



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

This month of March will be a busy one for us as we continue our way through the remaining 40 days of Lent, gather with the crowds lining the road as Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (3/24) and then reach Holy Week. We will worship at 7 pm on Maundy Thursday (3/28) when we remember Jesus celebrating the Last Supper with his disciples and washing their feet. Then Good Friday (3/29) is the day we mark Christ's crucifixion. Holy Saturday (3/30) we wait and we pray. Easter Sunday comes on March 31st and we celebrate with joy our risen and living Lord!

Several members of our church family have been reading a book by MaryAnn McKibben Dana called *Hope: A User's Manual*. We have had wonderful discussions so far about what hope is and what hope is not. We have talked about hope as something we *do*, not necessarily something we *feel*.

“Hope is wrapped up in what we make real. Hope isn't what we think. Hope isn't what we feel. Hope isn't even what we imagine is possible. Hope is what we *do* in the face of suffering, pain, and injustice. Hope is what we do in the face of depression's dull weight or grief's harsh sting. Hope is what we do.” -

(MaryAnn McKibben Dana, *Hope: A User's Manual*, Page 39)

I can't help but consider the cyclical practice of telling, retelling and hearing the stories of the Bible again and again and again as a way of practicing hope. We are reminded each time we experience these stories who we are, whose we are and who and what we are called to be. And one of the best things I have gained from this book is that we don't have to be perfect in our hope. We simply can hope to the best of our ability today.

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection, I think we prepare again to be people of hope. Remember Christ didn't restore creation and call it done. The work continues. We are constantly being made new, finding ways to serve others in an expansive ministry of grace and love. The resurrection is not an ending. It is a beginning. It opens us up to a whole new set of questions and callings and discernment. It ushers in an opportunity for hope.

May God's grace, peace, love, and hope be with you this season and always,

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar March 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
3	Jack & Ross	Emily Owen	Ross	Set Up: Karen
10	Jack & Ross	Luncheon	Kathryn	
17	Jack & Ross	Alan & Kathy	Alan	
24	Jack & Ross	Kathryn	Karen	
31	Jack & Ross	Elsa	Henry	Set Up: Emily Owen

Financial Report



January 2023	
Plate Income:	\$5,822.25
Expenses:	\$7,421.73
Total:	\$1,599.48



Thriving through Prayer,
Service & Generosity.

It is through the seeds of
faith that we grow.

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 February 6th and February 27th, 32 people received groceries.

Update on Contact Information

If you are a member or someone who visits and would like to receive notifications about how to join the weekly service via Zoom, please provide your latest email and address to either Emily Owen at revemilyowen@gmail.com, Lindsey Laffere at lindseylaffere@gmail.com or Karen Laffere at karfre@aol.com. We also ask in anticipation of updating the church directory. A HUGE bonus is receiving cards from Esther who is always so thoughtful. Thank you in advance.



MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Rehearsal	2
3 HOB World Wildlife Day	4	5 George Bourianoff's Birthday Food Pantry	6 David Gray Jr.'s Birthday	7	8 Int'l. Women's Day	9
10 Ben Kercheval's & John King's Birthdays Women's Group Daylight Savings Begins Luncheon	11 Cara Cothams Birthday Nat'l. Napping Day	12 Starr Longs Birthday Food Pantry	13	14	15 Consumer Rights Day World Sleep Day	16
17 St. Patrick's Day ASH Session	18	19 Food Pantry	20 Sebastian Kyle's Birthday Start of Spring	21 Shannon & Lee Spilmons Anniversary	22	23 Nat'l. Puppy Day
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 Lindsey Laffere's Birthday Food Pantry	27	28 Holy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30 Nat'l. Doctors' Day
31 Easter HOB						



Don't forget to set your clocks forward as we lose an hour of sleep but gain an hour of sunlight as Daylight Savings begins on **MARCH 10TH!**



Prepare yourself for wonderful weather, blooming flowers, chirping birds, and the sense of newness that comes with the start of Spring on **MARCH 20TH!**



Puppies bring an unmatched joy that lasts for many years to come. Celebrate your four-legged baby on National Puppy Day on **MARCH 23RD!**



February Session Highlights

- Doris reported a negative balance in January due to an insurance payment, but the bank balance remains good.
- Doris and Karen will purchase the CDs on Thursday, February 22nd.
- A five hundred donation was given to the food pantry. We are always very grateful for assistance in helping our outreach to feed our neighbors in need.
- Emily and her family will be out on March 10th. Alan will fill the pulpit in her absence.
- Doris was re-elected as treasurer and Karen as clerk of session. Thank you both for your continued service.
- We will have an intern named Libby Janes join us for the summer. Information about her will follow and we are looking forward to her contributions.
- We will also have a second intern, Boram Choi, with us during the fall and spring. Information about her will follow and we are looking forward to her contributions.
- The Lenten book study will begin on Tuesday, February 20th from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Five people have expressed interest in joining. Others are always welcome even if they can only attend one or two sessions.
- Elsa has plans for breakfast on Easter Sunday. She welcomes donations of candy to fill the eggs for the Easter Egg hunt.
- Emily Eyob will attend service in Georgetown where representatives from the Congo project will speak. She will report to us about the visit.
- Karen reported signing up a piano recital and a wedding.
- Esther sent out eleven cards in January. Thank you, Esther.
- Thanks to George and the Budget committee for their work on the budget for 2024.



