



Gordon Stewart will lead House of Hope's Lenten study from his new book *Be Still!: Departure from Collective Madness*. This study will take place on Wednesday evenings February 21–March 28 at 7 p.m.

"All faith is both personal and public, and all life is intrinsically theological. This study engages participants in the practice of autobiographical and public theology. It invites you to re-examine the faith perspective through which you have learned to see yourself, others, and the world," explains Stewart.

Lent is a season for reflection and exploration of our Christian faith. This series promises to be a thoughtful and faith-enriching study. Participants are not required to read in advance unless they choose to do so.

"In *Be Still!*, Stewart masterfully builds a counter-narrative to the madness that is gripping our world. Like the psalmist, Stewart prays thoughtfully through metaphors and religious tradition, meshing theologians and news headlines to lead the reader to a deep, sustained truth," according to Frank M. Yamada President of the American Theological Society.

Stewart's voice is familiar to the audiences of Minnesota Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and Westminster's Town Hall Forum.

Books are available for \$15 at HOH. See page 4 for a breakdown of sessions.

***Be Still!* To See More Clearly**

**A six-week Lenten study
led by Gordon Stewart**

February 21–March 28
Wednesday evenings, 7–8 p.m.



Macalester Sunday February 4

On Sunday, February 4, House of Hope will host Reverend Kelly Stone, College Chaplain and Associate Dean at Macalester College. The Macalester College Concert Choir will provide music for the service, with bagpipes and drum leading the procession and recession. Traditional shortbread will be served in the Kirk Parlour following the service. This Sunday also marks the Souper Bowl of Caring, when our youth raise money to fight hunger and poverty in our community.

On Macalester Sunday, we celebrate our historic ties to Macalester College, including our mutual founder the Rev. Dr. Edward Duffield Neill. Neill was Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Minnesota Territory from 1851–53 and chancellor of the state university from 1858–61. During the Civil War, he served in the army as a hospital chaplain. Neill worked for Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, who nominated him United States Commissioner of Education. He served as the president of Macalester College and afterwards as professor of history and literature.

Clergy Message

Reverend Julia A. Carlson



On Christmas Eve, I looked out over the congregation as we sang "Silent Night" by candlelight and thought, as I often do, that

we are a flickering but faithful light in the great darkness beyond our walls. On that night, we came together to affirm our belief that the Ultimate Good took on flesh and came into the world to set us on a path of salvation and love.

As I stood in the chancel that night, I was also reminded of the previous Maundy Thursday when we read the story of the crucifixion and extinguished candles one by one until we all sat together in darkness. Easter morning's light along with brass, tympani, and lilies are God's powerful and bright answer to that short imitation of time in the tomb. Through the years, we have together experienced light into darkness and back into the light of God. Whether it is as big and bright as the sun on Rally Sunday or as subtle as one candle in Centering Prayer, whether we are two or three gathered in training for Stephen Ministry or a great crowd listening to Harry Belafonte at the Sunday Series, it means that we are setting aside time to live in the story of Jesus of Nazareth. For more than one hundred years, our sanctuary has invited congregants, members, and friends to this metamorphosis in Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps even more important to me than beautiful memories of these high,

holy moments, is looking out to see each of you in worship or across a table in ordinary times; on any given Sunday as well as Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday... you get the picture.

Even if transition and change do not feel ordinary to you, they are an integral part of life as a whole and life in the church. God is always out ahead of us. Jesus came to show us The Way and the Holy Spirit is ever leading us toward God's preferred future.

It may not surprise you that, as a former interim pastor, I love the possibilities that transitional space offers and I am looking forward to working with Jeff as we together pastor this church until we welcome our transitional head of staff to the team. And we have the continued blessings of Matt, Aaron, Sofia, Sarah, Jessica, Isabelle, Dave, Doug, Kiera, Jan, and Jill, as well as Kelsea, Julie, Lelia, Alice, and Robert in the nursery and in Godly Play. Diane, Connie, Michelle, Anne, Debbie, and David are tending to our communications and accounts and Jim, Dan, Shelley, and Dioni are still taking care of the building and making sure worship, funerals, baptisms, meetings, and festivities take place.

I could go on by listing our trustees, elders, and deacons and then by listing all of you. We are the Church in our little corner of the world. As our journey continues, I hope to see you often in the pews and around the church, committing to and nurturing salvation and love in the world through our congregational life. See you in church!

