



## CHRISTMAS AT HOUSE OF HOPE

### Sunday, December 2

*First Sunday of Advent*

10 a.m. Worship  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching  
Motet Choir and Choir School  
11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration

### Sunday, December 9

*Second Sunday of Advent*

10 a.m. Worship  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching  
Motet Choir and Choir School  
11:15 a.m. Choir School Christmas Concert

### Sunday, December 16

*Third Sunday of Advent*

10 a.m. Worship  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching  
Motet Choir and Choir School  
11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant

### Saturday, December 22

5:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas  
Tableaux Service  
Childcare available for children under 6.

### Sunday, December 23

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

10 a.m. Worship  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching  
Motet Choir and Choir School  
11:15 a.m. Christmas Carol Sing-Along

### Monday, December 24

*Christmas Eve*

4 p.m. Multigenerational Service  
7 and 9:30 p.m. Carillon Recitals by David Johnson  
7:30 and 10 p.m. Candlelight Services  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching  
Candlelight services will include  
Christmas anthems and music by Motet  
Choir and The Bach Chamber Players.  
10 p.m. service will include Vivaldi's *Gloria*.  
Childcare at 4 and 7:30 p.m. services.  
There is no worship on Christmas Day.

Visit [hohchurch.org](http://hohchurch.org) for livestreaming of  
the Candlelight Services.

## Traditional Christmas Tableaux Service

Much of our history and traditions at House of Hope center around Christmas. It was on Christmas Eve, in a wilderness outpost, that five men and women of faith met to celebrate the birth of our Lord. It was the beginning of House of Hope in 1849.

One of the most meaningful of our traditions is the Traditional Christmas Tableaux Service. Held originally on Christmas morning in the Parish House nearly 100 years ago, the beauty and reverence of its message so impressed the Elders that they asked for its presentation in the sanctuary.

The Tableaux Service is not a pageant or a theatrical production; it is the Christmas story told through the Scriptures, through anthems and carols, and in the adaptation in tableaux or "living pictures" of well-known paintings and scenes of the nativity.

This unique and beautiful service offers a time for peaceful reflection, and a space to experience the wonder and joy of the season.



### Saturday, December 22, 2018

Sanctuary | 5:30 p.m.

Childcare available for  
children under 6.

# Clergy Message



*"In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone."*

Advent songs begin in the darkness. Yet in the face of the darkness, we keep lighting candles. Advent is a time when we recognize the tragedy and gloom in the world—and yet we recognize that God keeps giving us the light of hope.

Christopher Reeve was the actor who played Superman in the movies. But in real life, he suffered a paralyzing spinal cord injury. Surely that threatened to shroud his life in darkness. Yet he did more amazing things to help people from his wheelchair than he ever did as an actor. As he stated so profoundly, "once you choose hope, anything is possible."

Advent is when we, as Christians, make it clear: we choose hope. The hope that God gives, which makes all things possible. Advent is a time of both waiting and fulfillment. Waiting—the time when hope gives us the courage to face the challenges and tragedies. And Advent leads to fulfillment—the joy that hope has arrived, has become fulfilled, that hope has been born.

We know Christ is coming. So we prepare ourselves in our attitudes, our expectations and our actions. Advent leads to our awareness: Christ is here. It makes sense to sing both Advent songs and Christmas carols during this season. It helps us live into our hope. It helps us experience hope becoming reality.

Like children, we want to hear the story again. We hear something new every time. Or, perhaps, we are in a new place in life, and need to hear the power of hope reverberate through the darkness, as angels sing from the heavens again.

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,*

*Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia."*

*Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!*

May hope be born for you this Advent, and may Christmas become new and real for us all.

—Andrew McDonald  
Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff



# WORSHIP

**10 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 2**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir:**  
Advent anthems

**St. Nicholas Choir:**  
*Bereite dich, Zion*  
(from *Christmas Oratorio*), Bach

**Sunday, December 9**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir:**  
Advent anthems

**St. Nicholas and St. Cecilia Choirs:**  
*Infant Holy*, Danish carol, arr. Jennings

**Sunday, December 16**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir:**  
Advent anthems

**St. Nicholas Choir:**  
*Susani*, German carol, arr. Bisbee

**Sunday, December 23**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir:**  
Advent anthems

**St. Nicholas Choir:**  
*Personent Hodie*, Holst

**Monday, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**

Please see insert on page 1.

