**Lent Begins**

**Lent at House of Hope begins with the Ash Wednesday worship service on March 6 at 7 p.m. It will include Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and music by The 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.

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**Forty Days of Focus: Life Groups During Lent**

We hope that many of you will choose to participate in Lenten Life Groups this Lent.

The focus will be provided by Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald’s curriculum, written for this purpose: Forty Days of Focus. Groups will range from as small as three to as large as twelve—and we pray that this invitation to self-examination and growth will be the opportunity you seek. As Dr. McDonald writes in his introduction:

*Forty Days of Focus is an invitation to examine who we are and where we are going. It is a time to set new priorities and goals. For some people, it may be a time to reaffirm and reinforce. Others may see it as an invitation to reframe their story—to view it from a different perspective. Others may decide to write a dramatically new script for their lives.*

*For all it is an opportunity to intentionally define our vision and mission. Growth happens when we make commitments to consider the possibilities that God is giving us. As people of faith, we listen to God with each other. There are many challenges in what follows. We grow best in a supportive atmosphere where important topics are thoughtfully considered. Think about new directions for your life and faith discussion and discern together in a spirit of joyful expectation.*

If this is something you’d like to do, register for Forty Days of Focus on HOH’s website. If you’re willing to be the convener, indicate that. Life Groups will meet at times and places of their own choosing so there should be one that fits your schedule—if there’s not, start a new one. Please contact Pastor Wilson at ZachW@hohchurch.org if you have any questions.

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**Sunday, March 3, 2 p.m.**  
Joel Sartore  
Please see back page for details.

**Sunday, March 10, 11:15 a.m.**  
Dr. Joel Light  
Dr. Joel Light is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Northwestern. He specializes in the intersection of the church and environmental issues.

**Sunday, March 17, 11:15 a.m.**  
**Empowering Faith Communities to Address the Climate Crisis**  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light works in partnership with faith communities to build transformative power and bring the lights of people’s unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis.

**Sunday, March 24, 11:15 a.m.**  
Dr. Mark Seeley  
*“Evidence and Consequences of Climate Change in Our Minnesota Backyard”*  
Seeley is a highly respected speaker on weather and climate and a regular commentator on Minnesota Public Radio’s *Morning Edition*. He is the author of *Minnesota Weather Almanac* and co-author of *Voyageur Skies: Weather and the Wilderness in Minnesota’s National Parks*.

**Sunday, March 31, 11:15 a.m.**  
**Environmental Stewardship at House of Hope: Where do we go from here?**  
Presented by members of the Peace and Justice Committee: Terri Mattila, Deb James, and Elly Verhagen.
Clergy Message

The Seven Deadly Sins Today: Lenten Sermon Series

Our faith is about an honest engagement with life. To know the height of God’s love, we must honestly explore the reality of human sin. If we are candid, all of us struggle with this. Our antagonists in this wrestling match are Sloth, Pride, Envy, Gluttony, Lust, Greed, and Anger. They are root causes of unhappiness and human destructiveness. One only needs to see the news to see these seven sins are alive, well and deadlier than ever.

Christian practices guide us to master our passions rather than be enslaved by them. This conceptual system explores the root causes of human destructiveness and how it expands. Christian virtues help us become more humane and build a more caring society.

In the season of Lent, we will draw on the Bible, philosophy, literature, and human experience to gain insights into this ongoing struggle for our humanity.

I look forward to a meaningful Lenten exploration with you in the coming Sunday mornings.

—Rev. Andrew McDonald

Session Highlights

The Session heard about the on-going discussions of the Visioning Group who are condensing the insights from the Congregational Conversations. This group expects to wrap up their discussions and make a presentation to the congregation for feedback. After that, the next steps are writing a Pastoral Position Description for the next Head Pastor. When that is complete, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry will help the congregation with the process of choosing a Pastoral Nominating Committee. We expect to move forward with these in the next one to two months. Stay tuned for more updates.

