

Due to new MN COVID-19 Guidelines this event is no longer in-person. The trees along Summit Avenue will be lit at 4:35 p.m.

NEW Advent event

FIRST LIGHT



On **Sunday, November 29**, please meet at House of Hope as we light trees along Summit Avenue to proclaim truly the "light" is coming into the world. Families can stop by the Porte Cochere first to pick up your Family Kit for Advent. Advent wreaths will also be available. FIRST LIGHT will begin at 4:15 p.m. with a Carillon Concert. At approximately 4:35 p.m. – sunset – we will light our Summit Avenue trees in joy and expectation for the coming of the Christ child.

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursdays, December 10 and 17

Join us for a special virtual All Church Christmas Party! Wear your favorite Christmas sweater, hat, tie or bow tie as we share our favorite Christmas traditions and memories. Lynn and Mark Barger Elliott will be your hosts. You can join the party based on the first letter of your last name – see schedule below. Check our website for Zoom links.

December 10

ABC: 5–5:45 p.m.
DEF: 6–6:45 p.m.
GHI: 7–7:45 p.m.
JKL: 8–8:45 p.m.

December 17

MNO: 5–5:45 p.m.
PQR: 6–6:45 p.m.
STUV: 7–7:45 p.m.
WXYZ: 8–8:45 p.m.



NEW Advent morning prayer

7@7

Join us at **7 a.m. every weekday morning during Advent** (November 30–December 23) for a special 7 minute online worship service which will include prayers, devotions, and music. This service will be posted weekdays at 7 a.m. on our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages and can also be viewed throughout the day and Advent on our website.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24

4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Contact Kiera Stegall for a Zoom link

7:30 and 10 p.m. Candlelight Services

The service will include anthems and carols performed by the section leaders of The Motet Choir and instrumentalists.

Visit hohchurch.org for the streamed services on Christmas Eve. There is no service on Christmas Day.

5

Stewardship Update

At the heart of every vibrant faith community is a generosity grounded in a faithful understanding God "is the source from whom all blessings flow."

As of November 19, we have received 100 pledges so far and 9 out of 10 of those pledges include an increase or sustained giving. The average pledge increase has been 9%.

We invite you to embrace this spirit of faithful generosity **and to consider increasing your pledge 5% so we might allocate 5% of all pledges received specifically for Mission Outreach.** This will be the first time in 17 years we will align a percentage of pledged dollars with the work of assisting those in need in our community, country and world.

We are also excited to share an anonymous donor has agreed to match all pledge increases up to \$50,000.

Bash Update

Thank you to the over 150 donors who contributed for our 2020 Mission Outreach giving. Presently, our gifts total \$80,000, 60% over our goal of \$50,000. The Mission Outreach Committee will meet soon to determine grants to Mission Partners with an emphasis on supporting hunger and homelessness efforts. Watch for more information to come.



On September 15, the Session approved a 1-7-75-175 Initiative to enable us to prayerfully discern where God might be leading our congregation in

the coming years. In addition, they set in motion a Long Range Planning Committee to assimilate input from the congregation and discern our mission and 7 major objectives we can tackle in the coming years as we move toward our 175th anniversary. Below are working documents approved by Session that we will discuss in January with further input from the congregation.

House of Hope Mission Statement

Hope is more than a word in our name—it is why we were founded on Christmas Eve in 1855. Our inclusive and affirming community seeks to live out the word of God in our time. In the Presbyterian tradition we are Reformed, and yet always reforming. In this spirit we:

- Glorify God in our worship and seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel through preaching, prayer, and exceptional music;
- Engage in a holy curiosity which seeks through ongoing learning to apply the teachings of the Bible and to follow the example of Jesus in our daily lives;
- Offer fellowship to people both inside and outside the church, listening to and respecting perspectives other than our own;
- Celebrate the dynamic and perpetual re-creation of God's world by nurturing a faithful expression of the arts from children's programs to hosting established artists and fostering musical gifts;
- Create a welcoming spiritual home for people in all stages of life, from young families to singles, empty nesters to senior adults; and
- Advocate for the just treatment of all people by offering tangible assistance and striving for structural change in racial equity, housing and healthcare access, and environmental stewardship.

7 Objectives

1. Establish and implement a HOH Master/Site Plan that reflects our desire to be a hospitable and welcoming community.
2. Create and implement a HOH Master Financial Plan.
3. Develop and expand programs for children, youth, family, and adults.
4. Create dynamic new partnerships and programs to further our spiritual life through music, arts and adult education.
5. Update our governance system to be relevant to our current and future needs.
6. Take bold and courageous action to advance diversity, religious pluralism, social justice and environmental stewardship.
7. Capitalize on new technologies to engage prospective and current members.

