

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### First Sunday of Advent: December 3

Worship | 10 a.m.

Advent Celebration | 11:15 a.m.

### Second Sunday of Advent: December 10

Worship | 10 a.m.

Choir School Concert | 11:15 a.m.

### Third Sunday of Advent: December 17

Worship | 10 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant | 11:15 a.m.

### Saturday, December 23

Traditional Tableaux Service | Sanctuary | 5:30 p.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24\*

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Sanctuary | 10 a.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Preludes | 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship | Sanctuary | 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### Christmas Day Carillon Recital | 3 p.m.

### First Sunday of Christmas: December 31\*

Sanctuary | 10 a.m.

\* No Sunday School for children.

### Advent Celebration, Carol Sing-Along, and Welcome Reception | Sunday, December 3

After worship, we will welcome Dr. Jimmy Hoke, and Rev. Phil Romine to the staff. We'll have activities that will be enjoyable for all ages, festive snacks, caroling with Phil and Lynda Jorgenson and Linda Smith at the piano, and celebrate the beginning of Advent.

### Choir School Concert | Sanctuary Sunday, December 10 | 11:15 a.m.

#### *Rise Up, Shepherd, And Follow*

Join us for the annual Choir School Christmas Concert in the sanctuary with Sofia Ardan, conductor, and Tim Short, accompanist.



### Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17 | 11:15 a.m.

### Traditional Tableaux | Saturday, December 23



A House of Hope tradition for over 100 years, this is the Christmas story as told through Scriptures, through lovely carols and anthems, and in the adaptation in tableaux, or "living pictures," of well-known paintings and familiar scenes of the nativity.

### Special Music in Worship: Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, Sunday, December 24 | 7 p.m. service only

See page 5 for more information.

### Christmas Day Carillon Concert Monday, December 25 | 3 p.m.

Carillonneur Tim Short, will present a concert of Christmas music. Listen from your car or walk around the area while the 49 bells of the Noyes Memorial Carillon serenade the neighborhood. Music will include traditional and global carols, and a salute to St. Paul native, Charles Schulz, with selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Email requests: TimS@hohchurch.org

### *Carols for Handbells and Harp* | Sunday, December 31 | Prelude begins at 9:45 a.m.

The season of Christmas is celebrated by The Bells of Hope with the annual "Carols for Handbells and Harp." Harpist Rhonda Grobe will join the ringers in musical offerings throughout the service. Invite your family and friends to this festive Sunday.

# WORSHIP

10 a.m.

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Communion**

**Motet Choir:**

*O Thou the Central Orb, Wood  
They that Wait Upon the Lord, Near*

**Choir School:**

*Oh, how beautiful the sky,  
Danish Carol, arr. Jennings*

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir:**

*Christ in the Stranger's Guise, White*

**Choir School:**

*In Dulci Jubilo, German Carol, arr. Snyder*

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Motet Choir**

*We Wait for thy Loving Kindness, McKie  
The Best of Rooms, Near*

**Choir School:**

*Sans Day Carol, English Carol, arr. Stroope*

**Wednesday, December 24, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: 10 a.m.**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve: 5 & 7 p.m.**

**Motet Choir:**

*Light of the World, Marrolli  
The Best of Rooms, Near  
In the Bleak Midwinter, Darke*

**Special Music at 7 p.m.:**

*In Terra Pax, Finzi: See Page 5.*

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Bells of Hope: Carols for  
Handbells and Harp**

*Fantasy on Sing We Now  
of Christmas, McChesney*

*Silent Night, Garee*

*Echo Carol, Wilste*



## A Note from Julia

*Sisu*

To finish my Christmas shopping, I placed an order from my favorite Scandinavian shop: Irma's Finland House Gift Shop in Virginia, MN. It was promptly put in the mail and, according to the USPS log, delivered to my postal box. But I didn't get it. I let the shop know I didn't receive my order. They are alerting the post office and filing a claim with low expectations. And, still, they promptly refunded my order.

The shop is owned by Catherine and Gary Branville, the children of two of my friends from high school. I'm grateful for their hard work, their faithfulness to tradition, and their love for family. I hoped to contribute to their success and didn't stay on top of the delivery date which may have made the recovery of goods more difficult.



A glitch or failure in the desire to do good has me thinking right now about my hopes for Christmas 2023. Life continues to be challenging and so very concerning so I am wondering about the difference and work

between accepting the world as it is today as a new status quo or hanging onto and raising my hopes.

Like peace on earth, for example.

We pray for this often and yet it seems to have the proverbial "snowball's chance in hell." How do we live with genuine hope and still be present to the world in which we live? And one answer is to accept Christmas for what it is: the Christ himself; a recognition the *kin-dom* of God is work to which we bind ourselves, not something we create. We participate in peace everyday in small ways with hope.

