



These are strange times. In an age of hyperbole, what we are experiencing truly is unprecedented in the modern world. When you encounter people, it feels as if many of us are going through the same sense of disbelief and shock. As if we are all trying to wrap our minds around this new reality. Every day we learn more about what is going on, and what we know is dramatic.

So, we need to limit face-to-face contact with people for a few weeks, perhaps a few months. That has some serious implications for House of Hope.

The Session has taken the unprecedented step of asking people to not come to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. This is a painful thing to do, given that this is a time when we need each other and the strength that worship brings to us. But it is the only practical thing for us to do. We need to protect the congregation. And we want to work for the common good of the community and nation. Even so, it is important to say how painful it is to not be able to see you face-to-face on Sunday mornings.

Livestreamed worship is available. It is very encouraging that 296 homes tuned in for the first week. You can access the livestreaming through the homepage of our website at hohchurch.org. Worship will be broadcast at 10 a.m., and you can view the service later at a time convenient to you. Past worship services are also available to watch.

The final decision has not been made, but as of the time of this publication, it seems obvious that Holy Week and Easter services will also have to be livestreamed. The worship team is already talking about how we can make this as beauti-

ful and meaningful an experience as is possible. Invite your friends and family to join us online.

We are asking that committees and groups also cancel meetings at this time. Unless it is absolutely necessary, please postpone gatherings. The staff has made it possible to have online meetings through Zoom. If you need help navigating your way into these meetings, please call the church office at (651) 227-6311. They will be available to help you get connected.

Your House of Hope staff, Session, Trustees, and Deacons are working on other ways that we can stay connected. If you have ideas, please email any of us. Watch our website for updates and check out our blog for posts that we hope will inspire you and give you peace.

In the House of Hope Sanctuary, on the left-hand side, the back window by the stairs is my favorite stained-glass window—the Queen Esther Window. In this story, it is a time of crisis for her people. Esther is fearful. But her mentor, Mordecai, says to her, “Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” It depicts an image of great hope. I hope you think of that story of Esther 4 in this time.

And at the resurrection, Jesus says to his disciples, “Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 28:10) We are a resurrection people. Wherever and whenever, we remember his love that leads us to courageous love. I trust that the people of House of Hope will be and do as God calls them—to be the people who offer resurrection hope to the world.

—The Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

We continue to monitor the unfolding of the situation around the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

We are following guidelines put forth by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

Please check our website (hohchurch.org), our Facebook page, and our weekly Enews messages for updates.

We are drawing on the assurances of our faith that God will sustain us through all things and at all times. While we cannot be together physically, we are working to stay in contact with you in creative ways.

Please join us in prayer for those most directly affected by this outbreak and for those who seek to care for and to comfort those affected. God is love and our hope.

Our church building is closed for the foreseeable future. If you need us, please call the church office at (651) 227-6311 or contact members of the staff directly.

Contact information for staff can be found on our website and on page 7.



Holy Week and Easter at House of Hope

The Spirit of Easter endures.

Sunday, April 5
Palm / Passion Sunday
10 a.m.

Thursday, April 9
Maundy Thursday
7 p.m.

Friday, April 10
Good Friday
7 p.m.

Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday
9 and 11 a.m. (no 7:30 a.m.)

Worship is available via livestream though April 2020. All in-person activities have been suspended.



Doctor of Ministry Research Opportunity

Dwelling in the World Prayer Walks



We pray often at church. What if we took our prayers outside? Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "To pray is to dream in league with God, to envision God's holy visions."

Dwelling in the World Prayer Walks are based on the premise that God is working those holy visions both inside and outside the church, and we can access those visions by praying for neighbors. I hope you can find time to take four intentional prayer walks before the end of April. Instructions can be mailed or emailed to you. Or click on the Doctor of Ministry Research Opportunity on the website and scroll down to the link for prayer walks. If you have any questions, call or email Rev. Julia Carlson at JuliaC@hohchurch.org or (651) 223-7553.

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald has accepted a call to be the Transitional Pastor at Old Stone Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Pastor McDonald's last Sunday with House of Hope will be April 19, 2020 via livestream. We are thankful for Andrew's time and talents, and we wish him God's blessings. We are unable to host a reception for him due to COVID-19, but you are invited to send cards for him to the church at: 797 Summit Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105. If you would like to contribute to a staff gift fund, please mail a check to the church with the notation of "McDonald Gift."



