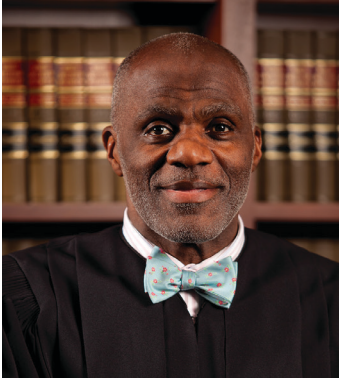




SUNDAY SERIES

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



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

A Conversation with Retired MN Justice Alan C. Page

Jurist, Philanthropist, and Athlete

This event is free and open to the public.

Registration is required at

<https://bit.ly/HOHALanPage>

See page 5 for our second Sunday Series event in January.

House of Hope welcomes Justice Alan C. Page to our Sunday Series. Alan Page was born on August 7, 1945, in Canton, Ohio. He graduated from Canton Central Catholic High School in 1963, received his B.A. in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 1967, and received his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1978.

After graduating from law school, Alan Page worked as an attorney for a law firm in Minneapolis, then served seven years as an attorney in the office of the Minnesota Attorney General.

He sought election to the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1992 and won, becoming the first African American on the court and one of the few associate justices ever to join the court initially through election, rather than appointment by the governor. When Justice Page was reelected in 1998, he became the biggest vote-getter in Minnesota history. He was reelected in 2004 and 2010 and served until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2015.

Law was Alan Page's second career; he was first known for his skills in football both in college and in the NFL. At Notre Dame, Alan Page led the school's storied football program to the 1966 national championship, and in 1993 he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Alan Page was a first-round draft choice of the Minnesota Vikings in 1967, and he played for the Vikings until 1978. The last three years of his football career were with the Chicago Bears, 1978-1981. During his career, Alan Page played in 218 consecutive games, earning All-Pro honors six times, and was voted to nine consecutive Pro Bowls. In 1971 he was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player, becoming only the second defensive player in history to be named MVP. In 1988 he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and in 2019 he was chosen as a member of the NFL's 100th Anniversary All-Time Team.

Also in 1988, Alan Page and his wife Diane founded the Page Education Foundation, which assists Minnesota students of color in their pursuit of post-secondary education. To date, the foundation has awarded \$16 million in grants to more than 8,000 students.

In June 2017, after a campaign initiated by students at Alexander Ramsey Middle School in Minneapolis, the school's name was changed to *Justice Page Middle School*. An elementary school named *Justice Alan Page Elementary School* opened last year in Maplewood, Minnesota.

In November 2018, Justice Page received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Justice Page and his daughter, Kamie Page, have written four children's picture books, *Alan and His Perfectly Pointy Impossibly Perpendicular Pinky* (2013), *The Invisible You* (2014), *Grandpa Alan's Sugar Shack* (2017), and *Bee Love (Can Be Hard)* (2020).

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Anthems by The Motet Choir

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord, Epiphany
with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
HOH Annual Meeting

New Musical Opportunity



Sacred Bells, a new handbell ensemble, was formed in October 2023 and participated in worship on

November 5. The ensemble, which is independent of Bells of Hope, was created to give people (with or without ringing experience) the chance to participate in worship without a weekly rehearsal. The ensemble will participate five times a year to supplement hymn-singing and prayers, meeting 30 minutes before the worship service to learn ringing patterns. No music reading skills or ringing skills are needed, and one does not need to participate for each service. If you are interested, know of someone in the community who might like to be a ringer, or you would like information, contact Music Associate Tim Short at TimS@hohchurch.org



A Note from Scott

Extravagant Welcome

Have you ever wondered if people who visit House of Hope feel welcome? I've heard stories from people that range from, "Everyone was so friendly," to "Nobody said a word to me," to everything in between. And they are likely all true. It's a fact that Upper Midwestern culture can be a bit introverted. As an example, House of Hope is the only church I have served in 37 years of ministry that does not have a time in the worship service for people to greet one another. And lots of people like it that way!

