



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

Did you notice the wildflowers this year? My drive between our home and church was stunning all spring with bursts of bluebonnet blue, yellows, reds, whites, purple and vibrant greens. This time of year, I love to walk around John Knox Ranch- the summer camp and retreat center where we live. There are birds singing and creepy crawlies everywhere you look. Butterflies and bees are almost bouncing from flower to flower and even my dogs like to lay out in the yard to soak up the warmth of the sun.

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

-Psalm 24:1

Have you ever thought of yourself as a wildflower? Have you considered the way you add a specific dot of color to a glorious canvas that would not be complete without you? You reach high, toward the heavens and toward the light of the sun. Then you shine your stunning color for all to see. You are unique, but also part of something larger than yourself. If you are blue, you do not have to be good at being yellow or red. You just have to be the best blue that you can be!

Lady Bird Johnson loved wildflowers so much that she helped to establish the Wildflower Center in South Austin. She said, "My special cause, the one that alerts my interest and quickens the pace of my life, is to preserve the wildflowers and native plants that define the regions of our land — to encourage and promote their use in appropriate areas, and thus help pass on to generations in waiting the quiet joys and satisfactions I have known since my childhood." We, too, should tend to the wildflowers. We, too, should tend to those quiet joys and share them with our kids and neighbors. We should remember that we add color and spice and zest to this life and to our communities.

So stand tall, shine bright, seek joy and the next time you see wildflowers growing and thriving despite the environment around them... remember you, too, are a wildflower.

I am grateful for all of you and the canvas of color we can create together. I'm excited to see the way our canvas grows!

With love,

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar May 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
5	Jack & Ross	Eugenie	Anais	Set Up: Emily O. Serve: Henry & Gary
12	Jack & Ross	Emily Owen	Gary	
19	Jack & Ross	Karen	Karen	
26	Jack & Ross	Alan & Kathy	Elsa	

Financial Report



April 2024	
Plate Income:	\$5,895.00
Expenses:	\$5,563.14
Total:	\$331.86



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 April 2nd and April 30th, 28 people received groceries.

Needleworkers Group



You are invited to join the University Presbyterian Church Needleworkers. We meet on the first Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is May 2, 2024. Bring your current project—whether it be knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or any other type of handcraft—and enjoy chatting with other needleworkers. Contact Amy

Praskac at ampraskac@hotmail.com for more information.



MAY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Nataly King William's Birthday May Day	2 Emily Eyob's Birthday Nat'l. Day of Prayer	3	4
5 Cinco De Mayo World Laughter Day HOB	6 Nat'l. Nurses Day	7 Nat'l. Teachers Day Food Pantry	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Food Pantry	15 Int'l. Day of Families	16 Int'l. Day of Living Together in Peace	17 Henry Owen's & Silas Savitsky's Birthdays Bike to Work Day	18 Armed Forces Day
19 Pentecost ASH Session	20 Nat'l. Rescue Dog Day	21 Sam & Monique Paisley's Anniversary Food Pantry	22	23 Luke Ramirez's Birthday	24 Nat'l. Brother Day	25 Reid Laffere's Birthday
26 Sarah Kercheval's Birthday	27 Memorial Day	28 Food Pantry	29	30	31	



Even if you pray daily, take a moment to turn to God and give some extra gratitude on National Day of Prayer **MAY 2ND!**



Nurses give of themselves to help keep us well. Let them know how appreciative you are on National Nurses Day **MAY 6TH!**



If you are lucky enough to have a brother, be sure to tell him how much he means on National Brother Day **MAY 24TH!**