We sing "Peace on the earth good will to all," and must remember it comes "from heaven's all gracious king."

*For low, the days are hastening on, by  
prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes  
around the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its  
ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back a song  
which now the angels sing.*

See you in church,  
Julia

*P.S. Sisu from the Finnish meaning:  
Extraordinary endurance in the face of  
adversity, persistence, determination,  
guts, full of courage, tenacity, resolve,  
will-power, and an indomitable spirit*



**Pastor Nominating Committee Update:** We continue to meet and complete the Ministry Discernment Profile for Session action followed by Presbytery approval. This schedule will allow us to post our position publicly at an optimal time for pastors who are considering a new call. We are working with an executive search firm, Kevin Chase, which will have representatives with us in worship on December 10 and to meet with clergy and staff in the following days. The committee thanks you for your continued support and prayers.





**Christmas Memorials.** You may purchase a poinsettia (\$15) or make a donation in any amount in memory of or in honor of loved ones for publication in the December 24 bulletin. Your donation will support the ministries of House of Hope. **Deadline for publication is December 17.** Visit or call the church office, or sign up online at: <https://bit.ly/2023ChristmasMemorials>



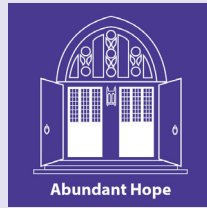
Our faith reminds us the Christmas season is all about sharing with those most in need. We are sharing Christmas joy by providing gifts for 70 families in partnership with some of our Mission Partners. **Drop off gifts at the church by December 10.**

**Don't like to shop?** Donations are welcome to provide a grocery gift card for each family. Mail or drop off donations in the church office noted **Family Sponsor**.

## Sunday Offertory Volunteers Needed

The Deacons resumed passing the offering plates throughout the congregation during worship. They are asking for congregational volunteers to assist during Sunday worship and other special services. No experience is necessary. Visit <https://bit.ly/HOHOfferitory> to sign up, and you will be contacted with additional information.

## Stewardship 2024 and Year-End Gifts



If you have not yet pledged to support House of Hope's ministries and mission, we ask that you consider making a pledge for 2024. Pledge cards are available at our entrances or you can pledge online at: <https://bit.ly/HOH2024Pledge>. We welcome your gifts in many ways, including check, credit card, appreciated stock or mutual funds, among others. Ways to Give:

- Make a one-time gift or become a sustainer with recurring gifts: <https://bit.ly/HOHGiving>
- Text HOH to 73256

For payments toward your 2024 pledge in calendar year 2023, please note "Prepaid 2024 Pledge" in the memo line of your check. **Deadlines for 2023 gifts are:**

**Mail** postmarked mail by December 31; **Text and credit card** gifts completed by December 31; **Gifts of appreciated stock** by December 22; **IRA checks** meant to qualify for the charitable IRA "rollover," or qualified charitable distribution must clear the account by December 31; **Checks via carriers such as FedEx and DHL** must be physically received on or before December 31. We encourage you to consult your CPA or financial advisor for advice on year-end gifts.

If you have any questions, contact Director of Administration Michelle Freyholtz at (651) 223-7556 or [MichelleF@hohchurch.org](mailto:MichelleF@hohchurch.org)

## HOH Welcomes New Staff Members



**Dr. Jimmy Hoke** joined the HOH staff as Director of Children and Family Ministry. Jimmy has a PhD, with distinction, in Biblical Studies with

Certification in Women/Gender Studies from Drew University, an MDiv from The University of Chicago, and a BA in Religion, Women/Gender Studies from Furman University.

Most recently, Jimmy has been an Adjunct Faculty member at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He formerly served as Director of Educational Ministries at Presbyterian Church of Madison, Madison, NJ. In this position, he led a team of parents and church staff to craft a vision for educational programming that best met the needs of the children and youth; designed weekly Bible-based curricula for K-12 youth; trained and prepared volunteer instructors; planned community-building events for children, youth, and families; assisted in teaching confirmation classes; and worked with the Mission and Worship committees to provide opportunities for service and worship leadership for children and youth.



**Rev. Philip Romine** will join the HOH staff on December 10 as Transitional Associate Pastor for Faith Formation

and Lifelong Learning. Phil has worked in congregations, academia, and community nonprofits for more than 15 years. He earned both MDiv and MA degrees with honors from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Phil learned much from the youth, children, and families in his support roles at Central Presbyterian Church and Valley Community Presbyterian Church, completed transitional ministry training, and spent 2020-2023 as a member of the writing and task force team for the Presbytery's Institutional Race and Equity Self-Assessment. His work at Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul encompassed guest preaching, adult education, community meetings, event planning, and program management. But the greatest learning experiences of his life have been becoming a parent to his young children, Hugo and Georgiana Stoneburg, and a partner to Elizabeth Stoneburg.

