



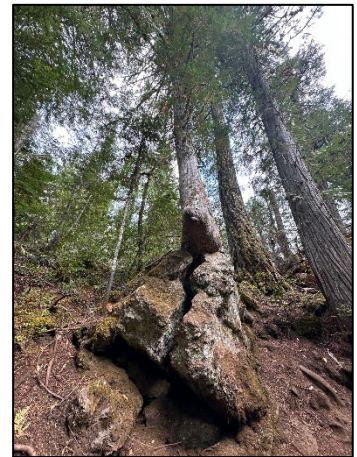
HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

As many of you know, Henry and I recently took a trip to Oregon. We spent a couple of days on the coast before heading to Bend which is more centrally located in the state. We hiked almost 25 miles and enjoyed the cooler weather of the Pacific Northwest. There was beauty everywhere we turned. The colors of nature felt so vibrant and green and alive. The grass was lush and thick. Moss and ferns covered the floor of the forests while the trees towered above. And while I have a deep and abiding appreciation and love for our Texas oaks and cedars (junipers), these Oregonian trees gave me hope and inspiration.



Again and again, you would find trees growing from the stumps of dead trees. There were trees with such determination, they would grow out of the side of a rock cliff, hundreds of feet in the air. There were trees that broke rock to make their way toward the sky. Even when a tree did finally meet the end, it wasn't long before it was flooded with new life like moss, mushrooms and critters of all kinds.

In a world that can feel heavy and impossible at times, I wonder how it would look and feel to be like one of these determined trees. How does our faith inform our calling not to be everything to everyone...not to be perfect...not be a certain shape or height or land in a certain place in the world? Instead, what if we accepted where we were and did our best to grow and flourish and thrive despite the odds against us? What if we adopted a tree mentality where our focus was on growth and being a vital part of whatever ecosystem we find ourselves in?

As I walked and hiked among hundreds of these trees, I reflected on the things holding me back and weighing me down and these trees inspired me to not stop there. I considered how I might continue to grow, how I might continue to contribute...how I might add some beauty to this world. Let's be like the trees and grow and flourish together! May it be so.

With Love,
Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar October 2024

Date	Greeter/Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
6	Jack & Ross	Emily Owen	Jack	Set Up: Emily Owen
13	Jack & Ross	Luncheon	Boram	
20	Jack & Ross	Kandy	Ian	
27	Jack & Ross	Eugenie	Linda	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

August 2024	
Plate Income:	\$4,623.00
Expenses:	\$5,939.66
Total:	-\$1,316.66



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 3rd and September 24th, 42 people received groceries.

Volunteers Needed

We always need more people willing to serve as liturgists, set up communion, bring refreshments and help clean up after the luncheons. The more people who participate, the less often you need to serve. If you are willing to serve in one or more of these ways, please contact Karen via email or phone.



OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Food Pantry	2	3 Michael Tapsak's Birthday	4 World Animal Day World Smile Day	5 World Teacher's Day
6 World Communion Sunday HOB	7	8 Food Pantry	9 Angela Tsai's Birthday Walk to School Day	10 August Cardenas' Birthday World Mental Health Day	11	12
13 Luncheon	14 Indigenous Peoples Day Nat'l. Dessert Day	15 Victoria Otahal's Birthday Food Pantry	16	17 Hosea & Emily Eyob's Anniversary	18 Rehearsal	19 Wedding
20 Monique Paisley's Birthday ASH Session	21	22 Food Pantry	23	24	25 Rehearsal	26 Wedding
27	28 Nat'l. Chocolate Day	29 Food Pantry	30	31 Aiden Aleman's Birthday Halloween Rehearsal		



Smiles are so meaningful and a little (or big) one goes a long way. It brightens your day and those of others. Share one on World Smile Day on **OCTOBER 4TH!**



Chocolate is a guilty pleasure and 79% of people eat it at least once a week. Indulge and enjoy any variety on National Chocolate Day on **OCTOBER 28TH!**



Dress up as your favorite character, get some sweet treats, enjoy the fun but stay safe and be careful as you celebrate Halloween on **OCTOBER 31ST!**



Upcoming Events



Our Holiday Market is coming up soon. All proceeds go to community outreach programs we support. It is also a great way to get new faces to visit and hopefully return for worship.