—Julia



WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, February 4
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Macalester Sunday

Rev. Kelly Stone, College Chaplain and
Assoc. Dean, Macalester College, preaching
Pipes and Drum
Macalester College Choir

Sunday, February 11
Transfiguration of the Lord

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Japinga,
Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery
of the Twin Cities Area, preaching

Motet Choir

Walk with Me, Bainton
Almighty and Everlasting God, Gibbons
Sing Unto God, Fetler

St. Cecilia and St. Nicholas Choirs
Celebrate this Happy Holy Day, Purcell

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday

Julia A. Carlson, preaching

Motet Choir

Make Me a Clean Heart, Thalben-Ball
Wash Me Thoroughly, Wesley

The Scholars

Drop, Drop Slow Tears, Gibbons

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Japinga,
Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of
the Twin Cities Area, preaching

Motet Choir

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus, Miller
Ubi caritas, Duruflé
O that Bleeding Lamb, Moore

Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent
Youth Sunday

Youth will offer short meditations

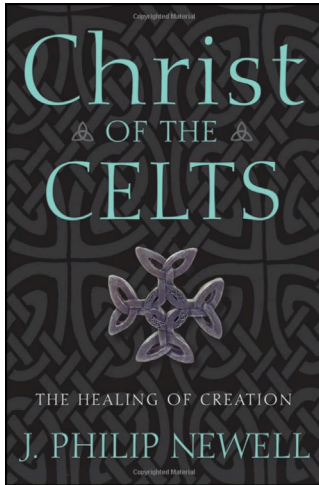
St. Nicholas Choir

Siyahamba, South African hymn
Teach Me, O Lord, Moger
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, Charpentier



Recommended Spiritual Read

Chosen by Reverend Julia A. Carlson



Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation

by John Philip Newell
Jossey-Bass, 2008

John Philip Newell served as the warden of the Iona Abbey several decades ago. Living in that ancient “thin place” prompted him to pursue a deeper understanding of the ways that the worship lives of the ancient Celts have enhanced Christianity. *Christ of the Celts* is a culmination not only of his own study and experience, but also includes the stories, challenges, and questions of believers from inside and outside the established Church.

Like the letters of Paul, Newell’s content holds certain truths he’s held from the beginning and shows his growth through ministry with real people, real questions, real suffering, and real joy. He weaves personal challenges—ours and his—with threads of pagan prayers, early Christian heresies, and Scripture into a view of membership in the “household of God.”

Suggested book on prayer

Prayer, by Joyce Rupp
Orbis Books, 2007

Lent Begins

Lent at House of Hope begins with the 7 p.m. worship service on Ash Wednesday, February 14. It includes Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and music by the House of Hope Motet Choir and Choir School.

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Moreb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness.

All who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Elements served are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available from the servers.

Transitional Pastor Update

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, provided is an update on our search for a transitional pastor. We received 35 applications for the position and after careful consideration we selected six candidates to interview. We have further narrowed the field to the most promising candidates and are conducting additional interviews.

Our liaison from the Presbytery is providing additional perspective on these finalists, as well as conducting background checks.

We are hoping to have our transitional pastor in place by this spring.

Gloria Olsen, Personnel Committee Chair
Kay Solon, Clerk of Session

Rend Your Heart

by Jan Richardson

For Ash Wednesday

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.

Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart’s walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering,
for trusting the breaking,
for tracing the rupture
that will return you

to the One who waits,
who watches,
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

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Adult Education

Lent 2018 In-Depth Study

February 21–March 28 (Wednesdays) | 7 p.m.

Led by ordained minister Gordon Stewart, this study will use *Be Still: Departure from Collective Madness*.

Feel free to drop in and out of sessions as your schedule allows. Participants are not required to read the book in advance unless they choose to do so.

February 21 The Lens: the author's and yours. Read and discuss the Preface and the last paragraph of the Acknowledgements about the Brothers of Opal Street.

February 28 What is "public theology"? Read and discuss the Foreword, Introduction, and Psalm 46.

March 7 Read and discuss "Only One Sin: Exceptionalism" and "Memorial Day and the Soldier's Helmet."

March 14 Toward an Incarnational Theology. Read and discuss "Stillness at Blue Spring" and "A Joyful Resting Place in Time."

March 21 No Gospel without the Blues. Read and discuss "The Forlorn Children of the Mayflower" and "My Soul Waits in Silence."

March 28 The Economy of God. Read and discuss "The Economy: Only One House," "The World in an Oyster," and "The Bristlecone Pines."

Peace and Justice Sunday Enrichment Series

Learn more about the focus areas of the Peace and Justice Committee on Sundays in February and March.

Sunday, February 18

Dr. Joel Light, Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Northwestern–St. Paul, will present the topic of Climate Justice and the Church. Dr. Light will define what climate justice is in the context of

the Christian church and explore practical methods of engagement in climate justice work.

Sunday, February 25

Executive Director of Beacon Interfaith Collaborative Lee Blons will discuss work at Prior Crossing and future hopes and actions across the Collaborative to end homelessness.

Sunday, March 4

State Senator Matthew Klein, representing the 52nd District, will address the healthcare situation in Minnesota. He will offer his views on health care reform and what we can expect out of the current legislative session. Klein will also suggest ways that we can promote access to quality, affordable health care access for all Minnesotans.

