



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## April 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,



I am still basking in the glow of a glorious Easter worship and celebration. I loved seeing everyone in their Sunday Easter outfits. I loved hearing the squeals and excitement of the children leading up to the Easter Egg hunt. I loved watching people greet one another with care and love.

I watched the children run and gather eggs after our worship service and saw them delight as they discovered what candy was inside. I watched one of the children...one of Emily Eyob's nephews... gather his eggs and then thoughtfully walk around and peer into the baskets of the other children. I watched and wondered what he was doing. Then he would reach in his basket and place an egg or two or three in the other child's basket

depending on what they had. I was struck by what an example this was for all of us. In a culture that tells us to run and gather all we can for ourselves, he knew that he would be happiest if he cared for others. It was a beautiful thing to watch and witness.

A similar phenomenon happened at the cross in front of the church. Freytag's donated some flowers to us this year for our flowered cross. Others brought flowers they had purchased or that they collected from their yards. Many people got to work cutting and arranging the flowers to cover the cross with color and texture and beauty. I loved seeing family and friends gather to take photos in front of the cross. And it struck me that this is indeed what we are called to do. We are to use what we have to create something beautiful (sometimes this is just ourselves!)...something that makes people pause and smile...something that draws people in. We are to work together. Then, we are called to invite others to experience that beauty for themselves – to know and feel that they are worthy and invited and included.

My prayer this Easter season and beyond is that we continue to honor the great commandment given to us just before Easter – to love our neighbors. We can do this by sharing our eggs or our love or by offering grace. And we are to create beauty in this world so others know they are worthy and loved and so they might see glimpses of God's love, grace and joy.

May the peace of God and the hope of the resurrection give you courage and joy this Easter season and always!

Emily



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar April 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
7	Jack & Ross	Ann & Gary	Ann	Set Up: Elsa Serve: Elsa & Gary
14	Jack & Ross	<b>Luncheon</b>	Ian	
21	Jack & Ross	Juan	Jack	
28	Jack & Ross	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	

## Financial Report



February 2024	
Plate Income:	<b>\$4,165.00</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$5,078.55</b>
Total:	<b>-\$913.55</b>



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

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 March 5th and March 26th, 23 people received groceries.

## Giving of Your Time

We are so grateful for everything everyone does to support the church. Volunteers are always needed of time and energy. If you are willing to provide refreshments every couple of months, act as liturgist or bring supplies when needed, it would be very helpful.

Please contact Karen at [karfre@aol.com](mailto:karfre@aol.com) to let her know how you will be of assistance. Thank you in advance.



# APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Eugenie Long's Birthday April Fool's Day	2 Food Pantry Autism Awareness Day	3 Nat'l. Walking Day	4	5	6
7 World Health Day	8 Hank & Elise Ramirez's Anniversary	9 Food Pantry	10 Ben & Sarah Kercheval's Anniversary Nat'l. Siblings Day	11 April Kwon's Birthday	12	13
14 Michelle Bourianoff's Birthday Luncheon	15 Tax Day World Art Day	16 Walt Richardson's Birthday Food Pantry	17	18 David Gray III's Birthday Nat'l. High Five Day	19 Bicycle Day	20 Piano Recital
21 World Creativity & Innovation Day ASH Session	22 Ann Brizendine's Birthday Earth Day	23 John Requejo's Birthday Food Pantry	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25 Take Your Child to Work Day	26 Arbor Day World Intellectual Property Day	27 Veterinary Day Memorial Service Violin Recital
28	29 Int'l. Dance Day	30 Food Pantry				



Leave your car at home and enjoy the sun as you walk to work if you can. It improves health and gives you extra energy on Walk to Work Day **APRIL 3RD!**



We all have best friends but there is no one closer than a brother or sister. Let yours know how important they are on National Siblings Day **APRIL 10TH!**



Everyone loves to feel appreciated. Give a High Five to friends, family and furry friends on National High Five Day **APRIL 18TH!**



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## March Session Highlights

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- The Certificates of Deposits were purchased on February 22nd at Frost Bank.
- Claudia Smith and Rita Livingston visited the meeting as representatives from Mission Presbytery. They had several questions during the session, all of which were answered.
- Palm Sunday will be March 24th. Emily will provide the palms which will also be used for the cross on Easter Sunday.
- Elsa is planning a brunch for Easter Sunday.
- The Easter egg hunt will be held following worship on Easter Sunday.
- Dee Dee Laurel has requested that her granddaughter be baptized on Easter Sunday. Emily will visit with the family about the baptism.
- Henry will provide a brief update on his liaison with Micah 6, one of our benevolences, in April.
- Alan is interested in community engagement and is meeting with other churches in the area.
- The Lenten book read has been a success with seven joining on Tuesday evenings.
- Esther sent out 18 cards in February.
- Emily Eyob will be meeting with the Congo representatives in April and will report back to the congregation.
- The window in Wooten Hall was replaced.
- Two more cameras were installed on the 40th side of the church.
- Karen signed up two more weddings for the fall.
- Karen plans to get estimates to replace the carpet in the sanctuary.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.
- The next meeting will be held on April 21st.



# April Festivities Around the World



The spiritual meaning of April is a time of growth and moving forward in new and positive ways. It is said to be a time when the warmer weather contributes to happiness and life gets good again. Around the world, April is celebrated in special fashions. Below are a couple of unique ways the season is rejoiced.

**Spain:** The Seville Feria is one of the most famous and historic festivals in Europe. What began as a cattle fair in 1847 has grown into an extravagant weeklong celebration. The fiesta kicks off with the illumination of thousands of multicolored light bulbs.



“Casetas” belonging to friends and associates welcome guests with offers of food, wine, conversation, singing and “sevillanas,” the local version of flamenco dancing. Men dress as farmworkers and women wear flamenco or gypsy dresses.

The fair is filled with ornate carriages for the horse and carriage parade and every afternoon, there are bullfights where participants fight bulls with nothing but wooden sticks. The week of festivities ends with a spectacular fireworks display.



**South Korea:** The Lotus Lantern Festival celebrates the coming of Spring and is traditionally celebrated with food, dancing and games. Notably, there is an enormous lantern almost 60 feet tall.



Streets, temples and malls are adorned with thousands of lanterns symbolizing the enlightenment of humanity. Additionally, a lantern is placed in each home which community members light as darkness falls. This indicates a desire for internal peace.

The festival began centuries before the presence of Christianity in Korea when people wished for luck during farming season. Prayers were said to ward off evil spirits by burning paper or oil lamps shaped like lotus flowers.





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## Needleworkers Group

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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 April 24, 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.” Click [here](#) for directions and parking information. Contact Amy Praskac at [ampraskac@hotmail.com](mailto:ampraskac@hotmail.com) for further information or to be added to the email list for reminders.

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## To Emily Owen

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We are always grateful for Emily and the time she gives while being a mom, working at John Knox Ranch, and juggling countless other tasks.

Thank you for going above and beyond during the important Lenten season and Holy Week. In addition to the weekly worship services, you made time to come to town for Ash Wednesday, had a special Maundy Thursday service and led a Zoom book read. The Easter service was very special and included a baptism.

You are so very special to our congregation and we are grateful for all you do. With love.