



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2026 Church Mouse



Dear Hyde Park Presbyterian Church Family,

Today is March 1st and it is the 2nd Sunday of Lent. We awoke to news of war in Iran, a bombing that killed dozens of young girls when their school was hit in Southern Iran, and three dead and fourteen hospitalized after a mass shooting on 6th street, just over 3.5 miles from our church. It felt bleak to read the news this morning.

We are on a 40-day journey through the wilderness with Christ. From our denomination's website: "The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)"

I read an article last year in the Presbyterian Outlook about our calling to delight, even on the days that feel bleak. Jess Rigel writes, "Lent might seem an odd season to focus on joy, but delight is our Christian vocation. When believers repent of those things that undermine delight, we work towards the building of God's kingdom of justice on earth. Such justice empowers *all* creation to experience delight, making it both a mind-bogglingly simple and a mind-bogglingly difficult practice that can have mind-bogglingly world-changing results."

But how can we delight when the world feels like a dumpster fire? Perhaps, if we consider Isaiah 55, we might remember that it is believed to have been written in Babylon for people who were in exile. It was written for Israelites who found themselves in a foreign land with foreign gods. The temple had been destroyed, and they had no idea when they might be able to return home. Things were very, very bleak and I imagine they felt quite separated from delight and fulfillment and wholeness. Rigel writes, "Yet Isaiah is audacious enough to proclaim that delight and fulfillment and wholeness are not only God's desire, they are God's *promise*."

Poet and essayist Ross Gay writes with gusto about delight and the incitement of joy despite the bleakness he faces with the rest of us. He writes, "This brings us to the relationship between joy and Lent. Lent is not only about focusing on what breaks God's heart and abstaining from it; it's about reflecting on the question: How are we carrying each other's heartbreaks? How are we helping each other?"

Lent is a season in which God invites each of us to pause and explore the depths of God's love so that we might be humble enough to rediscover the joy of our relationship with God. Because everything God does and will do and has already done for God's people is motivated by relationship, by love. And Lent, when practiced wisely and well, invites us to experiment with using love as our motivation for our behavior."

May this Lent be blessed by glimpses of joy and delight, even when things feel bleak. May love remain our motivation for all we say and do. May it be so.

Emily



Monthly Giving Report

Volunteer Calendar March 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
1	Emily Owen	Jack	Set Up: Emily Owen Serve: Kathryn & Kandy
8	Luncheon	Kathryn	
15	Kandy	Linda	
22	Alan & Kathy	Alan	
29	Karen	Karen	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

January 2026	
Plate Income:	\$6,497.00
Other Income:	\$1,450.00
Memorial:	\$100.00
Expenses:	\$13,778.87
Total:	-\$5,831.87



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 February 3rd and February 24th, 33 people received groceries.

Church Workday

Many thanks to everyone who helped inside and outside on January 11th. The church looks beautiful, and your time and effort are incredibly appreciated.



MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HOB	2 Read Across America Day	3 Food Pantry World Wildlife Day	4	5	6 David Gray Jr.'s Birthday Employee Appreciation Day	7
8 Luncheon Daylight Saving Time Begins	9 Nat'l Napping Day	10 Food Pantry Ben Kercheval's & John King's Birthdays	11 Cara Cotham's Birthday	12 Starr Long's Birthday	13 World Sleep Day	14
15 Session ASH Consumer Rights Day	16	17 TJ Balas's & Gia Singavarapu's Birthdays Food Pantry St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Sebastian Kyle's Birthday Lee & Shannon Spilman's Anniversary First Day of Spring	21
22	23 Jesse Tapsak's Birthday	24 Food Pantry	25	26 Lindsey Laffere's Birthday	27 Rehearsal	28 Wedding
28 Palm Sunday						



We may lose sleep but gain time to spend basking in the sun. Don't forget to set your clocks forward as Daylight Savings Time begins **MARCH 12TH!**



Naps relax your blood vessels, lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of heart disease, and boost mental alertness, so nap away on National Napping Day **MARCH 9TH!**



Get ready for nice weather, blooming flowers, chirping birds, and the sense of newness that comes with the start of Spring on **MARCH 20TH!**



February Session Highlights

- Doris presented the January financial report. The church received a large anonymous gift for the Food Pantry. It was decided not to cash the CD at this time.
- Worship numbers for January are as follows:
 - January 4: 27
 - January 11: 27
 - January 18: 24
 - January 24: 23 (Zoom only)
- New elders Juan and Karen will be installed on February 22nd.
- Esther sent out 16 cards in January. Thank you for your faithfulness and thoughtfulness, Esther.
- The ramp looks amazing. Thank you tremendously to Gary, who has put in so many hours working on it.
- Karen signed up a couple for a wedding in August and two group meetings for this month.
- Bluebonnet Suzuki, a violin group, will have their recital on February 28th.
- Karen will contact Joe to have the dead tree near Wooten Hall removed.
- Kathryn will be in charge of the Mission Committee, and Gary will lead the Fellowship Committee. Juan and Kandy will jointly chair the Worship Committee.
- Easter is on April 5th this year. Plans for decorating the cross and Easter activities will be announced.
- Emily will be out of town on March 15th.
- The next session meeting will be on March 22nd.



Put Some Spring in Your Step



It's no wonder people look forward to Spring. Even if you aren't an early riser, extra light in the morning is shown to boost one's mood. The weather is linked to increased creativity and improved health.

Animals are waking up from their long winter naps, and it is the peak time for reproduction due to plentiful food.

Plants and flowers bloom in every color imaginable, and because of the fresh, crisp air, our sense of smell is heightened, allowing us to enjoy their scents.

All things are new and renewed. Spring is a season of hope, happiness, and visible reminders of the magic and beauty of everything around us.

