



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2026 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

I read a book recently by Bruce Reyes Chow and this quote has stayed with me: *"The world offers a seemingly nonstop barrage of pain and suffering. So, as I go, I want to exhibit a faith that proclaims endless possibilities of healing and hope."*

I have been thinking about this a lot. I feel the heaviness of what is happening in the world and yet, I want to sing God's praises and lean into the hope and healing that I know God desires for us. I want to practice joy even on days when it feels more natural to stay in bed with the covers over my head. It almost feels like a quiet protest to exhibit a faith that is ripe with possibility and hope... to spread rebellious joy!

Did you know our church has a mission statement? "Through God's grace and with faith in Jesus, we worship God and live into the Word; witness to God's love in community, and work to make the world a better place."

I began to reflect on how we are doing with this and how we might improve?



We worship weekly and on special occasions with beautiful music and a reformed worship style. Above all, I would use the word authentic to describe our church and our worship services. We don't get so caught up in doing it right that we forget to laugh and follow the Spirit's lead. While we do many things well, we as the congregation of Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, are especially good at community. We are welcoming, loving and we check on each other like family. And though small, we are mighty. We serve our neighbors through a weekly food pantry. On November 14, we will have our Holiday Market and will be looking for our church family to help make it a success so that all the money raised can go to our mission partners.

How might we improve? I want to share some wise words from our parish associate pastor, Rev. Alan Constant: "Something happens when we are together that cannot happen any other way. When we gather to sing, to pray, to break bread, we become visible to one another as the body we already are, not a crowd, but a people who belong to each other. And when one of us can't be here, you don't stop being part of us. You'll hear from us: a call, a card, your name spoken in our prayers. Come when you can; we're better with you here. And either way, we are the church together."

We can improve by committing ourselves to being present with one another and more than that, doing the work needed to grow our community and expand our desire to make the world a better place! Come be part of it. Spread rebellious joy! Lean into the endless possibilities of healing and hope made possible by a God who loves us deeply. We really are better together.

May it be so.

Love,
Emily



Monthly Giving Report

Volunteer Calendar October 2026

Date	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
4	Juan	Jack	Set Up: Emily Owen Serve: Gary & Kandy
11	Luncheon	Emily Eyob	
18	Linda	Linda	
25	Ann	Ann	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

August 2026	
Plate Income:	\$5,120.51
Other Income:	\$705.51
Total Income:	\$5,826.05
Expenses:	\$6,293.81
Total:	-\$467.79



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 September 1st and September 29th, 40 people received groceries.

Holiday Market

Our annual Holiday Market is coming up in just a few short weeks. Please give some thought as to how you can help us to help others through donating to the charities we support. Reach out to Emily Owen or Elsa Aleman if you have any questions.



OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Kylle Dudley's Birthday	2 World Smile Day	3 Michael Tapsak's Birthday
4 Tommy Wheeler's Birthday World Communion HOB	5 World Teachers' Day	6 Food Pantry ASH	7 Walk to School Day	8	9 Annie Tsai's Birthday	10 Gus Cardenas' Birthday World Mental Health Day
11 Luncheon	12 Indigenous Peoples' Day	13 Food Pantry ASH	14	15 Victoria Otahal's Birthday	16	17 Hosea & Emily Eyob's Anniversary
18 Session ASH	19	20 Monique Paisley's Birthday Food Pantry ASH	21	22	23	24
25 Troy Kyle's Birthday	26	27 Food Pantry ASH	28	29	30	31 Aiden Aleman's Birthday Halloween



A smile is a quiet gift from the heart.
It takes no effort, but it can completely change someone else's day. Share your smile on World Smile Day **OCTOBER 2ND!**



Teachers play a large part in mentoring our future generations. Take a moment to thank those who educate your children on World Teachers' Day **OCTOBER 5TH!**



Dress up as your favorite character, enjoy trick-or-treating, and collect candy to satisfy your sweet tooth, but be safe on Halloween **OCTOBER 31ST!**