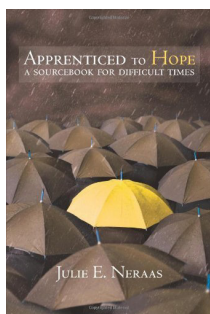
**Sunday, December 30**  
**First Sunday after Christmas Day**

Visit [hohchurch.org](http://hohchurch.org) for livestreaming of Sunday worship services.





## Recommended Spiritual Read



### ***Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*** by Rev. Julie Neraas

As we come to December and think about the end of 2018, I hope there are many wonderful memories you can call

to mind of family celebrations, travel or time at the lake, and moments of great beauty whether in nature, an art museum, or in the midst of a poem. All of these surely feed the soul and elevate our resilience.

Yet, this season arrives just a month after All Saints' Day which possibly casts a shadow on the holidays. It can be especially difficult if it is among the first years or anniversary without a beloved family member. Perhaps you or someone you know was diagnosed with cancer this year and daily life has shifted from ordinary routines to a cancer treatment lifestyle. Stories of the opioid epidemic fill the news and the CDC reports that suicide rates have risen 30 percent since 1999. These are not just news stories, they touch our lives.

Division, anxiety, stress, and sadness can worsen in December; it's something to watch for in ourselves and in others. No one, male or female, young or old, rich or poor is immune from physical, mental or emotional duress. There is no shame in our human need for help and communion when sad or hurt.

This year's book selections are all about the practice of our faith—or praxis as it is called in educational circles. Our suggested read for December is *Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*. Rev. Julie Neraas writes about hope in the midst of struggle from many points of view. These thoughts on hope are presented in short essays so one can read the book from beginning to end, pick out a title from the table of contents

based on mood, or simply open to a section and see what it brings.

Stephen Ministers are also available for ongoing support for both men and women in the midst of life's challenges or losses.

#### **Other suggestions for help:**

**Call a pastor via the church office** at (651) 227-6311. If you are calling after church hours or on a weekend, follow the instructions to be transferred to the pastor phone. You may also contact Pastor Julia Carlson at [JuliaC@hohchurch.org](mailto:JuliaC@hohchurch.org).

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** (800) 273-TALK (8255). They also offer an online chat. Visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/> to get connected.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA):** (651) 227-5502 or [aastpaul.org](http://aastpaul.org)

**Al-Anon** (651) 771-2208 or [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org)  
AA and Al-Anon hold weekly meetings at House Hope on Monday evenings.

**Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation:**  
[www.hazelden.org](http://www.hazelden.org)

**EAP – Employee Assistance Program**  
(612) 315-7782 | A program offering free, confidential assessments, short-term counseling, and services to employees.

## SAVE THE DATE

### **Women's Retreat**

**April 26–28, 2019**  
**St. John's Abbey Guesthouse**



## Flower Memorials

House of Hope invites you to purchase a poinsettia (\$15) or make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones this Advent and Christmas Season. Their names will be included in the bulletin on December 23. Visit or call the church office or pay online. To pay online click the blue 'give' button, select 'donate now,' enter an amount and select the 'Flower Memorials' fund. Please use the optional memo box to indicate the names and if you would like to pick up a poinsettia. You may select 'add more' if you have more than one. The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is December 16.

## Meditation Opportunity

### **Lectio Divina: Mornings of Reflection During Advent**

December 3, 10, 17 | 10–11 a.m.  
1890 Randolph Ave, St. Paul

*Lectio Divina* or Sacred Reading is the slow, repetitive reading of a sacred text that leads one to the ultimate step of resting in God.

This four-step process for being with Scripture in a prayerful manner includes: Reading (*Lectio*); Meditating (*Meditatio*); Praying (*Oratio*); and Contemplating (*Contemplatio*). Using texts for Advent, you will experience this ancient prayer form in a group setting, though it is easily adapted to individual practice and can be incorporated into your prayer life.

