



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

My dad sent our family group text a photo this week of the place where my grandmother's house once stood. Large bulldozers had taken it down and it is hard to imagine driving down Rocksprings Road in Uvalde and not seeing Grandma Junie's cozy white house, shaded by the great climbing tree out front. She hasn't lived there for years now, and she is no longer with us in the earthly sense, but the destruction of her home had all of us remembering and reminiscing. I particularly loved her mashed potatoes, her boiled custard, her big soft bed and her bathroom that always seemed to have



exciting makeup and perfume to peruse. I remember her being a strong woman, with a big smile and a deep and wonderful laugh. There was a big pasture behind her house, and my dad tells wonderful stories of shenanigans with some of his first cousins. Now the shade tree shades a small patch of what is now a big empty field. What will it become? Will something else be built in its place?

Grief and resurrection are connected in powerful ways. I know Easter is a day, but also maybe a whole season and way of life. Resurrection is about new life. It is the proclamation that death does not, can not and will not have the final word. After the photo, my dad sent these words: "There's no place like home, even when home is no longer there. The bulldozers didn't destroy the good times and great memories. Grateful for what was." This is a message of resurrection. What we knew and loved died, but also it is still very much alive. This love lives on in my aunt's deep and wonderful laugh, in my Dad's love of cooking and value of family, in my cousins' strength (there are 7 cousins...all girls!) and in my sisters' love of collecting and remembering.

When you are faced with death, look for signs of new life. When you are met with despair, seek out hope. When darkness is closing in, find the light that is still shining. It is there.

We are an Easter people. We are home, even when home is no longer there. We lean into the resurrection and hold fast to the love, to the good times and great memories. We hold fast to the intangible, yet very real grace of God. And we pause to give thanks.

May it be so.

With love and peace,

Emily



# Monthly Giving Report

## Volunteer Calendar April 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
5	Ann & Gary	Ann	Set Up: Kandy Serve: Kathryn, Kandy, Henry, & Gary
12	<b>Luncheon</b>	Ross	
19	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	
26	Anna	Anna	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

February 2026	
Plate Income:	<b>\$6,373.79</b>
Other Income:	<b>\$15,778.90</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$5,602.41</b>
Total:	<b>\$16,550.28</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 March 10th and March 31st, 46 people received groceries.

## Easter Sunday Happenings

Join us in decorating the floral cross outside of the sanctuary, whether you bring your own or use some shared by others. Aside from the meaning, the vibrant cross is a beautiful background for Easter photos. We will also have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages, and contributions of Easter lilies are welcome and appreciated.



# APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Eugenie Long's Birthday April Fool's Day Nat'l. Walking Day	2 Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter HOB	6	7 Food Pantry World Health Day ASH	8 Hank & Elise Ramirez's Anniversary	9	10 Ben & Sarah Kercheval's Anniversary Nat'l. Siblings Day	11 April Troy's Birthday Nat'l. Pet Day
12 Luncheon	13	14 Michelle Bourianoff's Birthday Food Pantry ASH	15 Tax Day World Art Day	16 Walt Richardson's Birthday	17	18 David Gray III's Birthday Violin Recital
19 ASH Session	20	21 Food Pantry World Creativity and Innovation Day ASH	22 Ann Brizendine's Birthday Earth Day	23 Take Your Child to Work Day	24 Arbor Day	25 Veterinary Day
26	27 Int'l. Dance Day	28 Food Pantry ASH	29	30		



Let your silly side come out, find creative ways to play light-hearted jokes and pranks on your friends and family that will make you all laugh on April Fool's Day **APRIL 1ST!**



A wonderful way for children to connect education with their future is exposure to what their parents do for a living, so let them see on Take Your Child to Work Day **APRIL 23RD!**



Dancing is an artistic expression, promotes health, and unites people of all cultures and ages, so dance away on International Dance Day **APRIL 27TH!**



