



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2022 Annual Report



For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the Lord.

– Jeremiah 29: 11-14a

Dear House of Hope Friends,

January 2022 had a surprising start, and it became a year to reset. It is uncommon (disruptive, startling, even shocking) to lose two pastors with three weeks-notice.

And perhaps it was also relief. As you are reading this well into 2023, I hope you will reflect on your thoughts and feelings at the time and put them before God for healing. And then, take stock not only of this moment but of the strength and communion with which we moved forward.

In a post-worship meeting in February, Aaron, Matt, Sofia, Malinda, and David started to develop the idea of a preaching series. It seemed this was a time for more than one voice and more than one approach. It became, ***There is Hope: A Celebration Year of Preaching and Music***. Linda Loving brought her performance of *Julian* on Saturday, April 9 and then preached on Palm Sunday to open the series. Along the way, former pastors David Van Dyke and Joann Lee were able to return, and our Transitional Pastor, Scott Kenefake joined the series. Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher was already scheduled as our Didier Seminar speaker and our young people preached on Youth Sunday.

Many thanks to those who shared faith, word, and hope: Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, Rev. Julie Neraas, Rev. Dr. David Colby, Rev. Dr. Stephen Brachlow, The Right Rev. Peg Chamberlain, Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Randy Roth, Rev. Brian Ellison, Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe, Rev. Dix Brachlow, Rev. Dr. Adam Copeland, Rev. Dr. Anna Carter

Florence, and Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke! Thanks also to Rev. Dr. J. Michael Anderson, Sabbatical Pastor and preacher.

Our life was not normal, but Karoline Lewis asked us to think about the ways Jesus recalibrated what normal is. She said, "We can never forget the tomb was found empty. Normal changed forever that third day." Julie Neraas said, "To have hope you have to believe we have a future." Peg Chamberlain said, "Let us be a people who see a holy possibility in front of us. Let us be a people who choose to trust the ever-present mystery of hope, of freedom, of redemption, of healing ... in Jesus Christ."

And interspersed with all the words, there was music. The Motet Choir contributed *Light in Deepest Night* during Lent, Handel in May, Baroque Anthems in July, a Bach cantata in November and a Bach oratorio for Christmas Eve. The Singers-MCA brought us a portion of *Considering Matthew Shepard* in August, the Choir School began its 40th Anniversary year, and the Summer Carillon Recital Series returned in July.

Dave Colby reminded us, "The transitional times are challenging, disorienting, and unsettling, but they are also exciting and innovative. The promise of new beginning unleashes creative energy, potential, and passion. All truly great innovations are incubated in liminality. God's greatest work occurs in liminal space."

God spoke to us continually of hope as we walked through this liminal year. Thanks be to God.



Reverend Dr. Julia A. Carlson
Senior Associate Pastor for Spiritual Life and Care

2022 in Review

I began my work at House of Hope on August 1, 2022. National Night Out was one of the first events that I attended.



When I arrived, there was a lot of anxiety among the staff and the congregation, so my first several months were focused on developing trusting relationships with people, modeling healthy decision-making, being a non-anxious presence, and being hopeful about the future (particularly with regard to the HVAC Project!).

I am grateful for how both the staff and congregation responded to my leadership in these early months. It enabled us to quickly transition to a “visioning process” that we called, **Catch the Vision, Dream the Dream**. With the help of the Session-appointed Developing for the Future Collaboration Group, more than 200 people participated in this process which led to the **Dreamscape**, a visual representation of the visioning process that was displayed in the Cloister Gallery, early in 2023.

I also led a two-part Adult Enrichment Class on November 6 and 13, using a PowerPoint presentation, titled: *How Things Have Changed: Doing Ministry in the 21st Century*, that described the big cultural changes that have taken place in our society in recent decades that have made it increasingly difficult (but not impossible!) to attract and retain new church members. The main (hoped for) takeaway of these classes was to help people understand why church attendance has declined nationally in recent years and how some churches have found ways to continue to thrive despite these trends.

On the whole, I have been proud of the congregation for “stepping up” to meet the challenges of this transition period. Worship attendance has steadily rebounded, post-pandemic. Financial support of the church has been generous and remained steady, and the Stewardship Committee led an effective

campaign for the 2023 budget titled, *Building Hope, Sharing Hospitality*. Volunteerism has remained strong; new people have stepped into leadership positions, and confidence in the future has improved.

