



MACALESTER SUNDAY February 4 | 10 a.m.

Celebrating House of Hope's connection to Macalester College.

Joined by: College Chaplain Rev. Kelly J. Stone, Macalester Bagpipe and Drum Ensemble, and the Macalester College Concert Choir led by Michael McGaghie. Come enjoy shortbread provided by the college.

Sunday, February 11 YOUTH Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

Join us in worship as our youth lead the service and offer meditations, and The Choir School will provide anthems.



During February, HOH will participate in **Souper Bowl of Caring**, a financial collection to support food pantries. Watch for our Youth as you leave the sanctuary holding stock pots for your donations. Please consider donating

to help those experiencing food insecurity as we head into the March Food Drive.

Other ways to give include:

- Check: Memo notation of "Souper Bowl"
- Online: <https://bit.ly/HOHGiving> > Fund: Food Pantry
- Text **HOH Food** to 73256

Mardi Gras Celebration and Chili Cook-Off



Join us in the Great Hall for a Mardi Gras celebration after worship. This multi-generational event is filled with fun, fellowship, and delicious chili. Everyone is welcome. Suggested donation is \$5. One talented chef will win a prize! **Chili Cook-Off Submission: Sign-up by Monday, February 6 at <https://bit.ly/HOHChili2024>**

Bring your favorite chili in a slow-cooker. Label your submission and note vegetarian or not. To learn more, email Phil Romine at PhillipR@hohchurch.org.

Wednesdays in Lent: *Beautiful Work in the Neighborhood*



We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes. — Fred Rogers

For this year's Wednesdays in Lent series, we're highlighting people, organizations, and initiatives that embody the legacy of Fred Rogers, a leading figure in the revolution of children's (and adults') learning and engagement in community. Come learn how our commitment to being a Matthew 25 congregation, our connections with local community organizations, and the individuals who bring this work life can help us live into the legacy of Fred Rogers, creating neighborhoods where everyone can flourish.

Wednesdays, February 21 through March 20

Dinner: 5:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Presentation and Conversation: 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Soup supper and kid-friendly dinner options available. Nursery care available.

Register for meals at: <https://bit.ly/WednesdayLent> to ensure we have plenty of food for everyone. Donations appreciated to cover the meal cost. **Questions?** Contact Phil Romine, PhillipR@hohchurch.org

We will hear from:

February 21:

Mary Cardinal Peterson, HOH member and Matthew 25 collaborator

February 28:

Mary Delorié, Director of Individual Giving at Headwaters Foundation for Justice

March 6:

Liz Loeb, Associate Director at Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

March 13:

Liliana Letrán-García, Chief Executive Officer at Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul

March 20:

Diver Van Avery, Writer, Public Artist, Therapist

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
with Holy Communion

Macalester Sunday

Macalester College Concert Choir

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of the Lord

Youth Sunday

Choir School:
St Cecilia and St Nicholas Choirs

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday

Motet Choir:
Ave Verum Corpus, Byrd

Sunday, February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
See What Love, McClintock
The Sun Himself Shall Fade, Work

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
Be Unto Me, Byrd

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Session has approved the completed Ministry Discernment Profile. Once Presbytery has approved the MDP, we will be able to post our Head of Staff position publicly and match it to pastors open to a new call. The committee thanks you for your continued support and prayers.



A Note from Scott

Walking Through Lent

Deborah Arca, in *Patheos*, reflecting on Lent, said: "Once considered the liturgical purview of Catholics, Lent – the 40-day period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday before Easter – has become more and more embraced as a liturgical season with legs within the Protestant churches. With the comfort level of spiritual practices on the rise in mainstream congregations for the past several decades, progressive Christians now regularly claim Lent as a season for deep reflection, prayer, repentance, and overall spiritual growth. *So the question is: How will you walk through Lent this year?*"

A very good question! Which begs a few others, per theologian Bruce Epperly: "Can we remember Ash Wednesday without guilt? Can Lent be an embodied, rather than ascetic season? Is it possible to focus on transformation and creativity – the simplicity of spirit – that awakens us to daily, ordinary resurrections throughout the Lenten and Easter Season?"