April Session Highlights

- Henry gave an interesting report about Micah 6 and their programs.
- The Presbytery visitors who came in March expressed that they feel that we are a healthy and loving congregation. They were very complimentary of both our church and our ministry.
- Some of the things that Alan has been working on are:
 1. He attended an online seminar “Small is Beautiful: Cultivating Vibrant Communities in the PC(USA).
 2. He has been looking into a program called Austin Energy Plus which helps those in need to pay their electric bills.
 3. He has met with the people at Hope Food Pantry, has touched base with the Pecan Press (neighborhood newspaper), and has reached out to our district city council member.
 4. He has written a grant to get funds to purchase food for listening lunches that he hopes to host with community members. This grant is offered by the New Braunfels Presbyterian Church.
- Childcare during the sermon was discussed. Emily Eyob is going to reach out to the moms of our small children and see if they would like to take turns doing this.
- Emily applied for the Better Together Grant along with Faith Presbyterian and First Presbyterian to get funds to pay the seminary students.
- Emily is hoping for a summer book read.
- Emily and her family will be out July 4th-7th for her family reunion, July 29th-Aug. 2nd for a trip to Florida with her parents and Sept. 14th-20th to Wyoming with Henry.
- A special thank you to Elsa for the refreshments after church on Easter Sunday.
- Emily Eyob briefly reported on her visit with the Congo Missionaries but will bring more information and a video soon.
- Esther sent out 13 cards in March.
- Karen reported:
 1. There were two piano recitals on the 20th.
 2. There will be a Memorial service and a violin recital on Saturday, April 27th.
 3. She signed up another wedding.
 4. Had samples to replace the carpet in the sanctuary but will get another bid.
- The Pentecost offering will be taken up on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.
- There will be no luncheon in May due to Mother’s Day.
- Juan will be on vacation for 4 weeks in the summer.



Happy Mother's Day I



The word “Mom” is one with such a simple yet complex definition. Per the dictionary, the meaning is “a female parent.” While true, what an understatement! Mothers are caregivers, mentors, cheerleaders, nurses, chauffeurs and so much more. Whether biological, step, foster, adoptive, chosen, or a combination, Moms are truly miracles. Following are writings from some of the men in our congregation about what is special about their moms.

Alan Constant

Growing up in the ‘60s, many kids had dads who served during World War II, but my brother and I had something special – a mom who served in the Navy. Our mom volunteered and served in the WAVES – Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service – a branch of the Naval Reserve. She worked in a secretive codebreaking unit in Seattle. My fondest memories were listening to her stories of those days. Maud Constant was a great mom and a patriot, as well.

Gary Brizendine

My mother's name was Margie Brizendine Dixon, but her birth certificate just read "girl". She went to work at First City National Bank in Houston, Texas as soon as she finished High School. She worked most all of her life in the banking business. She always made sure I had a roof over my head and food on the table. My mother was my rock and she kept my life stable. If there was something she could do to make my life better or more enjoyable, she would do it. And it took me a long time to realize that. I wished many times that I could have done something to make her life easier or more enjoyable. She lived a hard life and she never complained. I love her more than I ever realized.

Ben Rosales

I never knew my mother. I was five years old when she died, and I really never had a very close relationship with her.

What I do know is that when I was born a very sick child, and the Dr. told my mother that I was going to die. she came home crying. It was then that my grandmother told her that the Dr. was not God and to not worry, that she would take care of me.

Little did we know that it was my mother that was going to die. My grandmother took care of me from Day One until she died in 1962. Her dream was to make sure she would live to see me graduate from High School. I graduated in May 1962, and she died in August 1962.

My Grandmother was the only one to always see that I had what I needed and what to eat. I still miss her to this day.



Happy Mother's Day II



Jack Owen



My mom has always been there for me. She always will be. For example, earlier this year I had a project in English and I was struggling to get it done. She stayed up late and used her own time to help me get my project done. She has always been there to brighten my day. She is always making up little songs to make us laugh. She can make everything better with just a hug and a smile. I am so grateful for my mom.

Ross Owen



One way I love my mom is that she comes and says goodnight to me every night. Another way is that she almost always comes to pick me up from school, and it's nice to see a happy face after an annoying day of school. I know that I could keep going, but I'm not as skilled as she is at writing. I love my mom!

Ian Savitsky

I love my mom, even if I may disagree with her judgment at times. She's still my mom at the end of the day. She's been there since day one and will continue to be there which I appreciate deeply. I'm thankful for having a reliable mother figure with me. She's helped me sort out my problems and given me straight answers instead of beating around the bush. I love the quality time we spend together, people-watching and making silly jokes.



Happy Mother's Day III



Henry Owen

When I took the job of camp director at JKR, my mom, Katharine, sent me one of her favorite poems, “The Lanyard” by Billy Collins. The mother/son connection and the summer camp theme made it particularly fitting. Throughout my life, my mother has had a knack for sharing a story, poem, piece of advice, or nostalgic picture that is perfectly fitting to support or encourage whatever stage of life I am in. Throughout my camp career (camper, counselor, now director), I’m not sure I ever made my mom a lanyard, but I am filled with gratitude and love for all she did and still does for me. The author is correct “you can never repay your mother,” but you can say thank you. Thanks, Mom, I love you.

Following is “The Lanyard” by Billy Collins in honor of Henry’s mom.

