



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- **Sunday, November 28**
The First Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship
Holy Communion
4 p.m. First Light —
Advent Celebration

- **Sunday, December 5**
The Second Sunday of Advent | 10 a.m. Worship

- **Sunday, December 12**
The Third Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship | 11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant
Children's Christmas Pageant



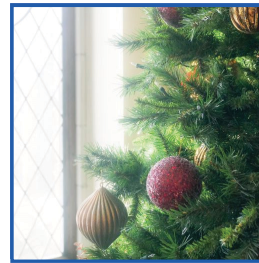
Join us after worship on Sunday, December 12, for a unique retelling of the nativity story. Enjoy a guided tour through the Education Wing, as you witness vignettes about Jesus' birth. Our tour will conclude with caroling in the sanctuary.

- **Saturday, December 18**
Traditional Christmas Tableaux
5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary (*Doors open at 5 p.m.*)



A tradition at HOH for 100 years, this is the Christmas story as told through the Scriptures, through lovely carols and anthems, and in the adaptation in tableaux ("living pictures") of well-known paintings and familiar scenes of the nativity. Childcare available for ages 4 and under.

- **Sunday, December 19**
The Fourth Sunday of Advent | 10 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Choir School Christmas Concert, Sanctuary



Choir School Christmas Concert *Sing Noel!*

Sunday, December 19 at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. This festive, 30-minute program features carols from around the world sung by our choristers PreK-Grade 12.

Come celebrate with sounds of the season from the voices of our Choir School!

- **Friday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary



- 4 p.m.** Family Candlelight Service *
- 7 and 9:30 p.m.** Carillon Recitals
by David Johnson
- 7:30 p.m.** Candlelight Service *
- 10 p.m.** Candlelight Service

* Childcare available for PreK and younger

Special Music (7:30 and 10 p.m.): Johann Kuhnau's delightful Christmas cantata *Und ist ein Kind geboren* (To Us a Child is Born). The House of Hope Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra; Aaron David Miller, organ; Rachel Brandwein, harp; Matthew Culloton, conductor.

Candlelight Services include lessons, carols and anthems.
There is no service on Christmas Day.

Advent Sermon Series



An Asemic Advent: New Signposts in a Strange Land

"When the linguistic term *seme* (derived from the Greek *sema*, 'sign') is preceded by the privative *a-*, the normal meaning of

what follows is neutralized (compare symmetric and asymmetric)," writes Peter Schwenger in his book *Asemic: The Art of Writing*. Join us this Advent for our sermon series as we reflect on an Asemic Advent and four signs pointing us to Bethlehem and the birth of the Christ child.

Pastor | Commentary

For most people, the birth of Jesus was a non-event. There was no awareness that a new way of keeping time had begun. There was no alarm clock that said this is the first day of a new era, *Anno Domini*.

As the Christian church has grown-up through the centuries, Christmas has become a day to anticipate. We wait for Christmas. A new Facebook friend, a McCormick Seminary grad and chaplain, started posting back in July the number of Mondays until Christmas. That's too early for me to contemplate December but, it turns out, he is also a semi-professional Santa Claus for charity events. So, the question becomes, what are we waiting for? Trees, gatherings, giving and receiving gifts ... yes, absolutely. And what else? Are we waiting and listening for God to speak to us of salvation for our time? And what might God be expecting of us?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Who will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger." We have much to mourn just now. We have many concerns and cares just now. From climate change to racism to ending this worldwide pandemic, there is much that needs God's salvific touch. These last years have changed us. If we mean to continue to tell one another and the world that the birth of Jesus was and continues to be a life-changing event, we are invited to consider Bonhoeffer's words.

In some ways participating in God's salvific work is our life's calling, though it's rarely on the calendar; we tend to lose track on a daily basis. So we have this season of waiting to reawaken the anticipation as well as our will for participation in the birth and life of The Christ! Thanks be to God.

See you in church,
Julia



End of Year Giving

As the year draws to a close, please make your 2022 Stewardship pledge today. To pledge online, go to bit.ly/PledgeHOH. We welcome your contributions in many ways, including check, credit card, appreciated stock or mutual funds, among others. You can set up your donation through automatic giving on the HOH website at hohchurch.org/how-to-donate/.

If you are making a payment toward your 2022 pledge in calendar year 2021, be sure to indicate in the memo line of your check that it is for a "Prepaid Pledge for 2022". Please remember that to be credited for the 2021 tax year, checks must be postmarked by no later than midnight on December 31, 2021. If you have any questions, or would like more information on other ways of giving please contact Michelle Freyholtz, MichelleF@hohchurch.org, (651) 223-7556.

Stewardship 2022



Our Stewardship Campaign that seeks to fully fund the 2022 Annual Budget focuses on how the word "if" has shaped the past, present, and future of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church. Our pledge goal is \$1,100,000.

Reaching this goal will enable us to fully fund our music, children and youth programs, and congregational life ministries; and sustain allocating 5% of our Annual Budget for Mission Outreach.

	2020 Actual October	2021 Actual October
Operating Revenue		
Pledge and Non-Pledged Revenue	\$71,988	\$103,602
Endowment Draw	\$155,000	\$145,000
Other Revenue	\$77,127	\$24,234
Total Operating Revenue	\$304,115	\$272,836
Operating Expense		
Mission Outreach	\$9,531	\$4,802
Other Spiritual Life	\$3,457	\$5,396
Worship, Music and Congregational Life	\$41,547	\$36,204
House, Property & Insurance	\$86,700	\$35,755
Salaries, Benefits and Allowances	\$145,756	\$114,870
Rev. Didier Housing	\$3,708	\$3,708
Total Operating Expense	\$290,699	\$200,735
Surplus (Deficit)	\$13,416	\$72,101

DECEMBER

For a complete HOH calendar, see our Events Calendar at hohchurch.org or our weekly Enews.