The Session has heard about the need for a new heating and air conditioning system. This would cost more than we have in the current or saved repair funds. In that light, the Session passed a motion to form a group that would explore the feasibility of a Capital Campaign. The Session also heard from the Kitchen Committee, who recommend renovating the kitchen at the same time. This Feasibility Study Group will make a recommendation based on the need, capacity, and willingness of the congregation to move forward with these important areas of congregational life.

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, March 3
Transfiguration of the Lord
Motet Choir:
This is My Beloved Son, Thomas
The Morning Trumpet, Kallman
St. Nicholas Choir
If Ye Love Me, Tallis

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday | 7 p.m.
Motet Choir:
Call to Remembrance, Farrant
The Scholars:
Domine Fili a 3, Martini

Sunday, March 10
First Sunday in Lent
Motet Choir:
Hear My Prayer, Hogan
Those that Shall Abide, White
St. Cecilia and St. Nicholas Choirs:
When Jesus Wept, Billings

Sunday, March 17
Second Sunday in Lent
Motet Choir:
How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place, Mealor
Sing Unto God, Fetler
St. Nicholas Choir:
I’m Goin’ Up a Yonder, Hawkins

Sunday, March 24
Third Sunday in Lent
Motet Choir:
A Hymn to God the Father, Stocker
God Our Father, Christ Our Mother, Miller
St. Nicholas Choir:
Bound for the Promised Land, Miller

Sunday, March 31
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Motet Choir:
Illumina, Hawes | Misere mei, Byrd
St. Nicholas Choir:
Ave Verum, Mozart
Adult Handbell Choir

Visit hochurch.org for livestreaming of Sunday worship services.
Pilgrimages
Members and friends of HOH have traveled together to many parts of the world. In 2018, 26 of us went on pilgrimage to Ireland. In 2019, a group will visit Reformation sites in Scotland followed by a four-day retreat on Iona. Travel forms community. To travel as pilgrims adds an element of seeking. It invites God to show us the world anew and to plant seeds for further growth. Rev. Julia Carlson has some new destinations in mind, and wonders, where your heart’s desire leans? If you have an interest in pilgrimage, please meet in the Library at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, March 31, 2019 to share ideas.

HOH Community Retreat | June 7–9
Join House of Hope for a multigenerational community retreat at Clearwater Forest. Enjoy a waterfront view, communal meals, art, devotional times, and worship. From ropes courses and water activities to prayer labyrinths and relaxing by the bonfire, this retreat has something for all ages. We even have an infant and toddler play space.

Register to join us in one of the two beautiful lodges and help us celebrate summertime together.

Cost is $85 per participant, which includes meals and lodging. Children, 3-years-old and younger, participate for free. Scholarships available. For more information, contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org.

Spiritual Read by Julia Carlson
Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit
by Elizabeth A. Johnson
The author of this book is one of the great theological minds of our time. As Johnson traces the systematic sublimation of women and the earth together, she pleads for our action to liberate both. This is a small but mighty volume; Mother Earth is crying out and it is a spiritual matter. She echoes Paul’s words from Romans, “We know the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves.” (Romans 8:22-23a). Our salvation is dependent upon the formation of community locally, nationally, and internationally. It is about inclusive justice for all living people and things. This is a highly recommended liberation theology of ecology.

Prayer: Our Daily Bread, An Untold Mystery
April 26–28
St. John’s Abbey Guesthouse, Collegeville
Rev. Julia Carlson, Facilitator

“Listen carefully, to the master’s instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart.”

So begins the Rule of St. Benedict. As we enjoy the hospitality of the Benedictine brothers at the St. John’s Abbey Guesthouse, we will engage the “ear of the heart” as we speak about and practice prayer.

