



Praise from the community

"Hope to check the place out in person.
Internet is a church hopper's dream."

"So beautifully photographed!"

"A beautiful service, such talented choir
members, and organist is marvelous!"

"This congregation has the best musicians
and vocalists I have heard in a long time."

Thank you for joining us for Holy Week 2020. Alleluia—He is Risen!

House of Hope ventured into uncharted territory by offering Easter worship virtually this year. Our community embraced this opportunity. More than 11,000 people watched the service on CW Channel 23. The livestream was also widely viewed on our website and Facebook, boasting viewers in 47 states and six other countries.

We extend a special word of gratitude to Director of Music Aaron David Miller for planning and orchestrating our Holy Week and Easter services. He created and shared his vision with us, one and all, and around the world. Thanks also to Choirmaster Matthew Culloton, the Motet Choir section leaders, and the instrumentalists.

Section leaders

Hannah Armstrong, soprano
Beth Althof, soprano
Krista Costin, alto
Allison Eckberg, alto
David Lower, tenor
Timothy Bruett, baritone
William Sales, baritone
Brad Runyan, bass

Rachel Brandwein, Harp

Brass and Percussion

Caroline Lemen, French Horn
Melissa Morey, French Horn
Greg Beckwith, French Horn
Andrew Chappell, Trombone
Steven Campbell, Tuba
Eri Isomura, Percussion
Will Kemperman, Timpani

Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster
Aaron David Miller, Organ

Finally, thank you to Dick Crone for his beautiful photography and videography skills.

In this time of diaspora/COVID-19, we are grateful to have the livestream. And we are grateful for new ideas and creativity that are making the experience even more rich. Keep watching!



Clergy Message Even In Diaspora, We Are Still Here!



After the Babylonian exile, some of the Hebrews returned to Jerusalem and Israel. Others journeyed on and spread through the known

world. The movement and spread of the Hebrews was referred to as the Diaspora. It is also known as the Dispersion. Some of the prophets write about it as God's punishment for being unfaithful. Others considered it to be an opportunity for spiritual action and growth.

Dispersion means to spread or to scatter. Whether you think God was teaching a lesson or offering opportunity, they flow together on the other side of change. God takes joy in restoring community—creating opportunities for reunion and regathering.

This time of the coronavirus is a time of diaspora—not because we are intentionally moving away, but because we have been asked not to gather. We are keeping one another safe by sheltering in our homes. As I write this, I cannot know what May or the coming months will bring. I hope the spread of the virus has remained flat enough for our hospitals to keep up with demand. I hope that our ability to test has greatly increased. These progressions will help our lives and economy become more normal. None

Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 17, 11:15 a.m. (following the 10 a.m. worship)

The Session has called an “irregular” Congregational Meeting for the purpose of calling a Pastor/Head of Staff and approving the terms of call. The meeting will take place online. Watch for a letter that includes more information about participation.

the less, life with the virus will likely get worse before it gets better. And, flattening the curve means a longer time of diaspora.

Diaspora is not separation from God. Even in dispersion, *we are the church!*

And you are the church. This is a time to live our faith: to be sanctuary, to do our grief work along the way, to pray, to find appropriate practices for centering, and to both offer and ask for help. HOH clergy and staff are here. Call or email if you have needs. We have distilled water on hand if you need it and cannot find it. We have volunteers to help with getting groceries or picking up necessities. If you crave more human contact, we can set up a phone partner.

We are still here! Worship will be livestreamed each Sunday and available at your convenience. We will connect electronically and by phone. May God watch between us while we are apart. We will be gathered in again!

Peace, friends,
Julia

We Are the Church *Online Opportunities for Connection*

Centering Prayer

Mondays, 11 a.m., ongoing
Fridays, 9:30 a.m., ongoing
Contact Lane Linda at lane2311@gmail.com.

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. (through May 27)

Feminist Theology

Sundays, 11:15 a.m. Monthly: 5/10, 6/21, 7/19

Thursday Men's Breakfast

Thursdays, 7 a.m., ongoing
Contact Bill Liike at wlliike@aol.com.

For instructions on how to access these offerings, please email Julia Carlson at JuliaC@hohchurch.org.

WORSHIP

During this time of nationwide-quarantine, we are happy to be able to continue to worship together online. Although scattered, we can still be together.

Each week, you can watch the worship service on our website or on our Facebook page. We will be pre-recording elements in order to offer a wider range of variety in the services and to allow for the safety and health of the participants. You can also watch past services whenever it is convenient for you.

