



Pandemic Response Plan:

Regathering Plan for The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

House of Hope's COVID-19 Steering Committee and the Session developed a framework to use as we decide how long to continue virtual congregational life, when to shift to small group gatherings, and finally when to open the church building. You will soon receive a copy in the mail. We will be guided by science and our deepest values for the wellness and wholeness of all people and the protection of the most vulnerable.

STAGE 1

CRITERIA:

- ✓ *Downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases reported within a 14-day period*
- ✓ *Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period*
- ✓ *Adequate hospital and treatment capacity with decreasing numbers of infected healthcare workers*
- ✓ *Adequate personal protective equipment, testing, tracing, and tracking capabilities*

- **The church campus is closed** except for staff and congregants performing essential church business. Others allowed into the building by appointment. Masks should be worn upon entry to the church, in common areas, and when there is more than one person in the office. Surfaces will be sanitized regularly.
- **Continue offering online worship services only.** Life rituals (weddings, funerals, baptism) kept to 10 individuals including clergy in attendance if held at the church
- **Committees and groups continue to meet online.**
- **No youth, children, family activities in the church or mission trips.** Outdoor activities are allowed if size and distancing are followed; access to the building is not permitted.
- **Expected timeframe:** Through August 2020

STAGE 2

CRITERIA:

- ✓ *Peak has passed according to state health officials*
- **Online worship continues**
- **Small meetings (10 people or fewer) can take place** in-person; protocols for sanitization and meetings are in place
- **Expected timeframe:** Sept.–Oct. 2020

STAGE 3

CRITERIA:

- ✓ *No resurgence of the disease; all indicators continue decline per federal and state criteria*
- ✓ *No government orders are in place*
- **In-person worship resumes** with significant safeguards; no communion, offering, processing or recessing
- Follow protocols recommended by health officials for distancing and use of masks.
- **Expected timeframe:** Nov. 2020– Mar. 2021

STAGE 4

CRITERIA:

- ✓ *No resurgence of disease*
- ✓ *Disease is still present*
- ✓ *No vaccine*
- **Worship in-person** with relaxed safeguards, but adequate spacing for both choir and congregation.
- **Expected timeframe:** April–August 2021

STAGE 5

CRITERIA:

- ✓ *Vaccine available*
- ✓ *No resurgence of the disease; all indicators continue decline*
- ✓ *No government orders are in place*
- **All normal practices may resume** as directed by Session.
- **Expected timeframe:** Autumn 2021



A superbly well-written Church Information Form, a dynamic Pastoral Nominating Committee, meeting your talented staff; many wonderful aspects of life at House of Hope contributed to discerning a call to joining you in ministry. However, the most serendipitous was when we were given a book by Anne Yuska and Richard Crone describing stained glass windows in the sanctuary and noticed the one depicting the poet W.H. Auden. Why was this serendipitous? When our oldest daughter was born in 1998, we named her...Auden, after this poet.

Auden is considered one of the finest poets of the twentieth century and known for lines such as, "If equal affection cannot be, Let the more loving one be me." He also wrote bracingly about turmoil that afflicted the world during his lifetime. In the poem *September 1, 1939*, we read:

*I sit in one of the dives
On Fifty-second Street
Uncertain and afraid
As the clever hopes expire
Of a low dishonest decade:
Waves of anger and fear
Circulate over the bright
And darkened lands of the earth.*

But Auden also sought out hope, faith and love. In a profile of Auden in *The New Yorker* by Hannah Arendt, she notes how, "In the forties...many...turned against their old beliefs, but there were very

few who understood what had been wrong with those beliefs...they simply changed trains... the train of Socialism and Communism had been wrong, and they changed to the train of Capitalism or Freudianism... Auden, instead, became a Christian." It was an affinity for the spiritual that led Auden to write words such as:

*In the deserts of the heart
Let the healing fountain start,
In the prison of his days
Teach the free man how to praise.
(In Memory of W.B. Yeats)*

Discovering there was an Auden window at House of Hope was a reminder even though our world at times can enter into seasons where waves of "anger and fear circulate over the bright and darkened lands of the earth," God is nonetheless still at work, weaving our lives together, inviting us to be "the more loving one," and by so doing, prompting "the healing fountain" to flow and our hearts to well with "praise."

**Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott
Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott**



Send a Welcome Greeting

Lynn and Mark look forward to meeting you! Please take a few moments and introduce yourself by sending a fun selfie and a few words of introduction to headofstaff@hohchurch.org. You can also mail a card or note to the church at 797 Summit Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105.

WORSHIP

We are happy to be able to continue to worship together online Sundays at 10 a.m. Although scattered, we can still be together.

Each week, you can watch services online on our website or on our Facebook page.

Sunday, July 5
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Julia Carlson, preaching

Sunday, July 12
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Phil Romine, preaching

Sunday, July 19
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Zachary Wilson, preaching

Sunday, July 26
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Julia Carlson, preaching

Sunday, August 2
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott, preaching
Virtual service of communion

Sunday, August 9
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott, preaching

Sunday, August 16
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott, preaching
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, August 23
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott, preaching

Sunday, August 31
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott, preaching

SEEDS OF HOPE -
THE CHURCH IN TUMULTUOUS TIMES:
7 Lessons from the Gospel of Matthew
Preaching Series: August 2 – September 13

Thank you Michelle Freyholtz for 35 Years of Service



House of Hope has continued to be a beacon of hope for many over the years. Our church has endured and continued to be true

to our mission of serving

others, ensuring all communities benefit by the hopeful message of redemption and the blessings of valuing all of God's people. In this time of uncertainty, pain, pandemic, and hope, I want to pause and recognize that we are blessed to have a gifted staff who have ensured our church continues to be that beacon of hope for all. We are truly grateful for their dedication and flexibility over recent months.

Knowing we are not able to gather in-person, I'm writing to make you aware of one particular staff member who has been a source of strength for our church. Michelle Freyholtz is the person I lift up as she celebrated 35 years of service to our church in June 2020. Some members of our congregation have known Michelle since her first days on staff, others may not have come to know her

yet. Regardless, each of us has benefited by Michelle's tenure. She has supported numerous pastoral transitions, staff transitions, managed significant changes in technology and financial systems, and has stepped up to learn and cheerfully lean into whatever new tasks come her way. We are grateful for her service and commitment to this congregation.

Michelle, we cannot congratulate you and give you a hug in person at this moment, but those days will come! On behalf of the Personnel Committee, the Board of Trustees, the Session and all of our congregants—thank you for all you have done and all that you will do in the days ahead. —Deb Broberg, Personnel Committee

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for all your heartfelt messages over the last few weeks. I truly am blessed to have been a part of this community over the years and am looking forward to the next chapter at House of Hope."

—Michelle Freyholtz

We Are the Church

Ongoing Online Opportunities for Connection

Centering Prayer

Mondays, 11 a.m. ongoing

Contact Julia Carlson at
JuliaC@hohchurch.org

Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Linda Lane at
lane2311@gmail.com

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Julia Carlson at
JuliaC@hohchurch.org

Thursdays, 9:15 a.m.

Contact Zach Wilson at
ZachW@hohchurch.org

Feminist Theology

Sundays, 11:15 a.m. Monthly: 7/19, 8/16

Contact Julia Carlson at
JuliaC@hohchurch.org

The Monday/Sunday Exchange

**Mondays: July 6, July 20, August 3,
August 17 at 7 p.m.**

The informal group discussion we've enjoyed face-to-face is now available a couple of Mondays a month—the first and third Mondays at 7 p.m. via Zoom with Jeanne Bailey and Phil Bolinder as facilitators. It's conversation about life right now, your thoughts, beliefs, experiences, and feelings—together. Email Phil Bolinder at usuallyforthemostpart@gmail.com to sign up.



Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for participating in my Doctor of Ministry research project. It had many parts, beginning and ending with online all-church surveys. The first group activity was the Dwelling in the Word Bible study in Advent; we also repeated that practice in Lent. Many of you took part in the neighbor interviews and the focus group discussions during January. In February, we had a great time down in Rooms A and B, discussing changes in our culture that are having an effect on the church. And then, the other planned education events moved online when we suspended our in-person gatherings due to COVID-19; thanks to those of you who went through the presentations. The final activity was called Dwelling in the World, also known as prayer walks. I will be going through the data in the coming months and look forward to sharing some of my findings with you in the fall. Thank you again for joining in this time of exploration and learning!

—Julia

Annual Meeting

July 12 at 11:15 a.m.

The Session of House of Hope has called the Annual Meeting of the congregation. The purpose of the meeting is to elect members of the Session, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees; and to elect a Congregational Nominating Committee to serve in 2020–2021.

Please watch for a letter with detailed instructions.



Adult Enrichment at HOH

Due to the guidelines related to COVID-19, Adult Education sessions are on hold. Please watch The Anchor for updates.

