



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 30
The First Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 7
The Second Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Tableaux Art, