



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

After five weeks of classes and a weekend retreat at John Knox Ranch, we just confirmed three wonderful young people into full membership of our church. During confirmation, we covered early church history and the Bible. We talked about what it means to be reformed (and always reforming)! We looked at the structure of the Presbyterian Church and reviewed the essential tenants of our faith. We talked about the communion of Saints and the priesthood of all believers. Students shared about those people who were important in their own faith development and who have taught them what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus Christ. There were discussions about the sacraments and the trinity and what it means to be saved by grace. We looked at major events in the world and how the church has responded over the years. The students considered what is happening in our world now and how we might respond. They are intelligent, thoughtful and all-around wonderful humans. It was a joy to be with them, hear them laugh, share and ask questions.



On the Saturday of our John Knox Ranch retreat, I went back in my files and found my most recent statement of faith. I updated it when I was called to serve here at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church over six years ago! Even as I read it, I thought of things I wanted to change and tweak...so I did! It was so formal, so I made the language more warm and authentic. This got me thinking... I have only done this practice of writing a statement of faith when I was asked to do so. I wrote my first statement of faith for confirmation, then for ordination as a deacon, then for ordination as a teaching elder. So I thought.... I need to invite my church to do this. Take some time...it can be over days or weeks or even months and consider what it is you believe. You don't have to share this with anyone (though you can if you want).

Here are some guiding questions: Who is God? Who is Christ? Who is the Holy Spirit? What is my relationship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit? What does it mean for Jesus to be my Savior and Lord? What is the Church and what does it mean to me? What is the Scripture for me? How do I experience the call of God to serve the church? How does my relationship with the living God affect my relationship with the following: my family, my friends, my community, strangers, enemies, all of creation? How has God gifted me for ministry and mission? What is my hope and vision for the Church and the Kingdom in this time and place?

None of it is written in stone. It can and will change over time. It can be daunting because you feel like you won't capture it all...and you won't. However, the practice of considering and trying to capture a piece of what you believe will make your faith stronger...and your community, too!

May God's peace be with you!

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar May 2025

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
4	Ross	Kathryn	Tommy	Set Up: Elsa
11	Ross	Emily Owen	Jack	
18	Ross	Kandy	Alan	
25	Ross	Alan & Kathy	Silas	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

March 2025	
Plate Income:	\$6,624.00
Expenses:	\$7,217.28
Total:	-\$593.28



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. We will be providing an update on the Food Pantry on our website.

Between April 8th and April 29th, 45 people received groceries.

Summer Travels

As school is ending and many of you are preparing for vacations, first, we pray for your safety. As you go on new and exciting adventures, please take pictures if you are willing to share them with the congregation in upcoming Newsletters. We have enjoyed them in the past and hope to share in your latest adventures again.



MAY



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



Laughter leads to smiles, it reduces stress and increases happiness. Find something to giggle about and share it with someone on World Laughter Day on **MAY 4TH!**



Leave your car behind and ride your bike. It helps the environment, is great exercise, and you will feel rejuvenated on Bike to Work Day on **MAY 16TH!**



It is important to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. Pause to remember them on Memorial Day on **MAY 26TH!**



Mother's Day Around the World



One thing we all have in common is a mom. If we aren't one, we have one. We know the countless hats they wear and the selflessness required. It is the most difficult job on the planet. Below are some ways these miracle workers are celebrated throughout the world.

Peru: Although officially celebrated on the second Sunday of the month, the festivities begin seven days prior! During the week, there are concerts, shows, and performances to honor moms. There are gifts, surprise visits, and parties on the day itself. It is tradition to go to the cemetery to clean and decorate the graves of deceased mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters, and aunts with flowers and balloons, followed by food and drink in front of the graves, honoring those who have passed.



United Kingdom: Mother's Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent every year and is a couple of months ahead of Mother's Day in America. Named "Mothering Sunday," it started when Christians would visit their "Mother" church and had nothing to do with moms. Now, children give gifts, cards, flowers, and make breakfast in bed. Almost every family makes a Simnel cake, a light fruit cake layered with marzipan.



Mexico: La Dia de la Madre falls on May 10th each year, regardless of the day of the week. The tradition began in 1922 in support of the motherhood campaign. Children typically are at home on Mother's Day Eve, and in the morning, moms are serenaded by a mariachi band with the song "Las Mananitas." Near Mexico City, many families take a trajinera ride in the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco (a boat full of dancing, music, and food).



Thailand: August 12th, the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, is when Mother's Day is celebrated. It is a day to honor the symbolic mother and all moms. There are public fireworks displays and candlelighting ceremonies. Children traditionally give gifts of white jasmine flowers, symbolic of the purity of a mother's love. Many moms visit their kids' schools where their children kneel before their feet as a sign of respect.



Japan: This special day began to console mothers who had lost their children to war. Now, moms are given fresh red or pink carnations, which are signs of purity, love, and endurance in Japanese culture. Young kids draw portraits of their moms at school that are entered into an art contest to be showcased worldwide. Special food, particularly Tamagoyaki (a rectangular omelet) and Chawanmushi (a savory egg custard) are served.

