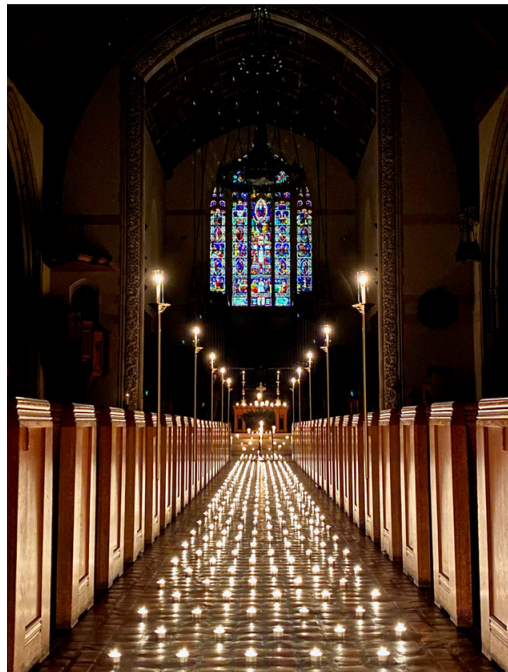


HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2020 Annual Report





***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust...
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Romans 15:13

Words from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome have been woven into the liturgy at the House of Hope since its founding and have shaped its ministry over these past 165 years. They are still true today.

The turbulent events of this past year have required **trust** in God and in each other. We have demonstrated extraordinary creativity and perseverance as we reinvented every aspect of congregational life: the way we worship, gather for education and fellowship, partner with local agencies, and financially support our ministry.

Paul's words remind us **overflowing hope** is a gift extended to those who trust in Jesus Christ. In this Annual Report we invite you to be inspired by a resilient commitment to creatively and faithfully bring worship services to households around the globe, remain connected to each other through Zoom Bible studies and prayer groups, conduct congregational meetings, and to continue the work of the Elders, Deacons and Trustees at 797 Summit Avenue.

There are many ways in which we have experienced overflowing hope in the past year. We invite you to peruse the pages of this report and celebrate all we have imagined and realized by God's grace and leading. Below are just a few highlights:

- Growth in virtual Sunday services which now average 350 weekly logins;
- Significant progress on the 1-7-75-175 strategic plan;
- Launching of the Festival of Hope which was viewed by over 1000 people;
- Exceeding the Virtual Bash goal by 68% which raised \$84,000 for Mission Outreach;
- Hiring a Director for Youth and Family Ministry which laid the groundwork to develop The HUB, a dynamic new ministry to children, youth and families at the House of Hope and in our community.

In closing, we would like to extend a heartfelt word of gratitude to all the church officers, leaders, volunteers and our House of Hope staff who joined together to make 2020 a year that required our trust in God which ultimately resulted in the overflowing of hope in our future.

Faithfully,

Lynn and Mark
Co-Pastors/Head of Staff



Sunday Series | January 19

Leonard Pitts, Jr., Pulitzer-prize winning writer, joined Sunday worship at House of Hope as well as presented to the public in our Sunday Series. Pitts is the author of the bestseller *Becoming Dad: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood*, a poignant account of the meaning of black fatherhood in the contemporary United States.



Adult Enrichment | January 19

HOH welcomed Mayor Melvin Carter for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.



Earth Care Congregation | February 1

HOH was certified by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognizing our commitment to being a good steward of creation.



Community Sing: *The Justice Choir Songbook* | February 8

HOH hosted its annual community sing in conjunction with Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, The Singers, and Choirmaster Matthew Culloton. The event introduced new sections and favorites from *The Justice Choir Songbook*, a collection of music about civic, social, and environmental rights.



Elizabeth Chapel Series | February 23

The Elizabeth Chapel Series presented a concert that featured Rachel Brandwein on the harp and Aaron David Miller on the Jaeckel Organ. It included works of Bach, Renié, and two new compositions for harp and organ. A second recital featuring Aaron David Miller was streamed on April 19.



Didier Seminar | February 29 and March 1

HOH welcomed theologian Dr. John F. Haught to speak about his book *The New Cosmic Story and the Meaning of Faith* stating that the universe and humans are “a package deal, interrelated and continually evolving.” Phil Bolinder presented an overview of Haught’s book and led discussions in advance of the event.



The COVID-19 pandemic limited in-person worship and activities | March 15

HOH offered Easter worship virtually for the first time. Our community embraced this opportunity with more than 11,000 people viewing on CW Channel 23. The livestream was also widely viewed on our website and Facebook, drawing viewers from 47 states and six countries.

Weekly worship attendance grew throughout the year—attracting an average of 350 devices virtually each week. The Children and Family Ministry committee launched a 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings under the leadership of Kiera Stegall and Sofia Ardalan.