In other words, stability, and a sense of balance has (by and large!) been restored in the congregation as we look to the future by continuing to develop a Master Site Plan, work toward an eventual Capital Campaign to pay for the HVAC and Electrical Project and (perhaps) some other building and program enhancements, and continue to support the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee as they seek a new installed Head of Staff to lead the congregation into the future.

Blessings,
Reverend Dr. Scott M. Kenefake
Interim/Transitional Pastor

Clergy

Rev. Dr. Julia Carlson served as Acting Head of Staff through July 31.

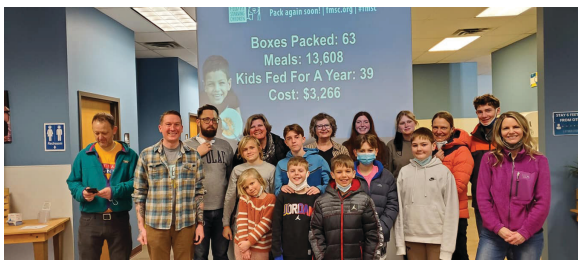
Rev. Dr. J. Michael Anderson served as Sabbatical Pastor during Julia Carlson’s sabbatical. Mike and Rev. Dix Brachlow provided pastoral care, assisted with worship and funerals, and provided support to the House of Hope staff.

House of Hope welcomed Transitional Pastor Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake on August 1.

House of Hope Mission Statement

As Christians and Presbyterians, we believe in the grace and promises of God, as revealed in Scripture, and in Jesus Christ, who make clear both the character of God and humanity in its most gracious form. We gather to glorify God; to experience and express God’s love; to explore together the meaning of Jesus’ teaching in our time; to build a community that reflects God’s grace; and to deepen our faith through worship, learning, fellowship and service, guided by God’s Spirit. We are committed to using our resources in service to others, and to supporting and enriching our members spiritually, intellectually, socially, and artistically.

Soli Deo Gloria, November 7, 1994



Children and Family Ministry

In 2022 we transitioned from hybrid to more in-person programming and events. Children and Family Ministry hosted the Halloween Party, Advent Celebration, Cocoa and Canvas, Mardi Gras Celebration, Intergenerational Feed My Starving Children Event, Easter Egg Hunt, Neighborhood Puppet Show, Summer Musical: *Seussical JR.*, Popsicles in the Park, and multiple Tween events.

- **83** children between birth - grade 5 engaged in faith formation, worship, and events.
- **55** children, youth, and adults came together to create a unique children's Christmas pageant.
- **11** rising-kindergarteners and **5** third graders received Bibles.
- **4** babies and toddlers were baptized.
- **27** children and youth artists created visual artwork for the virtual gallery.
- **4** Parenting Sessions covered the topics of Race and Education, Children's Literature, Intergenerational Story-Sharing, and The Arts and Spirituality.

Youth and Family Ministry

We strive to equip youth with the skills needed to lead full and meaningful lives through service and learning including opportunities to explore issues of faith, justice, and service. We welcomed **5 confirmands** into membership. Our youth grew in faith and friendship through service and fellowship activities. HOH Youth:

- Supported **Christmas Sponsor-A-Family** for **70** families including over **300** individuals;
- Raised **\$3,000** for Feed My Starving Children and Loaves and Fishes of MN through Souper Bowl of Caring;
- Volunteered in the HOH Community Garden and Earth Day park clean up;
- Had fun together climbing at Vertical Endeavors, enjoying winter at Badlands Snow Park, and cheering for the St. Paul Saints.

Adult Ministries

2022 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.

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

- Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
- Diesel Heart, An Autobiography* by Melvin Carter, Jr.
- Revitalization of the Rondo Neighborhood and the Rondo Community Land Trust
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- Love Enfolded*, from writings of Julian of Norwich
- Ujamaa Place Men's Music Group
- Clean Energy and Climate Action
- Interreligious Dialogue and Relationships
- Jewish Beliefs, Values, and Traditions
- Updates from Neighborhood House, Interfaith Action, People Inc., and Covenant Network of Presbyterians
- Changes in Ministry in the 21st Century
- Highlights from the Ireland Pilgrimage
- War and Peace after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

House of Hope women gathered at **Sunday-Weekday Connections** to hear the life stories of these fascinating women: Leslie Erickson, Carol Stack, Gail Kenefake, Gloria Olsen, and Judy Brooks. Each of them talked about their life journeys and their HOH history allowing us to know them on a deeper level.