Great Decisions

The Foreign Policy Association has content available for viewing from home while we are not gathering. For more information, visit http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions and then click: "YouTube."

July 2020 *The Philippines and the U.S.*

The relationship between the United States and the Philippines goes back more than a century. Despite geographical distance, the two countries share a long history of military, political, and economic ties. Today, the country has pivoted towards China and away from the U.S. What might promote better relations between the Philippines and the U.S.?

August 2020

Red Sea Security

The Red Sea divides and links - is a bridge and a barrier—between Africa and the Middle East. It is important for commercial shipping for European and Asian trading powers. How important is Red Sea Security for global security?

Summer Volunteers Needed at Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House offers fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread at summer distribution events at Wellstone Center and two elementary schools. They need set-up crews (about 2 hours) and distribution crews (2 to 3 hours) for each event. Only 10 people are on a crew and they have procedures in place for health and safety. You can also volunteer to help with daily food provision through their market with curbside pick-up. Please sign up on their website or contact Kathy Schubert at (651) 698-1351 or Vanessa Edwards, Coordinator at (651) 789-2524. Youth 16 years or older and adults are welcome.

Remembering a Different Epidemic

Many of our members experienced the polio scare of the late 40s and early 50s. Thank you for sharing these memories.

"I grew up on the North side of Chicago. In or around 1950, when I was about 10, the girl who had been my babysitter was stricken with polio and she died. It was frightening to have someone we knew die from that terrible disease. It seemed like young people were the primary victims unlike the victims of the current pandemic who are more often the elderly and infirm. I recall that all of the pools and beaches were closed as some thought that the disease contaminated the water. It's more likely that the close contact between the kids at those locations was the cause of the spread. Dr. Salk saved us through his vaccine which we lined up at our schools to be given." —Roger Jensen

"I don't remember a great deal because I was a very little girl in the early 1950s, but I do remember a few things. I once asked my mother if we could go to the circus and she said 'no that's where little children get sick.' I didn't understand at the time, but now know she was talking about polio. When I was about 6 years old, the vaccine became available. All the children were lined up in the school lunchroom and given two polio shots—the original plus a booster a few weeks or months later." —Nancy Harris

"I grew up on a farm just west of Jefferson, WI and my family had long-time, very good family friends who lived in town. In

the late 1940s/early 1950s, the husband of the family became very ill with polio which was highly contagious. Because my siblings and I were quite young (5-10 yrs old) and because my father was a dairy farmer with a herd of 18-20 milking cows, my family could not directly assist our friends and risk contracting polio. The husband did not survive, but his wife and three children did and were life-long friends, sharing holidays, family milestones, and church events with our family.

Several years later, while in high school, I served as the Jefferson County Chairman for the March of Dimes "Teens Are Proud to Help" Campaign. There were "teen chairman" from each high school throughout the county and we met together occasionally to learn about medical advances and to share fundraising ideas and successes. Activities at various high schools included car washes, extra admission fees at dances, adding an extra nickel to the cost of an ice cream cone at Dairy Queen, etc., fundraising via activities that would appeal to and be supported by teens.

I recall that everyone rejoiced as scientific and medical advances were made toward eliminating polio as far and wide as possible." —Rosemary Gruber



TEEN CHAIRMAN — The 1964 chairman of the Jefferson county Teens Against Polio program is Rosemary Widmann (above), 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Widmann, Route 2, Jefferson. A senior at the Jefferson high school, she will lead other county teenagers in planning fund raising activities for the March of Dimes. Miss Widmann said that chairmen from high schools throughout the county will meet at the Fort Atkinson municipal building at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, to plan the 1964 campaign.



Earth Care

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

—Psalm 24:1

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present
in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness
all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world
and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those
who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor
and the earth.

Teach us to discover the
worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly
united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being
with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray,
in our struggle for justice, love,
and peace.

— Pope Francis, Laudato Si

House of Hope Responds to Needs Related to COVID-19

In April, the House of Hope Beacon Leadership Team received a request from Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for assistance in their response to COVID-19. Residents (including those at Prior Crossing) requested donations for extra cleaning supplies, such as antibacterial cleaners and wipes, hand sanitizer, face masks, trash bags, etc. HOH members responded generously. Three carloads of items were delivered to Prior Crossing, including face masks, cleaning supplies, and personal care products.

