



## FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

and a time for every matter  
under heaven: a time to be  
born and a time to die; a time  
to plant and a time to pluck up  
what is planted; a time to kill  
and a time to heal; a time to  
break down and a time to build  
up; a time to weep and a time  
to laugh; a time to mourn and a  
time to dance; a time to throw  
away stones and a time to  
gather stones together; a time  
to embrace and a time to refrain  
from embracing; a time to seek  
and a time to lose; a time to  
keep and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silent and a time  
to speak; a time to love and a  
time to hate; a time for war and  
a time for peace.

– Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Dear House of Hope Friends,

There are some years we never forget: the year of a graduation, marriage, the birth of a child, retirement, or the death of a loved one to name a few. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the feel of time; it has defined not one year but two (with a third in the making). To begin with, it pushed events and gatherings off calendars all together or into the virtual realm. In 2021, marriages, graduations, and retirements happened but COVID-19, like a sepia tint on our memories, shaded everything. We remember 2020 for its long lists of cancellations; we will remember 2021 for vaccines; the fits and starts of reopening and getting together; masked gatherings; and an accompanying lethargy that the *New York Times* described as ‘languishing.’

Time, years, and seasons of life brought us to a familiar scripture from the Wisdom books. The writer of Ecclesiastes had a very unique voice as biblical writers go. He is known as Qoheleth. It has a fair amount to say about hardship and death—but as is true with wisdom writings, these discussions are meant to point us toward facing our mortality. If we can sit down across from Death and face our fears of not being, life gets bigger and brighter; life can carry more weight and more joy.

This passage from Ecclesiastes has the rhythm of a poem and, for those of a certain generation, a very familiar song. Each of the pairings, birth and death or mourning and dancing, for example, can also be seen as moments or phases in life. It tells us of the normalcy of the loss, struggle, uncertainty. It also tells us we can expect reversals, gain, and joy. And this is the book that says over and over again, “All is vanity;” some translate it as “all is vapor.” Our struggles help us discern vanity from deep meaning.



They show us what is temporal and what is eternal. It often reveals that our thinking and expectations are smaller than God's love, hope, and intended gifts for our lives.

2020 was the time to 'break down' and to 'refrain from embracing.' We hoped 2021 would be an all-out opportunity to 'build up' and 'to embrace.' We did some of both but the pace was slower and needed to be more gentle than expected. We were online and in person and ended the year in both grace and humility. The rhythmic poem from Qoheleth ends with these words: "What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. . . . I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him."

This annual report lists baptisms and deaths – indeed a time to be born (both physically and spiritually) and a time to die. It also lists the many missions that show the love of Christ funneled out into the world from this place. The images witness to the importance of doing good theology and together praying, "Your will, not mine be done." In this short time we call life, with no way to avoid the ups and downs, I see here the strength, joy, and hope of community in traversing this life together with the Triune God as our guide.

Soli Deo Gloria!

***May the Shalom of God surround each one and our community of faith now and forever!***

—Julia



Rev. Dr. Julia A. Carlson, Associate Pastor for Spiritual Life and Care



#### **About the Cover:**

The House of Hope Chancel *Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn* windows are the work of Rowan LeCompte.

Upper left: *Winter* features Thomas Tallis, Maurice Ravel, Franz Schubert, and W. H. Auden, given in memory of Maude and William L. McKnight

Upper right: *Spring* features Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Walt Whitman, and E.E. Cummings, given in memory of Jane Menk

Lower left: *Summer* features Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Emily Dickinson, given in memory of Maude and William L. McKnight

Lower right: *Autumn* features John Keats, Wilfred Owen, Johannes Brahms, Ralph Vaughn Williams, given in memory of Charles and Kathryn Ann Knutson, Frank E. Knutson, and Eleanor Gray Knutson

## Children and Family Ministry

Our children's faith is cultivated through play and creativity, using the arts, STEM, games, and stories. Families are encouraged to put their faith in action through service projects and community engagement, as we seek ways to share God's love with everyone.