The other day I was ricocheting slowly off the blue walls of this room, moving as if underwater from typewriter to piano, from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor, when I found myself in the L section of the dictionary where my eyes fell upon the word lanyard.

No cookie nibbled by a French novelist could send one into the past more suddenly— a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp by a deep Adirondack lake learning how to braid long thin plastic strips into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.

I had never seen anyone use a lanyard or wear one, if that’s what you did with them, but that did not keep me from crossing strand over strand again and again until I had made a boxy red and white lanyard for my mother.

She gave me life and milk from her breasts, and I gave her a lanyard. She nursed me in many a sick room, lifted spoons of medicine to my lips, laid cold face-cloths on my forehead, and then led me out into the airy light and taught me to walk and swim, and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard. Here are thousands of meals, she said, and here is clothing and a good education. And here is your lanyard, I replied, which I made with a little help from a counselor.

Here is a breathing body and a beating heart, strong legs, bones and teeth, and two clear eyes to read the world, she whispered, and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp. And here, I wish to say to her now, is a smaller gift—not the worn truth that you can never repay your mother, but the rueful admission that when she took the two-tone lanyard from my hand, I was as sure as a boy could be that this useless, worthless thing I wove out of boredom would be enough to make us even.



Happy Mother's Day IV



George Bourianoff

My mother was many things. At her core, she was a Christian guided by a strong sense of right and wrong coupled with the strength to live by her principles, even when the going got very tough. She was very smart, very capable, and very responsible. She was also very loving even though she did not always express that overtly.

She valued education and graduated from college when she was 16. She, however, did not meet her mother's expectations that she would get married immediately and start having kids. Instead, she followed her own star. She worked a few years, bought a new Model A Ford, and drove cross-country from Texas to New York City completely alone in 1934. She found a good job during the teeth of the depression, met and married my father, had children (me), and helped my father start a business in New York. When that business ultimately failed, she held the family together through some dark times, and moved us back to Corpus Christi where we essentially had to start a new life. She helped me survive a very severe case of polio and emerge with my self-esteem intact. She went to work so that my brother and I could go to college which we did. After I got married, she and Linda became very close, and she loved her grandchildren immensely.

She was a constant in my life. She taught me many things and greatly influenced the person I am today.

Joe Aleman

The word "Mom" has a special meaning, to me. It means a lot more than just the woman who gave my 6 siblings and myself birth. Jovita's days would start at about 4:30 in the morning. We would wake up to the smell of homemade tortillas. That was our alarm clock. We were up by 5:30 a.m. and had chores to do before we got ready for school, but I don't recall her ever letting us go hungry. She always made sure we had clean clothes. After eating our breakfast, we would walk to the gate, and wait for the bus, then when our day at school was over, we'd get dropped off at the gate. We would race home hungry, earlier Mom would have some tacos ready that was a snack before dinner. After a snack, change clothes, go do chores, and do more chores! By 7:30 to 8:00 p.m., we would gather around the table for dinner. Homework was the next step, and then get to bed, but already looking forward to the wonderful smell of tortillas in the morning! She would wash clothes seems like 3 times a week. I will always remember her as kind, and soft, but when she spoke especially to my two older brothers, she would have our undivided attention! Since my two older brothers and I also took turns washing dishes, I know she was constantly watching, but that's what moms do, train you, right? As my brothers and I got older and learned how to drive on this 2200-acre ranch, we were instructed by my dad to teach our mom how to drive. Back then we had a 51 Chevrolet family car and she only had one issue and that was judging distance to stop! Well, she went through our fence, but it was our job to repair it!

My mom passed away in 1983 as a result of cancer.



Happy Mother's Day V



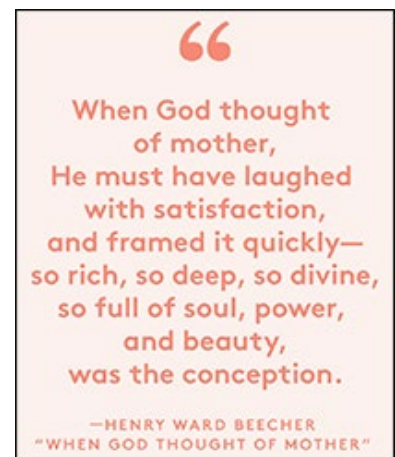
Juan Manuel Sentías

"Mi Mamá/My Mom: Judith Sentías Viveros"