Sunday, May 3 4th Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 10 5th Sunday of Easter

Featuring Tim Bruett, baritone

Sunday, May 17 6th Sunday of Easter

Featuring Krista Costin, alto

Sunday, May 24 7th Sunday of Easter

Featuring Brad Runyan, bass

Sunday, May 31 8th Sunday of Easter

Featuring Melissa Holm-Johansen, soprano

Doctor of Ministry Research



Every research project has variables—things unique to where the research is conducted and the plan itself. It has dependent variables such as whether

participants are interviewed and selected or self-selected on a volunteer basis. And then there are intervening variables like a portion of the congregation spends the winter in warmer climates. Projects in the spring of 2020 have the intervening variable known as COVID-19.

The education sessions that were planned, are now online instead. They can be viewed on our website through the Dr. of Ministry program tab near the bottom of our homepage.

The first session was on changes in our culture and in religious practice in the United States in the last 70 years (see recap to the right). The second presentation examines the **Missional Church Movement** where practitioners have specific ideas about bringing tradition forward in creative and engaging ways. The third education piece is on **The Theology of Hospitality**. I hope you will take a look!

I am following up with scheduling a **Focus Group** for those who did prayer walks and am grateful for the participation of so many HOH members in this project. As the research comes to a close, I ask everyone to take the time to do the **Endline Survey** (available through the HOH website May 1–31). It is particularly important that you go through it again if you did it the first time—being able to compare the two surveys is important. And if you have taken part in any of the practices or education events, I would appreciate your input.

Recap of the Changing World—Changing Church? Presentation (February 2020)

All kinds of organizations, from bridge clubs, to the NAACP, and high school bands have been shrinking or closing because Generations X and Y are not as interested in group memberships and activities as their parents and grandparents. Researchers have stated that, "When a younger generation deviates substantially from its predecessors, then that aggregate social change may be quicker." (*American Grace*, 73).

We have become more secular than our ancestors. This includes the separation of church and state as opposed to the feudal structures in medieval Europe, which cast politics as public and religion as private.

Further changes in the 1960s prompted an evangelical boom. That ended by the early 1990s, nearly two decades ago. In 21st century America, evangelicalism is a feature of the past, not the present." (*American Grace*)

Presbyterians have the oldest median age at 59. The mainline churches are within a few years of this number. The youngest denominations are Hindu/33; Muslim/33; Atheist/34; Agnostic/34 Nothing in particular/38; Buddhist/39.

Meanwhile values, beliefs, and spiritual expression are being formed by advertising, television, yoga, health and fitness resources, Ted Talks, Oprah, Deepak Chopra, Richard Rohr, etc.

From the Faith Matters Survey: 83% of Americans belong to a church; 40% attend services weekly; and 30% read scripture weekly. 80% are sure there is a God; 60% are sure of heaven; 52% believe in life after death; and 49% believe there is a hell.

These changes prompted *Time Magazine* to question, "Is God Dead?" on the cover in the 1960s. Since we are living out our answer to that question through our life together at HOH, our question is: *What is God up to now?* I invite you to take a look at the presentations: *What Is God Up To in the Neighborhood?* and *The Theology of Hospitality*. They are accessible through the Dr. of Ministry tab on the bottom of the homepage.



Dwelling in the World Prayer Walks

We pray often at church, what if we took our prayers outside the doors? 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 get in touch with those very visions by praying for neighbors. I hope you can find time to take four intentional prayer walks in May. If you have any questions, email Julia Carlson at JuliaC@hohchurch.org.

Existing in Our Modern “Walden Ponds” by Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

As we hunker down and unwittingly redefine our existence in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* has been frequently on my mind. I have long loved Dominick Argento's *Walden Pond*, his choral masterpiece on selected texts from Thoreau's writing, and I was preparing to conduct it with The Singers this month before life was upended. I learned Argento's setting while singing and recording it with (House of Hope member) Dale Warland and the Dale Warland Singers. A recent Washington Post article by Ron Charles (published April 7, 2020) referred to Thoreau's Walden excursion as the most well-known act of social distancing, drawing an obvious parallel to our own lives (save for our use of advanced technologies to have human contact).

"It is a soothing employment to sit on a stump, on a height overlooking the pond, and study the dimpling circles incessantly inscribed on its surface amid the reflected skies and trees."