We also contacted Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung. With youth restricted to their rooms, they could use activities for them to use individually or in small groups to entertain themselves during the stay-at-home restrictions. We quickly collected and delivered a load of puzzles, board games, playing cards, word-find books, adult coloring books, and art supplies. Both groups expressed their sincere gratitude for the donations and for being kept in mind at this time.

Community Response

A report from our Mission Outreach partners after the recent protests.

Deng Dimayuga at Prior Crossing reports: "Our building and block on University Avenue has not been affected during the protests. Thankfully our residents are physically safe, but they are experiencing mental/emotional health concerns. Aside from connecting them to mental health professionals, we've been trying different tactics to offer support. A few things that the residents found helpful are stress balls, color pencils and adult coloring books, and starting our garden at Prior Crossing. We are still in the early stages of planning, but we hope to start planting next week."

Jake Hustedtat Ain Dah Yung Community reports: "We are very fortunate that our buildings and residents stayed safe. We were amazed by the support of our community. A dozen Native women showed up at both of our locations to stand outside, pray, and keep vigilant for the protection of our children. It was amazing. The curfew imposed by Gov. Walz, however, did put homeless people in danger of being arrested, even though the actual statute exempted folks experiencing homelessness. ADYC printed hundreds of cards and t-shirts that explained this exemption to help curtail unnecessary detainment or arrest. We distributed them widely in the homeless community. We were blessed to have our community and the Creator looking out for us."

We Are The Church

We've said it before, but what does that mean for you? During this time when our congregation cannot gather together, we are called upon to **"be the church"** for each other and ourselves.

Being the church looks differently for each of us, but includes activities such as calling another member just to talk, volunteering in the HOH Community Garden or with our Mission Outreach partners, or praying for the community members around you. It also includes attending online worship on Sunday mornings, maybe even reminding other members to "tune in."

You will soon receive a card in the mail—we're calling it our **All Church Connect**. *We want to hear from you.* We want to know how you're doing, which tools are useful to you, and if you could use any additional support. Please fill it out and send it back or return it electronically on our website.

We miss connecting and worshipping together as a united community of believers. Until we can gather again, **please remember that separately and together—we are the church.** Thank you for being an important part of our community.

Your stewardship pledges and contributions have been integral in allowing HOH to creatively respond to the current challenges. Thank you!



Children, Youth and Family Programming

Summertime Spirituality

Even though we are practicing social distancing, summer is the perfect time to make memories. While you are enjoying the great outdoors, consider implementing one of these spiritual activities found in Faith Families by Traci Smith. (Don't forget to wear a mask.)

- Go outside and find something beautiful to focus on. Notice all the details you can and talk about them with your family. Go back inside and try to recreate the scene by drawing or painting it.
- At the beginning of the day, instruct everyone to plan to take three mental snapshots of special or beautiful moments in the day. At the end of the day, ask each person to recall their snapshots to share with the family.
- Choose a location and pack the supplies you will need for a walk. Introduce the idea of a prayer walk to your family by asking them to look for works of God in the world around them. Collect items you find, take photos, draw, or write about your discoveries. After the walk, gather together to share what you learned.

Summertime Family Worship

Join us on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. for a family-friendly worship experience. We will check-in about our week, engage in a musical worship experience with Sofia, enjoy artwork as a Bible story is told, and pray together. Please remember to mute your mic so that you can move around freely. Choose the "gallery" option at the top of the screen to see everyone at the same time. Contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org for the Zoom number and more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Children and Family Ministry team is excited to launch our 2020–2021 programming beginning Sunday, September 13. While we are not sure what the fall will bring, we will be prepared to meet with children on Zoom or in-person. Our in-person ministry offerings require significant support from volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for Sunday school, an in-person event, or a Zoom event contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org.



House of Hope Choir School

Make A Joyful Noise! We are excited to offer outstanding musical experiences and education for all ages through our five choir ensembles, voice, Orff, and musicianship classes, as well as individual instruction in piano and voice. Details for our online or in-person music education opportunities will be available soon. Please contact Sofia Ardan, Choir School Director, at SofiaA@hohchurch.org for more information. All are welcome!

Save the dates:

August 1: Online registration opens at hohchurch.org/choir-school

September 9: Rehearsals, classes, and lessons begin

Youth Ministry on Zoom

We're having Zoom Hang-Outs on Wednesdays with the middle school students at 1 p.m. and high school students at 3:30 p.m. Email Zach Wilson at ZachW@hohchurch.org for the Zoom meeting details or for more information about youth programming.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry Search

House of Hope is seeking a Director of Youth and Family Ministry with primary responsibility for programming relating to youth grades 6-12 and their families. This is a position of both vision and detail, enjoying the rhythms of life in the church while creating space to imagine the new. A detailed job description can be found on our website at hohchurch.org > About Us > Careers.