To subscribe to the Enews, go to bit.ly/HOHEnews



The HUB

Where Faith and Families Connect

Children and Family Ministry

Contact Kiera Stegall: KieraS@hohchurch.org

Nursery & Sunday School Updates for December:

- Infants – toddlers will meet in Room 8 for Christmas stories and activities.
- Preschool–Grade 5 will meet in Room 5 for Christmas Pageant Rehearsal on December 5 and 12 and a celebration on December 19.
- No Zoom Sunday school during December, due to post worship activities.
- No in-person nursery or Sunday school on December 26 and January 2.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 12 | 11:15 a.m.

Join us for a unique retelling of the nativity story! Meet us outside the Children's Library at 11:15 a.m. to begin your guided tour through the stories of Jesus' birth. Our tour will conclude with caroling in the sanctuary, led by Liz Camozzi.

Tween Christmas Party

Friday, December 10 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders, join us for a celebration at Sky Zone in Oakdale. Invite friends to join in the fun! HOH will provide admission and socks. Families are responsible for their own transportation. Adult chaperones are needed. Please R.S.V.P. no later than Friday, Dec. 3 at 5 p.m.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Dan Miglets-Nelson: DanMN@hohchurch.org

Middle School Sunday School | 10:15 a.m. | Room 1

Middle Schoolers meet following the Time for Children to learn about God's word, deepen their faith, and grow together. We will not meet on December 26.

Sponsor-A-Family Curbside Donation Drop-off

Sundays, December 5 & 12 | 2-4 p.m. | Porte Cochere

The HOH youth group will be accepting your donations curbside on Sunday afternoons.

Sponsor-A-Family Truck Loading

Saturday, December 18 | 9 a.m.

Youth Grades 6-12 will meet at HOH to load the truck and spread Christmas cheer! Donuts will be provided!

The SUMMIT Christmas Party

Sunday, December 19 | 7 p.m. | Great Hall

Youth grades 6 - 12 are invited to celebrate the season with snacks, minute-to-win-it games, and Christmas festivities.

House of Hope Choir School

Contact Sofia Ardan: SofiaA@hohchurch.org

Do you know a child who loves to sing? The Choir School offers all children in the Twin Cities area a joy filled musical experience! There is no audition, and no prior music training is required. At the Choir School, choristers sing diverse repertoire, deepen their knowledge of music, and grow as individuals in an enthusiastic and encouraging environment. Spring session begins January 5. Contact Choir School Director Sofia Ardan to register.

- 1** Choir School Holiday Plant Sale Pickup
3:30 - 6 p.m. Porte Cochere
- 2** Choir School Holiday Plant Sale Pickup
8:30 - 10 a.m. Porte Cochere
- 5** Sponsor-A-Family Collection | Porte Cochere
2-4 p.m.
- 12** Children's Christmas Pageant | 11:15 a.m.

Sponsor-A-Family Collection | Porte Cochere
2-4 p.m.
- 18** Traditional Christmas Tableaux | 5:30 p.m.
- 19** Choir School Christmas Concert | 11:15 a.m.
- 24** Christmas Eve Services (See front cover)
- 26** 10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 28** Church Offices Closed December 28-29, 31

Pilgrimage to Ireland 2022

Be Thou My Vision: Naming the Sacred in our Lives

September 19-30, 2022

The trip will include a visit to the Aran Islands, Dingle Peninsula, The Ring of Kerry, and Glendalough.

We will spend time in Galway and Dublin including the Book of Kells.

If you are interested or have questions please contact

Julia Carlson: JuliaC@hohchurch.org



Christmas Memorials. You may purchase a poinsettia (\$15) or make a donation in any amount to the Mission Outreach Fund in memory or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 19 bulletin. Visit or call the church office or pay online. To pay online click the "Support House of Hope" at the top of our website's homepage, and then follow the prompts. ***The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is December 12.***

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Festival of HOPE

If you missed the Festival of Hope, watch our November
online conference by visiting our website using the link:

bit.ly/HOHFestivalOfHope



Becca Stevens — "On Practically Divine: Experiencing the Sacred"

Becca Stevens, a "CNN Hero," is a social
entrepreneur, author, priest, and founder
of Thistle Farms. Her new book *Practically
Divine* is about experiencing the sacred in
our lives.



Jess McHugh — "On the Americanon"

Jess McHugh is a writer and researcher
whose work has appeared in *The New York
Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washing-
ton Post*, and *TIME*. Her book, *Americanon*,
was published this year.



John Kaag — "On How William James Can Save Your Life"

Dr. John Kaag is an award-winning author
and Chair of Philosophy at UMass Lowell.
He will speak on his new book, *Sick Souls,
Healthy Minds: How William James Can Save
Your Life*.



Jessica Goudeau — "On The Story of Refuge in America"

Jessica Goudeau is author of *After the Last
Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge
in America*, named a *New York Times* Editors'
Choice book. She has written for *The New
York Times* and *The Atlantic*.



Greg Cootsona — "On Improvisation: Science, Jazz and Why What Happens Next Could Be Great"

Greg Cootsona is a professor, author and
noted speaker on the intersection between
science and faith. He has written for *The Wall
Street Journal* and has been interviewed by
CNN and the BBC.



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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