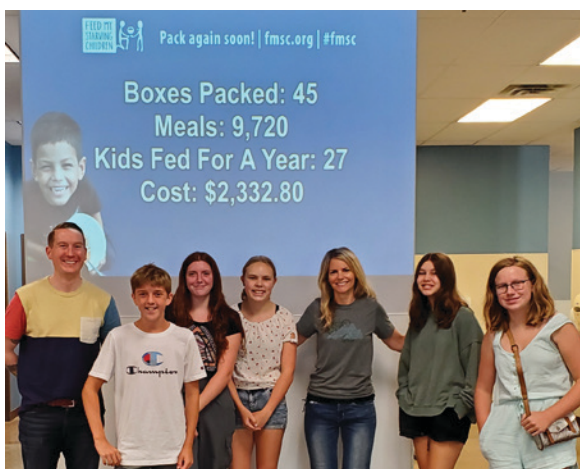
- **75** children between birth - grade 5 engaged in faith formation, worship, and events.
- **41** children, youth, and adults came together to create a unique children's Christmas pageant.
- **7** babies and toddlers were baptized.
- **35** faith and scripture stories were shared in-person and virtually via curated artwork.
- More than **175** family faith formation kits were distributed to children.

## Youth and Family Ministry

We strive to equip youth with the skills needed to lead full and meaningful lives through service and learning. Our goal is to provide them with a place to explore issues of faith, justice, and service.

We welcomed **7** confirmands into membership. Our youth grew in faith and friendship through discipleship and fellowship activities at The SUMMIT Youth Group. HOH Youth:

- Coordinated a donation drive for Neighborhood House;
- Packed **9,720** meals at Feed My Starving Children;
- Helped coordinate Christmas Sponsor-A-Family for **71** families including **268** individuals ; and
- Raised **\$2,821** for Feed My Starving Children through the Souper Bowl of Caring.





# A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO PLUCK UP WHAT IS PLANTED

## Mission Outreach

House of Hope is a place where we put faith into action as intentional citizens for social justice and good neighbors within this community. In 2021, Mission Outreach giving was included in the HOH budget with **5%** of pledge and non-pledge giving going to our Mission Outreach budget. As a result of gifts from the congregation and friends, donations of **\$77,255.85** were made to the following organizations:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities Area  
Covered with Christ  
Feed My Starving Children  
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center  
Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul  
Jeremiah Program  
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition  
Liberty Community Church  
Neighborhood House  
People Inc.  
PCUSA - Presbyterian World Mission  
PCUSA - W. Africa - Josh Heikkila  
Presbyterian Clearwater Forest  
Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Ujamaa Place  
Walker West Music Academy  
Women's Advocates  
YWCA - St. Paul  
YMCA - East Side

**The Houses of Hope Fund** was established in 1999 to support affordable housing in the east metro. **\$103,400** was donated in 2021 to: Ain Dah Yung, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhood House, Project for Pride in Living, Jeremiah Program, and YWCA. Grants totaling over **\$3 million** have been granted since 2000.

**Faith and Fibers** met online and in person to work on needlecrafts. The group worked on knit and crochet hats and scarves for our Mission Partners.

**Mission Sewing** members worked at home on projects until they could safely gather at HOH to support our Mission Partners.



## Community Garden Celebrates 10 Years

The House of Hope Community Garden celebrated its **10th Anniversary** at a Garden Party in August. This year the garden produced **1,452** pounds of organically grown produce for food pantries at Neighborhood House and Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. Each year volunteers from the congregation, friends, and neighbors help in the garden.



## Community Events

### The Didier Seminar with Jeannine Hill Fletcher | April 21, 24-25



Our 2021 Didier Seminar moved online with theologian Jeannine Hill Fletcher of Fordham University. Professor Hill Fletcher explored the critically relevant topic of *Christian Entanglement in*

*Racism: Facing the Past and Transforming the Future*. She shared as contemporary followers of Jesus, we are agents in bringing about the Christian vision of the Kingdom/Kindom of God, of peace and love for all.

### Neighborhood Puppet Show | June 24



### Schoolhouse Rock LIVE!, Jr. | July 10 and 11



### National Night Out | August 3

National Night Out was an amazing success. Wonderful weather, excellent volunteer teamwork, and House of Hope staff made it an enjoyable evening. It was the largest crowd we've had—more than 350 people gathered to share a meal, enjoy a carillon concert by Dave Johnson, a demonstration by the St. Paul Fire Department, a performance by the Ujamaa Place Men, and a youth jazz ensemble from Walker West Music Academy.