Preparing for the House of Hope Community Garden

Are you interested in food justice? Love to garden but don't have a yard? Need service hours? Want to teach your kids about helping others? Volunteers are always needed in the Community Garden on the front lawn of House of Hope.

All gardening experience levels, all abilities, and all schedules can be used! Children are welcome, and this is also a great community service opportunity for teens and youth.

Join us just once in the growing season to check it out, or make it a weekly routine, or anything in between. We usually harvest and deliver on weekday mornings, but there are also tasks that can be done on the evenings or weekends. We also need drivers who can take the produce to the food pantries at Hallie Q. Brown and Neighborhood House. If you would like to be on our email list to receive updates, or if you have questions, please send an email to houseofhopegarden@gmail.com.



Reverberations

The HOH Bell Choir enjoyed preparing and offering bell music to celebrate Black History Month in February, and the ringers enjoyed speaking with a number of worshipers about the music for that Sunday. It was a collaboration of ringers, percussion, and instruments that gave a unique sound to those musical offerings. I extend my thanks to percussionists Thomas Minner and Rev. Zach Wilson and Ian Boylan, clarinetist, for their good assistance in adding the locomotive, train whistle, and the gorgeous melodies to the music. —Tim Short, Music Associate



Mission Outreach at HOH



On March 11, 2020, Homeless Day on the Hill was held at the state capitol. More than 900 advocates, from every walk of life and from dozens of faith-based communities showed up to speak with legislators about three important bills that are in various stages before the Minnesota Legislature. The bills (HF 3358/SF 3599, HF 1805/SF 3918 & HF 3326/SF 3257) are designed to provide more funding for Affordable Housing/Homes for Formerly Homeless People (\$500 million in bonding bills), Expand and Preserve Emergency Shelter Beds (\$50 million), and Provide Emergency Services Programs (\$15 million), respectively.

House of Hope congregants were there to roll up their sleeves and advocate. Congregants such as Vernon Eidman, Nancy Sabin, and others, as constituents, met with their legislators such as Rep. Alice Hausman and Rep. John Lesch, as well as Sen. John Marty. More specifically, Rep. Alice Hausman is the chief author of the legislation that provided \$100 million in bonding bills in 2015 that helped make Prior Crossing a dream come true. As a result, Prior Crossing and other homeless facilities were built in 2016 and provided safe studio apartments with wrap-around services to youth who were challenged by long-term homelessness.

As a member, prospective member, or collaborative volunteer with House of Hope, you can be proud of the difference your donated dollars, time, and materials have made in the lives of many!



Didier Seminar Recap: The Dawning of a New Cosmic Story

HOH welcomed theologian Dr. John F. Haught as our 2020 Didier Seminar speaker February 29 and March 1. Dr. Haught spoke on his book *The New Cosmic Story and the Meaning of Faith*. We thank the Didier Committee Co-Chairs Gretchen Sjöholm and Ann Lewis for their work on this event. Thanks also to Phil Bolinder who offered a lecture series to discuss the book in advance of the event. Here he offers a recap of the lecture.

The universe and humans are “a package deal, interrelated and continually evolving,” says distinguished, internationally known theologian Dr. Jack Haught, who has spent a lifetime of thinking, writing and teaching about the relationship between religion and what science is demonstrating about the universe, especially in the last 200 years.

We are characters in an unfolding story, he says. From the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago to the very recent appearance of life, mind, humanity, self-awareness, subjectivity, and religious yearning, we are a part of an ongoing process of understanding and interpretation of our world and its meaning.

The purpose of the universe, rightly read today, he says, is a dawning awareness of a sense of “rightness,” and the purpose of our personal lives is to add our bit to this “awakening.” The primary role of religion becomes an affirmation of trust in the meaningfulness of the universe, its progression towards “rightness” and our ongoing part in its unfolding.

The intellectual credibility, even the survival of all religious traditions, not just ours, Haught says, depends on how our

traditions adapt beliefs and aspirations to include the “facts” of a contemporary scientifically understood universe previously unknown to religious founders and primary teachers. If science does not become a part of our religious story, he suggests, religion will not seem pertinent, at the same time significantly noting, that traditions of religious experience are as much a part of the universe as are atoms and galaxies.

