



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

As I write this letter, we have just started our last full day of summer camp here at John Knox Ranch. Our counselors are balancing the joy and happiness of a full summer with the sadness of leaving this beloved place and heading back into the world to school and jobs. The safety and bubble of this loving community doesn't always match the chaos and business of a bustling world and stressful school schedule. Camp is something special. I imagine you have read this in the news as people have reflected on the devastating floods near Kerrville affecting so many summer camps and taking the lives of many others. Camp is supposed to be a place that is safe and filled with love and joy. We continue to pray for those who faced such destruction and tragedy in early July.

We welcomed over 1,000 kids this summer and enjoyed the cooler temperatures. We find ourselves in August once again. Back to school, new fall opportunities starting up that took a break for the summer and fall sports will bloom into action. Even if you are past the days of school age children, I imagine you feel the buzz and change from summer to fall.

This year seems particularly heavy on the change for me because for the first time I will have a high schooler and middle schooler. Gone are the days of class parties and field days. No more room mom roles or special lunches at school with my kids. In a sense, they are on their own. I may get to meet their teachers once at back-to-school night, but for the most part starting in junior high, our kids are expected to navigate their own way and solve their own problems. My kids seem fine with this, but I'm not sure this is a change I have wrapped my mind around.

During my residency program in Clinical Pastoral Education, I read a book by William Bridges called *The Way of Transition: Embracing Life's Most Difficult Moments*. It is a sequel to his first book and was written after his wife died of breast cancer and he realized he had new insight into transition than ever before. Bridges writes, "In its most basic function, transition helps you come to terms with change. It reorients you so that you can mobilize your energy to deal successfully with your new situation – whether it is a "good" one or a "bad" one doesn't matter – instead of being hampered by attitudes and behaviors that were developed for and more appropriate to your old situation."

I wonder what this kind of understanding means for us as individual humans. I also wonder what it means for us as a community and as the Church. Are we in a time of transition? Are we grieving a change that we don't quite understand yet? How are we being mobilized to deal successfully with a changing world and changing Church? What might the teachings of Christ have to say about how we navigate such changes?

Whether you find yourself in the midst of a move or a new job or a new school year or new opportunity, my prayer is that you find yourself energized to deal with your new situation and remember that God is with you...especially when the changes we face make us feel like the carpet has been pulled out from under us. May your energy be mobilized to deal with whatever comes your way. May it be so.

Love, Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar August 2025

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
3	Ross	Emily Owen	Ross	Set Up: Emily Owen
10	Ross	Luncheon	Tommy	
17	Ross	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	
24	Ross	Gary & Ann	Gary	
31	Ross	Kandy	Silas	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

June 2025	
Plate Income:	\$8,514.00
Expenses:	\$9,932.42
Total:	-\$1,418.42



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 July 1st and July 29th, 47 people received groceries.

Back to School

As school starts again, this is a time filled with new adventures, life lessons to be learned, and friendships to be made and strengthened. May the children of our congregation have a wonderful year and be blessed with teachers who feed their thirst for knowledge and prepare them to become whatever their hearts lead them to become.



AUGUST



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Luke Tapsak's Birthday	2 Jane King's Birthday
3 HOB Friendship Day Nat'l. Sisters Day	4 Obama Day	5 Food Pantry	6	7 Purple Heart Day	8 Int'l. Cat Day	9 Book Lovers Day World Indigenous Peoples Day
10 Luncheon	11 Anna Tapsak's Birthday	12 Food Pantry Int'l. Youth Day	13 Jeff Cotham's Birthday	14	15 Nat'l. Relaxation Day	16 Nat'l. Relaxation Day
17 ASH Session Nat'l. Nonprofit Day	18	19 Food Pantry World Humanitarian Day	20 Sam Paisley's Birthday	21 Cecilia Berner's Birthday Senior Citizens Day	22	23 Thomas Terbay's Birthday
24 Women's Group	25	26 Food Pantry Nat'l. Dog Day Womens Equality Day World Photography Day	27	28	29	30 Nat'l. Beach Day
31						



Positive and impactful changes come from children. Encourage the potential of young people on International Youth Day on **AUGUST 12TH!**



Photos save memories forever. Take a few extra of the special times in life cherish for years to come on World Photography Day on **AUGUST 19TH!**



Our elders have loved us, guided us, and provided us with priceless wisdom. Show your gratitude on Senior Citizens Day on **AUGUST 21ST!**



It's the Little Things



Linda said at church she was grateful for the many little things in her life, as together and collectively, they meant so much.

Hearing that made me pause (something I very rarely do). As she listed what were “small” things to her, I saw in her smile they were actually much more meaningful than the word small would accurately define

I would be dishonest if I said things have been easy for me in the past few months and some days, difficult has felt like an understatement.

The pause from that one moment of Thanksgiving made me realize that I have overlooked little things that have, and do, mean so very much. It also gave me a different perspective on how I look at things.

I feared the worst when the movers haphazardly packed my precious possessions, most of which have special meaning and several of which are one of a kind. I cried when some of those very things arrived damaged, missing and in irreparable condition. I should have been grateful for everything that was unscathed and this new chapter in my life.

My sweet Eden has been facing a serious health issue for several months which has been getting worse. The time between appointments, the unknown and seeing the worrisome changes makes me feel helpless. Rather than focusing on what I don't know and can't control, I should have been grateful for the small things - every kiss, tail wag, greeting at the door and positive change with her new medications.

Being a paralegal is the perfect job for someone like me who never takes time to pause. Especially during the past few months, the deadlines, stress, things changing at the last moment and feeling like there's never enough hours in a day has felt overwhelming. I'm often called upon to do things that are the responsibility of others and found myself complaining. Instead, I should have been grateful that people rely upon me as it reflects my work ethic and their trust and faith in me.

For me, what are seemingly small things really do have a very big impact, and I am glad I took the time to give thanks for them. I will continue to do so as it has also given me a more positive outlook on the way I think about other things that come up in life.

I hope the small things in your life have as much meaning to you as I now see they do to me.

With love,

Lindsey



It's the Little Things Part II



With so much negativity and conflict in the world, it is important to be grateful for even the smallest things, as sometimes it is the little things in life that mean the most. Below are just some of the little things to be thankful for:

Waking up each morning
A comfortable bed and a good night's rest
Sunshine and the shade of a tree
A beautiful butterfly
The smile of someone you love or a stranger
Birds singing
The beauty of nature
Flowers
Fresh air
Rain
Watching a sunrise or sunset
Peaceful moments
Quiet mornings
Time to relax
Laughter
A memory that makes you smile
Ladybugs
Hugs
Hearing your favorite song
A kind word
Family
Pets
Our church family

I am grateful for the little
things in life that bring
me joy