### Blessing of the Animals | August 18



### Sunday Series with David Brooks | Sept 26 *Society and the Soul*

David Brooks writes a bi-weekly Op-Ed for *The New York Times* and is a regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and *NPR's All Things Considered*. Mr. Brooks shared personal stories of his personal faith journey and integrating faith into a modern world.





## Adult Ministries

**2021 Adult Education** offered various topics, online and in-person, and provided educational and fellowship opportunities for adults and families to live meaningful lives as Christians and as a community. Thank you to the many leaders and facilitators who shared their knowledge, skills, and faith.

**Monday Exchange** was led by Phil Bolinder offering small group discussion introduced by a question around faith and life.

**El Camino Virtual Pilgrimage** was offered virtually in January by Julia Carlson as a part of Hope in Winter.

### Lenten Wednesday Evening Services

**Feminist Theology** was offered in seven sessions over the year, led by Julia Carlson as a time of learning and discussion around women's experience of God and the many gifts women bring to the church. Their discussions were informed by *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril* by theologian Elizabeth A. Johnson.

**Great Decisions** is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. House of Hope offers an opportunity for members and friends to explore important international issues and foreign policy topics during the months of April through November each year. Although the topics change, the program provides background and policy information for eight critical issues each year.

### Racism and Contemporary Societal Issues

Building on anti-racism work begun with The Didier Seminar, the Peace and Justice Committee hosted a series of Adult Enrichment offerings to deepen the congregation's understanding of the impact of racism on Education, Healthcare, Housing, Equal Rights, and Climate Issues. Phil Bolinder facilitated a post-Didier discussion of *Christian Entanglement in Racism: So, What Now?*

**Fall Book Read, *An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture*** was led by Pastor Julia Carlson

**Sunday-Weekday Connections** met online featuring Kiera Stegall sharing about children and family ministry. Genealogist Anita Nelson discussed her work in *Piecing Together Your Past* in two in-person sessions.

**Adult Enrichment and other adult offerings** took place on various topics including:

- The Sacred in Art
- Poetic Expressions for Growth and Healing
- Best Books to Read in 2021
- Earth Care with Fresh Energy
- Earth Care at Oak Grove Presbyterian
- Minnesota Twins Baseball Club History
- Mission Outreach
- Macalester College on preparing students for an ever-changing world
- Celtic Threads: Celtic Spirituality and Influence for our Time
- The End of Racism
- The Art of The Psalms
- An Olio of Life Topics
- Legislative efforts of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collective

## Co-Pastors Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott and Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott served as Co-Pastors Head of Staff during 2021. They introduced *Festival of Hope*, an online adult education conference featuring virtual conversations around where the speakers saw hope and positive developments emerging in our world.



## Worship and Music

*Music is integral to our faith at House of Hope and enriches our worship. Sunday mornings include our Fisk organ, The Motet Choir, The Choir School, the Bells of Hope Handbell Choir, and the Noyes Memorial Carillon.*

We began 2021 with Director of Music Aaron Miller continuing to record pieces of the worship service and then masterfully editing the pieces together for streaming. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, House of Hope reopened for in-person worship. Thanks to the Section Leaders for bringing us wonderful music while our services were taped! And many thanks to the entire Motet Choir for singing us back into the sanctuary! On May 23 and 30, we offered in-person Sanctuary Sundays for a time of music, reflection, and prayer. Featured music over the year included:

- Giovanni Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* | Good Friday, April 2
- Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo* Music Sunday | July 11
- The Singers-MCA *Let Our Love Be Heard* October 3
- Franz Schubert's *Mass in G* | Music Sunday, November 7
- Harpist Rachel Brandwein and Flutist Linda Chatterton | Sanctuary Sunday, October 24
- Traditional Christmas Tableaux | December 18
- Johann Kuhnau's *Und ist ein Kind geboren* Christmas Eve



### The House of Hope Choir School

Since 1982, Choir School has offered excellence in music education to children. Under the direction of Choir School Director Sofia Ardalan, choristers learn to express themselves through music, sing high-quality repertoire, and grow in friendship and faith. Choristers sang during the worship service and had two recitals. Choir School families gathered on a quarterly basis for a meal and fellowship.



**The Bells of Hope Handbell Choir** began 2021 practicing in the Great Hall to allow for safe spacing and later moved to the Youth Room. They enhanced worship throughout the year.