Cameron Trimble, a church consultant with *Convergence*, says:

"As we work with churches around the country, of all sizes and demographic makeups, in rural, urban, and suburban settings, we find that two factors make all the difference in whether or not a church can truly incorporate new people into the life of the church. Churches that are ready for the new energy of new people excel in both welcome and change."

In a 2023 study done by Lifeway Research on people who have switched churches in recent years, participants reported that when visiting churches, 56% felt personally welcomed by other congregants, and 48% felt personally welcomed by pastors or ministers. 79% said that their experience of welcome impacted their decision to continue attending.

However, things are not as overwhelmingly positive when asked about specific essentials to welcoming newcomers. Only 67% of survey respondents reported that when new people are present in worship, they make it a point to speak to them. There may need to be more universal engagement with new people for newcomers to feel welcome.

Additionally, 74% said their church loves the enthusiasm of people with new ideas. However, when we drill down a little further, we find that the ability of the church to welcome those new ideas is weaker in practice."

Anna Golladay said: "I've noticed that a lot of churches advertise that everyone is welcome in their communities. They

say that they are a place for all. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come in their doors. 'Come just as you are,' they proudly pronounce. 'We love everyone.'"

On some level, I'm sure they mean it. But in practice, most churches fall short. The example of Jesus is helpful here:

Self-righteous religious people? *Jesus welcomed them.*

Adulterous men and women? *Jesus welcomed them.*

The outcast and marginalized? *Jesus welcomed them.*

The differently abled? *Jesus welcomed them.*

Poor people? *Jesus welcomed them.*

People from different racial, ethnic, political, and theological backgrounds? *Jesus welcomed them.*

Crying babies? *Jesus welcomed them.*

So, churches need to be really careful that when they advertise a hospitable culture and a welcoming atmosphere, they are not actually lying.

A case in point: a recent visitor (who is gay) worshipped at our church, and said: "I didn't feel unwelcome, but there was nothing communicated in the worship service or in the bulletin or at the entrance (rainbow flag) that I was welcome, even though you say that you are open and affirming on your website."

Ouch. It's true, we have a lot of people who go out of their way to be welcoming and friendly to everyone they meet on Sunday mornings—and that's good. And thank you for that. But let's commit ourselves in 2024 to be more intentional in our welcome with:

- Better messaging
- Better directional signage
- More acceptance of small children
- More thoughtful, intentional engagement with people we don't know

And who knows, maybe somewhere down the line it will dawn on us that greeting one another in worship might actually be a good thing.

Blessings,
Scott Kenefake
Transitional Pastor

HOH Annual Meeting



The Session of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church has called the **Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28**, immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to approve clergy terms of call for Rev. Dr. Julia Carlson and to present the Session approved 2024 Operating Budget.

Staff Transitions Jim Brzezinski Announces Retirement



Facilities Manager Jim Brzezinski will retire from House of Hope on January 31. Please join us in thanking Jim for his management

of the House of Hope's building and grounds for the last seven and a half years. Jim has done an exceptional job of helping us prepare for and navigate the HVAC/Electrical project. **Congratulations, Jim!**

HOH welcomes Rev. Phillip J. Romine



Rev. Phil Romine joined the staff in December as Transitional Pastor for Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning.

He will develop and oversee lifelong faith formation for all ages in the congregation and will oversee the Directors of Children and Youth Family Ministry. See a *Note from Phil* on page 4.

HVAC//Electrical Project Transitions to Phase 2

Major changes are ahead for HOH as we continue our HVAC and electrical upgrades. In 2023 we vacated the eastern part of the property. In January, we will 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. **In order to prepare for and navigate the process of moving, the church building will be closed and open as follows:**

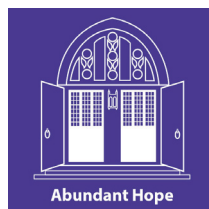
January 3 - 6: Closed to pack

January 7: Open for worship

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

January 11: Open

Stewardship 2024



***We invite you
to support
of our 2024
Stewardship
Campaign.***

Our goal for stewardship and giving is \$1,350,000. Reaching this goal will enable us to fully fund our music, children, and youth programs, congregational life ministries, sustain our Mission Outreach giving, and add additional ministries. ***As of December 18, we have received 181 pledges totaling 60% of our goal.***

We invite you to join others in our **Abundant Hope** campaign for House of Hope.