All women are invited for a weekend of reflection and renewal at Saint John’s Abbey Guesthouse, approximately 90 miles west of St. Paul, on 2,600 acres of woodlands and lakes in Central Minnesota. Beside gatherings as a group, there will be time to reflect in silence, explore the beautiful campus and grounds, tour the Saint John’s Bible Gallery, and join the monastic community in worship and prayer.

Register at our table near the Kirk Parlour on March 24, 31, and April 7. Cost includes lodging, all meals (dinner Friday through breakfast Sunday), and retreat materials; and is due at the time of registration: $170 single occupancy, $140 double occupancy. Space is limited, so register early.

Our yearly women’s retreat offers time away from our routines and invites us to deepen our relationship with God. When I was young, I was taught that prayer was speaking to God, to pray for our own gratitude and concerns as well as to pray for others. As we grow up, we learn that the quality of our relationships depends as much, and perhaps more, upon how well we listen. The same is true of our relationship with God. Please come and experience chant, centering prayer, the practice of silence, and the Jesus Prayer.

– Rev. Julia Carlson

House of Hope Women’s Retreat
All-Church Book Read
*Spiritual Defiance, Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D.*

For 21 years, House of Hope’s Didier Seminar has brought us thoughtful and challenging “new voices of The Spirit.” This year, progressive pastor, distinguished professor and best-selling author, Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D. will speak Saturday night and Sunday morning, April 6-7. Take an opportunity to get acquainted with his thinking by reading and discussing his latest book, *Spiritual Defiance.*

*Spiritual Defiance* is packed with ideas that may challenge what you believe about church and faith. It’s based on Meyers’ Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale, one of most distinguished lecture series in the world. Don’t worry, Meyers is a witty and readable writer as well as a genuinely progressive thinker. While addressed to pastors, *Spiritual Defiance* is a fascinating read for anyone wondering, “What will it take to create a powerfully authentic future for church and faith?”

What faith leaders have said about *Spiritual Defiance:*

John Buchanan, former Pastor at Chicago’s Fourth Presbyterian Church and *Christian Century* Publisher/Editor: “Anyone who cares about the future of the church and the world the church is called to serve, should read this book.”

Walter Brueggemann, UCC Scholar and Pastor: “Robin Meyers names the factors that are paralyzing the church and making it irrelevant.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu: “Robin Meyers at his pastoral and prophetic best. Read it, and then for the love of God—RESIST!”

We invite the House of Hope community to gather to discuss the book. We will offer multiple formats, including three Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. and a Sunday Enrichment:

- March 13, Prologue, Chapter 1: Faith as Resistance to Ego
- March 20, Chapter 2: Faith as Resistance to Orthodoxy
- March 27, Chapter 3, Epilogue: Faith as Resistance to Empire
- Sunday, March 31: Resisting the Reign of the Christian Status Quo

Purchase your copy for $12 outside the Kirk Parlour or in the church office.

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2019 Didier Seminar on Religions and Contemporary Thought | April 6–7

“Progressive Christianity” with Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D.

**Saturday**
6:30 p.m. – Wine and cheese reception
7:30 p.m. – Lecture: “From Galilean Sage to Supernatural Savior”

**Sunday**
10 a.m. – Sermon: “Original Blessing”
11 a.m. – Lecture: “Houston We Have a God Problem”

Senior Minister at Mayflower Congregational UCC Church in Oklahoma City for 34 years and for nearly as long Distinguished Professor of Social Justice at Oklahoma City University, Meyers’ seven books include the much-discussed, national bestseller, *Saving Jesus from the Church.*

Watch for details registration details that will be announced soon.

“Progressive Christians must not surrender the Bible to fundamentalists, but join head and heart in the search for a relevant and intellectually honest church for the 21st century.” – Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D.
Earth Care

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.
— Psalm 24:1

As part of our church’s environmental awareness this spring, the Environmental Stewardship working group of the Peace and Justice Committee is excited to launch a monthly feature in the Anchor. It will offer an action you might take to help halt climate change and live in careful stewardship and enjoyment of our earth and all creation.