Special Offering



The Special Offerings of the PCUSA offer the whole Church a way to embody Jesus' words in Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in partnership with those who have the least.

Through gifts to the four annual Special Offerings, we support ministries of compassion, justice, alleviation of hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness.

For the **One Great Hour of Sharing** (February 14 – March 31), the Special Offering will benefit **Hunger, Disaster, and Development Projects**. For more information about the impact your donation makes, please visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

To make a donation through Hyde Park Presbyterian:

- Write "Special Offering" on the memo line of your check and put it in the collection plate.
- Donate online through the website and note "Special Offering."
- Place cash in a small envelope in the back of the pew, label it "Special Offering," and put it in the collection plate.



Easter Around the World



Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from his grave so we can be forgiven for our sins. It is a time of gratitude symbolized by lilies, bunnies, lambs, and eggs.

The following are some interesting traditions of how this special day is commemorated around the globe.

Bermuda: A weekend celebration begins with the Good Friday KiteFest. Homemade kites, bold in color and shaped like crosses soar high. The tradition began when a local Sunday school teacher launched a kite to demonstrate Christ's ascension to Heaven.



France: On Easter Monday in the town of Haux, a giant omelet has been served for more than 30 years. It takes more than 15,000 eggs and serves over 1,000. Legend says Napoleon was traveling across the area, ordered an omelet, and loved it so much, that he ordered the townspeople to gather their eggs to feed his entire army the next day.



Antigua: Before the Good Friday procession, the town covers the streets in carpets made from sawdust, fruits, vegetables, and sand. Each one is a scene important to the artist based on Mayan culture, religion and Guatemalan history. Stencils are used as there are only 24 hours to create the masterpieces.



Italy: For 350 years in Florence, an ornate cart loaded with fireworks is pulled through the streets by white oxen and people in colorful 15th century costumes. At 11 a.m. on Easter, the Archbishop lights a dove-shaped rocket symbolizing the Holy Spirit causing the fireworks to explode during mass.



Australia: Rabbits are seen as pests rather than pets. In 1968, a 9-year-old wrote *Billy The Aussie Easter Bilby* and in 1991, a Rabbit-Free campaign was launched to replace the Easter bunny with the Easter Bilby, a rabbit-eared bandicoot. Many companies now have chocolate bilbies and proceeds go to benefit endangered animals.





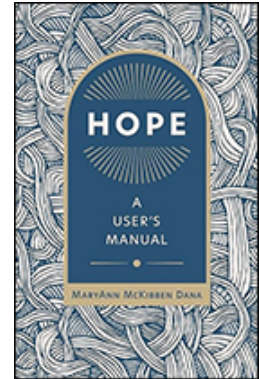
Upcoming Events



Book Read

Join us for a Zoom book read during the season of Lent beginning on February 20th. Each week, we will meet from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Although it has already started, it is not too late to join.

The book is called *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Here is a [link](#) to purchase it from Amazon.



March 5: Chapter 3 - Hope Lives in the Body

March 12: Chapter 4 - Hope Travels in Story

March 19: Chapter 5 - The Practice of Hope

March 26: Chapter 6 - Hope Beyond Hope

Please read the chapter ahead of time as it will be discussed during the weekly meetings. All are welcome. If you are interested, please email Emily Owen to be added to the list of recipients for the Zoom link.

Needleworkers Group

Some of you might remember Amy Praskac who worshiped with us for many years. She is now part of University Presbyterian Church. Please see the following invitation Amy sent:

You are invited to join the University Presbyterian Church Needleworkers. We meet on the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is March 7, 2024. Bring your current project and enjoy chatting with other needleworkers.



UPC is located at 2203 San Antonio St. (78705), just one block west of the section of Guadalupe St. known as "The Drag." Contact Amy Praskac at ampraskac@hotmail.com for further information or to be added to the email list for reminders.

If you have any additional questions or would like to connect in person, you are welcome to call me at home at 512-371-3624.

Peace & Grace,
Amy Praskac



Spring Inspiration



Spring comes after months of cold temperatures and barren landscapes. Trees bud, flowers bloom, and animals who have hidden to keep warm show their faces. It is a time of newness, renewal, hope and fresh beginnings.

The following are a few quotes about the beauty of the season and the happiness it brings. I hope you enjoy them.

