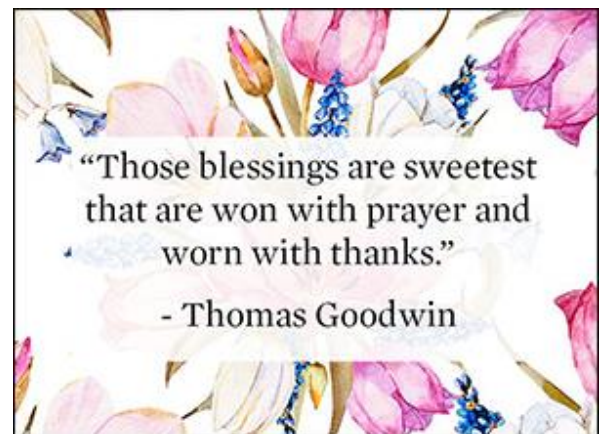
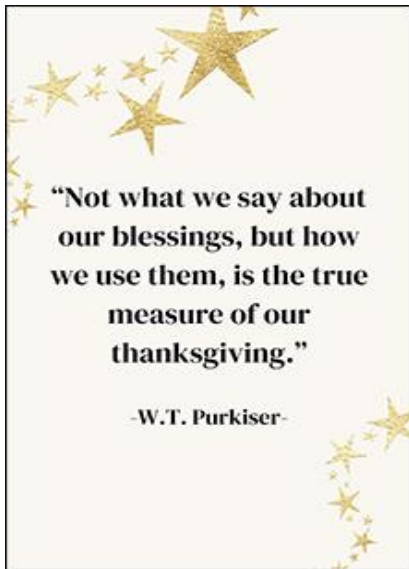
Please contact Karen or Emily Owen via email to let them know what you will contribute. There will also be a sign-up sheet in Wooten Hall.



# Blessings



As we approach Thanksgiving and gather with family and friends, it is a time to reflect on everything we are grateful for and the blessings in our lives. If you break the word down into two parts, you will find “thanks” and “giving.” Here are some inspiring words about blessings and their importance in our lives.





# Giving Back



Following is a letter from Emily Eyob regarding the outreach program for the Congo and a reminder of the importance and value of giving back as part of stewardship.

*I am beyond proud of our little church that could! Our church was able to raise \$3,650 for the Congo mission project. That is helping over thirty-six children in the Congo find permanent residency with family members and sending them to school for the year. This helps buy them school supplies and uniforms, but it also gives them so much more. It helps give them shelter, food, family, and safety. It also provides them with hope for the future. Many of these children have been through serious trauma and grief and that hope can make all the difference in the world. Thank you again for stepping up and helping these vulnerable children.*

*We have the most wonderful and giving members and I am so proud to be part of the Hyde Park Presbyterian family!*