Beautification during Stay Home MN

HOH members have shared photos of the beautiful gardens that lift their spirits—and keep their fingernails dirty—while staying at home this past month.



Elizabeth Golnik



Marcy Hartford



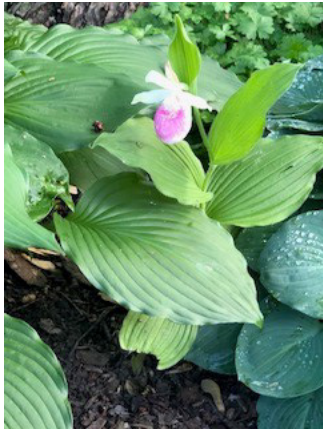
Janet and Ted Brownell



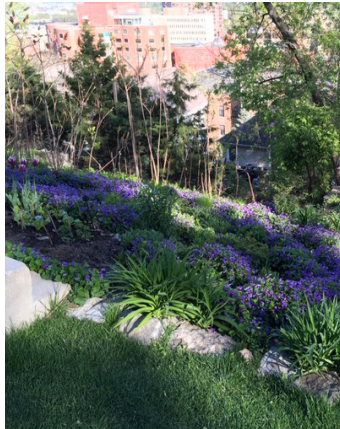
Mark Schwister



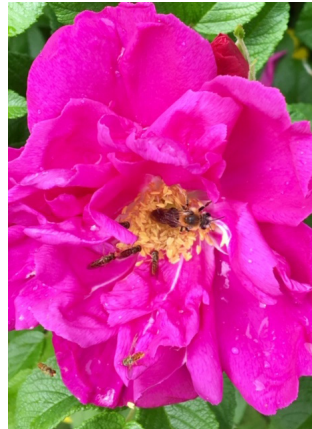
Katie Andersen



Renee Lane



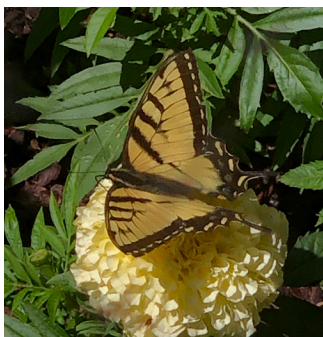
Kathy Schubert



Susan Price



Elise and Lee Jamison



Judy and Chuck Gensmer



Noelyn Porter



Bonnie and Vernon Eidman



Cheryl and Chris McHugh



Jeanne Bailey



Debby Fulton

Community Garden

Seeds have sprouted and veggies are growing in the HOH Community Garden. All ages, abilities, experience levels, and schedules of volunteers are welcome—there are jobs to fit everyone. Sit in the sun and pick a few tomatoes or get some exercise in the garden. Drive the vegetables to the food pantries. Volunteer once or all season long. Contact Elizabeth Karre at houseofhopegarden@gmail.com for more information.

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2020 Summer Carillon Recitals

House of Hope Carillonneur David Johnson will perform recitals on Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, August 2 at 4 p.m. on the Noyes Memorial Carillon.

The coronavirus has caused cancellation of most guest carillon recitals throughout the United States and the world. In many instances, towers are permanently closed for the duration of the emergency. We are fortunate and pleased that the House of Hope carillon continues to be heard each Sunday morning at 11 a.m. While disappointed that our guest recitals, like so many, had to be cancelled, we are grateful for the July 4 and August 2 performances.

Please be aware of State of Minnesota orders that may continue to affect recital gatherings, and be guided by those that remain or are enacted during the summer program season. We need to assume that there will be an ongoing requirement for "social distancing," so please bear this in mind when you come to the House of Hope grounds to listen to the recitals. Space your chairs, blankets, and other items so that you will not be too near other listeners. There is lots of space, front and back! And of course, in the event of rain or simply preference, listen from your car.

Thank you for your cooperation during this unusual time, and thank you for coming and listening!



 THE ANCHOR

In an effort to stay connected while we cannot gather, we're including all House of Hope members and friends in this mailing of the July/August *Anchor*. If not do not want to receive future editions of the newsletter, please email Deb at DebT@hohchurch.org or call the church office at (651) 227- 6311. Thank you!