



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## August 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

Some of you may have heard the story of the blind men and the elephant, but I think it may be a perfect tale to revisit as we prepare for this back-to-school and intense political season.

The story goes like this... A group of blind men heard that a strange animal, called an elephant, had been brought to the town, but none of them were aware of its shape and form. Out of curiosity, they said, "We must inspect and know it by touch, of which we are capable." So, they sought it out, and when they found it, they groped it.

The first person whose hand landed on the trunk said, "This being is like a thick snake." For another whose hand reached its ear, it seemed like "a kind of fan." Another person whose hand was upon its leg said, "The elephant is a pillar like a tree trunk." The blind man who placed his hand upon its side said the elephant "is a wall." Another who felt its tail, described it as "a rope." The last person felt its tusk and stated, "The elephant is that which is hard, smooth and like a spear." (Hindu parable from Encyclopedia of Perception, edited by E. Bruce Goldstein.)

They were all correct in their observations, and yet, individually, they did not quite have a full grasp of what an elephant was or what it looked like.

Albert Einstein said "Curiosity is more than knowledge." As we prepare to return to school and as we steady ourselves for the political turmoil headed our way (and is truly already here), I urge all of us to stay curious. Take time to listen and consider perspectives not our own. Ask questions and be willing to seek out possibilities by working together for a fuller view of what lies ahead for all of us.

As people of faith, curiosity is something that should bring us great comfort. I think all of us may have seen or felt a glimpse of God, but we simply are not able to see or know the fullness of God. It is in this mystery that we learn, grow and seek to do good work together.

Stay curious. May it be so.

Love,  
Emily



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar August 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
4	Jack & Ross	Anna	Anna	Set Up: Karen
11	Jack & Ross	<b>Luncheon</b>	Alan	
18	Jack & Ross	Emily Eyob	Emily Eyob	
25	Jack & Ross	Ann & Gary	Ann	

## Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

July 2024	
Plate Income:	<b>\$4,407.00</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$5,973.42</b>
Total:	<b>-\$1,566.42</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 July 2nd and July 23rd, 33 people received groceries.

## Volunteers Needed

We always need more people who are willing to serve as liturgist, to set up communion, and to bring refreshments. The more people who participate, the less often you will need to serve. If you are willing to serve in one or more of these ways, please contact Karen.



# AUGUST



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Luke Tapsak's Birthday Nat'l. Girlfriend Day	2 Jane King's Birthday	3
4 HOB Friendship Day Nat'l. Sister Day	5	6 Food Pantry	7 Purple Heart Day	8 Int'l. Cat Day	9 Book Lovers Day	10 Nat'l. Lazy Day
11 Anna Tapsak's Birthday Luncheon	12 Int'l. Youth Day	13 Jeff Cotham's Birthday Food Pantry	14	15 Nat'l. Relaxation Day	16 Rehearsal Nat'l. Tell a Joke Day	17 Wedding Nat'l. Nonprofit Day
18 ASH Session	19 World Humanitarian Day	20 Sam Paisley's Birthday Food Pantry	21 Cecilia Berner's Birthday Senior Citizens Day	22	23 Thomas Terbay's Birthday	24
25	26 Nat'l. Dog Day Womens Equality Day	27 Food Pantry	28	29	30	31



Take time to give thanks to those who were wounded or killed while protecting our country as not many are willing to do so on Purple Heart Day **AUGUST 7TH!**



Knowledge is power and if you love to learn, kick up your feet, open a book and learn something new on Book Lover's Day **AUGUST 9TH!**



Jokes can be corny but there is a long history of making someone laugh with a joke or pun on National Tell A Joke Day **AUGUST 16TH!**



# Libby Janes



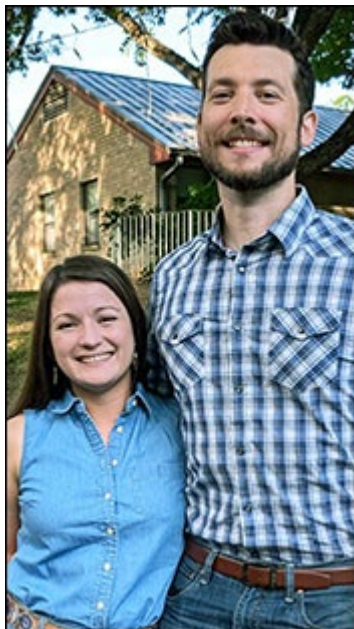
Libby Janes is a rising senior at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is now a candidate for ordination to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Libby feels grateful to be serving as a seminary intern for Rev. Emily Owen at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church for her Supervised Practice of Ministry. Libby loves the small church community here and has felt very warmly welcomed.