## Join the Matthew 25 Initiatives

In October, the Session approved a motion from the Peace and Justice Committee to designate House of Hope as a Matthew 25 church, a program of the PC(USA) that has three areas of focus: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Here are ways to get involved:

- **Join the implementation team** and be a part of creating this exciting new program. The Peace & Justice Committee is seeking creative people, youth and adults, who would like to be a part of this initiative.

- **Participate in the first National Matthew 25 Summit, An Invitation for Innovation**, January 16-18, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. **Contact co-chairs of the Peace & Justice Committee by December 8 if you are interested: Mary Cardinal Peterson at [PeteCardFive@outlook.com](mailto:PeteCardFive@outlook.com) or Bill Johnston at [wbjohnston1@gmail.com](mailto:wbjohnston1@gmail.com)**

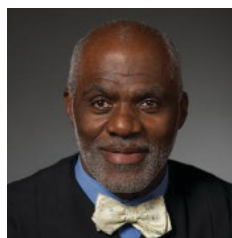
## Lilly Endowment Grant Update

Many of you know that we applied for a \$1.25 million grant this past June from the Lilly Endowment to partially fund and develop what we have been calling the Center for Music, Spirituality, and the Arts. This is an umbrella term for a number of new ministry initiatives that would enable HOH to hire some new staff and develop new outreach programming in the areas of music, spirituality (faith formation), and the arts. We were notified recently that we were not selected to receive a grant this year (there were more than 800 applications and about 100 received awards). This, however, was a good learning experience for us and we plan to "fine tune" and refine our application so that we will be better positioned to receive a future grant when the next application period is announced. We'll keep you posted on our progress!



## SUNDAY SERIES

Inviting well-known speakers to discuss key issues of our day and artists to share their artistic engagement with life and faith.



### Retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan C. Page

**Sunday, January 14 | 2 p.m.**

Justice Alan Page received his BA in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 1967 and his JD from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1978 while playing for the Minnesota Vikings. After retiring from the NFL in 1981, Justice Page practiced law full-time before winning a seat on the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1992, becoming the first African American on the court. Page and his late wife Diane founded the Page Education Foundation assisting Minnesota students of color pursuing post-secondary education, awarding \$16 million to date to more than 8,000 students. **Register on our website beginning Thursday, December 14.**



### Community Sing with The Singers - MCA The Justice Choir Songbook

**Sunday, January 28 | 2 p.m.**

The Justice Choir organization builds awareness of social, environmental, and racial justice and elevates these topics through singing. Join The Singers for a sharing of the *Justice Choir Songbook*, including stirring songs by Melanie DeMore, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, and Abbie Betinis.



## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

### Children and Family Ministry

Contact Jimmy Hoke:

[JimmyH@hohchurch.org](mailto:JimmyH@hohchurch.org)

#### Early Childhood Ministry for Nursery – Preschool Sundays | Assembly Room 9:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Our nursery and preschool-age children are invited to join us for our Early Childhood Ministry, where children will engage with stories, listen to music, and play.

**Elementary Sunday School  
Assembly Room | 10:10 a.m.**  
Elementary-age children are invited to join us for a multi-age Bible storytelling experience, prayer, and group games. Children will also enjoy art-making, age-appropriate activities, and games.

**Creative Play for Grades 2 – 5  
Assembly Room and Park  
11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

#### Alleluia Choir

Sundays | Library | 11:15 a.m.

#### Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

[ElsaK@hohchurch.org](mailto:ElsaK@hohchurch.org)

**Pre-Worship Gathering | Sundays,  
December 3, 10, 17  
Skylight Room | 9:40 a.m.**

**Advent Celebration | Sunday,  
December 3 | 11:15 a.m.**

**Choir School Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 10 | 11:15 a.m.**

**White Elephant Gift Exchange  
Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 16  
Skylight Room | 6 p.m.**

**Confirmation  
Wednesdays, December 6 and 13  
Library | 6:30 - 8 p.m.**



# October Session Highlights

**The Session approved two recommendations from the Neill Task Force.**

1. Adoption of the following statement:

*We are grateful to Reverend Dr. Edward Duffield Neill for his contributions in founding House of Hope. However, his views regarding indigenous people on whose ancestral land our church and city now stand were deeply troubling and, in some cases, expressed in ways we now find abhorrent. With humility we know that we too are flawed in ways apparent now and others that time will tell. Still, we are called to discern and act to the best of our understanding and to recognize where we have harmed or where we have benefited from others' harmful acts. Given what we have come to understand about Rev. Dr. Neill we are called to recognize the harm done and to work toward wholeness and understanding and righting those harms.*