House of Hope's Labyrinth was introduced by the creator of HOH's labyrinth Lisa Gidlow Moriarty, artist, spiritual director and

professional labyrinth maker for Adult Enrichment entitled *Walking with Spirit, Strolling with Soul*. A labyrinth is described as "walkable art" and an ancient practice that enhances prayer and reflection. The labyrinth was available in the Great Hall periodically throughout the year for congregants and friends.

Feminist Theology was offered in the spring and 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 offered 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.

Be Thou My Vision Ireland Pilgrimage

A group of 26 pilgrims from House of Hope visited Clonmacnoise, sites on the Aran island of Inishmore, Galway City, the Dingle Peninsula and the Ring of Kerry. The trip ended with a stay at Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains and a tour including the Book of Kells in Dublin. We engaged this post-pandemic world in varied ways; at the same time, the people, our spiritual guides, myths, stories, and beauty of Ireland provided a welcoming embrace.



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.

Featured music over the year included:

- *Light in Deepest Night: Lenten Meditations on Julian of Norwich* by Aaron David Miller and Rev. David L. Miller | Music Sunday, March 20
- *My Heart is Inditing*, by G. F. Handel | Music Sunday, May 22
- *Baroque Anthems for Choir and Strings* | Music Sunday, July 31
- Excerpts from Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* performed by The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists | Sunday, August 21
- J.S. Bach's Cantata BWV 8, *Liebster Gott, wenn werd ich sterben?* | All Saints' Sunday and Music Sunday, November 6
- Traditional Christmas Tableaux | December 23
- J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio, Part 3* | Christmas Eve



The Bells of Hope Handbell Choir enhanced worship throughout the year participating most months including an annual Carols for Handbells and Harp on the last Sunday in Christmas. In 2022 handbells were added to the procession for special services and ringers became a large windchime for the reading of names for the All Saints' Sunday service. In addition, they participated in two services at nearby Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church.



The House of Hope Choir School

After being on hiatus during the pandemic, the Choir School welcomed back its Alleluia Choir (age 3-6) for two 5 week sessions of songs, stories, and musical play. Grades 2-12 continued meeting for weekly rehearsals incorporating sight-singing, voice classes, and learning repertoire for services and performances. Choristers sang in worship two to three times per month. The Choir School presented their annual Christmas Concert in December and their Spring Concert in May.

During December 2022, the Choir School celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a photo exhibit in the Cloister Gallery, as well as a reception for the congregation, choir families, former directors, and alumni.

2022 Summer Carillon Recital Series

The 28th Annual House of Hope Summer Recital Series organized by HOH Carillonneur David Johnson opened on Monday, July 4, and continued on successive July Sundays featuring House of Hope Music Associate Timothy Short, President of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America Laura Ellis, and Keiran Cantilina, assistant carillonneur for Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, Ohio. The carillon also rings out following Sunday worship and on special occasions.





God is here.

Twice each week, members and friends of House of Hope gathered for **Centering Prayer**, a practice of the continual letting go of our own thoughts and agendas to listen for God in silence. There was a **Bible Study** during the program year on Wednesdays. 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. Members of the **Intercessors' Prayer Guild** prayed every day for members of our church and its mission as well as the larger community and the world. In October, we held **Dwelling in the World/Prayer Walks**, a practice of being out in the world among neighbors and in prayer that will help us discern the future of the church. Walking/prayer/God/Spirit led us.



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 Linwood Community Recreation Center grounds for Earth Day.



The **Arts Committee** showcased various artists in our Cloister Art Gallery. 2022 exhibits included:

- Biblical Stencil Prints by Sadao Watanabe
- Abstract Expressionist Paintings by Robyn Sand Anderson
- Children and Youth Art Show
- Members and Friends Art Show
- Contemporary Quilts of Mary Mathews
- Change of View: Sabbatical Photographs of Julia Carlson
- Choir School 40th Anniversary Retrospective



Mission Outreach

House of Hope has been source of support to the local community throughout its history and is also an advocate for social justice. In 2022, as a result of pledges from the congregation and friends, donations of **\$60,500** were made to the following:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities Area
- Elpis Enterprises
- Hallie Q. Brown Community Center
- Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul
- Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
- Liberty Community Church
- Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- Neighborhood House
- People Inc.
- PCUSA - W. Africa: Rev. Josh Heikkila support
- Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
- Wilder Foundation
- 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. **\$103,741** was donated in 2022 to: Ain Dah Yung, Common Bond Properties, Neighborhood House, Project for Pride in Living, Rondo Land Trust, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, and Wilder Foundation. Grants totaling over **\$3.1 million** have been granted since 2000.

