



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## November 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

As we move into November, we move into stewardship season in the church. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. Another definition I found said, "A steward is someone who takes care of and manages someone else's property or belongings. The steward is not the owner but is responsible to the owner for all that the owner has entrusted to them." When we think about our time, talents and treasure, we can understand them as gifts from God that we have been entrusted to care for and responsibly manage.

We are stewards in many ways. We steward the natural resources of the Earth (although many would argue we have a lot of room for improvement in this area), we steward the next generation as we care for and nurture our children, grandchildren, neighbors and more. We are stewards of our time, carefully choosing how we spend our precious moments, and where we give our attention and energy. We are stewards of God's grace according to 1 Peter 4:10: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

Stewardship has always made me a bit squirmy, but it really shouldn't. I can clearly see the many gifts each of you has and it would be irresponsible to not encourage you to use these God-given gifts to share God's love and grace with the world.

I once attended a workshop at Montreat Conference Center and the leader of the workshop said, "If you can get your body involved, your mind and heart will follow." I know this to be true. So let's get going this November, HPPC family. Snap benefits are being cut, the government is still shut down, our country is divided...there is plenty of work to do. And you, my friends, have exactly what it takes to shine Christ's light and spread God's love in a weary world.

It is important to remember that we do not give out of requirement or guilt or obligation. We give generously because we love and believe in a God that has given generously to us. We trust and praise a God who has entrusted us with gifts, time and money and when we come to realize the depth of God's love and grace, we can't help but respond with generosity and joy!

There is work to be done, friends, and you all are exactly the ones equipped to do this sacred work.

May it be so.

Emily



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar November 2025

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
2	Ross	Gary/Ann	Gary	Set Up: Karen Serve: Gary/Henry
9	Ross	Holiday Market Leftovers	Alan	
16	Ross	Juan	Kathryn	
23	Ross	<b>Thanksgiving Luncheon</b>	Ann	
30	Ross	Karen	Karen	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

September 2025	
Plate Income:	<b>\$4,497.00</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$5,513.07</b>
Total:	<b>-\$1,016.07</b>



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 October 7th and October 28th, 29 people received groceries.

A portion of the proceeds from the Holiday Market will go to the Food Pantry, but with the holiday season quickly approaching, the number of those served and in need will increase significantly.



# NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 All Saints Day
2 HOB All Souls Day Daylight Savings Ends	3 Troy & April Kyle's Anniversary	4 Food Pantry Election Day	5	6	7 August Cardenas's Birthday	8 Holiday Market
9	10 David Gray & Doris Lowe's Anniversary	11 Food Pantry Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 Kandy Savitsky's Birthday	15
16 ASH Session Int'l. Day of Tolerance	17 Jerri Lyra's Birthday	18 Food Pantry	19	20 Elise Ramirez's Birthday Michael & Anna Tapsak's Anniversary	21 World Hello Day	22
23 Thanksgiving Luncheon	24	25 Food Pantry	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 Black Friday	29 Small Business Saturday
30 Beginning of Advent						



Set your clocks back, enjoy an extra hour of sleep in preparation for fall, and say goodbye to summer as Daylight Savings Time ends  
**NOVEMBER 2ND!**



Take a moment to give thanks to those who served with courage and dedication to keep us and those we love safe on Veterans Day  
**NOVEMBER 11TH!**



Greet 10 people to show your dedication to personal communication and peace on World Hello Day  
**NOVEMBER 21ST!**



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## September Session Highlights

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- The water bills have decreased and should continue to go down.
- The faucet on the back of Mavis's House has been tampered with. Henry installed a Garden Box on the faucet to prevent this from happening again.
- Alan will preach on November 23rd and December 28th.
- Emily and her family will be out from November 22nd through November 25th.
- Donations to the Congo Mission will be accepted through the remainder of the year.
- Selections of materials for the new ramps were chosen. It was decided to redeem one of the CDs to help pay the cost of the replacement, which will be approximately \$17,000, and to appeal to the congregation for donations as well.
- It was decided not to pursue a loan at this time because the roof will have to be replaced sometime in the near future.
- We are still looking into finding more help to build the ramps, which probably won't be done until after the first of the year.
- Henry mentioned using the church sign in some capacity other than for weddings.
- The Thanksgiving luncheon will be held on November 23rd. Karen will post a signup sheet in Wooten Hall.
- Thanks to Kathryn and Tommy for their work in the yard.
- There will be a wedding on October 26th after worship.
- Emily suggested an Advent Study by Amy Jill Levine. More information to come.
- It is Stewardship season again. Henry and Gary will have Minutes for Mission about Stewardship during worship in November.
- Pledge cards will be taken up on November 23rd. They will be available at church and on the website.
- The Cantata will be held on December 21st.
- The next session meeting will be on November 16th.



# What's Going on at HPPC



As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the church grounds, the ramps will be replaced. The composite material withstands weather well, enhances safety, and will last for years if cared for. We hope you enjoy it and treat it as if it were in your home.



Henry and Gary will remind us of the importance of Stewardship. Hopefully, you will think about ways to contribute a portion of your time, talent, and resources to HPPC. Pledge cards will be collected on Sunday, November 23rd, and include many suggestions on how you can serve.

Please join us for delicious food, wonderful company, and a time to share what we are grateful for at our annual Thanksgiving luncheon after worship on Sunday, November 23rd. A sign-up sheet will be in Wooten Hall. We also love dishes that are special to you. Invite friends, family, and anyone who may be spending Thanksgiving alone.