Libby grew up in Fairview, TX, and has also lived in Sherman, Lubbock, and New York City. (Austin is Libby's favorite place so far!) Libby has been married to Jesse for 8 years and is a cat mom of Artemis, Apollo, and Orion. Libby and Jesse met 13 years ago at Austin College, where Libby majored in Religious Studies and History and minored in Anthropology and Non-Profit Organizations & Public Service and Jesse majored in Computer Science and minored in biology. Jesse works as a Neonatology fellow at Dell Children's and Ascension Seton.

Libby is a licensed master social worker and has many years of PC(USA) youth conference leadership experience. She loves playing board games, practicing yoga, and camping.

This summer, Libby was honored to serve as a Theological Seminary Advisory Delegate to the PC(USA) General Assembly, and Director of the Junior High Jubilee conference at Mo Ranch, and she served one week as a chaplain John Knox Ranch.

In seminary, Libby has held many jobs, including working as an online therapist, sorting campus mail, planning worship as a chapel beadle, working as a research assistant for Dr. Cynthia Rigby, and assisting with instruction for Greek, Hebrew Bible, and Theology courses. Libby loves the seminary community and would be happy to show you around campus if you visit.





# Summer Fun Number I



The summer is when many families have time to travel. Whether to explore new destinations or revisit favorite places, it is a great time to make memories. Enjoy some photos from some of our members' summer vacations.

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## The Owen Family

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# Summer Fun Number II



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Alan and Kathy Constant

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The JE Henry Trail in Lincoln, New Hampshire. A lovely, easy walk along the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River.



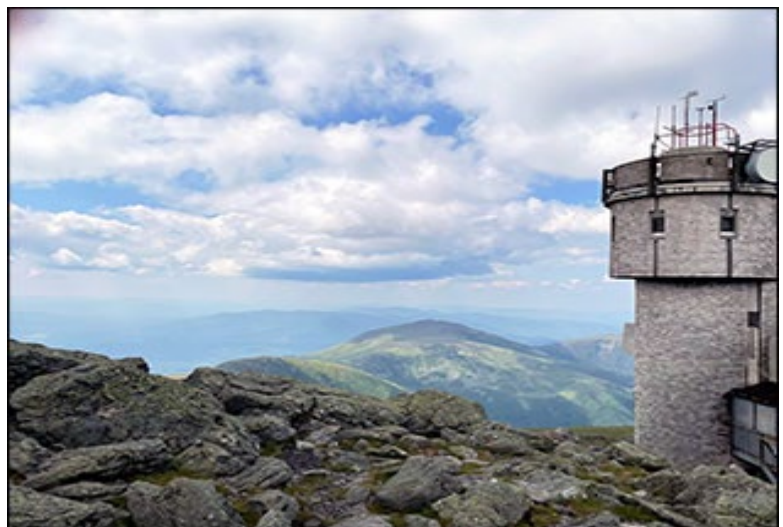
On the trail to Flume Gorge, the rushing waters of the Flume Brook exposed this large granite outcropping named Table Rock.



The Pemi Trail along the Pemigewasset River in Franconia Notch.



Sabbaday Falls- Legend says, in winter, workers hid their tools, planning to return in spring. Before leaving, they named it Sabbaday Brook for the Sabbath Day but never completed the road.



View from the top of Mount Washington. The highest peak is in the Northeast at 6,288 ft. It's part of the Presidential Range and the Appalachian Trail crosses it.