Faith and Fibers met to work on various needle craft projects. The group worked on knit and crochet hats and scarves for our Mission Partners as well as prayer shawls and baby blankets.



Mission Sewing, House of Hope's oldest continually meeting group, made quilts for the YWCA's "Women in Transition" program, tied-fleece blankets for children in YWCA program, tied-fleece blankets for Prior Crossing residents, and made pet beds for the Animal Humane Society.

\$11,947 was donated to support food pantries at Hallie Q. Brown and Neighborhood House in addition to donations placed in our grocery carts.

Volunteers prepared and served over **2,000 meals** at St. Matthew's as a part of the Loaves and Fishes Minnesota program. During their 40th year in 2022, Loaves and Fishes served over 4.4 million meals in Minnesota.



Community Garden

Our Community Garden produced **1,214** pounds of organically grown produce for food pantries at Neighborhood House and Hallie Q. Brown. Volunteers from the congregation, friends, and neighbors help in the garden.



Congregational and Community Events

Mardis Gras Celebration | February 27

Julian, A One Woman Drama,
written by J. Janda, performed
by Linda C. Loving
Saturday, April 9



**Confirmation
March 6**

We welcomed new members to the church, all of whom have been learning about God's love for their lives. The Confirmands included Ava Victoria Mayer, Malin Margaret Staloch, Addison Asnakech Stevens, Lucy Elizabeth Thomas, and Clara May Thompson.



**The Didier Seminar with
Jeannine Hill Fletcher
April 28 - May 1**

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University professor and Christian theologian, returned to The Didier Seminar. She shared her scholarship and creative religious imagination working towards a non-supremacist Christian theology that reflects how we love and honor our neighbor in our multireligious, multicultural time.



**Women's Retreat with Rev. Mary Koon,
Facilitator: *The Gifts of Creation: Sustenance,
Connection, Renewal* | April 29 – May 1**



The St. Paul Farmers' Market
was held on Friday afternoons at House of Hope from May through October due to construction at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

***Oceans and Stars*
Choir School Spring
Concert
Sunday, May 15**



Neighborhood Puppet Show: *Tucker's Robot* | June 17



Musical *Seussical JR.* | July 8 and 9



Blessing of the Animals | August 1



**American
Red Cross**

**American Red
Cross Blood Drives**
were held in August
and October.

National Night Out | August 2



Rally Sunday | September 11



Winter Clothing Drives, coordinated by the Beacon Housing Leadership Team and Children and Family Ministry were held in January and November to support Mission Partners.



Advent Celebration | November 27

Christmas Sponsor-a-Family supported 70 families that included over 300 people.



**Sing Choirs of Angels
Choir School
Christmas Concert
December 18**



A Year of Transition and Visioning

2022 brought change, as every year does. Leading us well were Pastors Julia Carlson, Mike Anderson, Dix Brachlow, and Scott Kenefake.

A significant amount of work over the course of the year was spent looking to the future of House of Hope by updating the church building and grounds. Discussions of replacing our HVAC systems had begun in 2018, and in 2019 we contracted with Pegasus Group and an Owner's Representative to guide our process. Replacing the electrical panels and fire alarm systems were added to the project in 2020. The work of mechanical, electrical, and structural engineers along with numerous individuals and committees of the church continued into 2022. In April, the Session authorized a Developing for the Future Collaboration Group to collect past input and reach out to the congregation and community for further input into the vision for the church's building and grounds. They gathered input from congregants, HOH staff, and members of the community.

The Session voted in September 2022 to proceed with the HVAC project using the endowment as collateral and to identify other sources of funding. Scott Kenefake shared how church ministry has changed since the 21st century, and he asked congregants to submit their vision for House of Hope if resources were not an obstacle in what was called ***Catch the Vision, Dream the Dream***. Many congregants shared their visions and dreams for the future, and the Developing for the Future Collaboration Group took these visions and dreams and compiled them into a *Dreamscape* of the tremendous potential our building offers for new and future ministries.