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## March Session Highlights

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- Doris presented the January financial report. The gas bill was high in February. The bank balance is okay.
- Worship numbers for February are as follows:
  - February 1: 37
  - February 8: 20
  - February 15: 24
  - February 22: 22
- New elders Juan and Karen will be installed on April 12th.
- Dates that Alan will be preaching were updated.
- Emily will be leading vespers at Westminster on April 19th.
- Emily will help run Camp Braveheart, a bereavement camp held at John Knox Ranch in June.
- Esther sent out nine cards in February. 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.
- The tree outside of Wooten Hall was removed, and other trees were trimmed.
- Austin Sacred Harp, the acapella group that has used Wooten Hall for years, has added a second meeting time. It will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30.
- Bluebonnet Suzuki, a violin group, will have their recital on April 19th.
- Kathryn is planting plants in the yard but needs help to dig holes for the rose bushes. Thank you, Kathryn, for your hard work.
- Palm Sunday is March 29th. Gary will put the cross in the front yard that afternoon.
- There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2nd.
- On Easter Sunday, we will have the flowering of the cross before worship and an easter egg hunt after worship.
- A time capsule will be placed under the front steps with a ceremony on June 7th. Emily will pass out memory cards to be filled out and placed in it.



# What's Going on at HPPC



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## Put Your Thinking Caps On

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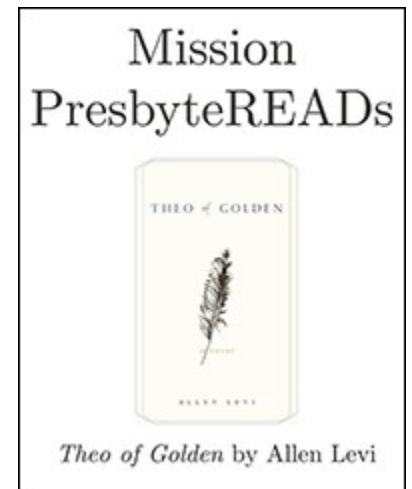
Read a good book lately?

We have, and we're inviting everyone in Mission Presbytery to join the conversation this spring for our very first PresbyteREADS!

The book we're inviting you to read is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, where stories are told, friendships are born, and lives are changed.

How will PresbyteREADS work?

Purchase or check out a copy of the book from your library. Read the book on your own, savoring the beautifully written words, getting to know each character better and better as the powerful story unfolds. Then sometime after Easter, connect with others via Zoom, in-person regional gatherings, and MORE, to share your experience, insights, and inspiration!

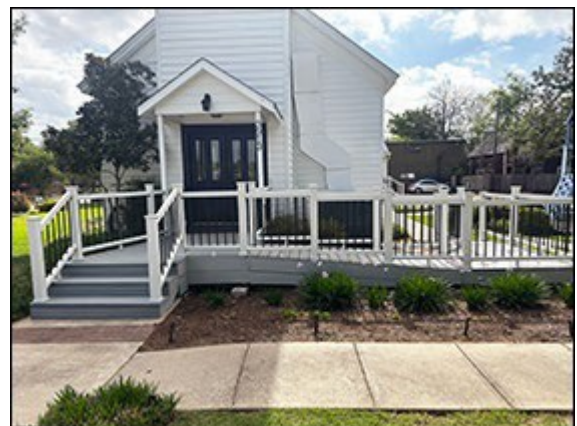


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## Ramping It Up

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We are infinitely grateful for the dedication and hard work on the new ramp. Many thanks to Gary, Walt, Emily Owen and everyone who has given time and energy to improve the safety and beautification of the church.





# Easter Inspiration



Easter is a season of gratitude, reflection, and giving thanks. While an occasion of rejuvenation of our faith, Easter is also a day to celebrate being forgiven and a reminder of the importance of forgiving others.

On an aside, historically, sealed eggs represented Jesus's tomb. When they are cracked open, they are a sign of his resurrection.

