



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

We did an exercise at our most recent presbytery meeting where we started by thinking of something that really got on our nerves...something that bothered us or drove us crazy. The one leading the exercise then walked us through a process where we changed just a little bit each time about how we thought about this challenge, and we ended up thinking about what we were going to do about it. We stopped focusing on what was bothering us and why it bothered us and ended up considering what we could do to alleviate the real problem at hand. I am not doing justice in describing the process, but it was interesting to start with a gripe and end with an action.

There is an old story of a king who decided to do a little experiment. He had a giant boulder put right in the middle of the street. He then hid near the boulder to see who, if anyone, would try to move it out of the way. First, some merchants walked by. They walked around the boulder, complaining that the king hadn't been maintaining the roads very well. Next, a farmer walked by, heading home with his arms full of food for his family. When he noticed the boulder, he put the food down and attempted to move it out of everyone's way. It took him a while and quite a bit of effort to move it, but he eventually succeeded.

After the farmer gathered up his food to carry on home, he noticed a bag lying in the middle of the road, just where the boulder once was. He opened the bag to find that it was stuffed full of gold coins, along with a letter from the king saying that the bag's gold was a reward for the farmer to keep. The king gave this gift because the farmer had taken the time and energy to move the boulder out of the road for the convenience of others who would be traveling the road in the future.

It is easy to get pulled into the idea that there are too many problems for us to fix. In fact, it is probably true that there are too many problems to fix. However, if we throw our hands up and do nothing...we become part of the list of problems.

Where are the boulders for us to move? What are the actions we can take to make the world a better place for ourselves and for our neighbors?

As we approach July 4th and consider our freedom and many privileges, may we also take every chance we get to continue to build God's kin-dom here and now!

May it be so.

Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar July 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
7	Jack & Ross	Eugenie	Gary	Set Up: Karen
14	Jack & Ross	Luncheon	Elsa	
21	Jack & Ross	Emily Owen	Libby	
28	Jack & Ross	Kandy	Silas	

Financial Report



June 2024	
Plate Income:	\$5,570.72
Expenses:	\$9,559.45
Total:	-\$3,988.73



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

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 June 4th and June 25th, 28 people received groceries.

Summer Travels



If you are going on vacation this summer, please consider taking photos of your adventures you would be willing to share for upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

We would love to enjoy your moments vicariously and see the wonderful places you went and the special memories created along the way.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Zachary Zalles' Birthday Independence Day	5 Ben Rosales' Birthday	6 Int'l. Kissing Day
7 HOB World Chocolate Day	8	9 Food Pantry	10 Ian Savitsky's Birthday	11 All American Pet Photo Day World Population Day	12	13
14 Dee Dee Laurel's Birthday Luncheon	15 World Youth Skills Day	16 Emily Owen's Birthday Food Pantry	17	18	19	20
21 ASH Nat'l. Ice Cream Day	22	23 Food Pantry Int'l. Picnic Day	24 Cousins Day Int'l. Self Care Day	25 Linda Bourianoff's Birthday	26 Start of Summer Olympics	27 Juan Manuel Senties' Birthday
28 World Day for Grandparents and Elderly	29 Joe Aleman's Birthday Alan & Kathy Constant's Anniversary	30 Food Pantry Int'l. Day of Friendship	31 Matthew Zalles' Birthday			



Relax, spend time with friends and family, stay cool, and enjoy the fireworks while celebrating our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July **JULY 4TH!**



The children are our future. Take time to celebrate their talents and encourage them to acquire new skills on World Youth Skills Day **JULY 15TH!**



Grandparents and the elderly are wise and fun to be around. Give thanks for the seniors in your life on World Day for Grandparents and Elderly **JULY 28TH!**



June Session Highlights

- Doris reported a negative balance in June due to an insurance payment. Overall the bank balance is good.
- Emily is contacting other insurance companies and getting quotes. She has already talked to the representative from Jenson Ford Insurance Company who handles the insurance for John Knox Ranch and other churches in the area. She will report back at the next meeting.
- The Pentecost offering brought in \$147.00. Forty percent of that remains in our church and it was decided to use it for the food pantry.
- May's attendance numbers were good.
- There will be a Spring Confirmation Retreat at John Knox next spring and Emily would like to invite Ian, Silas, Jack, and Anais to attend.
- Esther kindly sent out 9 cards in May.
- August 11th, 18th, and 25th will be dedicated to the Congo Mission Back to School drive. Emily Eyob will show a video and present Minute for Missions during those weeks.
- The candle stand is broken and needs to be replaced. Karen presented her research to the session and it was decided to purchase a walnut-colored one.
- Thank you to Gary for cleaning the sanctuary windows. They look great.
- October will be our month for Stewardship. Emily will preach about the topic and George will provide Minute for Missions.
- The next meeting will be on August 18th after worship.