Considered one of the “thought leaders” of our time, he has written 15-plus books on faith and science and can be viewed on YouTube.

“To have a meaningful future, religion all over the world needs to come to grips with the new scientific understanding of the natural world.” —Dr. John F. Haught



2020 Mardi Gras Chili Cook-off Winner

Congratulations to our second annual Mardi Gras Chili Cook-off winners Brian and Bonnie Alton for their delicious Beef and Pork Chili. If you'd like a copy of their recipe, please email or call the church office at hohchurch.org or (651) 227-6311, and we can send you a copy.





Children and Family Programming



We hope you are staying well and learning to find a new rhythm in this uncharted time. Know that we are here to support you all. We are taking to Zoom and Facebook to stay connected and offer resources. We hope you'll make time to join the fun! Please contact Kiera at KieraS@hohchurch.org to join us virtually and for instructions.

House of Hope Parents on Facebook

As COVID-19 stretches our creative imagination, HOH is developing a stronger presence on Facebook. Watch storytime videos, receive resources, and learn more about the HOH Children and Family Zoom Community. This closed group is a great way to receive updates. Join by making a request on the "House of Hope Parents" Facebook page, or contact Kiera for assistance at KieraS@hohchurch.org.

Sunday Morning Family Worship

Join us on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. for a family-friendly worship experience. We will check-in with our highs and lows of the week, interact with a Psalm, hear a Time for Children lesson, and say a prayer together. We will meet via Zoom.

Wednesday Silly Songs & Live Storytime

Infants-PreK and their families are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. for a midweek check-in, silly interactive songs, and live storytime. We will meet via Zoom.

Wednesday S.T.E.M. and Art Challenges

K-Grade 3 are invited to join us on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. for a midweek check-in, fascinating videos, and a weekly S.T.E.M. or art challenge. Videos are a combination of science, space, nature, animals, engineering, music, food, art, etc. We will meet via Zoom.

Wednesday Games & Community Conversations

Tweens are invited to join us on Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m. for a midweek check-in, tween/middle school games, remarkable videos, and fun conversations. We will meet via Zoom.

Lenten Fish Banks

Children are invited to participate in collecting coins and dollars in their fish banks for One Great Hour of Sharing. We will be collecting money in our banks throughout the Lenten season. Please hold on to your fish bank until we are able to worship together in person.



Choir School Spring Flower Sale

As of this printing, your flower orders will be available for pick up on Friday, April 3 between 1-3 p.m. We will have orders ready to be handed to you in your car at the covered entrance on Portland Avenue. If you have questions, please contact Choir School Director Sofia Ardan at SofiaA@hohchurch.org. If there are any changes before April 3, you will receive an email or phone call. Thank you for supporting the Choir School!



The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Earth Care Update

House of Hope has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2021. This honor speaks to the great commitment that our church has made to care for God's earth. We join the nine other congregations in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA) with this designation.

The Earth Care Group has been learning from other area churches about their earth care efforts. Many nearby churches have taken steps to include robust recycling efforts including organics recycling, a butterfly garden, rooftop solar panels, community and rain gardens, and EV charging stations on-site. Some are doing advocacy work.

Here at House of Hope, efforts began 15 months ago with the small step of using the church's china at Session meetings instead of using disposable dishes. Other groups, including the Wednesday Night Community Meal, Women's Breakfast Book Group, and Sunday-Weekday Connection also use china. The fellowship that comes from the simple act of washing and drying dishes together has been an unexpected bonus. And, did you know that nearly every lightbulb at

church is now an LED? Our Facilities Staff took that on with little fanfare, thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

It is clear that opportunities to make an impact abound. Our Earth Care Group has recently formed four working groups: recycling/trash/organics, storm water management, pollinator plantings, and renewable energy. These efforts are just getting underway, and we welcome your involvement. For information contact Elly Verhagen (ellverha@gmail.com) or Deb James (dsjames96@gmail.com).



Dear Earth Care Congregations,

First, let me say thank you for your patience as you've waited for news of your certification. Secondly, we are finished processing your applications, all 264 of them! I wanted to let you know that you have been certified as a First Year Earth Care Congregations for 2020. It's been amazing to read about all the ways in which Presbyterians are being good stewards of creation.