Pastoral Transitions | April 19

Andrew McDonald accepted a call to become Transitional Pastor at Old Stone Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Julia Carlson served as Acting Head of Staff.

Handbell Refurbishment | May

After 42 years of use, HOH's 61 handbells were refurbished in Michigan by Urman English Repair.

Youth Sunday | May 3

The HOH youth led the congregation in worship. Graduating Seniors Frances Atmore and Sophie Stein preached. Other participants included: Merete Nelson, Quinn Nelson, Ridley Nelson, Nora Bolsoni, Christa Feldbrugge, Thomas Minner, Christopher Stone, Abe Thompson, Julian Simpson, Beck Westrem, Eric Boylan, Abe Thompson, Ellie Vanderhaar, and Phineas Pope.

Lynn and Mark Barger Elliott are called as Co-Pastors/ Head of Staff | May 17

"The Barger Elliotts have served together in three different congregations and will bring a passion for mission, the arts, and youth and family ministry to House of Hope. We admire how they model teamwork as a couple along with their intellect, calmness, and humility."
—PNC Committee

Death of George Floyd | May 25

HOH grieved with our community in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. HOH's Carillonneur Dave Johnson played the carillon on June 4 in George Floyd's honor.

HOH published this statement: *"We are called Protestants because our history is one of protest in naming what is wrong and unjust. Thousands have protested this injustice. House of Hope laments the outbreaks of violence and damage to lives and property and pray for peace to return to our metro area and state – even as we recognize the commitment that "peace is not the same as quiet." Jesus asked us to pick up our cross and follow him; it is our calling to stand with our neighbors and friends in the African American community as the only lasting and sure peace is one created through love and justice. God is love and our hope."*





Community Garden | September

HOH members and friends grew and delivered 1,157 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries.



Leadership Jazz | September 12

Elders, Deacons, and Trustees gathered for an outdoor retreat to explore the topic of "Leadership Jazz: On Guiding the Church During Tumultuous Times." Participants enjoyed special music and a reflection on improvisation from HOH's Director of Music and Organist Aaron David Miller.

Rally Sunday | September 13

HOH gathered under the "Big Tent" to kick off an amazing fall at House of Hope with socially distanced outdoor activities following our streamed worship. Following the guidelines of the Governor and the MN Department of Health, we enjoyed a picnic and reconnected as a congregation. HOH member Terry Bailey's band, Jazz Savvy, provided entertainment.



1-7-75 Initiative | September 15

The Session approved a 1-7-75 Initiative and 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. Clearly, God is at work in our midst shaping a "future with hope."

Festival of Hope | September 20-27

House of Hope launched a new online conference that attracted over 1,000 participants and included speakers who ranged from a *New York Times* science columnist to a Grammy winner, a leader in the field of furniture design to authors who spoke to the pressing issues of systemic racism and the impact of the evangelical church on American politics.



Transitional Assoc. Pastor Zachary Wilson departs | October 25

Harvest of Hope Bash | October 25

Thank you to the more than 169 donors who contributed to the Bash. Gifts totaled \$84,000, which was 68% over the goal of \$50,000. The Mission Outreach Committee allocated grants to Mission Partners with an emphasis on supporting hunger and homelessness efforts. Grantees included: *Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities Area, Feed My Starving Children, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul/Project Home, Jeremiah Program, Neighborhood House, Ujamaa Place, Women's Advocates, among others.*





HOH welcomed Director of Youth and Family Ministry | November 1

Dan Miglets-Nelson joined the HOH staff and launched virtual events that included Confirmation classes and a Christmas party, as well as Sponsor-a-Family gift drop off.



Bible Presentations | November 1

Kindergarteners and third graders enjoyed a brief outdoor service to celebrate the receiving of Bibles, observing safety protocols. Kiera met with the third graders in Zoom classes to teach Bible navigation skills.



First Light | November 29

To mark the beginning of Advent, the trees along Summit Avenue were lit to remind us that light is stronger than darkness. They were lit up every night through the winter.



7@7 Advent Morning Prayer | Nov 30–Dec 23

Members and friends gathered on weekday mornings during Advent for a special 7 minute online worship service including prayers, devotions, and music. These services were posted daily at 7 a.m. on our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages.