Learn more and RSVP at: [wisdomwascen.org/programs-art-exhibits/current-programs/lectio-divina/](http://wisdomwascen.org/programs-art-exhibits/current-programs/lectio-divina/)

# Steps on the Transition Process to a New Head Pastor

I want to share an update on the transition process as House of Hope moves toward a new Head Pastor. Of course, ministry is both about the planned steps and the unexpected interruptions that can be important parts of the journey. I include some of those surprises, as they are important for what comes next. Along the way there may be some additions to the process that may be helpful. I would expect the Pastor Nominating Committee to be underway early in 2019.

- ✓ Get to know the congregation and the staff.
- ✓ Build relationships with congregational leaders for trust and open communication.
- ✓ Learn how Session and committees are functioning.
- ✓ Address immediate pastoral needs.
- ✓ Interview congregational leaders for insights about the congregation.
- ✓ Say goodbye to Rev. Jeff Foels and

Diane Smith.

- ✓ With Personnel Committee, develop job description for Transitional Associate Pastor.
- ✓ With Personnel Committee, develop job description for Director of Administration.
- ✓ Do search for Transitional Associate Pastor and for Director of Administration (in process).
- ✓ Develop and implement a few new ideas to see how open the system is to new ideas.
- ✓ Have a Leadership Retreat with Session, Trustees, and program staff to begin thinking about new directions.
- Gather 12–15 focus groups to listen to hopes, dreams, and goals of members.
- Percept sociological review of congregational context.
- Gather a group to talk about the church history, as it helps us see

future directions.

- Gather a group of 20–30 people for three meetings to develop a short list of core values.
- Test the core values out with the congregation in a variety of groups.
- Develop a list of core values.
- Develop a list of goals and priorities.
- Develop a Position Description for the Head Pastor.
- Congregation nominates a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- PNC (with assistance from Presbytery) does nationwide search for the next House of Hope Head Pastor.

If you have questions or insights, I would enjoy hearing from you.

—Andrew McDonald  
Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff

## Project Home at House of Hope

**Jenny Stevens, Project Lead**

For 21 years, our congregation has helped homeless families in our community through Project Home. And we've done it again! This year, more than 100 volunteers spent more than 400 hours of their time managing our emergency overnight center.

Thank you to all the volunteers that heard the calling to help with Project Home this year. I would also like to extend an extra thank you to those who helped several times over the month and those that helped with short notice. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

In loving memory of our dear friend, Dennis Anderson.

### 2018 Project Home Volunteers

Jan Anderson, John Anderson, Katie Anderson, Paul Anderson, Ginger Bailey, Walt Bailey, Marilyn Bjorklund, Mary Ellen Bland, Phil Bolinder, Georgia Bond, Dixie Brachlow, Stephen Brachlow, Sara Braun, David Cleveland, Leo Coenen, Mick Coenen, Mike Coenen, Judie Cooper, Bill Covington, Margie Crone, Leslie Erickson, Todd Erickson, Jan Favorite, Dave Finholt, Jane Flad, Allan Floyd, Betty Foliard, Debby Fulton, Laurel Gamm, Ann Geery, Bill Geery, Kelsea Gilliland, Tim Godfrey, Allison Golnik, Layna Grecula, Sarah Grecula, Darrel Gubrud, Bruce Harrington, Clare Harrington, Eric Holter, Dave Hutchinson, Julie Jacobsen, Erika Jamison, Lee Jamison, Roger Jensen, Sarah Jensen, Don Johnson, Kurt Johnson, Stacey Johnson, Marilyn Knudsen, Russ Koebrick, Sue Koebrick, Patty Lacy, Joe Lane, Linda Lane, Renee Lane, Bill Liike, Dave Mayer, Sherla Mayer, Donna



McCarthy, Martha McCartney, Dennis McCarty, Chris McHugh, Doug Melena, Leslie Meyer, Margaret Miller, Mike Nord, Jackie O'Keefe, Dave Olson, Gloria Olson, Mary Patton, Dave Pearson, Tyler Penniman, Connie Phillips, Dave Phillips, Cathy Pomeroy, Sherwood Pomeroy, Mark Prpich, Sarah Prpich, Derek Robb, Mad-die Roth, Jim Ruhl, Nancy Sabin, Paul Satre, Tehout Selameab, Mary Senkbeil, Mijung Seo, Evan Shipp, Greg Shipp, Leah Shipp, Tom Skovholt, Dianne Smith, Doug Snaza, Paul Solon, Kay Solon, Kiera Stegall, Charles Stephens, Addie Stevens, Geoff Stevens, Holly Stoerker, Evelyn Sunness, Linda Touhy, Bernie Touhy, Ingrid Verhagen, Shana Wagner, Kevin Walli, Becks Westrem, Robyn Westrem, Jill Winter, Lisa Yost



# House of Hope Stewardship 2019



## End of Year Giving

As the year draws to a close, please make your 2019 Stewardship pledge today.

