



HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

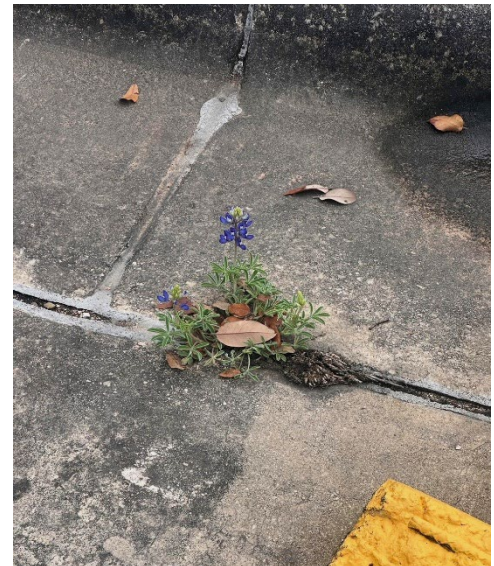
April 2025 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

This month will bring the end of Lent, the observance of Holy Week, and the celebration of Easter and Christ's resurrection! I love that this time of year coincides with Spring. Flowers, trees, and plants are blooming. Thanks to some of the recent rains, our grass has reached that peak brightness of green grass color. My hummingbirds are back, and there is a bird trying to build a nest on our front porch, providing great entertainment for our cats. New life is here, and new life is coming.

I made a stop at the post office this week and found a bluebonnet, proudly growing up through the cracks in the parking lot. Its determination made me smile. I could see several more buds coming up through cracks just about to show their beautiful purply-blue color. New life is here, and new life is coming.



Three of our youth (Ian, Silas, and Jack) are going through confirmation and will be confirmed at the church later this month. They have participated in classes about church history, scriptures, the structure of the church, sacraments, creeds, confessions and more! This has been a fun group filled with wisdom and humor and fun. They will be confirmed at church on April 27th during the worship service, and I hope you make plans to be there to celebrate with them. New life is here, and new life is coming.

Whether watching the birds play in the water of the bird bath or watching butterflies float above the flowers in our yard, there is something mesmerizing about the buzz of new life and the promise of new life to come.

New life is here. New life is coming.

I encourage you to look for it. It is all around us and it is within us.

May the grace, peace, love, and hope of this season be with you.

With love,
Emily



Monthly Giving Report



Volunteer Calendar April 2025

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Liturgist	Communion
6	Ross	Kandy	Kathryn	Set Up: Kandy
13	Ross	Luncheon	Anna	
20	Ross	Emily Owen	Henry	Set Up: Emily Owen
27	Ross	Gary & Ann	Gary	

Financial Report



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

Febrary 2025	
Plate Income:	\$4,809.00
Expenses:	\$6,363.02
Total:	-\$1,554.02



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. We will be providing an update on the Food Pantry on our website.

Between March 4th and March 25th, 34 people received groceries.

Boram Choi

Boram has been our seminary intern since last fall. Her last Sunday with us will be Easter Sunday. It has been such a joy to have her in our presence for the last several months. Boram has served in many capacities, including preaching, serving as liturgist, working at the Food Pantry and so much more. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and hope she will keep in touch with us.



APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Eugenie Long's Birthday Food Pantry April Fool's Day	2	3	4 Nat'l. Walk to Work Day	5 Wedding
6	7 World Health Day	8 Hank & Elise Ramirez's Anniversary Food Pantry	9	10 Ben & Sarah Kercheval's Anniversary Nat'l. Siblings Day	11 April Kwon's Birthday Rehearsal Nat'l. Pet Day	12 Wedding
13 Luncheon Women's Group Palm Sunday	14 Michelle Bourianoff's Birthday	15 Food Pantry Tax Day	16 Walt Richardson's Birthday	17 Maundy Thursday	18 David Gray III's Birthday Good Friday	19 Bicycle Day
20 HOB ASH Easter	21 Ann Brizendine's Birthday	22 Food Pantry Earth Day	23 Administrative Professionals Day	24 Take Your Child to Work Day	25 Arbor Day	26 Violin Recital
27 Session	28	29 Food Pantry	30			



Get creative, have fun, and enjoy spreading laughter by playing pranks on your friends, family, and co-workers on April Fool's Day on **APRIL 1ST!**



We all have close friends, but no one is closer than a brother or sister. Let yours know their value on National Siblings Day on **APRIL 10TH!**



Learn about and remember the importance of protecting our planet for ourselves and future generations on Earth Day on **APRIL 22ND!**



March Session Highlights

- Doris presented the financial report for February. Due to a wedding and other outside building use, the month ended positively.
- John, Ian, and Silas will appear before the session before worship on April 27th and will be confirmed during the worship service.
- The Lenten Book Study is going well, with 12 joining the first week.
- We will have a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. on April 17th.
- Alan will be available while Emily is on Spring Break, March 17th to March 21st.
- Kandy offered to be in charge of the Worship ministry. Kathryn will help with Stewardship.
- Esther graciously sent out 16 cards in February.
- The tree branch hanging over the sanctuary was removed.
- The HVAC service man found no problem with the heater, but he will return next week to do maintenance.
- Karen met with a trombone player who wants to use Wooten Hall for practice.
- Matthew Zalles will play the cello during worship soon.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The Special Offerings of the PCUSA offer the whole Church a way to embody Jesus' words in Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in partnership with those who have the least.

Through gifts to the four annual Special Offerings, we support ministries of compassion, justice, alleviation of hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness.

For the One Great Hour of Sharing (March 5 – April 20), the Special Offering will benefit Hunger, Disaster, and Development Projects. For more information about the impact your donation makes, please visit <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>

To donate through Hyde Park Presbyterian:

- Write "Special Offering" on the memo line of your check and put it in the collection plate.
- Donate online through the website at www.hydeparkaustin.org and note "Special Offering."
- Place cash in a small envelope in the back of the pew, label it "Special Offering," and put it in the collection plate.



All About Easter Season



Palm Sunday

Jesus rode on a donkey through Jerusalem on his way to conquer death and bring us life through His sacrifice on the cross. The ride was an announcement that he was the long-awaited king, but not in the way most expected. Rulers rode horses into battle, but the donkey symbolized peace. Jesus' mission was not one of a warrior but as a humble king bringing salvation. Palm branches are signs of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life.



Maundy Thursday

Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means mandate or command. During Christ's final meal, as he washed the disciples' feet, he said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34). This was a request for his disciples to show forgiveness to all. The supper consisted of bread (the body) and wine (the blood) for the salvation of humanity.



Good Friday

The term "Good" is often questioned about the suffering and death of Jesus. He gave his life that day so that we could be forgiven for our sins. Jesus knew it was going to lead to his resurrection, our salvation and God's reign of righteousness and peace. According to Peter 3:18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."



Easter

This day is one of the most important celebrations in our faith. Interestingly, the word "Easter" is never mentioned in the Bible, and its origins are unclear. What is unquestionable is what occurred that day. Christ rose from the grave after his crucifixion, death, and burial to redeem us from our sins. It is also a confirmation of what Jesus taught during his ministry. If not resurrected, he would have been just a teacher or prophet. Having done so was proof of his being the son of God.



May this time bring renewed hope to everyone. I hope we can reflect on how to improve ourselves and help our neighbors and those in need. I hope your hearts are filled with gratitude and renewed faith. Happy Easter!