Upcoming Events

Many congratulations to Emily Eyob as her family is about to grow. Charlie and Lia are such bundles of joy as all the congregation's little ones are. We can't wait to meet the newest addition!

The Congo Mission has become so important and we look forward to Emily Eyob's video and Minutes for Mission with updates on the Back to School Drive.

Stewardship time is quickly nearing in October which will be here before we know it. It is time to start planning the giving of our time, efforts, and gifts. We look forward to George's Minutes for Mission on how to best dedicate ourselves to the church and the community.

July Fourth is also known as Independence Day. On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared the thirteen colonies were legally separated from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4th. Following are some interesting facts about July 4th that you likely don't know:

Declaration of Independence: It is believed there are 200 original copies of the document that were printed. However, there are only 26 known versions.

Food: In 2023, it was estimated that Americans spent \$9.5 billion dollars on food in preparation to celebrate the holiday. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, more than 30 million pounds of hot dogs are consumed in Los Angeles alone on the 4th. Additionally, while leaving behind traditional British scones, settlers learned how to preserve apples and the first recipe for apple pie was published in a cookbook in 1796.



Liberty Bell Every year, descendants of the signers of the Declaration tap the Liberty Bell 13 times to honor the original 13 colonies. However, the Liberty Bell hasn't been rung since 1846.

Flag: There have been 27 versions of the flag. The original one had 13 stars and stripes to represent the 13 colonies. The current one has 50 stars and 13 stripes. The 50th star was added on July 4th, 1960 to symbolize Hawaii's admission as a state. Flags are folded triangular to replicate the soldiers' tri-cornered hats in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.



Original Celebration of Independence Day: John Adams believed the day should have been celebrated the day the Declaration was signed on July 2nd. In 1779, the holiday fell on a Sunday so it was celebrated on Monday, the fifth of July.

Fireworks: If you hear fireworks, most likely, it is due to more than \$1 billion spent annually on them. The Macy's 4th of July Celebration is the largest in America and can be viewed live on TV. In 2023, an estimated 11,500 people were treated at emergency rooms for firework-related injuries, and nine deaths were reported.



Population: When the Declaration was signed, the United States had a population of approximately 2.5 million. As of June 17, 2024, it is almost 342 million.

National Anthem: It took 117 years for the words written by Frances Scott Key in 1814 to gain federal recognition. It is now one of the most famous songs in our nation.

Salmon and Peas: In New England, eating salmon, peas, and mashed potatoes has been a tradition for as long as America has been a country. Salmon migrated up New England's rivers for early settlers and nearly 300,000 salmon made the journey during Colonial times.





It's Time for Me



We all get caught up in looking after others, work, and daily responsibilities. Self care improves physical and mental health, enhances concentration, manages stress, boosts self-esteem, and makes it easier to deal with setbacks and achieve goals. Following are some quotes about the importance of taking care of ourselves:





Summer Music Festival



Central Presbyterian Church is holding a Good Vibrations Summer Music Series for youth families and includes potluck salad dinners. They hope you will be able to enjoy the celebration and great times.

Central Presbyterian Church
 (200 E. 8th Street, corner of 8th & Brazos, cpcaustin.org , 512-472-2445)

Good Vibrations Music Series

Free Wednesday Night Concerts 7:15 p.m.

July 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2024
Pot-luck Salad Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Feel free to join us for dinner even if you can't bring a salad to share.

			
July 10 Ivy Leone	July 17 Ray Langenberg	July 24 Garrison Moore	July 31 Susan Richter and Win Bent

If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Greer, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, for Central Presbyterian Church of Austin. She can be reached at (512) 472-2445 ext. 14.

You are certain to have a wonderful time and it is not required to bring to share.

Music is a way for everyone to connect, regardless of background, faith, or life stories so please see the magical experience every Wednesday night in July at Central Presbyterian.