We welcome your contributions in many ways, including check, credit card, or stock transfer, among others. You can set up your donation through automatic giving on the HOH website. Visit [hohchurch.org](http://hohchurch.org) and click "My HOH" in the top menu bar. To create an account, select "Need a Log in" or log into your My HOH account and manage your donations online.

Gifts of stock or securities and qualified distributions from IRAs are always welcome and the process is not difficult. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Freyholtz, [MichelleF@hohchurch.org](mailto:MichelleF@hohchurch.org), (651) 223-7556.

If you are making a payment toward your 2019 pledge in calendar year 2018, be sure to indicate in the memo line of your check that it is for a "Prepaid Pledge for 2019." This ensures the correct allocation of your gift and allows us to process your gift acknowledgement in a timely manner.

Please remember that to be credited for the 2018 tax year, checks must be postmarked by no later than midnight on December 31, 2018.

Thank you for your contributions. Your generous support is vital to this ministry.

Our annual **Christmas Offerings** will be received at all three worship services on Christmas Eve. Your gift to this offering supports the church's mission and ministry in our community.

As faithful followers of Christ and active citizens of the world, we believe that God calls us to be generous and joyful givers. We have so much for which to be grateful. House of Hope offers tremendous programs, has a committed clergy and staff, and participates actively in mission outreach within our community.

Each year House of Hope works hard to meet its budget, so your contribution is not simply giving, but giving back.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment. You may place your envelope in the offering plate at any of the Christmas Eve services or mail it to the church.

## Working Toward a Peaceful and Just World

The Peace and Justice Committee and its half-dozen working groups anticipate a full and challenging year ahead. We initiated a second adult education track on Sunday mornings. Over recent weeks we have held forums on gun violence and criminal justice reform. Look for future sessions on health care reform, child abuse prevention, environmental stewardship, and housing equity.

Please check out our new pages on the church's website. Under the Mission tab, you can now find several pages devoted to Peace and Justice issues and efforts. Our position statements and action plans are posted. We will announce events and opportunities for advocacy as they arise, particularly during the upcoming legislative session.

In connection with the Peace and Justice Committee's housing equity efforts, Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald and other

area pastors recently toured the Wall of Forgotten Natives in Minneapolis. A larger effort grew out of that visit. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Avivo (a service provider), and the Red Lake Nation will respond to the urgent needs created by the Minneapolis encampment. As of this writing, at least eight people from the encampment moved to American House, a Beacon property in Lowertown St. Paul. It is anticipated that another 25 will move in over the coming months.

Our committee meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. If you are interested in a particular issue that we are working on, or if you have an issue that you would like to bring forward, please join us. For more information, contact committee co-chairs: Mike Nord, [mnord@amerion.com](mailto:mnord@amerion.com) or Deb James, [dsjames96@gmail.com](mailto:dsjames96@gmail.com).

## CLOISTER GALLERY



Get in the holiday spirit with a visit to the Cloister Gallery this month. Favorite wreaths of House of Hope members will be on display. Stop by to view a wide variety of styles and traditions.



# Children, Youth, and Family Programming

## Making a World of Difference this Advent Season

Advent calendars can help us celebrate the Christmas season to the fullest and prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

House of Hope is putting a different spin on the Advent calendar this year by introducing a **Penny Advent calendar**. The idea is to count down to Christmas by reflecting on our many blessings. We aimed to create something to fill the season with a bit more intentionality and thoughtfulness.

The money we collect will be used to buy livestock for families through Heifer International. May your Christmas season truly be Christ-filled as you help your children seek Him even as the Wise Men did.