My answers to these questions are an emphatic, *Yes!*, when Lent is rightly approached. For example, Fred Plummer says, "It is no mystery why the early followers of Jesus often referred to themselves as people of the way. The Greek word for way is *hodos* which is often translated into English as path or road. The writer of Mark, the first written of the four biblical Gospels, is devoted to explaining what this path was all about. For Mark, it is first and foremost about the importance of discipleship."

And what is that way of discipleship? Plummer again: "It is a way that is driven by *love* rather than *fear*, even the fear of death. Like so many of the great spiritual teachers throughout history, Jesus understood we are motivated primarily by two energies. One is love and the other is fear. Nothing saps our ability to love and to be loved more than fear. In fact love and fear are diametrically opposed energies. One who is motivated by love cannot be hampered by fear. For most people this

is a different way of living."

Far too many of us still see the world through a paradigm of scarcity. We see the world with limitations not abundance. We live in fear of not having enough. We want our share and a little extra for safety's sake. We feel the need to hoard and to protect. We want control so we can't be hurt. We want guarantees. We want protection. We want to know the destination before we start a journey. We limit our love to limit our potential hurt. The way of Jesus was very different then and still is for most people. Jesus invites us into a path of love without guarantees except that we will discover a new perspective and a new experience of life. He says if we truly follow this path, we can trust all of our needs will be met. He assures us we can learn to live without anxiety and fear. *There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.* (1 John 4:18)

So during this season, if we take it seriously, we are asked—*invited really*—to journey with Jesus to our Jerusalem wherever that is and whatever it is, without fear. If we want to experience the promised new life, we must be willing to take this journey. It will require some deep soul searching and hopefully a willingness to empty ourselves of those things, those thoughts, those emotions we hold onto out of insecurity, our hurts, or our losses. Only when we empty ourselves, or self, can we be filled by the *water and the Spirit* John refers to. This is never easy. For many of us, it is a lifetime journey.

It is a path that challenges us to focus on the abundance and to be motivated by love. It is a way that does not give in to fear. It is a way that acknowledges our interconnectedness to all life and one that trusts that in spite of all of its short comings, our lives are a gift, and this world is truly marvelous and good (Fred Plummer, *A Lenten Journey*, February 19, 2013).

Bon Voyage...

Scott Kenefake, Transitional Pastor

Nominating Committee

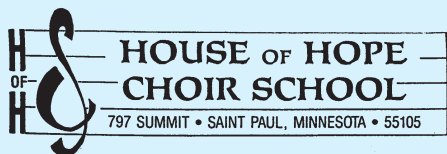
Nominations forms are available for open positions on our Deacons, Trustees, and Session boards.

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.

Use the online form on the church website at hohchurch.org under **Things to Know**. Paper versions of the form are 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: lynnngstein@gmail.com.



Sign up for Choir School



The House of Hope Choir School offers exceptional musical experiences and education to all. **New singers Grades 2-12 can register online at:** <https://bit.ly/ChoirSchoolRegistration> or email Director Sofia Ardan at SofiaA@hohchurch.org for more information or to be added to the wait list for voice lessons and Alleluia Choir.



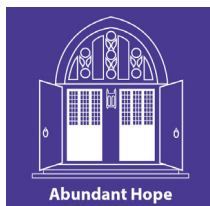
Sunday Series with Heather Cox Richardson Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 2 p.m.



Registration will open on February 1 at midnight.
<https://bit.ly/HOHHeatherCoxRichardson>

Heather Cox Richardson is Professor of History at Boston College and an expert on American political and economic history. She is the author of seven books on American politics. Her most recent book is *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*.

Heather is a leading #Twitterstorian, explaining the historical background of modern political issues through Twitter threads, the co-editor of *We're History*, a web magazine of popular history, and the author of *Letters from an American*, a chronicle of American politics.



Abundant Hope 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 January 18, 206 individuals and families have made a 2024 financial pledge to the church for a total of \$864,775 – over 64% of our budgeted goal of \$1,350,000.