You can pledge at:

<https://bit.ly/HOH2024Pledge>

You may also make a gift anytime at **<https://bit.ly/HOHGiving>**

***Thank you for your support of
House of Hope!***



Join the singing!

The House of Hope Choir School offers exceptional musical experiences and education to all. Registration for individual lessons and choir ensembles is open now! ***Look for adult group classes this spring!*** New singers of all ages can register online at: www.hohchurch.org/choir-school or email Choir School Director Sofia Ardan at SofiaA@hohchurch.org for more information.

Nominating Committee 2024

Nominations forms will be available for open positions on our Deacons, Trustees, and Session boards beginning Thursday, January 11.

The Nominating Committee asks you to prayerfully consider the strengths of your fellow congregants and nominate people you think would be good additions to our church leadership. You may nominate yourself. Please ask individuals you'd like to nominate for permission to submit their name. The **Congregational Meeting to approve the slate will be on Sunday, May 5, 2024.**

Beginning January 11, use the online form on the church website at hohchurch.org under **Things to Know**. Paper versions of the form will be available at the church kiosks.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Nominating Chair Lynn Stein: lynnstein@gmail.com.

A Note from Phil

Welcome to 2024! As many of you know, I began as Transitional Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning in early December. I'm so thrilled to be working with Jimmy, Elsa, our families, and everyone at House of Hope in supporting our faith journeys.

To that end, Jimmy will be coordinating Sunday School teachers for January's focus on worship. We would **LOVE** to have a variety of teachers for this Sunday School unit! Jimmy will provide you everything you need for teaching. Whether you're a caregiver of young children, or have wanted to be but haven't had the chance, now's the time! In our baptismal covenant with our children, we promise to nurture their faith with our presence—recognizing that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Toward the end of the month, Elsa and I will be accompanying the youth to Clearwater Forest for the Youth Winter Retreat. Again, no matter your (in)experience with youth, you are invited to continue living out our baptismal covenant through your presence with our young people: please join us! Contact Elsa to let her know you'd like to come.

Recently, I was introduced to Arvo Part's *The Deer's Cry*, which sets to haunting, empowering music a text from Saint Patrick's Breastplate. The last lines are a perennial reminder for all we do, all we say, and all we seek in our ongoing faith journeys:

*Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me,
Christ with me.*

In Christ's transforming love,
— Phil



Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Children and Family Ministry

Contact Dr. Jimmy Hoke:

JimmyH@hohchurch.org

Early Childhood Ministry for Nursery – Preschool Sundays | Assembly Room 8:45 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 with age-appropriate toys.

**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. Children will also enjoy art-making, age-appropriate activities, and games, as they build community through play.
January 7: Sunday School will be in the Assembly Room. On January 14, we will move to the East Wing!

Tween Event: Movie Night at House of Hope
Friday, January 12 | Tween Room
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult volunteers are needed. No experience necessary.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Pre-Worship Gathering | Sundays
Skylight Room | 9:40 a.m.

Parent Group Lunch:
Sunday, January 7
Offsite | 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth Education Hour
Sundays, January 7 and 21
Skylight Room | 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Night Youth Group
Sunday, January 14
Room 1 | 6-8 p.m.

Mission Trip Information Meeting
Sunday, January 21 | 11:15 a.m.

Confirmation
Wednesdays, January 10, 17, and 24
Youth Room | 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Confirmation Writing Retreat
Saturday, January 20 | Hennepin
Avenue Methodist | 9 a.m. - Noon

Winter Retreat | Clearwater Forest
Friday, January 29 | 6 p.m.
We'll meet in the HOH parking lot on Friday and return on Sunday, January 31 at 12 p.m. *Please RSVP by January 10.*

HVAC/Electrical: Chiller Installed



Left photo: The old chiller, pictured on the left, was removed from the roof by a large crane, and the new chiller, on the right, replaced it. Center photo: The new chiller in place on the roof. Right photo: The new chiller being hoisted onto the roof by crane.

