



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

My friend Renee Roederer who I went to seminary with shared this story this week and gave me permission to share it with all of you: “When the ball began to drop in New York City during the final seconds of December 31, 1986, crossing us over into a new year called 1987, I was too young to stay up and watch. But I do have a very vivid memory from the next morning. I was coloring, and since I had just learned to read, I was enjoying learning the names of my Crayola crayons. These included more than the classic rainbow shades. I also had peach, periwinkle, and not to be undone in creativity, orange-red and red-orange. While coloring, I asked my Mom a strange question: “Mom, when will it be 1987 again?” She looked confused, and I don’t blame her. “What do you mean?” “It’s 1987 this year. How many years will it take to be 1987 again?” We went round and round — perhaps ironically — before she understood what I was getting at. I had assumed that our keeping of time was somehow cyclical. It might take a very long while, but someday, I figured, it would be 1987 all over again. She finally said, “Oh, it’s only going to be 1987 once. Just one time. Next year it will be 1988, and the years will keep getting bigger. We’ll have 1987 all of this year, but then it will never be 1987 again.” This made me a little sad.”

As a church, we do celebrate a cyclical calendar. It is Advent now and in a year, it will be Advent again. Renee went on to reflect on the fact that while today – whatever day you find yourself reading this- may not be the most significant day of your life, it is the only one of that day that you will get. She writes, “Move over, YOLO (You Only Live Once). IOTO — It’s Only Today Once.”

This is a good reminder this advent season which is a time of preparation for Jesus coming and a time of reflection as we consider Jesus coming again. We are to slow down, pray, reflect, serve others and look for God incarnate...God Emmanuel...here and now even as we await his birth (again)!

IOTO – It’s Only Today Once. How will you make the most of this precious gift?

May God bless you and keep you this Advent Season and always.

With love,

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar December 2025

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
7	Karen	Karen	Set Up: Kandy Serve: Elsa/Emily E.
14	Luncheon	Linda	
21	Elsa	Elsa	
24		Henry	Set Up: Emily O. Serve: Henry/Gary/Kandy/Kathryn
28	Kandy	Kandy	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

October 2025	
Plate Income:	\$3,871.00
Other Income:	\$1,712.75
From Savings:	\$11,000.00
Expenses:	\$18,031.19
Total:	-\$1,447.44



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 November 4th and November 25th, 23 people received groceries.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, the number of those served and in need is growing significantly.



DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Cyber Monday	2 Giving Tuesday	3 Alma Requejo's Birthday	4	5 Int'l. Volunteer Day	6
7 HOB Second Sunday of Advent	8	9 Food Pantry Ross Owen's Birthday	10 Human Rights Day	11	12 Kathy Constant's Birthday	13
14 Luncheon Third Sunday of Advent	15 Page White's Birthday	16 Food Pantry	17 Esther Rosales's Birthday	18 Int'l. Migrants Day	19	20
21 Juan Zalles's Birthday Fourth Sunday of Advent Start of Winter Cantata	22	23 Food Pantry	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 Jack Owen's Birthday	29 Angela Tsai's Birthday	30 Food Pantry	31 Preston Ramirez's Birthday Gary & Ann Brizendine's Anniversary New Year's Eve			



Be generous and give back to the community by donating money or goods, volunteering, or performing random acts of kindness on Giving Tuesday **DECEMBER 2ND!**



Pile on the layers of clothes, gather the firewood, sip on warm beverages, and stay warm as the cold sets in on the first day of Winter **DECEMBER 21ST!**



Get ready for new adventures, great memories, and a new chapter in life as we prepare to spring into 2026 on New Year's Eve **DECEMBER 31ST!**



November Session Highlights

- Doris presented the October financial report, which shows a negative balance due to an insurance payment.
- Emily and her family will be out from November 22nd to November 25th. Alan will preach in her absence.
- The ramps and porches will be demolished and rebuilt in stages. The porch and steps to Wooten Hall will be removed on Monday, November 17th.
Emily will send out an email with the rebuilding schedule for those who wish to help.
- The Holiday Market brought in \$4,189.00 without the raffle. Thank you to Elsa and all who helped make it successful.
- Esther sent out 10 cards in October. Thank you as always, Esther.
- Gia Singavarapu will be baptized on January 11, 2026.
- It is time to select new Elders for 2026. Else and Emily Eyob will finish their terms. Kathryn and Emily Eyob will be in charge of the Elder Nominating Committee. They will ask two to three members of the congregation to serve on the committee with them.
- Emily is planning an Advent Study by Amy Jill Levine. It will be held on Zoom. More information will follow.
- Thank you to Henry and Gary who gave a Minute for Mission about Stewardship. Pledge cards will be taken up on November 23rd. They will be available at church and on the website.
- The heater in the sanctuary was repaired. Maintenance is scheduled to be done on the heaters in all buildings as well.
- The Cantata will be held on December 21st.
- There will not be a session meeting in December.



With Much Gratitude



As the year draws to a close and we prepare to write on new pages in the books of life, it is the perfect time to acknowledge some of the things we are thankful for. Among those are the contributions made by everyone at HPPC to keep it the warm, inviting, and welcoming place it always has been. Friendly hellos, open arms, thoughtful gestures, giving of time, and supporting one another in life and in faith are incredibly appreciated.

Things are getting even better because of you all and comments from neighbors, new faces at worship, and an increase in inquiries about building use show that people notice your efforts.

Emily: A perfect combination of creativity, joy, enthusiasm and insight, she has an infectious laugh to boot. Emily's sermons relate to everyday life, current events, and, without fail, inspire us to begin each week with reflection and purpose.

Esther: Consideration and kindness are akin to waking up in the morning for Esther, who likely has a greeting card shop hidden somewhere in her home. No matter what the occasion, or even just to say "Hi," both the thoughtful, personal, and kind greetings and sweet sentiments are cherished.

Gary: Always giving of his time and energy, it would be challenging to find an instance when he didn't volunteer to help with (or spearhead) a project. Most recently, Gary organized the replacement of our ramps and got samples of composite materials after creating a handmade sample from treated wood on his own. He also worked tirelessly every day for the first phase of the replacement.

Juan: Musically talented in so many ways, if something makes a noise, instrument or not, he most likely can make it sound as impressive and powerful as his voice and as beautiful as his fingers on the keys of a piano. Sunday after Sunday, feet tapping and hands clapping thanks to the vibrance Juan brings (amazing solos and fun birthday wishes not mentioned).

Kathryn and Tommy: With four green thumbs (between the two), vast knowledge of plants, and what some may call irrigation technicians for such dedication to watering the lawn, Kathryn and Tommy's diligence in keeping the grass green and flowers blooming is much appreciated as is their eagerness to always help out when others are unavailable.

There is not a single one of you that we would be the same without. The "little church that could" is growing and thriving in faith and in community through your time, efforts, talents, and gifts.

Thank you again and we look forward to what 2026 has to offer and All Church Service Day on January 11, 2026.