



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## February 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

One of my good friends and colleagues in ministry from our time in Charlotte, NC is now the senior pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, MN. She is currently on parental leave, and I imagine being away from her church during this tumultuous time in their city has been difficult for so many reasons. The session of that church (which includes 29 members and their 6 pastors) wrote a statement proclaiming what they believe and what they commit to in light of what is happening to their neighbors and their community. I want to share parts of that statement with you (you can find the full text on their church website):

As a faith community, we stand against the threat of white Christian nationalism, and we cannot remain silent in response to our federal government's current ICE enforcement tactics in Minnesota and elsewhere.

Jesus teaches us through Scripture to love our neighbors as ourselves, with no exceptions. We commit ourselves to the way of Christ—nonviolent and courageous love, especially toward those most at risk. We proclaim a God who values the full humanity and inherent dignity of all people.

Rather than turn against one another, we turn toward community and proclaim God's love for all. We refuse to submit to the false power of chaos and terror. We refuse to hate, retreat, or to be divided. Rather than giving in to the forces seeking to undermine our sacred connections, we believe Jesus' example of loving all people must guide our journey together.

We commit to

- Listen to the stories of those most vulnerable;
- Use our energy, intelligence, imagination, love, and resources to enact change born of partnership and accompaniment;
- Counter the rhetoric of hatred and fear;
- Engage honestly with those who hold different points of view by working to seek common ground; and
- Do all the above with mercy, kindness, and humility.

As expressed by the Office of Public Witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), "we choose welcome over suspicion, truth over secrecy, and hope over fear."

I felt like a great deal of thought, prayer and care went into the formation of this statement. What can we commit to do in these days? What can we commit to do as a church family?

May we commit to joining with Christ and doing this work with mercy, kindness and humility.

Love, Emily



# Monthly Giving Report

## Volunteer Calendar February 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
1	Anna	Jack	Set Up: Karen Serve: Henry & Gary
8	<b>Luncheon</b>	Cara	
15	Ann & Gary	Gary	
22	Kathryn	Tommy	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

December 2025	
Plate Income:	<b>\$5,261.00</b>
Other Income:	<b>\$292.04</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$8,894.65</b>
Total:	<b>-\$3,341.61</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 January 6th and January 27th, 22 people received groceries.

## Church Workday

Many thanks to everyone who helped inside and outside on January 11th. The church looks amazing, and keeping it up is a wonderful gift of your time. It honors our history, helps ensure a long and prosperous future, and enhances our presence in the neighborhood. Thank you again.



# FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Angela Singavarapu's Birthday HOB	2 Groundhog Day	3 Food Pantry	4 World Cancer Day	5 Molly Dudley's Birthday	6	7 Nat'l. Send a Card to a Friend Day
8 Sara Tapsak's Birthday Luncheon Super Bowl	9	10 Food Pantry Karen Laffere's & Martha Richardson's Birthdays	11 Beth Gray's Birthday	12	13 Tucker Balas's Birthday	14 Valentine's Day
15 Session ASH	16 Presidents Day Ignite Women's Group	17 Keith Alan Geer's Birthday Food Pantry Random Acts of Kindness Day Mardi Gras	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20 Nat'l. Love Your Pet Day World Day of Social Justice	21 Nicholas Zalles's Birthday Women Voters
22 Alan Constant's Birthday	23 Ian Hutcheson's Birthday	24 Food Pantry	25	26	27	28 Violin Recital



Share sweet sentiments and words of gratitude and let those who are special to you know how much you love them on Valentine's Day  
**FEBRUARY 14TH!**

Remember, we are all responsible for creating a society free from injustice and discrimination and filled with equality and respect on World Day of Social Justice **FEBRUARY 20TH!**

The love we get from our pets is like no other. Show your fur babies how much they mean to you on National Love Your Pet Day **FEBRUARY 20TH!**



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## January Session Highlights

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- Doris sent the financial reports for November, December, and the entire year. There were additional expenses due to costs for materials to build the ramps, the removal of a tree, and heater repair.
- The donations for the Congo Mission totaled \$3500.00, and there were several generous donations to the Food Pantry as well.
- The cost for the insurance was \$14,000.00 for the year. Emily has investigated finding a lower rate but she was told that we are lucky to have insurance at all.
- It was decided to split the proceeds from the Holiday Market (\$4125.00)
- evenly between Micah 6, Casa Marianella, Presbyterian Children's Home, and our food pantry.
- Mission Presbytery will be paid from our per capita which is the amount per person that we pay annually for each member. This will come from the general budget.
- Alan will preach February 8th, March 15th, April 26th, May 31st, July 19th, July 26th and September 6th.
- Henry has been given a three-month paid sabbatical in the summer, and the Owen family plans to take a big family road trip during that time. They will be traveling to North Carolina with several stops along the way to learn more about the civil rights movement.
- Karen and Juan have graciously agreed to serve on the session. Thank you to Emily Eyob and Kathryn Roberts for serving on the Elder Nominating Committee.
- Karen was re-elected as Clerk and Doris as Treasurer.
- The Presbytery will be having a book read from the book Theo of Gold. More information to come.
- Esther sent out 9 cards in November and 13 in December. Thank you, Esther.
- Thank you to those on the financial committee for their work on the budget for 2026. They include Henry, Doris, Karen, and Gary.
- Henry presented the proposed budget for 2026. The session approved it, and it will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 25th.
- Annual reports from each Elder will also be presented at the annual meeting.



# Kindness and Love



I was going to spend this page telling you everything, and certainly you never wanted to know about Groundhog Day. Sadly, we can't escape what is going on in our nation and across the world.

Our faith teaches us to rely on and to spread love and kindness always, but especially during these dark times. We can all relate to one another in some way, as we are all connected. Please take time to let a stranger know you care. Most likely, you will have something in common. Say an extra prayer.



'No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.'

— Nelson Mandela



If we could spread love as quickly as we spread hate and negativity, what an amazing world we would live in.



"KINDNESS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL TO SPREAD LOVE AMONG HUMANITY."

- RAKTIVIST



Be kind whenever possible.

It is always possible.

-Dalai Lama