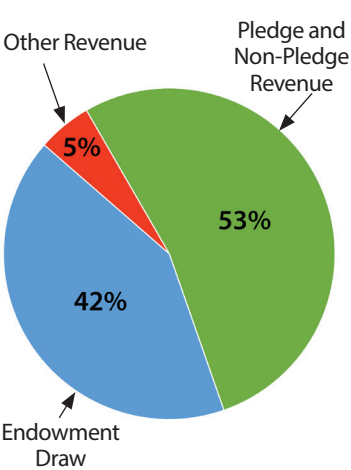
Three firms were interviewed for a capital campaign consulting firm. Trustees worked with Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to determine financing the HVAC project.

We look forward to 2023 as we strive to turn our hopes, visions, and dreams for this beloved place into reality, and a future with hope.

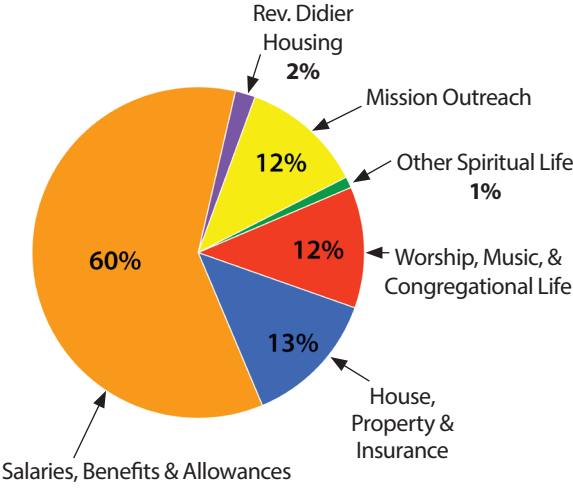
2022 Financials

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Operating Revenue		
Pledge and Non-Pledge Revenue	\$1,200,000	\$1,210,424
Endowment Draw	\$1,183,944	\$953,818
Other Revenue	\$180,191	\$120,280
Total Operating Revenue	\$2,564,135	\$2,284,522
Operating Expense		
Mission Outreach	\$269,328	\$272,585
Other Spiritual Life	\$32,269	\$24,774
Worship, Music and Congregational Life	\$357,804	\$270,372
House, Property & Insurance	\$262,200	\$303,324
Salaries, Benefits and Allowances	\$1,598,034	\$1,368,967
Rev. Didier Housing	\$44,500	\$44,500
Total Operating Expense	\$2,564,135	\$2,284,522
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$0)	\$0

Revenue



Expenses



Legacy Building Fund

At the June Session meeting, a series of motions passed to create a new managed fund called the Legacy Building Fund, to be funded by a transfer of assets from the current Capital Contingency Fund and supplemented with on-going annual proceeds from the Smith and Humphrey Trusts; a .5% draw from the Endowment; on-going gifts; and earned revenue. The following expenses were paid from the Legacy Building Fund, and are not included in the Operating Budget expenses listed above.

Infrastructure - HVAC Expenses	\$229,496
Major Repairs and Capital Expenses	\$33,003



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.

2022 Stewardship

Our 2022 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.



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

Total membership at the beginning of 2022: **1,191**

Persons received into membership: **13**

Members transferred, deaths, or other losses: **28**

Total membership at the conclusion of 2022: **1,176**

2022 Baptisms:

Mona Johnston	Benjamin Schultz
Adeline Leaf	Daniel Thomas

We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed away in 2022:

Nancy Keene Beedon	Paul Edward LeBuhn
Nola Kathleen "Kit" Burch	April Rose Lee
Jack John "Sigward" Engle	Marilyn Hansen Lentz
Anderson Wallace Fox	Doris Alexander Mitchell
Nancy Law Fritze	Robert J. Oliveira
Catherine Wolff "Kitty" Hartzell	James W. Parker
David Carl Hey	Janet Caroline Riley
Mary Margaret Kramer	Hugh K. Schilling, Jr.
David William Lampland	Myrtis Marian Skarich
	Jean Marie Wardin

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 Ardan, 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, Julie Stanley, Michelle Theisen, Shaun Weinberger

Children and Youth Staff:

Ray Dean, Lelia Ellison, Dan Miglets-Nelson, Merete Nelson, Quinn Nelson, Haleigh Patterson, Kiera Stegall, Ellie VanderHaar, and Riley VanderHaar

Wedding Coordinator:

Janice Dickinson