The event is a HUGE undertaking and EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED. You don't have to be a baker or someone inclined to make crafts to lend a hand. There are many ways to contribute. See below ways you can help.

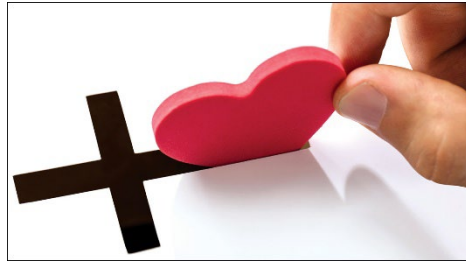
- Provide handmade items to sell that don't have to be related to the Holiday Season;
- Bring food items and drinks for purchase as people shop;
- Make baked goods packaged to be sold to take home;
- Assistance with advertising is very important. Invite friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc.;
- Purchase an item to donate to the raffle or ask someone you know at a business if they would be willing to contribute;
- Buy and sell raffle tickets. There are always a variety of great gifts, and the raffle brings in a significant amount of income;
- Give of your time. Help set up the day before. Serve the food available for purchase. Shop and find something for yourself or as a gift for someone you know.



If you are willing to help or have any questions, contact Karen via email or phone or Elsa via phone.



Stewardship



Stewardship is not practiced one day, week, or month yearly but is a way of living. Many associate it with giving money. That is part of it, but it is a spiritual matter. As one pastor said, “When you give only your money, you give very little; it is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

Good stewards receive the gifts God has given us and use them in the following ways:



None of us has enough time and we all want more. We often ask how much time we can set aside for God, to pray or to meditate. How about time for family, friends, and those in need? Follow in the footsteps of Jesus and study, pray, and volunteer. Even when life is busy, be available for friends, family, neighbors, and strangers. Save space for giving back and serving others.



We all have unique and individualized abilities and talents. Perhaps you have abilities you haven't even realized that could help the church and community. Stewardship includes acknowledging, nourishing, and taking care of those. Be thoughtful and creative and God will be pleased!



God owns everything. Christians don't own any money and our resources were bestowed upon us not to be kept to ourselves but to be shared. This includes giving back to God and the church through tithing. It should be viewed as joyful rather than an obligation.

Stewardship is a reminder of just a few gifts God gave to each of us. Using them enriches not only our lives but all of those we meet. “Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. How a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world.”



Meet Boram Choi



Hi HPPC family, I am glad to introduce myself in this issue of newsletter. I have joined HPPC since this September as a ministerial intern. I am a senior student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I am originally from South Korea, but I moved to Austin two years ago as I started to study at APTS. In my family, I have Dad, Mom and two sisters, one older and one younger. All of them live in Daejeon, Korea. My dad is a minister of Presbyterian Church of Korea, so I was raised in a faith tradition of Presbyterian.

Before I started my seminary education, I was a church staff for seven years. I was working in various ministries, such as international student ministry, publishing, evangelism and prayer. Also, I was a church planting missionary in Philippines for a year. With a pastor's family and three other members, we planted a church for college students. We started a church in a city where many colleges are located. With other missionaries, we preached the gospel to college students and we could build up a church with twenty members in a year.

After this experience of mission ministry, I had a sense of calling to be a church minister. I felt that I really wanted to work for church and I prayed that I could serve churches and continue mission ministry. In about five months, a pastor in Atlanta offered to help me study in a seminary of PCUSA. I applied to a couple of seminaries, and I decided to study at APTS.

Since I moved to Austin, I have been learning a lot. I am learning theology and the Bible in various context and studying with people from different backgrounds, which are broadening my perspectives of theological understanding as well as cultures. I am so grateful that I have been given this great opportunity for this learning.

I also appreciate Emily and the congregation for receiving me as an intern and member of HPPC. I love the peace I can feel in the sanctuary and I am so happy to be with a loving and welcoming congregation. I am so excited about the fellowship we will share for a year.