Church Happenings



September Session Highlights

- Doris presented the financial reports for July and August. The water bill is high but due to watering twice a week but the sprinklers will be turned back to once a week soon.
- Attendance numbers for August are as follows:
August 2nd 18
August 9th 32
August 16th 20
August 21st 26
- Our recent decline in attendance is concerning. Emily has asked us to brainstorm strategies for re-engaging our community and revitalizing the church.
- Alan will preach September 6th, October 11th, November 22nd and December 27th.
- This Advent season, Emily would like to have a series of conversations about hope, legacy and how we wish to celebrate our lives when the time comes.
- The Holiday Market will be held on November 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Elsa will be in charge, but everyone's help is needed. Karen will continue to do the advertising online.
- It is time to start thinking about our Thanksgiving luncheon. Karen will email Emily with a sign-up sheet.
- There are rats in the attic of Mavis's House. Henry is still looking into options.
- The skirting on Mavis's House needs to be fixed. Greg, the next-door neighbor, has a person who can do this work. Kathryn will ask him for the name and contact information.
- The doorknob on Wooten Hall has been replaced.
- We need to schedule and do an internal finance review. Henry will follow up soon.
- October brings the start of Stewardship season. Henry will give two Minute for Missions in October and Gary will give two as well.
- Pledge cards will be collected on November 1st.
- The Christmas Cantata will be held on December 13th.



Halloween Fun



Halloween is a day that brings joy to people of all ages. It is a day of creative expression through costumes and decorations. Neighbors, co-workers, and strangers come together to celebrate the occasion, making it a great way to meet new people and it is nearly required to collect (and eat) more candy and sweet treats than are good for you.

Halloween has something to offer for everyone. Below are a few interesting facts and ways the day is celebrated around the world.

Candy Corn: Goelitz Confectionary Co. bought its recipe in 1889 and originally called it “chicken feed,” marketing it in boxes with roosters on the front to compete with other mellowcreme agricultural products. It was not until the 1950s that candy corn transitioned from being a common penny candy to a Halloween staple. The recipe has gone largely unchanged since the beginning. Don’t forget to celebrate these sweet treats on National Candy Corn Day October 30th.



Origin of Trick-or-Treating: Taking candy from strangers one night a year is by no means a new or uniquely American tradition. It can be traced back to the late 1800s and began in the 1950s in the U.S. Once known as “guising” in Ireland and Scotland, young people donned costumes and went door to door looking for food or money in exchange for performing songs, poems, or other “tricks.” The tradition has morphed into dressing up and simply asking for candy. Rarely does someone sing for a miniature Snickers bar but a thank you goes a long way.



World’s Biggest Pumpkin: Everyone loves pumpkins but perhaps no one more than British twin brother Ian and Stuart Paton who hold the Guinness World Record for the heaviest pumpkin ever grown. Named “Muggle” as a nod to the Harry Potter series, it was both the heaviest and longest, weighing 2,819 pounds and 4 ounces and having a circumference of 21 feet and 3.8 inches. The brothers devoted 131 days to grown Muggle in a computer-controlled greenhouse and gave it 130 gallons of water daily. Not likely to win a beauty pageant, but an award winner, nonetheless.



Irish Bread: “Barmbrack” or “brack” for short, is a Halloween tradition similar to fruitcake but with various items baked inside making it a fortune-telling game. Literally translated as “speckled bread,” Barmbrack is sweet, rich, and contains many dried fruits soaked in tea and the speckles. The trinkets, which are typically coins, portions of rags, peas, matchsticks and silver rings indicate one’s future for the year to come. That is, as long as they aren’t swallowed.



Watch a scary movie. Go to a haunted house. Hop on a haunted hayride. There are many ways to enjoy Halloween, a day to have fun and one which brings people together. No longer is it confined to going out after dark and many people begin preparing long in advance. How you celebrate may change as time passes but, one thing that never will, is that it will always be a day filled with traditions, creativity and uniqueness.