Thank you again for your faithful commitment to the care of God's creation.

Peace,

Jessica Maudlin

Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns
Presbyterian Hunger Program

National Climate Prayer

Join in the National Interfaith Climate Prayer at noon on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22 for the biggest participation yet in a shared prayer for the climate.

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.



Stewardship Update

What is it that inspires you to good works and membership at House of Hope? Is it the beauty of the building, the traditional worship, inspirational sermons, the music, Choir School, programming for children and youth, opportunities for mission outreach and making a difference, and the fellowship? All of the parts of being a church have budgetary effects and require the financial support of its members—each member to their ability. Your pledge will ensure our mission is being fulfilled every day.

To date, we have received 349 pledges for a total of \$1,172,098 toward our goal of \$1,250,000. This goal is what is needed to have a balanced budget to support all our programming, salaries, and facility. If you've not pledged, please contact the church office.

Without a congregation in the Sanctuary, there will be no Sunday offering. It's important to continue your support of our staff and the church's responsibilities. We ask for your generosity in giving as you are able. We know and understand that not everyone can continue to give due to their inability to work at this time.

Here are ways for you to support House of Hope:

- Mail a check to the church at 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105
- Text Giving: Text **HOH** to 73256 and click the link to complete your gift
- Online: Go to hohchurch.org and click on "Giving at House of Hope" at the top of the page. Click on the "Donate Now" button and follow the prompts. From this page you can also make a pledge or set up automatic giving. Members can also sign into MyHOH to give.

If you'd like to set up an account in MyHOH, please call the church office or send an email to hoh@hohchurch.org for step-by-step instructions that we can mail or email to you.

House of Hope Staff Member Update

With changes in our staff responsibilities, we'd like to offer a list of our staff and their key roles. You are always welcome to contact the church office for assistance at (651) 227-6311.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Michelle Freyholtz

Director of Administration
MichelleF@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7556
*Daily Operations of HOH
Manages Financial, Administrative, and
Communication Functions
Real and Personal Property Oversight
Board and Committee Support
Memorial Garden
Planned Gifts*

David Goudzwaard-Vaught

Exec. Assistant for Pastors and Programs
DavidGV@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7541
*Administrative Support for Head of Staff,
Associate Pastors
Worship Bulletin and Inserts
(Due 10 Days in Advance)
Support for Session, Trustees, Deacons,
Committees
Master Calendar; Room Use and Set Up
Weddings Initial Contact
Sunday Series and Special Events*

Malinda Johnson

Administrative Assistant
MalindaJ@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7540
*Accounts Payable
Monthly Budget Reports
Codes for Building Access; Security
Systems Support
Communications Coordinator
Support for Mission Outreach and
House, Property & Insurance*

Ellen Lewandoski

Administrative Assistant
EllenL@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7555
*Assistant to Director of Administration
Human Resources: Benefits and Payroll
Accounting and General Ledger
Records Management
Policies and Procedures*

Mark Schwister

Administrative Assistant
MarkS@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7554
*Accounts Receivable
Stewardship: Pledge and Giving History
Technology
Events Coordinator, Facility Use
Special Event Support
Sanctuary Flowers*

Deb Tschida

Administrative Assistant
DebT@hohchurch.org
(651) 223-7557
*Front Desk
Event Registrations and Payments
Membership Record Manager
Intercessory Prayer List
Weekly Enews
Website Updates
New Member Class/Welcome*

FACILITIES STAFF

Shelley Baumgart

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ShelleyB@hohchurch.org

Jim Brzezinski

Facilities Manager
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*Facility Management: Custodial,
Grounds, Repairs, and Maintenance
Facility Improvements
Security Systems
House, Property and Insurance
Committee Support*

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One Great Hour of Sharing

Received during the season of Lent, Presbyterians worldwide join in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Ways to give:

- Mail your gift with the memo: OGHS
- Visit hohchurch.org > Donate
- Sign into My HOH, choose Giving
- Text: HOH OGHS to 73256

You may give at any time. ***Thank you!***



The Anchor is printed on recycled paper as a part of House of Hope's commitment to be an Earth Care Congregation.



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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