View a HOH construction video here:
https://bit.ly/HOH_HVAC_Video1

JANUARY

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday, January 7 **Sunday Enrichment with Paul Anderson** **Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.**

Retired Justice Paul Anderson will give an update on the Minnesota State Capitol, its history, the results of its renovation, the significance of its art and architecture, and its continuing iconic status as a symbol of our democracy.

Sunday, January 14 **New Member Class** **Room 1 | 11:15 a.m.**

Interested in membership or want to know more about HOH? Please join us!

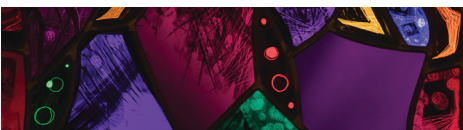
Sunday, January 21 **Return to the Parlour Celebration** **with Aaron David Miller** **Kirk Parlour | 11:15 a.m.**

Join us in the Parlour for a special social hour to celebrate being able to use our gathering space following the HVAC and electrical upgrades. Aaron Miller will provide some musical entertainment.

Sunday, January 28 **Annual Meeting of the** **Congregation | Sanctuary** See page 3 for more information.

Sunday Enrichment: *Being Mortal*, **Continuing the Conversation** **Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.**

Please join us after the HOH Annual Meeting for a time of conversation and reflection about the challenges of aging and death. House of Hope member Kathi Koehn, RN, will join us as we continue the conversation we started last January using Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal*. There will be time for questions and conversation following the presentation.



OTHER EVENTS

Sunday-Weekday Connections **with Marybeth Dorn** **Tuesday, January 23 | Kirk Parlour** **5:30 p.m.**

Join us to hear Marybeth Dorn talk about her early religious training and experiences and how they influenced her life; her education and work as a social worker and then a lawyer and judge; and a few glimpses into her experiences as a wife and mother. Register at: <https://bit.ly/HOHSundayWeekday>



Community Sing **with The Singers:** ***The Justice Choir*** ***Songbook*** **Sunday, January 28** **Sanctuary | 2 p.m.**



The Justice Choir organization builds awareness of social, environmental, and racial justice and elevates these topics through singing. On the eve of Black History Month, join The Singers for a 60-minute sharing of the *Justice Choir Songbook*, including stirring songs by Melanie DeMore, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, Abbie Betinis, and others. This event is free and open to the public. We welcome any member of the community to participate, whether as a singer or audience member.

Sign Up for HOH's **Red Cross Blood Drive** **Tuesday, February 27** **Dining Rooms A and B** **8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Register to donate: www.redcrossblood.org/give and enter Sponsor Code: **houseofhope** or call the church office. Contact Deb James at dsjames96@gmail.com with questions.



New Testament Scholar Amy-Jill Levine at Luther Seminary **Tuesday, January 9 | 7 p.m.** **Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson** **Campus Center**

1490 Fulham Street, St. Paul
Professor Levine will deliver Luther Seminary's 2024 Fretheim Lecture in Biblical Theology on *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector: Why Knowledge of Jewish History Matters for Christian Preaching and Teaching*. This event is free and open to the public, with no registration required. The lecture will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person: www.youtube.com/lutherseminary Amy-Jill Levine is the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace as well as the University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University.



Earth Care

A Green Resolution

The beginning of a new year is like a clean slate when we consider what we want to do differently in the coming year—especially, what could we do to reduce our impact on our planet?

If you haven't already done so, this is a great time to sign up for renewable energy. In 2023 Xcel Energy expanded its WindSource® program by adding solar and became Renewable* Connect® Flex. As one of the nation's largest voluntary renewable energy programs, Renewable* Connect® Flex allows Xcel customers an easy way to subscribe to up to 100% affordable and clean wind and solar energy. A renewable energy subscription offers various options, flexible enrollment and requires no equipment installation. For more information visit <https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/renewable>

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*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.*



Thank you to House of Hope congregants and friends who sponsored 70 families including 283 people who received gifts and grocery store gift cards thanks to your generosity! We also thank the HOH youth and parents pictured above who loaded 181 boxes filled with Christmas gifts into a 19-foot truck for delivery to coordinating agencies. We offer special thanks to Stacy Paleen and her family for coordinating it all. **Christmas Joy and Happy New Year!**



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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