



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

It is always weird to write (or type) the new year for the first time! 2026!?!? I have already started joking with my kids when I am not up on the latest lingo or trends by saying, "Don't mind me...I was born in the 1900s." Time is so confusing for me as I look at pictures of my kids when they were babies which simultaneously seems like yesterday and eons ago! This month marks 7 years of me serving in this place. This month also marks 115 years of ministry for Hyde Park Presbyterian Church (our doors opened to 13 charter members in December of 1910!) What an incredible place this is, and it makes me smile to think of all the wonderful people who have called this church home. There are so many saints who have gone before us to show us the way and teach us what it looks like to be a loving and faithful community.

The New Year always brings an opportunity to reflect on the past year and set hopes and goals for the coming year. As I reflect, I am thankful for each one of you and for the ways you are building God's kingdom in the world. I wish I could name each of you individually, but alas...my letter is only one page. Just know that I am grateful to be in this church family and to have the privilege of serving as your pastor.

As we look forward to this New Year, I am excited to try some new things. We will begin with our workday on January 11th where we will all have a chance to pitch in as we care for our beloved church buildings and property. Wear your work clothes to church, bring something to share for our monthly 2nd Sunday luncheon and be ready to have fun as we work together to keep this place beautiful. We will continue to have opportunities to serve our neighbors through the food pantry and outreach programs. Prayerfully consider how you might get involved!

I leave you with this poem...which is also a blessing. May ordinary grace and light be yours.

Love, Emily

THE YEAR AS A HOUSE

A Blessing — *Jan Richardson*

Think of the year as a house:
door flung wide in welcome,
threshold swept and waiting,
a graced spaciousness
opening and offering itself to you.
Let it be blessed in every room.
Let it be hallowed in every corner.
Let every nook be a refuge
and every object set to holy use.
Let it be here that safety will rest.
Let it be here that health will make its home.
Let it be here that peace will show its face.
Let it be here that love will find its way.
Here let the weary come,

let the aching come,
let the lost come,
let the sorrowing come.
Here let them find their rest
and let them find their soothing
and let them find their place
and let them find their delight.
And may it be in this house of a year
that the seasons will spin in beauty,
and may it be in these turning days
that time will spiral with joy.
And may it be that its rooms will fill
with ordinary grace and
light spill from every window



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar January 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
4	Alan/Kathy	Alan	Set Up: Kathryn Serve: Kandy/Kathryn
11	Luncheon	Henry	
18	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	
25	Anna	Anna	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

November 2025	
Plate Income:	\$4,713.00
Other Income:	\$1,328.90
Holiday Market:	\$4,323.00
Expenses:	\$8,239.72
Total:	\$2,521.18



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 December 2nd and December 30th, 18 people received groceries.

In 2025, we were able to provide 417 portions of food, totaling \$8,852.00, thanks to your donations. Please keep the Food Pantry in mind in 2026 so we can continue to serve our neighbors in need. Thank you, Gary for giving of your time each Tuesday to help make this possible.



JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 HOB Nat'l. Trivia Day Hank Ramirez's Birthday	5	6 Food Pantry Epiphany	7 Human Rights Day	8	9	10
11 Luncheon Deb Miller's Birthday	12	13 Food Pantry	14	15	16 Religious Freedom Day	17
18 Molly Gray's Birthday Session ASH	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Food Pantry Laura McAfee's & Juan Zalles's Birthdays	21 Nat'l. Hug Day Brandon Salinas's Birthday	22	23 Katherine Martin's Birthday	24 Int'l. Day of Education Nat'l. Compliment Day
25	26 Nat'l. Spouses Day	27 Food Pantry	28	29	30	31



Share some little-known facts only you know, enjoy a mental workout and social interaction, good laughs, and friendly competition about random things on National Trivia Day **JANUARY 4TH!**



Kind words have lasting meaning and value. Let someone you know (or a stranger) how special, unique, and wonderful you think they are on National Compliment Day **JANUARY 24TH!**



Learning is key to development and is a right everyone deserves. Celebrate the global movement to promote our future on International Day of Education **JANUARY 24TH!**



Feeling Superstitious?



Every year begins with renewed hopes for health, happiness, prosperity, and positivity. We make resolutions to improve ourselves. We take inventory of what we are missing in life, what we want, and design ways to obtain them. New Year's Eve is full of celebrating the year that was while looking forward to all the new, shiny things to come. We go so far as to partake in traditions to ensure we have everything we hope will come our way.

Many things are said to bring good luck, fortune, brightness, and blessings. Others supposedly curse this new chapter in life. Of course, nothing is proven. Do those who eat black-eyed peas really have better luck than those who don't? Regardless, below are a few fun things folklore says will lead to a cursed new year.

Keep Things Dirty: According to a Chinese ritual, you shouldn't clean your house, do laundry, or even shower on New Year's Day. Doing so sweeps and washes away all the good luck that has been amassing for the coming year. It wipes away good fortune and, if you wait until January 2nd, wonderful blessings and prosperity will be yours for the next 365 days.



Don't Open Your Wallet: The superstition is that emptying your wallet on the first day of the year leads to difficulty saving and managing money for the remainder of the year. You will be vulnerable to debt and unforeseen financial obligations. Instead, find and carry a lucky coin to attract wealth and prosperity.



No Feathers or Claws: If animals move backwards, eat backwards, or scratch backwards, consuming them on January 1st will cause stagnation and regression. Chicken and turkey are known for scratching backward when looking for food. Crab and lobster move sideways and in reverse. Eating anything that doesn't move forward will lead to a year marked by setbacks, stagnation, and retreating from your goals.



Mood Matters: Many cultures believe your emotional state when the new year dawns is another indication of what lies ahead. Tears will bring 365 days of sorrow and unhappiness, conflict leads to a year of perpetual disagreements and friction, and if you are angry, expect countless heated moments and frustration to come.



Whether true or not, take these supposed curses with a grain of salt (or maybe throw some over your shoulder should you spill any). Superstitions are based on luck, not reason or science, but are fun to learn about. If you already do things to bring good luck to your new year, why not try something to ward off bad luck instead?