### 2021 Summer Carillon Recital Series

The 27th Annual House of Hope Summer Recital Series opened on Sunday, July 4, and continued on successive July Sundays featuring House of Hope Carillonneur Dave Johnson and House of Hope Associate Carillonneur Timothy Short.





# A TIME TO KEEP SILENT AND A TIME TO SPEAK



## A Service of Remembrance

House of Hope offered **A Service of Remembrance** on June 27 to process our isolation, losses, and griefs as we emerged from the pandemic. An important part of healing is to remember and honor the loved ones who died through this service for music, reflection, and solace.

**God is here.** Twice each week, members and friends of HOH gathered for **Centering Prayer**, a practice of the continual letting go of our own thoughts and agendas to listen for the silence of God. There were two **Bible Study** options weekly during the program year on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Two **Men's Breakfast** groups met weekly at a local cafe and on Zoom. **Women's Breakfast Book Group** met throughout the year on Friday mornings. The **Intercessors Prayer Group** volunteers prayed every day for members of our church and its mission as well as the larger community and the world.



## House of Hope Cares

House of Hope's **Stephen Ministry** program is a one-to-one lay caring ministry that offers compassionate, confidential, nonjudgmental support to people during difficult times. Within that process, Stephen Ministers explore and strengthen their own faith, build friendships, and support the pastoral care of the congregation. Stephen Ministers work to create a loving and caring spiritual presence within the House of Hope community. There are **14** Stephen Ministers at HOH. Here's what one of them said: *"What appealed to me about the Stephen Ministry program is that it can offer people who are experiencing a difficult time in their life the opportunity to have someone genuinely listen to them and be with them as they work their way through their problems. I think this can be a mutually enriching and spiritual experience for both people."*

House of Hope was re-certified as an **Earth Care Congregation** by the PC(USA) in recognition of steps taken to care for God's Earth by affirming an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices in worship, education, facilities and outreach. Congregants participated in a clean up of the HOH park and grounds for Earth Day.



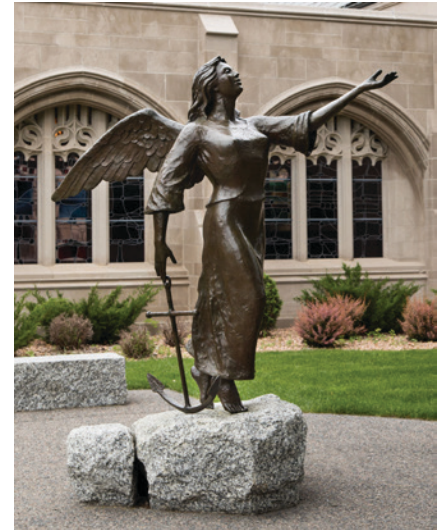






# 2021 Financials

|   | 2021<br>Budget     | 2021<br>Actual     |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Operating Revenue</b>                                    |                    |                    |
| Pledge and Non-Pledge Revenue                               | \$1,250,000        | \$1,340,844        |
| Endowment Draw  | \$1,107,264        | \$1,031,142        |
| Other Revenue   | \$183,546          | \$152,216          |
| <b>Total Operating Revenue</b>                              | <b>\$2,540,810</b> | <b>\$2,524,202</b> |
| <b>Operating Expense</b>                                    |                    |                    |
| Mission Outreach  | \$271,024          | \$280,750          |
| Other Spiritual Life  | \$32,269           | \$25,452           |
| Worship, Music and Congregational Life                      | \$571,861          | \$396,310          |
| House, Property & Insurance                                 | \$170,006          | \$331,352          |
| Salaries, Benefits and Allowances                           | \$1,451,150        | \$1,401,642        |
| Rev. Didier Housing   | \$44,500           | \$44,500           |
| <b>Total Operating Expense</b>                              | <b>\$2,540,810</b> | <b>\$2,480,007</b> |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>                                    | <b>\$0</b>         | <b>\$44,195</b>    |
| <b>2020 PPP Loan Forgiven in 2021</b>                       |                    | <b>\$277,500</b>   |
| <b>Major Building Repairs funded from Contingency Funds</b> |                    | <b>\$255,828</b>   |