– Thoreau, from *Walden*

Have you been finding yourself enjoying more of the nature that surrounds you? In my own case, I've enjoyed long walks through South Minneapolis, near the Minnehaha Parkway and Creek that winds through my neighborhood. The variety of home architecture and the hidden treasure that is the Wash-

burn Park Water Tower have been new highlights on my routes. There is new joy in looking out the kitchen window to my otherwise nondescript back yard bathed in the morning sun—and the new “porch happy hour” that includes my favorite wines and cheeses while the sun paints the clouds before calling it a day. Will these new pastimes survive a return to normalcy (in whatever form)? Should we be considering more mindfully which elements of change in our daily routines stay a part of our post-pandemic existence? Thoreau himself was faced with startling change to Walden upon revisiting it sometime after leaving:

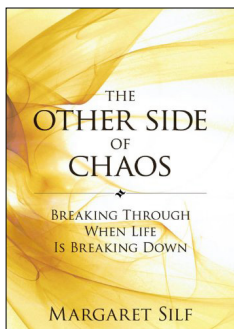
"Since I left those shores the woodchoppers have laid them waste, but I remember, I remember... And though the woodchoppers have laid bare first this shore and then that, it struck me again tonight—Why, here is Walden, the same woodland lake that I discovered so many years ago; where a forest was cut down last winter another is springing up as lustily as ever; the same thought is welling up now to its surface that was then; it is the same liquid joy and happiness to itself and its Maker."

– Thoreau, from *Walden*

May we all be so lucky as to find our own new spring. And may we all encounter grace in these most difficult of times, until we again gather together, joining in song and prayer.

Literary Corner with Julia

I picked up a book when I was on Iona: *The Other Side of Chaos: Breaking Through When Life Is Breaking Down*. It's by Margaret Silf who is a retreat director and speaker as well as writer.



One year later, I pulled it off my shelf because it seems like the right thing to read now. Would you like to join me? The book is available, either from your favorite local bookstore, Amazon, or the library. If you are interested in participating in a virtual discussion, please call the church office or email me at JuliaC@hohchurch.org. If there is enough interest, I will get back to you to plan how we might go forward.



Great Decisions will not meet in May 2020. The Foreign Policy Association has made the digital edition of the Great Decisions television series available on YouTube. More information can be found on their website: www.fpa.org/great_decisions/. This month's topic was scheduled to be Climate Change and the Global Order with Suda Ishida. Check out this thought-provoking video.

Reverberations

Since the bell choir has not been able to meet, a long-overdue project was moved ahead: the complete refurbishment of the 61 handbells (the Blumer Bells).

The bells of five octaves, handcrafted in Great Britain by the Whitechapel Foundry, were a gift to the congregation in 1978 from the Blumer family. After 41 years of weekly practices, musical offerings for services, festivals, and concerts, the bells need many new parts and adjustments. The bells were shipped to Michigan for what the ringers have nicknamed “spa time for the bells”. The entire process will take three months.

The ringers maintain weekly e-mail check-ins, including sharing videos by ringing ensembles throughout the world. These videos are inspiring, while illustrating a variety of ringing techniques.

—Tim Short, Music Associate

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength. (Psalm 46)

As we process impact of the pandemic on our lives, HOH encourages you to look to God and each other for strength. Here are some resources and coping strategies that we've found helpful. Stay safe and healthy!

Be the church we need in the world now. Reach out to your supports—friends, family, and other members—by phone or video. Our blog offers an opportunity to share messages of comfort and hope with fellow congregants. Email submissions to Malinda at MalindaJ@hohchurch.org.

***Challenge from Julia Carlson:** Strengthen ties within our community. Go to MyHOH, find someone you don't know and call them. This is an opportunity to connect with someone new and find out how they are doing. Note that nearly 50% of US adults live alone—you could be the only person they speak with that day!

Let us know how we can help you. If you need prayer, we can help. If you need a volunteer to do your grocery shopping or pick up prescriptions, we can help. If you know of someone else who needs assistance, please let us know. We are the church and this is an opportunity to show Christ's love to each other.

How are You Staying Connected?

HOH Deacons and members share tips for staying connected while sheltering at home this spring. From reading to adopting a new spiritual practice, there are many ways to embrace the quiet—and to stay connected.

For me, the theme of gratefulness is key. Taking daily moments to reflect on my gratefulness—for my health, a safe home, first responders. Embracing video to stay connected to family and friends—and my workout crew! Also soaking up smiles, waves, and short conversations (while maintaining distance) during walks to remind me that our community remains strong. I also support local businesses to ensure I make a difference in the lives of those who need support. —**Anne Kelly Berg**

I have been going on bike rides (with mask). My heart swells every time I ride past the church. I look forward to when we can congregate there again! —**Kevin Anderson**

I tore up household items to make masks for Allina and Project Home. I miss Choir, but I am playing the piano and watching videos though the SPCO concert library and offerings from other musicians on YouTube. Watching the birds coming through has been fun. To keep mentally stimulated, imagine the technological and social changes that will come from this! —**Kathy Schubert**