Use Reusable Bags

Have you ever seen plastic bags stuck in the branches of a tree? Or roll across a street on a windy day? Have you read about dead marine animals whose stomachs were filled with plastic bags? Or heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—an accumulation of plastic products that has collected in the Pacific Ocean that is more than twice the size of Texas? These are a few examples of the extent of plastic pollution.

If you’re not already doing so, replace your use of plastic (and paper) grocery bags with reusable ones. Store reusable bags near the car keys or keep them in the trunk of your car, for easy access. Then on your next shopping trip, when you’re asked, “Paper or plastic?” smile and say, “Neither—I brought my own.”

Let us know! If you support this effort, when you sign the Friendship pad during Sunday worship, next to your name put an E.

Adult Education

Joy Davis’ Second Thursday Literature Seminar
March 14 | 10 a.m. | Library
We return to the Middle Ages to discuss Chaucer’s springtime “Prologue” to the Canterbury Tales along with Reed Whitemore’s Minnesota-winter’s parody of Chaucer’s “Swete” month of March. Texts are provided. All are welcome.

Sunday-Weekday Connections
March 26 | 6 p.m. | Kirk Parlour
Anne Yuska researched and wrote Windows about the biblical and historical figures depicted in the stained-glass windows in our Sanctuary. She will speak about that and her current book project, Moonlit Fertility, a memoir of her great aunt’s time in 1920s China. A member of House of Hope for more than 15 years, Anne was originally scheduled to speak in January, but that event was cancelled due to subzero temperatures. We’re glad to get another chance to hear her.

Sunday-Weekday Connections brings together House of Hope women for fellowship and a light supper; all women and their guests are welcome. The cost is $25. To reserve your spot, look for our table outside the Kirk Parlour after worship beginning March 17, or call the church office.

Sunday Exchange
March 31 | 11:15 a.m. | Room 1
Real conversations about what matters—that’s the point, the last Sunday of every month at Sunday Exchange. We pose a question. We think and talk. From the heart. On March 31, the question is, “Where, when do you get a chance to speak from the heart?” If you have children, they can remain in childcare.

Use Reusable Bags

Have you ever seen plastic bags stuck in the branches of a tree? Or roll across a street on a windy day? Have you read about dead marine animals whose stomachs were filled with plastic bags? Or heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—an accumulation of plastic products that has collected in the Pacific Ocean that is more than twice the size of Texas? These are a few examples of the extent of plastic pollution.

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Let us know! If you support this effort, when you sign the Friendship pad during Sunday worship, next to your name put an E.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth to help those in need around the time of the “Big Game.” House of Hope youth participated this year—collecting more than $1,600 through the collection on Sunday. Well done!

Healthcare Reform

Join the movement for justice and equity in healthcare. We can simplify our system with a single plan, cutting administrative costs, while giving all our neighbors, family, and friends quality healthcare they can count on. And we can begin here in Minnesota.

Rep. Alice Mann is the new House author of the Minnesota Health Plan. She already has at least 35 co-authors. The Senate MHP legislation was introduced this week—Senate File 1125, with 24 co-authors. Please let her know how important this work is and encourage your legislators to sign on.

More information this Sunday at the table outside of the Kirk Parlour.

“Our forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and the most inhumane.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.
Cloister Gallery

Children & Youth Art Exhibit

“Every child is an artist.”
—Pablo Picasso

Celebrate the creativity of House of Hope’s children and youth. Art pieces created at home or in Creative Expressions will be displayed through the month of March. Enjoy art produced with a variety of media, including oil pastels, watercolors, acrylics, and more.

Stewardship 2019

As we wrap up the 2019 Stewardship Campaign, we want to thank all who have pledged their support. Without your contributions, our church would not be able to plan and manage all the wonderful worship, music, and programming that we all enjoy. We would not be able to reach out to our neighbors and community with the many Mission Outreach efforts we have planned.