We will start the new year with All Church Service Day on January 11, 2026. After worship and the luncheon, we will spend the afternoon working together on projects at the church. Henry will provide updates as the day approaches. Be sure to mark your calendar.





## Interview with Emily Owen



The Pecan Press, a newspaper published by The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, interviewed Emily for the October edition. It is a wonderful article about Emily, the church, her hopes for our future, and connecting with the community.

### **Getting to Know Our Neighbors: A Conversation with Pastor Emily Owen, Hyde Park Presbyterian Church**

On Avenue B, across from the Baker School, sits a small church with beautiful grounds. At first glance, you might wonder if it's the oldest church in Hyde Park. While not the very first, the building does hold a special distinction: it was originally built in 1896 for Hyde Park Baptist Church. By 1910, the Baptists had outgrown the space and sold it to the Presbyterians, who in 1921 moved it to its current location at 3915 Avenue B. Today, this sanctuary is the oldest surviving church building in Hyde Park.

We met with Pastor Emily Owen inside the peaceful sanctuary. Emily grew up in Austin and proudly shared that she was once the Westlake High School mascot—an early sign of her enthusiasm for bringing joy to others, something she now channels into her ministry. Since January 2019, she has led Hyde Park Presbyterian Church. On the church's website, a simple invitation reads: *“Live in community with us.”* Emily embodies that message in her work and in her life. She and her husband are raising their two sons (ages 11 and 14) at John Knox Ranch, a 300-acre Presbyterian Summer Camp and Retreat Center on the Blanco River near Wimberley.

*Q: What do you love most about working in Hyde Park and its people?*

“I love it here because it's friendly, old, and historic,” Emily said right away. “You can see how people care for and give attention to their homes. It is a welcoming place.” She enjoys looking out the church windows to see neighbors walking their dogs—adding with a laugh that dogs are always welcome and seem to love our church lawn. She is grateful that everyone has been so gracious about doing the necessary cleanup.

Emily said the beautiful grounds are probably how many people recognize the church. “We take great pride in caring for our space and being sure it is a welcome addition to a beautiful neighborhood. Many of you probably saw Bennie Laffere out in our yard with his headphones and bucket hat working on our grounds. For many years, he poured himself into making this church beautiful, sometimes spending over 30 hours a week pulling weeds, watering grass and plants, touching up paint and more. Bennie died this year after a short, but aggressive illness. We miss him terribly.”

*Q: What originally drew you to Hyde Park Presbyterian, and what has been the most rewarding part of leading it?*



## Interview with Emily Owen II



Emily describes Hyde Park Presbyterian as a small but diverse congregation, made up of authentic, caring people. “It’s a privilege to walk alongside people at all stages of life,” she said. “After worship, folks stay to share fellowship and conversation. It’s a community that knows and supports each other.”

Though the church no longer has a regular Sunday School, education is woven into every part of church life, and people of all ages are welcome.

*Q: How would you describe the character of the neighborhood surrounding the church?*

With a smile, Emily replied, “Hyde Park has a vibrancy, but it is also quiet, and the many walkers are evidence of its serenity.” She noted how neighbors near the church look out for the property and for one another. “Hyde Park feels like a place where people often know their neighbors and treasure living here.”

*Q: From your perspective, how has the neighborhood changed over the years?*

Arriving in 2019, Emily watched the historic Baker School (built in 1911) undergo a major restoration. Now home to creative businesses and events, she has admired it from the outside—often while stopping by Terrible Love Coffee. She laughed when we told her she must go inside, and we reminded her that just a few years ago, Baker was featured on the Hyde Park Homes Tour.

*Q: Would you like to deepen your church’s connection with the broader community?*

“Community is what our church does,” Emily said firmly. She sees the church’s mission as closely aligned with HPNA’s: building relationships and connections. Many in Hyde Park know the church as the “little white church on the corner” with its well-tended yard and she hopes this interview helps give readers more insights into how it is deeply connected to this neighborhood, and that they always welcome new connections.

*Q: Are there upcoming church events neighbors should know about?*

“Absolutely!” Emily said. Every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the church operates a food pantry stocked with shelf-stable items. The pantry is open to anyone in need, with no requirements or paperwork. “If someone is on a fixed income, the pantry can help them redirect their budget to other needs,” she explained. Donations of shelf-stable items or financial contributions are always welcome; Tuesdays and Sundays are the best times to drop them off.

Each November, the church also hosts a Holiday Market to raise funds for its mission. This year’s market will be on Saturday, November 8, featuring handmade goods and crafts, with



## Interview with Emily Owen III



proceeds benefiting Casa Marianella (an Austin nonprofit supporting displaced immigrants ([casamarianella.org](http://casamarianella.org))), Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, Micah 6 Food Pantry, Hyde Park Presbyterian Food Pantry, and Mission Presbytery.

*Q: If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing about how the neighborhood and church interact, what would it be?*

“We would love to build more connections,” Emily said. Worship is every Sunday at 10:30 am, but even if you don’t attend worship, maybe we could partner in other ways to build relationships and support our community.

*Q: And just for fun—if you had to describe Hyde Park in three words?*

“Old—in the best sense—friendly, and vibrant.”

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### Presentation Photo Op

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Emily and Henry gave a presentation about the Small Church Retreat as part of the Connect Committee.

It was a wonderful time, but make sure you are always smiling because you never know when someone might be taking your picture! Emily says Henry was enjoying himself even though he looked angry.