DECEMBER AT HOH

Racial Justice in Healthcare: A Deliberative Dialogue Wednesdays, December 2 and 9 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Please join us to address important issues that affect us all. The conversations reflect on current data, as well as biblical teachings and parables. Interested? Email Laurel Gamm: lrkgmm@gmail.com.

Choir School Fundraiser Flower Pickup

Wednesday, December 2 | 3:30 –6 p.m.

Thursday, December 3 | 8-10 a.m.

Curbside pickup is available at the Porte Cochere entry.

On a Christmas Morn CD Release: A conversation with Matthew Culloton and Mark Barger Elliott

Sunday, December 6 | 11:15 a.m. via Zoom

Sponsor-A-Family Curbside Drop-Off

Sundays, December 6 and 13 | 2–4 p.m.

Drive through the Porte Cochere on Portland Avenue where our Youth will collect your gifts. Youth are needed to staff the curbside drop off. Contact Dan Miglets-Nelson at DanMN@hohchurch.org to sign up.

Monday Exchange

Mondays, December 7 and 21 | 7 p.m. via Zoom

A Monday evening group conversation led by Phil Bolinder.

Adult Enrichment: Backstage Tableaux Stories

Sunday, December 13 | 11:15 a.m. via Zoom

Enjoy a discussion with Bill Gerry, Sherwood Pomeroy, Richard Poppe, and Sofia Ardan. We encourage members to send Tableaux stories and photos in advance to hoh@hohchurch.org.

Choir School Concert: Be We Merry

Sunday, December 20 | 4 p.m.

Streamed concert will include carols and anthems for Christmas sung by the choristers.

A Candlelight Christmas Eve at House of Hope

Thursday, December 24

4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship via Zoom
7:30 and 10 p.m. Streamed Candlelight Services

Please check the Events Calendar on our website for event details.

Children and Family Ministry

Silly Songs and Storytime (Fridays at 9:30 a.m.)
December 4, 11, and 18

Elementary Game Time (Fridays at 4 p.m.)
December 4, 11, and 18

Family Worship (Sundays at 9:30 a.m.)
December 6, 13, and 20

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Recording
(Saturdays at 10 a.m.) December 5 and 12

Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Thursday, December 24 at 4 p.m.

There will be no Children and Family Programming from December 25–January 3. Programming resumes January 8, 2021.

Contact Kiera Stegall at KieraS@hohchurch.org for Zoom links.



Christmas Memorials

Although we will not be offering poinsettias to take home this year, you may make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 20 Bulletin. Click this link: bit.ly/HOHChristmasMemorials2020 to reserve a place in the bulletin. You may also find this form and the prompt to 'Donate Now' by clicking on "Support House of Hope" at the top of our website's homepage, or "Learn More" in the Donate section at the bottom. You may also email DebiT@hohchurch.org to submit names, and mail in your check. **The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is Sunday, December 13.**

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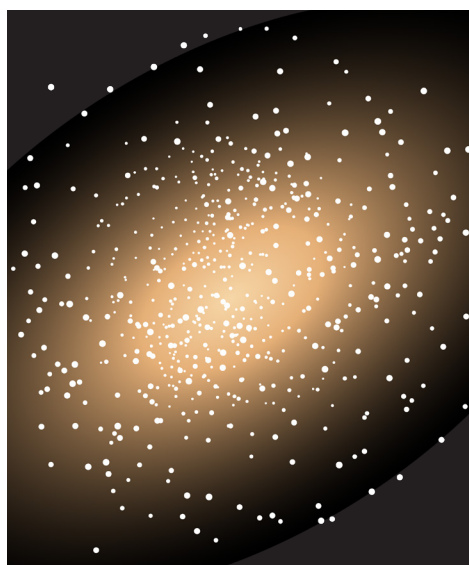
The Anchor is printed on recycled paper as a part of House of Hope's commitment to be an Earth Care Congregation.



The House of Hope Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Church.



House of Hope is now on Instagram. Please follow and share your photos with us! @houseofhopepresbyterian



All the Light We Can See Meditations on the Light of Advent

Advent Sermon Series Beginning November 29

Join us for a special Advent sermon series on four aspects of how we experience God's light as we welcome "the Light of the World" into our lives on December 25.

Rising, Reflected, Healing, and Eternal Light.