You can pledge online 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!



Welcoming Children in Worship

As House of Hope continues to live into its vision of a strong and connected community, we're looking forward to deepening our practices of welcoming children and families in worship. Children's presence and participation in worship has repeatedly been shown to be one of the greatest indicators for fostering a mature adult faith. Watch for bulletin inserts in the coming weeks with practices that all of us can use to make children and families feel at home in worship. To offer additional ideas or feedback, please find Phil, Jimmy, or Elsa as we'd love to hear from you.

—Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team



A Note from Jimmy

Thanks to y'all for such a warm welcome to House of Hope. It was fabulous to get to meet so many of you at the December 3 reception, and I look forward to getting to know everyone in the congregation better this year!

I grew up in a family that understands how an entire congregation participates in Children and Family Ministry.

My mom started teaching Sunday School before I was even old enough to attend. Even though her children are all well into adulthood, she continues to teach elementary-age Sunday School, has served as a Confirmation mentor, and "adopts" the delightfully squirmly children of choir members so they have adults to sit with during worship. It truly takes the full congregation to do the work of Children and Family Ministry. As Phil Romine has said, this lives into the promises we make at every child's baptism.

And so, dear House of Hope family, I want to connect with you. I want to hear your hopes and dreams for our children and families; I want to hear your experiences, as a child who grew up in this (or another) church; as a parent with children in our programs; as someone with children who have grown through this church's programs; I want to know what makes you feel most excited and energized in this place.

I will be trying to connect and reach out to as many of you as possible, as soon as possible. But also, feel free to find me or email me if you'd like to chat about anything and everything.

Blessings,
Jimmy



Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Children and Family Ministry

Contact Dr. Jimmy Hoke:

JimmyH@hohchurch.org

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

With the return to the East Wing (hooray!), we have space to create two Sunday School classes — one for Pre-K through Grade 2 and another for Grades 3-5. Please sign up to help! The creation of an easy-to-implement curriculum is being developed that will help teachers and helpers feel equipped to discuss faith with our children. Contact Jimmy for more information.

Early Childhood Ministry for Nursery – Preschool Sundays | Rooms 4 and 7 8:45 – 11:45 a.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 Rooms 4 and 7 | 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.

On February 11, we won't have Sunday School as all children are encouraged to stay in worship for Youth Sunday. Nursery is available.

Tween Event: Tubing with Youth Sunday, February 18 | Elm Creek 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for a light lunch before we carpool to do some serious tubing! Bring: Wear your warm winter clothes. Cost: \$17 per person with scholarships available.

R.S.V.P. is required to Elsa Kendig by Sunday, February 11:
ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Pre-Worship Gathering

Sundays | Youth Room | 9:40 a.m.

Gather to say "Hi" and grab and beverage. Please arrive at 9:30 for Youth Sunday on February 11.

Youth Education Hour Sunday, February 4 Youth Room | 11 a.m.

Confirmation

Wednesdays, February 7, 21, 28

Youth Room | 6:30-8 p.m.

Youth Sunday Rehearsal Saturday, February 10 Sanctuary | 9 a.m. - Noon

A chance to practice on the microphones and movements in the service. Watch for emails about the time frame you'll need to be there for the practice depending on your role.

Youth Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring Collection Sunday, February 11 | 10 a.m.

We'll do a quick collection at the end of worship for the Souper Bowl of Caring for area food pantries and then join in the Mardi Gras Celebration and Chili Cook-Off.

Tween/Youth Tubing Event Sunday, February 18

Elm Creek Park | 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for a light lunch before we carpool to do some serious tubing! Bring: Wear your warm winter clothes. Cost: \$17 per person with scholarships available.

R.S.V.P. is required by Sunday, February 11 to Elsa Kendig:
ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Sunday Night Youth Group Sunday, February 25 Youth Room | 6 - 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday, February 4

Sunday Enrichment with Director of Children and Family Ministry Dr. Jimmy Hoke | Sanctuary 11:15 a.m.