*The House of Hope Presbyterian Church is not defined by our founder, yet we recognize our complicity with the past. Therefore, we wish to state:*

- *We believe all persons are of equal value, dignity, integrity, and respect.*
- *We believe Black and Brown lives matter to God and to us.*
- *We believe in the freedom and integrity of the LGBTQ+ Community and are a Covenant Network Church of the PCUSA.*
- *We believe we are stewards of the Earth and are an Earth Care Congregation of the PCUSA*

2. We recommend that the Neill Wing, now more commonly called the Education Wing be renamed the East Wing.

The Session will have further discussion regarding other aspects of the report and keep the congregation informed.

## In Terra Pax by Gerald Finzi: Special Music for 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service



A series of tragedies profoundly affected Finzi in his early years. By the time he was eighteen he had lost his father, three elder brothers and his much-loved music teacher, killed in action. This dreadful sequence of events, and the appalling losses of the First World War that formed the backdrop to his adolescence, gave Finzi an acute awareness of the impermanence of life, confirmed with grim finality when at the age of fifty he discovered that he was dying of leukemia.

These experiences to a large extent account for the hint of

melancholy underlying much of his music.

Finzi's musical inspiration sprang primarily from his love of literature and the English countryside - the same sources that inspired Elgar and Vaughan Williams. *In Terra Pax* was composed in 1954 and was almost the last piece that Finzi wrote, though its genesis can be traced to an event some thirty years previously, when one Christmas Eve he had climbed up to the church at the top of his beloved Chosen Hill, between Gloucester and Cheltenham. The sound of the midnight bells ringing out across the frosty Gloucestershire valleys evidently made a lasting impression on him, retrospectively providing the idea for *In Terra Pax*, as he told Vaughan Williams.

— An excerpt of a program note by John Bawden - used by kind permission  
Read the entire program note at <https://bit.ly/HOHInTerraPax>

## David Johnson: Carillonneur Emeritus



Dave Johnson retired on October 31 having served as Carillonneur for House of Hope for 30 years. In worship on November 5, HOH Director of Music and Organist Aaron Miller shared that Dave is one of the most recognized carillonneurs in the country having commissioned new pieces, taught new carillonneurs and helped them with the certification process, and been an advocate for carillons across the country. For his achievements House of Hope conferred upon David Johnson the title of Carillonneur Emeritus. He was presented with a plaque and a plaque in his honor will be added to other plaques of noted musicians at HOH.



## Earth Care

### Dreaming of a Green Holiday?

Do you want to celebrate a more sustainable holiday season this year? Here are a few suggestions for making wonderful Christmas memories while having a lower environmental impact.

- Use sustainable holiday gift wrap. Almost all mass-produced wrapping paper and gift bags are not recyclable. Get creative by using old maps, comics, paper shopping bags, or dish towels, bandanas, or scarves for reusable wrapping.
- Prepare an eco-friendly feast. Look for produce and meats from local farmers.
- Get a real tree from a local grower who uses less pesticides and recycle it after the holidays.
- Switch to LED holiday lights which use up to 90% less energy.
- Purchase locally crafted gifts from small businesses.

For more ideas visit:

<https://bit.ly/EarthCareHoliday>



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



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



**COVENANT NETWORK  
OF PRESBYTERIANS**

*The House of Hope Presbyterian Church is a Covenant Network Congregation.*

## HVAC//Electrical Project Transitions to Phase 2

Major changes are ahead for HOH as we upgrade our HVAC and electrical infrastructure. Earlier this year, we vacated the eastern part of the property as Terra Construction and other contractors began their work. Planning is underway to vacate the western part of the building and move church staff offices and operations to the East Wing. We will regain use of the Kirk Parlour, Chapel, Great Hall, and Rooms A & B. We will not have access to the Kirby Lounge, Assembly Room, Library and church office. Watch for updates in the Enews.

**In order to prepare for and navigate the process of moving, the church building will be closed and open as follows in January:**

**January 3 - 6: Closed to pack**

**January 7: Open for worship**

**January 8 - 10: Closed for set-up; open for AA and AI Anon**

**January 11: Open**



The new boilers began operation in November to heat the East Wing (the boilers can be seen with green panels illuminated in the center of the photo and are centrally located in the tunnel). Work is in process to replace the air handlers under the sanctuary, and then the new boilers will heat that space in the coming weeks.



Eight new air handlers are being installed under the sanctuary that had to be disassembled and carried into the building and then reassembled under the sanctuary. To the right is a photo of the air handlers under the sanctuary.



### Christmas and New Year Office Schedule

The church office and building will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 as well as Monday, January 1.



HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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