

HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,



Have you ever endeavored to sit down and write a list of what you are grateful for? I encourage you to start and can assure you it cannot be done in one sitting. I imagine you couldn't even finish if you did this every day in the month of November. Once you start down the path of gratitude, it expands before you. Your gratitude for a cardinal sighting becomes gratitude for so many species of birds and the nest they built in your front porch wreath. It reminds you of the ones who came before you and the ones who are greeting you from the other side. Your gratitude for a delicious piece of apple cake becomes gratitude for the simple meal shared with a new friend and the traditions of old family recipes. It makes you stop and relish in the sweetness of the apples and in the way your mouth waters as you enjoy every bite. Your gratitude for a fantastic book that you couldn't put down becomes gratitude for poetry, a handwritten note and words that fit together just right. Gratitude is expansive. It grows bigger as you dig deeper. You soon find it is infinite and what a joy it is to know that and live in that space!

After months of intolerable political ads, I wonder if the opposite is true of criticism. When you head down a path of judgment and criticism, one dislike or feeling of distaste leads to another. It closes doors, makes your lungs feel tight and your anxiety rise. You can work your way through feelings of ick and hopelessness, but it almost always ends with a dead end: more negative feelings and a lack of joy. I, for one, will be glad when these political ads are over and we can work on building and creating instead of tearing one another down.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is also the month of our commitment Sunday when we decide what we will give to this church that we love. How will we join together to be the church in this place and beyond? November is the month of All Saints when we remember those who have gone before us who have taught us valuable lessons about life and love. November will see the start of Advent as we head toward the manger and toward Christ's birth into the world.

My prayer for us is that our days are filled with gratitude and that by making time to see this gratitude, it expands and grows right before our eyes.

I am grateful for each and every one of you and pray God's blessing upon you all.

Peace,

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar October 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
1	Alan/Kathy	Kathryn	Set Up: Alan Serve: Henry & Kathryn
8	Emily Owen	Henry	
15	HM Leftovers	Gary	
22	Thanksgiving Luncheon	Lindsey	
29	Kathryn	Alex	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

September 2026	
Plate Income:	$**4,963.00**
Other Income:	$**147.32**
Total Income:	$**5,110.32**
Expenses:	$**6,360.68**
Total:	-$**1,250.36**



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 October 6th and October 27th, 48 people received groceries.

Giving

Our neighbors are especially in need during the cold and holiday season. Times are harder when you're alone, so every contribution means more than ever. Please give, if you can, no matter what it is.

"Truly I tell you, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"
Matthew 25:4



NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Day End of Daylight Savings	2 All Souls'Day	3 Troy Kyle and April Kwon's Anniversary Food Pantry ASH	4	5	6	7
8 HOB	9	10 David Gray & Doris Lowe's Anniversary Food Pantry ASH	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 Kandy Savitsky's Birthday **HOLIDAY MARKET**
15 Nat'l. Philanthropy Day	16 Int'l. Day Of Tolerance	17 Food Pantry ASH	18 Barbara Hejtmanek's Birthday	19	20 Elise Ramirez's Birthday Michael & Anna Tapsak's Anniversary	21
22 Thanksgiving Luncheon	23 Int'l. Day Of Peace	24 Food Pantry ASH	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday	28
29 Beginning of Advent	30					



Rest, rejuvenate, snuggle with a blanket as you set your clock back and enjoy an extra hour of sleep as Daylight Saving Time ends on **NOVEMBER 1ST!**



Gratitude is constant practice but count your blessings and enjoy great food and time with loved ones on Thanksgiving Day **NOVEMBER 26TH!**



Caring and acceptance without judgment are core values so promote them on World Kindness Day. **NOVEMBER 13TH!**



Church Happenings



September Session Highlights

- Doris presented the September financial report. The utility bill is still very high but should go down this month.
- The insurance payment is due again. The church is paying $1000 monthly or $4,000 quarterly for insurance. Doris is going to look into other options, and Emily is going to check with other churches to see what insurance carrier they use.
- Worship numbers for September are as follows:

Sept. 6	19
Sept. 13	14
Sept. 20	22
Sept. 27	19

- Alan will preach on November 22nd and December 27th.
- Emily will be substituting in Wimberly November 9-13 and November 16-19. She will be in church on Sundays but not in the office on Tuesdays during those weeks.
- It was decided not to do Amplify Austin this next year. Thank you to Alan for his hard work heading it up in the past two years.
- The sign-up for the Thanksgiving luncheon is posted in Wooten Hall.
- Esther sent out 12 cards in September. Thank you, Esther, as always.
- The Holiday Market is underway. We will have a silent auction this year as we did last year. We still need donations of food, baked goods, crafts and help on the day of the market.
- The skirting in the front and back of Mavis' House is crumbling and needs to be repaired. Kathryn has the name of the company that our neighbor used to repair his house.
- Henry has begun work on an internal audit. He will be asking others to help.
- The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th. The Christmas tree and decorations need to be put up before then.
- The next session meeting will be on November 29th.



Upcoming Events



Holiday Market





The Holiday Market is less than two weeks away. It is our chance to support organizations making a difference in the community. There's still time to help us help them. Invite everyone you know to come, buy and sell raffle tickets, volunteer your time on November 14th, bake goods, and shop.

Thanksgiving Luncheon









Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon on November 22th. Please invite those you know who may spend the actual holiday alone. The following are some items that are traditionally needed but we welcome anything unique or special to you on this day.

- Turkey and ham
- Gravy
- Stuffing of any kind
- Mashed potatoes
- Vegetables (green beans, squash, yams)
- Cranberries or cranberry sauce
- Rolls
- Pies (pumpkin or pecan)

There is a sign-up sheet in Wooten Hall or you can contact Elsa or Emily.



Contemplate Your Blessings



As we approach Thanksgiving and gather with family and friends, it is a time to reflect on everything we are grateful for and the blessings in our lives. If you break the word down into two parts, you will find “thanks” and “giving.” Here are some inspiring words about blessings and their importance in our lives.