GIVE
GROW
SERVE
WELCOME

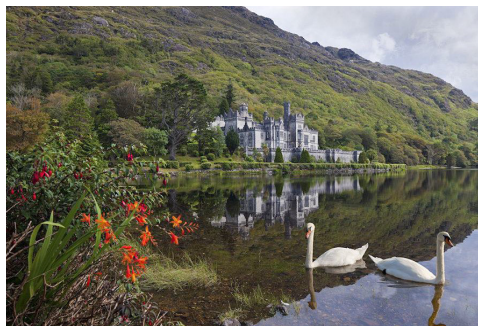
Stewardship – a way to come together

Thank you to all who have pledged for 2018. If you have not already contributed, we welcome your donations at hohchurch.org. Click the blue button on the home screen labeled "My HOH."

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle, MichelleF@hohchurch.org, (651) 223-7556.

Your generous support is vital to this ministry. Thank you.

Celtic Spiritual Pilgrimage to Ireland | September 12–21



Christian history in the Celtic lands of Ireland and Scotland is unique. Seasonal-oriented practices of the pagans coexisted with Christian practice longer than anywhere in Europe. Ancient ideas about beauty, landscape, and ritual infuse life. Celtic Footstep, an Irish travel company, has customized a pilgrimage for House of Hope members. It will begin with a visit to Trinity College in Dublin to see

The Book of Kells exhibit, travel to Newgrange (a sacred site older than Stonehenge), and then make our way to see other sites, including:

- St. Patrick's Cathedral, including an introduction to Celtic spirituality and prayer
- Aran Islands, with a tour a Galway to explore the history and spirituality
- Mount Saint Joseph Abbey

Back on the mainland, the group will visit Brigid's Garden, Connemara, and Kylemore Abbey before a dinner cruise along the river. Additionally, we will see the wild landscape of the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher.

In 10 days, we will have opportunity to see the beauty of Ireland and experience Celtic spirituality, music, dance, and hospitality. The trip will provide time to gather and learn, as well as quiet time to nurture our hearts and souls. Contact Reverend Julia A. Carlson for more information at JuliaC@hohchurch.org or (651) 223-7553.



CHRISTMAS AT HOUSE OF HOPE

Photos by Dick Crone



House of Hope Women's Retreat | April 6-8

Facilitated by Rev. Dixie Brachlow

The annual House of Hope Women's Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of April 6-8 on the beautiful campus of St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. This retreat is designed to be a time for reflection and renewal centered around the sacrament of baptism and its meaning in our lives. We will explore the place of baptism in our faith and practice, trusting that new understandings will deepen our spiritual sense of God's grace in our lives. One of the aims of the retreat is to share insights, talk and laugh together as friends and sisters in Christ, and to better comprehend and reaffirm our own baptism.

Registration begins in March. Cost is \$155 single occupancy/\$125 double occupancy, due at registration. Space is limited. Meals include breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. We will return to St. Paul by early Sunday afternoon. Contact Elly Verhagen, (651) 293-1924 or ellverha@gmail.com.





Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Tweens and Girl Scout Troop 57612 need your help

Merete Nelson's Girl Scout Troop is working on their Silver Award. Please help us collect new small games and books for patients and their siblings (of all ages) at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. Bring items to the next Tweens Group or drop them off in the container outside the Elizabeth Chapel through Sunday, February 25.

One-Room Sunday School Sunday, February 4

PreK–fourth graders are invited to join Kiera Stegall in Room 5 for a one-room Sunday school class after the Time for Children.

Wednesday Storytime Wednesdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Children, birth–PreK, and their parents are invited to attend storytime at Red Balloon Bookshop, located at 891 Grand Avenue, St. Paul. Storytime is free to the public. Note: Storytime is scheduled on February 14, but House of Hope staff will not be present on that date.

February Tween Event Friday, February 9, 6–7:30 p.m.

Fourth–sixth graders (and their friends) are invited to Merriam Park Recreation Center (2000 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul) for pizza and sledding. Dress warmly and bring a sled. The cost for this event is \$7. RSVP to Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hchurch.org by Wednesday, February 7. Note any food allergies in your reservation.

Third Grade Bibles Sunday, February 11

Third grade Bibles will be presented in worship. If you have a third grader, please contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hoh-church.org by Wednesday, February 7, to confirm your child's preferred name (first and last) and your attendance. You do not need to be present on February 11 to receive a Bible.

Creative Expressions

PreK–fifth graders are invited to our new arts and spirituality ministry offering on Sundays from 11:15 a.m.–noon in Dining Rooms A & B. Each week, children will

engage in a topic of spirituality through story or discussion before exploring new visual arts media. Artwork created during this program will be selected by the artists to hang in the Cloister Gallery in May. Creative Expressions will meet on February 11, 18, and 25.