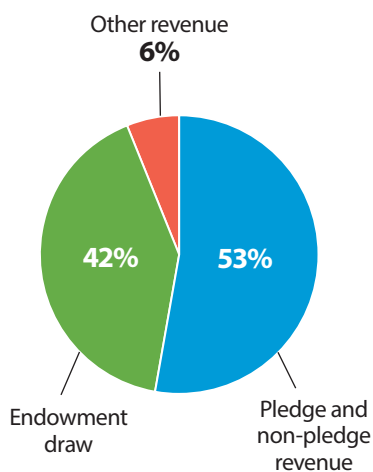
## THE ANCHOR SOCIETY

Founded in 2003, The Anchor Society began as a way to honor those who have thoughtfully and generously remembered The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in their estate planning. These gifts will sustain our ministry and mission long into the future. Approximately 40 percent of the church's operating budget comes from legacy gifts.

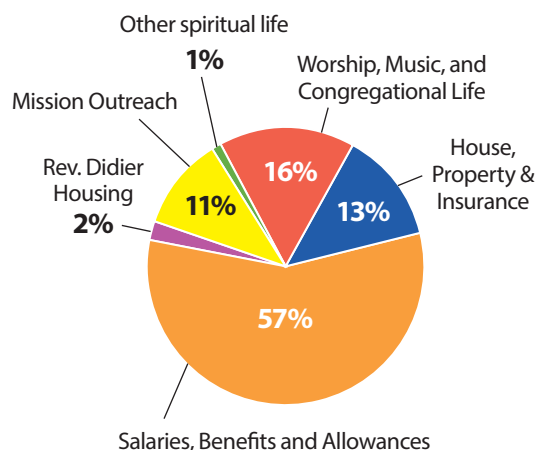
## 2021 Stewardship

Our 2021 Stewardship theme invited the congregation to consider our past and to look to the future of House of Hope enjoying Jesus's teachings of hope, forgiveness, and love for all. Thank you to all who pledged or gave generously to support the mission, ministry, staff, maintenance and operation of this our beautiful House of Hope. We are grateful for your gifts.

### Revenue



### Expenses





**The House of Hope Presbyterian Church**  
797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105  
(651) 227-6311 | hohchurch.org

**The following changes took place in the church record in 2021:**

Total membership at the conclusion of 2020: **1,208**

Persons received into membership: **9**

Members transferred to other churches: **1**

Total membership at the conclusion of 2021: **1,202**

**2021 Baptisms:**

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margeaux Hanson        | Georgianna Lane Stoneburg |
| Owen Roe MacKenzie     | Margot Thompson           |
| Asher Myles Nitzkowski | Leo Bruce Yauch           |
| Eleanor Jo Scaletta    |                           |

**We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed away in 2021:**

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Alden W. Allen        | Charles Luman          |
| Andrea Ueland         | Mary Shannon Mullowney |
| Brainard              | Kayton Roy Palmer      |
| Joy Lee Davis         | Annabel Randolph       |
| Marjorie Louise Douse | Lawrence J. Record     |
| Mary Jean Drever      | Jamie Lee Sharp        |
| Catherine Falenzer    | Elinor Yungbauer       |
| David Fulton Herr     |                        |

**House of Hope's faithful and gifted staff**

*Thank you all for your talents and creativity.*

**Administrative Staff:**

Michelle Freyholtz, David Goudzwaard-Vaught, Malinda Johnson, Ellen Lewandoski, Mark Schwister, Deborah Tschida

**Music Staff:**

Sofia Ardalan, Hannah Armstrong, Jessica Bandelin, Tyler Berg, Tim Bruett, Krista Costin, Matthew Culloton, Allison Eckberg, Sam Eckberg, Melissa Holm-Johansen, David Johnson, Linh Kauffman, David Lower, Aaron Miller, Bill Sales, Timothy Short

**Facility Staff:**

Shelley Baumgart, Jim Brzezinski, Daniel Frankfurth, Shaun Weinberger

**Children and Youth Staff:**

Kate Borgheiinck, Ray Dean, Lelia Ellison, Julie Jacobsen, Dan Miglets-Nelson, Merete Nelson, Haleigh Patterson, Kiera Stegall, Riley Vanderhaar

**Wedding Coordinator:**

Janice Dickinson



LGBTQIA+ Congregation

