



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

I like the idea of a theme. It helps keep things organized and within certain boundaries. It helps tie everything together. I was delighted to learn our presbytery has a theme and found this in one of the weekly Mission Presbytery newsletters:

“Mission Presbytery’s theme for 2024 is “Flourishing,” and we want to know how our congregations are flourishing. What’s happening at your church that has you bursting with pride? What service project has blossomed recently and taken on a life of its own within your congregation? How are your members learning and growing in their faith in unexpected ways? How have your members come together to form deep and meaningful relationships with one another?”

Flourishing! I love this word, goal and concept. A quick dictionary search tells me that to flourish is to “grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment.” From a Christian perspective, human flourishing refers to “to a state of excellence in which human beings, as individuals and in community, experience and enjoy fulfillment, peace, abundance, and completion.” It seems that every definition contains an aspect that includes community and relationship!

I don’t know about you, but this sounds pretty good!

What do we as individuals and as a church family need to work on to know and feel that we are flourishing?

Psalm 92:12-15 -

¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,

¹⁵ showing that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

My prayer for our church is that we grow in a healthy and vigorous way. I pray that we depend fully on God, who is our rock. I pray we continue to work together and nurture our community as a church family. I pray we produce fruit that is full of life and potential!

I pray we flourish... together!

Peace,
Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar February 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
4	Jack & Ross	Karen	Karen	Set Up: Karen
11	Jack & Ross	Luncheon	Elsa	
18	Jack & Ross	Anna	Anna	
25	Jack & Ross	Emily Owen	Henry	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

December 2023	
Plate Income:	\$19,334.00
Expenses:	\$14,980.21
Total:	\$4,353.79



Thriving through Prayer, Service & Generosity.

2023 End of Year Report	
Plate Income:	\$83,193.02
Other Income:	\$20,445.41
Expenses:	\$83,837.58
Total:	\$19,885.00

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 January 2nd and January 30th, 32 people received groceries.



FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Angela Singavarapu's Birthday Groundhog Day	2	3
4 HOB World Cancer Day	5	6 Food Pantry	7 Nat.'l Send a Card to a Friend Day	8 Sara Tapsak's Birthday	9	10 Karen Laffere's & Martha Richardson's Birthdays
11 Beth Gray's Birthday Luncheon	12	13 Mardi Gras Internet Friends Day Food Pantry	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15 Molly Gray's Birthday	16	17 Keith Alan Geer's Birthday Random Acts of Kindness Day
18 Session ASH	19 Presidents Day	20 Nat.'l Love Your Pet Day Food Pantry	21 Nicolas Zalles' Birthday	22 Alan Constant's Birthday	23	24 Violin Recital
25	26	27 Food Pantry	28	29		



Wait and see what the groundhog has to say so to expect six more weeks of Winter or an early Spring on Groundhog Day on **FEBRUARY 1ST!**



Let everyone you care about know just how much you do, send words of gratitude and enjoy some candy on Valentine's Day on **FEBRUARY 14TH!**



No matter what kind of pet you have, they all bring joy. Show them how much you appreciate them on National Love Your Pet Day on **FEBRUARY 20TH!**



January Session Highlights

- Doris reported moving money from the savings account to purchase a CD.
- Emily and her family will be out on March 10th.
- Alan Constant is now our Parish Associate. In this role, he will fill the pulpit once monthly beginning in February.
- Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Emily will be at the church during the lunch hour to provide ashes for those who want them.
- It was decided to have the Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m. on March 28th.
- Each elder will provide a Minute for Mission about their liaison with our benevolences for the year as follows:
 - April:** Henry will report about Micah 6.
 - May:** Emily Eyob will report about Casa Marianella.
 - August:** George will speak about Mobile Loaves and Fish.
 - September:** Elsa will speak about Presbyterian Children's Home.
 - October:** Gary will give an update on the Food Pantry.
- George reported that the church gave 16% of our income to benevolences in 2023 which is outstanding and something to be proud of.
- Emily would like to have a Lenten Study using the book *Hope: A Users Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. More details will follow.
- Esther sent out 13 cards in November and 20 in December. We are always incredibly grateful.
- Esther's 90th birthday party was a big success. Thank you to all who made it happen. She is such a special part of our church, and we are glad it was a wonderful surprise.
- George presented the 2024 budget to the session. After discussion, it was approved unanimously with thanks to George, Henry, Karen, and Doris for their help with it.

It will be presented to the congregation on January 28th at the Annual Congregational meeting.
- Thank you to George and Henry for their willingness to remain on the session for a second term. Your service is very much appreciated.
- Juan will begin planning special music for Easter Sunday.



Information about Lent



This year, the Lenten Season begins on February 14th and ends on Easter Day. It is a time to focus on our discipleship and remember God is immersed in our everyday lives.

Many people relate Lent with giving up an indulgence such as chocolate or social media. Doing so seems to be a demonstration of discipline and commitment to faith. A different (and perhaps better) option is to add something you may not do regularly that draws you closer to God as Jesus draws nearer to the cross.

Additions can be choosing to devote time each day to support the community, serving others, appreciating nature, or spending time in prayer.

If you choose to do a combination of the two, i.e. give up chocolate, you can refrain from eating it but keep it on hand and give it to others instead.

“Do you want to fast this Lent?”

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.”





Love from the Bible



There is a correlation between Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent. Both focus on relationships and love. Valentine's Day is when you celebrate your significant other, friends and family who are important to you. Lent is a time to reflect on our love of God. The Bible consistently mentions God's love for us and the importance of love in life. Following are a few quotes from the Bible about the importance of love and how we are all loved.



Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

PROVERBS 10:12

Love is Patient.
Love is Kind.
1 Corinthians 13



May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5



And over all these virtues put on **LOVE** which binds them all together in perfect unity.

COLOSSIANS 3:14

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 8:17



AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN:
faith, hope & love.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13