Curious to learn more about Dr. Jimmy Hoke, their work teaching Biblical Studies, and how they approach faith formation with House of Hope's children and families? Stay for an interactive Adult Enrichment hour to get a peek into our Sunday School classrooms, some changes we are making in our approach to education and worship for children and families, and how everyone in the congregation can learn together by reading the Bible with a childish curiosity!

Sunday, February 11

**New Member Class
Room 1 | 11:15 a.m.**

Interested in membership or want to know more about House of Hope? Please join us!

Mardi Gras Celebration and Chili Cook-Off

Great Hall | 11:15 a.m.

See page one for more information.

Sunday, February 18

Sunday Enrichment: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative Update

Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.

Craig Freeman, Community Connections Coordinator, and Fritz Bimberg, House of Hope's Congregational Organizer, will talk about House of Hope's history with Beacon and about Beacon's current project on the east side of St. Paul.

Sunday, February 25

**Sunday Enrichment with Rev. Dr. Libby Shannon, Transitional Executive Presbyter, PTCA
Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.**

Rev. Shannon will talk about Matthew 25 and the impact it can have and share examples from other congregations.

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday-Weekday Connections: Saying Yes To Making a Difference for the Future

**Tuesday, February 27 | Kirk Parlour
5:30 p.m.**

Come hear from the women members of the Developing for the Future Collaboration (DFTF) Group. Jeanne Bailey, Deb James, and Becky Mayer will share the "why" that has inspired their weekly commitment to this work for more than a year and a half, what they learned about the congregation and themselves, and how you can help going forward. In addition, their DFTF colleagues Linda Lane, Liz Sanson, Kathy Schubert, Elly Verhagen, and Sarah Walbert will be there for further discussion and conversation.

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.

Red Cross February Donor

Promotion: Share your heart! Donate in February for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Learn more at www.rcblood.org/heart



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bach Birthday Bash with Michael Barone

March 16

The Didier Seminar

April 19 - 21

House of Hope Women's Retreat

St. John's Abbey Guesthouse,
Collegeville
April 26 - 28

LENT AND EASTER AT HOUSE OF HOPE

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Sanctuary (Holy Communion) | 7 p.m.

Holy Week:

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

Sanctuary | 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Chapel (Holy Communion) | 12 p.m.
Sanctuary (Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae) | 7 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29

Chapel | 12 p.m.

Sanctuary | 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service, Chapel | 7:30 a.m.

Sanctuary | 9 and 11 a.m.



Earth Care

Take Heart

2023 was the hottest year on record. It may feel hopeless. How can we possibly make a difference? **But, do take heart.** A study last year by the National Academy of Sciences, found that the "climate-related actions of friends, relatives and neighbors can have a profound effect on the people around them"—more so than data or facts, appeals to act more sustainably, or even financial incentives. For example, research shows that "the most important factor that determined whether someone installed solar panels wasn't subsidies, geography or policy. It was whether their neighbor had them." **Our actions do make a difference** and, when someone sees you doing something to curb climate disruption, it could inspire them to do so as well.

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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.

SUNDAY SERIES WITH JUSTICE ALAN PAGE

More than 500 people filled the sanctuary for an hour-long "Fireside Chat" with Justice Alan Page, Scott Kenefake, and Julia Carlson. The conversation started with reflections on his childhood in Canton, Ohio, his recognition as a teenager that he had a unique talent for football, and his interest in becoming a lawyer from a young age. From there, he reflected on his football career with Notre Dame, the Minnesota Vikings, and the Chicago Bears, his decision to attend the University of Minnesota Law School, his career as an attorney, and the challenges of being the first person of color to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The discussion continued with his comments on the Page Foundation he and his late wife Diane started which provides educational scholarships for children of color and his pride in two schools in the metro area named after him, his Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the children's books he has co-authored with his daughter, Kamie Page.

Justice Page signed autographs and books for more than 30 minutes following the Fireside Chat. All in all, an enlightening and thought-provoking hour with a uniquely gifted and accomplished person.



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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