Mardi Gras Party

Wednesday, February 14, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Enjoy dinner with your family, create a shoebox float, join a parade, and enjoy music and fellowship with others as we celebrate Mardi Gras at this intergenerational event. The cost is \$10 per person, no more than \$30 per family. Look to the bulletin and weekly parent emails for registration information.

Parents Night Out

Friday, February 23, 5–10 p.m.

Birth–fifth graders are invited to a Parents Night Out Pajama Party. The cost is \$20 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. Pizza, carrots, applesauce, water, and lemonade will be served for dinner. Kids will enjoy movies, games, activities, and more. All proceeds support The Bash. Reservations are required by Wednesday, February 21. RSVP to Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org.

Summer Family Camp

Friday, June 8–Sunday, June 10

Families are invited to Clearwater Forest for family camp. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes meals and lodging. Scholarship money is available. Registration details are coming soon.

Summer Camp-in-a-Van

Join us at House of Hope for Camp-in-a-Van on Monday, June 18–Thursday, June 21 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. The cost is \$60 per person, scholarship money is available. Registration details are coming soon.

Thank you from Mission Outreach



Sponsor-a-Family This holiday season, we delivered a truckload of wrapped gifts to 63 families who were “adopted” by HOH members. Grateful center directors noted how healing is accelerated when the stress of Christmas is “all covered.” On behalf of all the parents and children who benefited from your generosity—thank you. Your time, thought, and resources are greatly appreciated.

Prior Crossing Holiday Party House of Hope deacons hosted a holiday party for the residents of Prior Crossing. This included a meal for residents and staff, music and a cookie decorating table. Each resident received a Target gift card. “The youth loved it and we are all so grateful,” said Brenda Delaney, program manager. Deacons plan to make this an annual event.



SUNDAY SERIES WITH HARRY BELAFONTE

Photos by Dick Crone



Sunday–Weekday Connections

Every woman at House of Hope has a story. On Tuesday, February 27, at 6 p.m., we'll gather to hear Laurel Gamm's.

After 25 years of practicing family and emergency medicine in New Ulm, Laurel moved to the West Seventh neighborhood in St. Paul to work as a primary care physician for people experiencing homelessness. Laurel grew up in Park Rapids, MN, received her degree from the University of Minnesota, and trained in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She has four grown children—here and on both coasts. Laurel and her husband, Charles, joined House of Hope in May 2017. She also joined the Consociate program at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Register at the table outside the Kirk Parlour after worship beginning February 11. The cost is \$25 per person.

Re-Imagining Embodiment: Looking Back–Looking Forward United Days, March 1–2

In 1993, the PC(USA) along with other religious organizations and United Theological Seminary, designed a global theological colloquium called The Re-imagining Conference. It was a response to the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988–1998). The conference sold out in days; attendees spoke of a liberating and challenging experience.

United Theological Seminary will host a celebration of the conference alongside the 40th anniversary of the publication of James B. Nelson's, *Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology*.

More information can be found at: <http://unitedseminary.edu/united-days> for details and registration.

CLOISTER GALLERY



Photography by Joseph Donovan

February 21–March 25

Marvel at the simple elegance of a moonlit sky, wander through a misty forest, explore an untraveled path. Joseph Donovan's powerful, black-and-white photography invites us to experience the serene beauty of nature in unexpected ways. For Donovan, a landscape photographer with a keen eye for the understated, it's a spiritual journey steeped in appreciation of the forces that connect our humanity with the natural world.

He prints each piece in his studio using a large-format printer and Piezography monochromatic inks. This painstaking process gives each work the contrast, richness, and depth that bring it to life.

Visit www.jfdonovan.com to learn more about his work.



STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for the House of Hope Enews to stay up-to-date about upcoming activities.

Visit hohchurch.org or call the office at (651) 227-6311.

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Summit Hill Brass Quintet Concert | February 11 at 2 p.m.

House of Hope will host the Summit Hill Brass Quintet, which is led by David Baldwin, Professor of Trumpet at the University of Minnesota. The program will include early music in addition to contemporary classics for brass quintet. Organist Aaron David Miller will join them in Virgil Fox's well known arrangement of Bach's *Now Thank We All Our God*.

The concert is free and open to the public.

***The Singers* Annual Community Sing-Along Friday, February 2 at 7p.m.**

House of Hope will host *The Singers* Annual Community Sing-Along with the House of Hope Motet Choir. This year we will sing John Rutter's *Requiem*, led by Choir Director Matthew Culloton and accompanied by Organist Aaron David Miller and instrumentalists.

This community event draws singers from all over the Twin Cities—professional and amateur alike. It is free and open to any and all ability levels. Music scores are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Last year's event attracted more than 250 local singers. Come and join the fun.