Our strategies include stocking our Little Free Library, which has been well-used. We walk, bike, and create elaborate sidewalk chalk art with Bible verses. We enjoy jigsaw puzzles, listening to music on MPR, and livestreaming HOH worship services. I also spend time sewing and my husband is tackling his honey-do list of home projects. —**Jeane and Vern Pearson**

Check stayhometakecare.com for ideas to take care of yourself and others—it's updated daily with new ideas! —**Caroline Wells Stone**

"While sheltering at home, I found a box of old pictures. I wrote notes to old friends in the photos and mailed them the photo." —**Dianne Smith**



Try video chatting via Facetime, Zoom, Google Hangout, Skype, WhatsApp, or Facebook Messenger. The Houseparty app allows you to group video chat while playing games together. The classic card game Uno has a free iOS app—connect with friends to play on your individual devices while chatting by phone or video.



Earth Care

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein.

—Psalm 24:1

Climate Care Challenge

As people of faith, we believe God created this world, called it good, and gave us the sacred task of caring for it. In 2006, the General Assembly passed a policy calling Presbyterians to take the results of our energy consumption seriously, to pray asking for God's guidance, to reduce energy consumption, to calculate our carbon emissions, and to offset their negative impact. We have the knowledge, skills, and resources to lower the greenhouse gas emissions that are impacting our planet and its people—often most deeply those in impoverished and vulnerable communities.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Climate Care Challenge is a commitment that first asks you to take a personal step.

- Eat a (more) plant-based diet or grow your own food.
- Replace lightbulbs with LEDs.
- Reduce waste: recycle, compost, and buy less.
- Purchase renewable energy or carbon offsets.
- Plant a tree (www.arboday.org).
- Walk or bicycle, and drive more efficiently.
- Tell others why you care about climate change. (bit.ly/btletstalk)

Let's act now to answer God's call!

For more resources and to accept the challenge go to:

pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge.



Children, Youth and Family Programming

Birth Announcements

We are thrilled to celebrate new additions to our church family. Contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org if you would like to purchase a meal gift card to support the families.

Sarah and John Zwier welcomed a new baby into their family on April 21. Big sister is ready to share stories, songs, and smiles with her new little sister.



Liz and Jeff Camozzi welcomed a new baby into their family on April 15. Her big siblings are excited to get to know her.



Baptism Recognition

On Mother's Day, House of Hope recognizes all the children baptized between May 2019–May 2020. Although we are not in-person to celebrate the spiritual life of these little ones, we continue to honor them. Please pray a blessing over these children and their families.

- Charlotte (child of Emily and Alex)
- Harrison (child of Nicholas and Patty)
- Hayden (child of Carol and Thomas)
- Malin (child of Stephen and Emily)
- Axton (child of Shawn and Marissa)
- Isabelle (child of Lauren and Christopher)
- Eva (child of Julia and John)
- Owen (child of Ben and Kristina)

HOH Community Retreat

Rescheduled for June 11–13, 2021. See you there!

Join Sunday Family Worship at 11:15 a.m. on Zoom—from wherever you call home.



Choir School

At the end of each Choir School season, choristers and families gather in the Kirk Parlour for a celebration of music, friendship, and community. We honor the hard work and dedication of all our choristers, who meet weekly to learn and grow as singers and musicians, and who share their voices, smiles, and energy with us in worship. Since we are unable to meet in person this year, we acknowledge them in print:

Alleluia Choir: Charlie Ginther, George Mack, Daniel MacAskill, Evelyn Moeller, Arthur Scott, Solveig Scott, Soren Scott, Ramona Sibley-Whinnem, Robin Sibley-Whinnem

St. Cecilia Choir: Aurora Bandelin, Elizabeth Golnik, Alexander MacAskill, Margot Mack, Leah Shipp°, Emma Williams

St. Nicholas Choir: Evan Bergstrom, Nora Bolsoni, Eric Boylan*, Christa Feldbrugge, Harrison Feldbrugge, Thomas Minner*, Lars Osteraas, Julian Simpson, Eleanor Smith, Henry Stein, Sophie Stein*+, Addie Stevens, Abe Thompson, Clara Thompson, Ellie Vanderhaar*, Catherine Williams, James Williams

St. Andrew Choir: Eric Boylan, Harrison Feldbrugge, Thomas Minner, Julian Simpson, Henry Stein, Abe Thompson

Cantamus Choir: Nora Bolsoni, Christa Feldbrugge, Eleanor Smith, Sophie Stein, Ellie Vanderhaar

° Head Chorister, * Student Director, + Senior Chorister

Youth Sunday | May 3, 2020

Our youth have come together to plan and produce an uplifting service. They share the power of our faith community to bridge the physical distance between us. Their passion and dedication to their faith, their community, and their world, is a beacon to us all. Please join us!