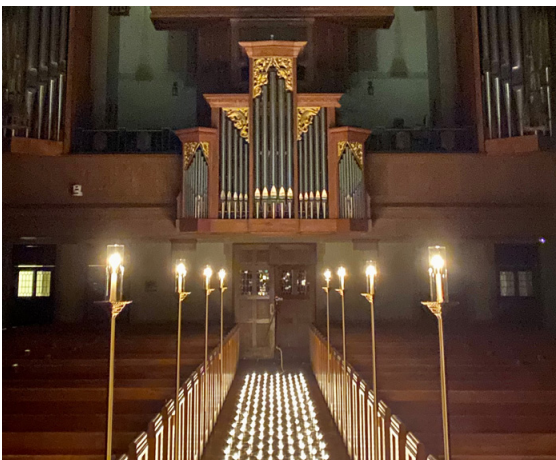


All Church Christmas Parties | December 10 and 17

HOH members wore their favorite Christmas attire while sharing stories about their favorite Christmas traditions and memories. Lynn and Mark Barger Elliott hosted eight virtual parties!

Christmas Sponsor-A-Family | December 13

In partnership with the YWCA, Liberty Plaza Affordable Housing Community, the Wilder Center, and Neighborhood House, HOH participated in Sponsor-A-Family this year, delivering Christmas joy to 63 families.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship | December 24

Nearly 700 devices viewed our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship service on our website and Facebook page. The service included anthems and carols performed by the section leaders of The Motet Choir and instrumentalists. About 100 children and families participated in our Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service.



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.

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:

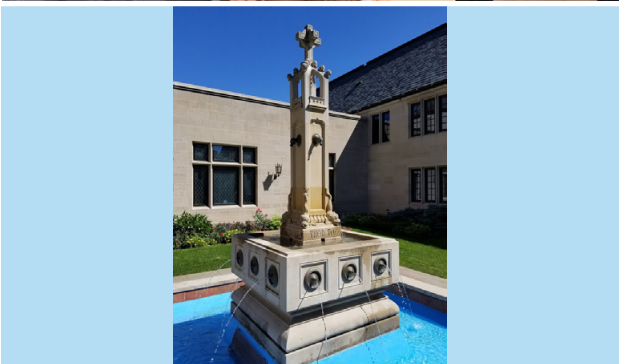
- Glorify God in our worship and seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel through preaching, prayer, and exceptional music;
- Engage in a holy curiosity which seeks through ongoing learning to apply the teachings of the Bible and to follow the example of Jesus in our daily 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.

Financials

	2020 Budget	2020 Year End
OPERATING REVENUE		
Pledge Revenue	\$1,250,000	\$1,180,149
Non-Pledged Revenue	\$130,000	\$106,182
Other Revenue	\$49,600	\$49,986
General Endowment	\$738,712	\$491,813
Contingency Fund	\$200,000	\$426,027
Restricted Endowment	\$335,980	\$256,684
Mission Outreach & Spiritual Life	\$183,389	\$158,295
Congregational Life	\$26,963	\$6,081
Administrative Council	\$2,500	\$344
Properties	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Revenue	\$2,917,144	\$2,675,560
OPERATING EXPENSE		
Mission Outreach	\$184,216	\$200,678
Houses of Hope Fund	\$104,668	\$104,668
Other Spiritual Life	\$34,373	\$24,263
Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Ministry	\$107,888	\$46,714
Worship and Sacraments	\$3,500	\$3,313
Music Programs	\$178,266	\$117,538
Subtotal Mission Outreach & Spiritual Life	\$612,911	\$497,174
Congregational Life	\$81,912	\$39,456
House, Property and Insurance	\$449,100	\$746,421
Communications, Administration and Finance	\$238,633	\$238,580
Administrative Council Committees	\$16,700	\$11,437
Salaries, Benefits, and Allowances	\$1,473,388	\$1,357,270
Rev. Didier Housing	\$44,500	\$44,500
Subtotal Other Expenses	\$2,304,234	\$2,437,664
Total Operating Expense	\$2,917,144	\$2,934,838
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	(\$259,278)
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)		\$277,500
Adjusted Net		\$18,222



Membership Information

Membership Total on 1/1/2020: 1251

2020 Persons Received into Membership: 8

2020 Members transferred to other churches: 7

We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed away in 2020:

- Sally Anderberg
- James Barge*
- Elsa Bennett
- Peter Blyth
- Jeannine Bohlmeyer
- Kathryn Breitbarth
- Elizabeth Colman
- Willard Converse
- Richard Foreman
- David Hopper*
- John Jackson
- Samuel Joy
- John King
- Richard Klupper
- Jessica Kottke
- Carol Krieger
- Ervin Lentz
- Irene Novotny
- Patricia Jean Paulus
- Clifford Peet
- Nancy Gronna Peterson
- Phyllis Rusterholz
- Lori Ann Rutledge
- Stewart Walker
- Ted Weyerhaeuser
- Anne Yuska
- * Presbyterian Clergy

2020 Baptisms: Eva Miriam Douglass

Membership Total on 12/31/2020: 1207