Of course, everyone thinks that they have the best mother in the world, and I believe that is true. A person's mother is specifically chosen for us by God and is the best for each one of us. My wonderful mother was born and raised in Mexico. Most of her young life was lived in the coastal state of Veracruz where she met my father as teenagers and eventually married and moved to Texas. My mother is a bright, fun-loving, caring, passionate, loyal, faithful woman, and the list of adjectives I have for her could go on for pages. She cared for my sister, brother, and me until we all left the house. Everyone loves a home-cooked meal and I was fortunate that growing up, that was the norm and my mother is an amazing cook! Her sazón, as we call it in Spanish, is just amazing. I can't quite think of the translation in English as I write this, but since we are Mexican, I can only describe it like that, *tiene muy buen sazón mi mamá*. There is nothing she wouldn't do for us. But she definitely laid down the law when necessary to teach us to be better and to know right from wrong. She always encouraged us in any endeavor me or my siblings took and she still does to this day. I have seen her at the best of times and I've seen her in not the best of times and I have to say that I admire that she consistently, in any condition she's been in, always turns to God and her faith. "He will provide," she has said to me, and that she always feels secure in His love, despite the circumstances. My mother taught me many things, but I am so grateful that she taught me to love God and to love my neighbors, friends, and strangers. Happy Mother's Day to all of you special women who are mothers. Thank you all for giving us life. And to my mother, *te amo mi reina!*

A Poem About Moms

My Mother kept a garden, A garden of the heart.
She planted all the good things that gave my life its start.
She turned to me the sunshine and encouraged me to dream.
Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem.
And when the winds and rain came, she protected me enough.
But not too much because she knew I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong.
Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.





Upcoming Events



Mission Partner Spotlight: Micah 6

Micah 6 is an Austin-based nonprofit with two programs: A Food Pantry and a Street Youth Program. The Food Pantry operates Thursdays and Saturdays out of University Presbyterian Church, Austin. They utilize 60 volunteers per week and provide food for 1,613 people on average per month! Since COVID, the food assistance industry has changed significantly due to supply chain issues. Grocery stores now can't get as much food as they can sell which means that large grocery stores that used to donate food to Micah 6 now don't donate as frequently. Micah 6's budget for purchasing food has doubled since pre-COVID.

The Street Youth Program is a series of services provided for young adults age 30 and younger who are street dependent. The program provides computer labs, a weekly home-cooked meal, snacks, basic clothing, toiletries, and laundry services.

HPPC has a long history with Micah 6. Rev. Linda Bourianoff served on the board for many years and HPPC makes an annual donation to support their mission. For more info, visit www.micah6austin.org

Operation Restoration - Vacation Bible School

University Presbyterian Church is holding Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 3rd to Friday, June 6th. Information is as follows.

University Presbyterian Church
2203 San Antonio St, Austin, TX 78705
Phone: (512) 476-5321

Hours: 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

Ages: Pre-K – 5th Grade

Cost: \$25 per child - *Please email Pastor Carter (carter@upcaustin.org) about scholarships if needed.*

*Kids can bring a friend for FREE!

Aftercare is provided from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm for an additional \$20.



Link to Register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuDTea3BNq5oV6MGBNWN8i3nrqBuLYxgaNggZheNPw32rilg/viewform>

Link to Payment: <https://onrealm.org/UniversityPresb59545/Registrations/Registrants/df5f1319-215a-4b28-8f06-b14e01459e3e?congregantView=True>



Giving Back - Update



Following is an update 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.

Jeff and Christi Boyd came to visit Georgetown in April and I had the pleasure of spending time with them and learning more about the program. It has been a busy year in East Kasai, Congo. Their reunification and education efforts are going really well. They have been able to reunite even more children with family members this year. They are also expanding their mission to West Kasai, which is equally poor and has many children working in the mines. They are hoping to help these children and get them back in school. Although the program has many expenses including rental costs, transportation and training foster families, Christi let me know that the money our congregation sends will only go directly to the children and that we helped over 30 children this year! This money helped buy school supplies and uniforms, but it also gives these children so much more. It helped give them shelter, food, family, safety and hope.

Please note that it is common not to smile in the Congo, but instead "look dignified" for photos. These kids are so happy to be reunited with family and to be going to school

Thank you again for stepping up and helping these vulnerable children.



To think we have made an impact is such an honor and continued support is wanted and appreciated. We have helped more than 30 children and let's try to help so many more as the money goes directly to the children. Our children are the future whether locally or globally.