We have raised $1,125,234; that is 89% of our goal of $1,270,000. We remain $144,766 short of our goal.

While this is the end of our active campaign, gifts to House of Hope are welcome at any time. If you have not made an annual pledge, please consider doing so today.

At House of Hope, we are building a legacy deeply committed to God and community. We find meaning through progressive worship and beautiful music, through our desire to grow and learn more about Jesus and his teachings, and through our dedication to making a difference in the world.

With God’s guidance and love, all things truly are possible.

Prior Crossing Update

Prior Crossing is experiencing a transition of residents and with that change, comes a need to re-stock Hope’s Closet.

When the youth move on, they take with them the belongings that made their apartment at Prior Crossing feel like home. That means the closet needs to be re-stocked for the next residents.

Prior Crossing’s staff has asked House of Hope and Unity Unitarian churches to replenish the closet and stock the pantry.

There are days when new residents need a boost. They may have not gotten their first pay check, are still seeking work, or are in school and a visit to Prior Crossing Pantry will help tide them over with some non-perishable food staples and personal items.

Please bring items for the closet and pantry to the Assembly Room, and place them in the laundry cart. You can pick up a list of the needed items in the kiosk.

Thank you! —Members of the Peace and Justice Committee
The Justice Choir Songbook Community Sing at House of Hope led by The Singers, Choirmaster Matthew Culloton, and Tesfa Wondemagegnehu of St. Olaf College.

Children, Youth, and Family Programming

Children and Youth Art Exhibit
Sunday, March 10, 11:15 a.m.
Join us in the Cloister Gallery for an Artists’ Reception to welcome our young artists. Celebrate the creativity of our children and youth.

Mardi Gras Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, March 3, 11:15 a.m.
You are invited to a church-wide Mardi Gras celebration. Enjoy activities, fellowship, and a variety of delicious chili recipes for $5 per person. Proceeds support scholarships for the Community Retreat.

Feed My Starving Children Tweens Event | March 8
Tweens are invited to a night of service and fun. Adult chaperones are needed. Families are responsible for transportation. RSVP to Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org by March 6.

Youth Sunday
HOH youth led services on Sunday, February 10, 2019. Liz Bolsoni, Lucy Minner, and Ian Boylan delivered sermons and Quinn and Merete Nelson were acolytes. Eric Boylan, Thomas Minner, and Abe Thompson led the Time for Children. The Choir School provided beautiful music.
THE ANCHOR (Pub. No. 011-331) is published monthly except in August by the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Avenue, St Paul MN 55105-3392

Periodicals postage paid at St Paul, MN

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE ANCHOR, 797 Summit Avenue, St Paul, MN 55105-3392

SUNDAY SERIES

The Photo Ark with Joel Sartore | March 3

As part of our environmental awareness focus this spring, House of Hope is proud to welcome National Geographic’s Joel Sartore as our Sunday Series speaker.

Photographer, speaker, author, teacher, conservationist, National Geographic fellow, National Geographic magazine contributor, Joel launched the Photo Ark project 11 years ago. Since then, his passion for preservation and conservation has taken him—and his camera—to 40 countries in a quest to create the Photo Ark archive of global biodiversity.

Through Joel’s camera, the project aims to document every species living in the world’s zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, inspire action through education, and help save wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts.

Once complete, the ambitious collection will feature portraits of roughly 12,000 species of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates, serving as an important record of each animal’s existence and a powerful testament to the importance of saving them. The interaction between animals and their environments is the engine that keeps the planet healthy for all of us. But for many species, time is running out. When you remove one, it affects us all.

© Photo by Joel Sartore/National Geographic

At the event, Joel will share many of his portraits, bringing his hallmark sense of humor and compassion. Books will be available for sale.

© Photo by Joel Sartore/National Geographic

Photo Ark

Sunday, March 3
Sanctuary | 2 p.m.