



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

As many of you know, my family just returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Hawaii. Some friends of my sister let us stay in their home for the week while they were out of town on their own vacation. We used airline points to get there and ate out only once a day to make the trip more affordable. We had the best time and we are grateful for the time away and the chance to see such a beautiful place!

I had several takeaways from the Hawaiian people and their culture. Ross happened to get sick on the first full day of the trip, so we had to take him to urgent care. From the moment we walked in, we were greeted with, "Aloha!" This is more than just a hello. The Aloha Spirit of Hawaii embodies love, compassion and mutual respect.

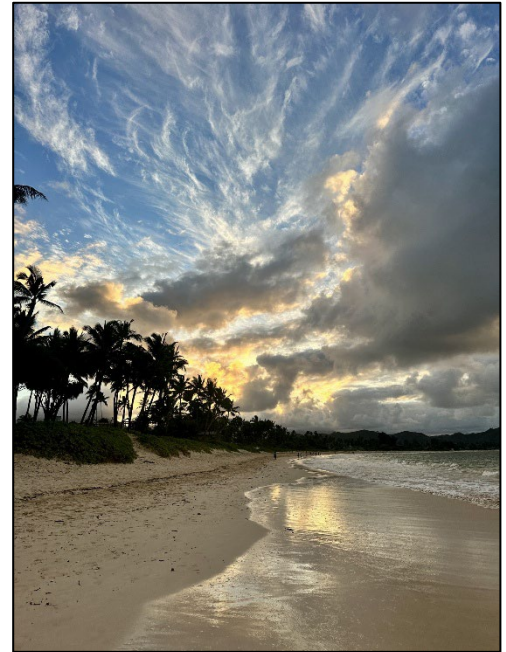
Wherever we went, locals would ask us where we were from and give us some great tips and suggestions. This connects to Ohana – the concept of family that extends beyond blood relations to include friends and emphasizing community and mutual support. Wherever you went, you saw lei stands and fresh fruit stands. The people loved to tell you about the rich resources and traditions of their beautiful island. There is hula dancing – a community-focused practice tied to cultural expression and celebration. There is also a connection to the land with festivals and ceremonies. The beach is part of life in Hawaii – a place where locals go daily to connect to the earth and get some exercise...a sort of prayer and meditation in itself!

There are also cultural values that you can see and feel, but I had to look up the Hawaiian names for these values. Mālama: This value emphasizes stewardship of the land and ocean, reflecting a deep connection to nature. They are very protective of their animals and beaches. They recycle and have rules banning disposable plastic bags and single use plastics. I even noticed all the to-go containers we got were compostable – nothing was Styrofoam!

They have a deep and abiding respect for their ancestors honoring the people of their past through storytelling, rituals, and the preservation of cultural practices. Though not specifically Hawaiian, this respect for ancestors shone through in the memorial at Pearl Harbor where they told the history of the day of the Japanese attack (December 7, 1941) and remembered the lives lost in a powerful and beautiful way.

Sometimes it feels like there is a push to be more like one another. I also think there is value in noticing the rich culture and traditions of other people so we can fine-tune our own. May you experience the aloha spirit, understand the community of ohana, maintain stewardship of this beautiful earth entrusted to us and continue to tell stories and honor your ancestors. May it be so.

Love,
Emily





Monthly Giving Report

Volunteer Calendar September 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
6	Kathryn	Gary	Set Up: Kathryn Serve: Kathryn and Gary
13	Emily Owen	Jack	
20	Kandy	Alan	
27	Lindsey	Daniel	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

July 2026	
Plate Income:	\$ 6,277.00
Other Income:	\$ 1,210.00
Total Income:	\$ 7,487.00
Expenses:	\$ 10,304.20
Total:	-\$ 2,817.20



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 August 4th and August 25th, 29 people received groceries.

Holiday Market

For many years, we have held our Holiday Market on the second Saturday of November. This is our sole fundraiser and the proceeds directly support our local outreach programs. Elsa and Karen have chaired this event wonderfully for years, but due to circumstances beyond their control, are unable to do so this year. If we want to continue, we need volunteers to help make this happen. Contact Emily if you are willing to help.



SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Food Pantry ASH	2 Boram Choi's Birthday	3	4 Daniel Berner's Birthday	5 Int'l. Day of Charity
6 Hosea Eyob's Birthday Read a Book Day HOB	7 Gus & Alyssa Laurel's Anniversary Labor Day Nat'l. Best Friends Day	8 Food Pantry ASH	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12 Holly Balas's Birthday Violin Recital
13 Joe Aleman's Service 2 PM Nat'l. Grandparent's Day	14 Gary Brizendine's Birthday	15 Food Pantry ASH	16 Steven Navarro's Birthday	17	18	19
20 Charlie Eyob's & Alyssa Laurel's Birthdays Session ASH	21 Int'l. Day Of Peace	22 Food Pantry ASH Start of Fall	23	24	25 Nat'l. Daughter's Day	26
28 Nat'l. Son's Day	29	30 T.K. Paisley's Birthday Food Pantry ASH				



Relax, stay home, have a picnic or spend time with friends and family as you enjoy a long weekend in celebration of Labor Day
SEPTEMBER 7TH!



Our world needs peace now more than ever. Think of ways you can contribute to unity and acceptance of all on International Day of Peace
SEPTEMBER 21ST!



As we transition from summer into fall, appreciate the newness of the colors, cool air and crisp leaves when Fall begins
SEPTEMBER 22ND!



Church Happenings



August Session Highlights

- Doris was not available to present the financial report for July.
- Minutes from the May meeting were not available for review.
- Attendance numbers for June and July are as follows:
June 7th – 18, June 14th –, June 21st – 22, June 28th – 18th
July 5th – 15, July 12th – 24, July 19th – 20, July 26th – 19th
- Alan will preach September 6th, October 11th, November 22nd and December 27th.
- The sanctuary roof needs to be replaced. Emily is waiting on a quote from the roofer who did the neighbor's house. She will follow up with them soon.
- Internet – Gary checked into some internet possibilities. Emily would like to bring this cost down since we only use the internet twice a week and are paying \$200 for it and for one phone line. She will check into options.
- It is time to start thinking about our Thanksgiving luncheon.
- Karen had a small dead Crepe Myrtle removed in a flower bed on 40th St.
- Karen also had the Liriope (monkey grass) trimmed throughout the property.
- There were three weddings in late July and early August. Emily married Helena Spease and Frank Broussard on August 8th.
- There are rats in the attic of Mavis's House. Henry will research options.
- The skirting on Mavis's House needs to be fixed. Greg (next door) has a person who can do this work. Kathryn will ask him for the name and contact information.
- The doorknob on Wooten Hall needed to be replaced. Henry has taken care of it, and it has been replaced.
- We need to schedule and do an internal finance review. Henry will follow up soon.
- Juan will choose a Christmas Cantata and will have a date ready at the September Meeting.



Quotes about Fall



Fall invites us to appreciate the life we have built and to share our accumulated wisdom. Like trees shedding leaves, it is a time to release the habits, negative relationships and burdens that no longer serve us. The cooler, shorter days encourage a quieter, more reflective pace of life, moving our focus from outward achievement to inner peace.