—Sofia Ardalan, Choir School Director

Spring Wishes From the Stewardship Committee



We send our wishes for health, patience, and peace. Although we can't be together, we hope you continue to look

to the church and your fellow members for inspiration. Together we can work, comfort, and celebrate—even during challenging times.

We hope you are finding ways to remain connected to House of Hope—through virtual worship, one-on-one conversations with fellow members or clergy, and livestreamed music concerts. During this time of uncertainty, we encourage you to find meaningful ways to support your church and our mission partners.

- **Pay your pledge** regularly to keep the church humming. Our staff continue to work—either at home or on-site. Our facilities team is hard at work cleaning the interior and exterior of our building.
- **Are you able to add to your pledge?** We welcome increased gifts if you are able, as others in our congregation are experiencing financial strain due to unemployment or illness.
- Our mission partners have elevated needs right now. Please consider donating to our **Mission Outreach** fund or directly to partners such as Prior Crossing, Neighborhood House, etc.
- The **March Food Drive** was interrupted by COVID-19, yet food remains a critical need. There is still time to make a donation. Mail a check to the church with the notation "Food Drive," text HOH Food to 73256, or give on our website.

- **Our House of Hope Endowment** is essential to the life of the church. Is this a time to consider your legacy and designate a planned gift to House of Hope? Because members in the past have done so, they have allowed us to enjoy the community, the worship, and the beauty we love dearly.
- Send us your stories of **what inspires you** during this time? What do you miss most at church? What do you hope for our House of Hope?

Health and blessings and thank you for contributing as you are able.

—HOH Stewardship Committee,
Sherwood Pomeroy, Chair

There are many ways to give:

- **Text Giving.** The House of Hope offers text giving. Text HOH to 73256 and click the link to complete your gift.
- **Online Giving.** On the homepage, click "Giving at House of Hope" at the top or "Donate" at the bottom, then click the "Donate Now button," and follow the prompts. Members can also sign into MyHOH to give.
- **Mail.** Mail a check to the church:
797 Summit Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

consult with your tax or financial advisor for details on these changes.

In 2019, some of us gathered on 11/11, at 6 a.m. to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting in France. It was to have been the war to end all wars. Humanity tries and fails, and in perseverance and faith, tries again. And, God is still doing a new thing, bringing blessing out of havoc, love out of fear, and new life out of chaos. Soli Deo Gloria.

New Federal Tax Incentive How You Can Support HOH

The House of Hope opened its doors at 797 Summit Avenue as World War I began. Though the United States did not enter the war until 1917, it was a turbulent time. Our building and sanctuary have long stood as a bold statement of faith and longevity. For over one hundred years, members and friends of House of Hope have gathered for worship, weddings, baptisms, and fellowship. We have also gathered to mourn loss and to bury the dead. The building is not the church; the congregation is the church. Yet congregations need ground on which to stand in times of trouble, an anchor in the storm. This we have.

Our building is also a reminder of the fiscal responsibilities of communal life. We do not yet know what COVID-19 will take from us as a congregation, state, or nation. We do not know fully what damage it will wreak on the economy,

the endowment, nor the community we hold dear. We have called this time unprecedented - and in fear and scale it is very much so - and because God is a creating, loving God, it is also a time of reshaping and possibility. Because we are the Body of Christ in this place and have been for generations, we ask now as we have always asked:

- Can you give to the church as an outlet for your gratitude?
- Are you able to help those who are now experiencing more strain or loss?

The recently passed federal response in the CARES Act provides a new tax deduction of up to \$300 on your 2020 tax return for those who take the standard deduction. For those who itemize, the cap on charitable contributions has been increased to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). We recommend you

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

Faith Builders Habitat for Humanity Update



In response to the coronavirus crisis, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has suspended volunteer activity until June 1. The Faith Builders team is scheduled to work June 15–19,

but that time period may or may not get rescheduled or shortened. As always, Habitat makes safety of volunteers is top priority.

The need for affordable housing continues to grow. Volunteer workers are needed more than ever, so please consider giving a day or a few to this project. To sign up or to learn more, contact Dave Olsen at dwo823@yahoo.com or Jenny Stevens at jnn.stevens@hotmail.com.



Call for Content for June Anchor!

We want to hear from you! As we are sheltering at home, tell us who is sheltering with you. Please send pictures of the pets or companions who are helping to get you through this time—until we can be together again! Please send to malindaj@hohchurch.org. We'll include a sampling in the June issue of *The Anchor*.

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