# Summer Fun Number III

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## Juan Manuel Senties

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I am sure most of you know that I LOVE to travel. The entire process of getting to a new destination and exploring everything that place has to offer is like nothing else. Having all of my senses engaged from the smells of the foods, seeing the beauty of nature in a new place, the architecture, meeting new people and living a way of life that is very different and also similar to my own here at home. I have traveled to 7 different countries, plus various places throughout the US in my 38 years of life. Mexico is the country I have traveled the most in my life and that is for various reasons. My parents are both born and raised in Mexico and so growing up we would go visit our family every other summer. I have such wonderful memories of those trips and everything we did and now as an adult I continue to travel and get to know what I consider my motherland. I spend a total of 36 days driving through Mexico this summer and it was a truly indelible experience. It was the first time I did a road trip and though I was nervous at first, once I got to my first city, I did not worry at all the rest of the time. I could write pages and pages about my experiences and sights, but I will only give some brief highlights with photos of my time in my Mexico, lindo y querido.

I took this photo on a hike along one of the many mountains that surrounds the major city of Monterrey. The park is called Chipinque and is full of many hiking trails of varying difficulty. This photo was from a viewing plateau on the mountain and was absolutely breathtaking, literally and figuratively.



Anywhere I travel to, I always visit at least one museum. The photo below is in the courtyard of the Regional Museum of Queretaro which had many beautiful artifacts and art pieces of the native people from the region of the country. I loved the architecture of the museum which is why I took this photo. Queretaro is the city that I fell in love with the most out of the 11 cities I visited. It is vibrant with colors, rich history, architecture, many artisan products that are handmade of the highest quality, and the weather! It never got over 85 degrees in the day and I woke up to 58 degree mornings. It was so nice! Every street I walked had some kind of fountain, statue, or art installation that spoke to the pride of the people for their city. I highly recommend Queretaro to any and everyone. mornings.





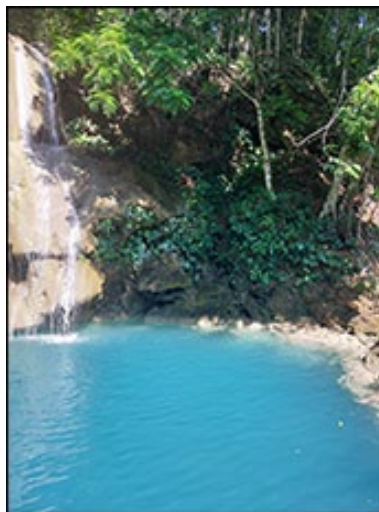
## Summer Fun Number IV



Mexico City is an incredible and very overwhelming place. Even if you spent a year just in the city you couldn't do and experience everything this ancient place has to offer. An iconic place of Mexico City is the Castle of Chapultepec. A castle with so much history of the story of Mexico that I cannot even begin to tell. This is always an incredible place to visit.



One misconception about Mexico that I believe many people have, and I admit I also had, is that is a very hot country, but that is not true at all. Mexico has such a diverse climate throughout the country because of the many mountain ranges that span most of the country. The landscapes I was privileged to watch along my travels on the roads to my next destinations were magnanimous and wondrous to behold. There are sooooo many natural treasures in Mexico that I don't think it would be possible for one to see all of them in a lifetime. This photo was of a small waterfall in a very small town called San Isidro Naranjal. I spent a day here with my family and we bathed in the beautiful, clean, and cool waters of this natural oasis in the state of Oaxaca. You can see me as I am climbing up to the rocks next to the waterfall to jump into the beautiful pool that the waterfall fills. This was a very special place and a beautiful experience I will never forget.







## Summer Fun Number V



There are an incredible amount of archeological zones of ancient ruins throughout all of Mexico. I couldn't do a road trip and not see one new one. This photo is of me at the ruins of El Tajin in my parent's home state of Veracruz. It was definitely hot here as you can tell by my sweat in the photo, but to be in this place surrounded by structures that are over a thousand years old was an amazing experience that really makes you feel alive and makes you think about the big questions in life. I felt so at peace and connected to my roots that it rejuvenated my energy for living for which I am so grateful. I thanked God every step of the way for allowing me to have these experiences without any problems at all. I felt His protective hand on me the whole way and I did not fear for anything. There are so many more photos I took and have so many more things to tell on this incredible journey I feel so privileged to have been able to do. If you would like to know more, please ask me and I will happily share more about this amazing trip.



God bless you all!

In Christ's love,  
Juan Manuel Sentías