*"Go into all the world and  
preach the good news to all  
creation." Mark 16:15*



Say a prayer for impoverished children and families in the US and around the world.	Donate a quarter if you ate three meals today.	Donate \$1 if you go to school or daycare.	Donate a penny for every book in your room.
Donate a nickel for every video game you own.	Donate a quarter if you've ever been to the dentist.	Donate \$1 if you know how to read or will be able to learn to read.	Donate a dime for every faucet in your home.
Donate 50 cents if your home is warm in the winter.	Donate a quarter for every car your family owns.	Donate 50 cents if your family owns a cell phone.	Donate \$1 if someone said, "I love you" to you today.

## December Childcare Schedule

### December 22

We will have nursery available for the Traditional Christmas Tableaux service.

### December 23

We will have nursery and One-Room Sunday school for K–sixth graders.

### Christmas Eve Services

We will have nursery during the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

We will have nursery and One-Room Sunday school for K–first graders for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. There is NO nursery or Sunday school at the 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

### December 30

We will have nursery and One-Room Sunday school for K–first graders.

### Children's Holiday Party and Lock-In | December 14 | 8:30 p.m.

Please bring a wrapped "gift" to share. It should be something that you have either found in your basement/attic, or purchased with the purpose of confusing, bewildering or amusing. This will entail a "White Elephant" gift exchange with extremely strict rules and mandatory participation. Each person should also try to bring a holiday snack to share: salty, sweet, savory or sippy.

We will end the lock-in at 9 a.m., but youth are invited to stay for an extra hour or so to help load trucks for the Christmas Sponsor-a-Family.



*Our first Cookies and Canvas event was a smashing success. Many children and adults stopped by to paint a canvas and enjoy some award-winning cookies.*





## Choir School



### BEHOLD! Choir School Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 9 | 11:15 a.m.**

All are invited to remain in the Sanctuary following worship for the annual Choir School Christmas Concert. This festive program features anthems, carols, and hymns sung by the choristers of our Choir School. Join us as we celebrate the season with the sounds of singing.



### Choir School Registration

Do you know a child who loves to sing? The House of Hope Choir School offers outstanding choral and vocal training for all children PreK-Grade 12. Interested families are encouraged to visit a rehearsal and new choristers may join starting January 9. Please contact Choir School Director Sofia Ardan for more information and to schedule a visit.

More information can be found on our website: [hohchurch.org/choir-school](http://hohchurch.org/choir-school)

## Scottish Spiritual Pilgrimage | May 2019

For thousands of years, people of faith have traveled abroad to enhance their spiritual lives. Pilgrims are called peregrina in the Latin, which means "I wander." Poet David Whyte leads pilgrimages through Ireland, Wales, and Italy and says one of the benefits of spiritual travel is being "dependent on the hospitality of others." We can always grow in truth and grace wherever we are. Yet, the Ireland pilgrimage group found that the vulnerability and newness opened hearts and minds. Or as the Celts say, the peregrini travel to "find their place of resurrection, of new life."

George MacLeod, the founder of the modern-day Iona community said, "Follow truth wherever you find it. Even if it takes you outside your preconceived ideas of God or life."

Sometimes we have to leave home to find our truth. Where might God be calling you? What new vista, near or far, does



**"The feeling remains that God is on the journey too."  
—Theresa of Avila**

God need you to see?

This trip includes a wonderful tour of Scotland with a retreat on the Isle of Iona. It will begin with five days exploring Scotland, including visits to Glasgow, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, and Inverness. Enjoy the beauty and learn fascinating history, while you discover Scotland's

sacred heritage.

Limited space is available for this trip to Scotland, please contact Reverend Julia Carlson for more information at (651) 223-7553 or [JuliaC@hohchurch.org](mailto:JuliaC@hohchurch.org).

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## SUNDAY SERIES

### **Don Lemon** **Award-Winning CNN Anchor** **January 20 | 2 p.m.**

Audiences will immediately recognize Don Lemon as a veteran TV journalist and trusted source of information from CNN, NBC, and MSNBC. Relatable and charismatic, Lemon's award-winning work defies genre, candidly exposing injustice and the resiliency of the human spirit.

A true product of the modern news age, Lemon discusses how he has embraced social media's power to reach viewers. An inspiration to diverse audiences, he shares his hard-fought rise to primetime as one of the most prominent African-American and gay men in TV news today.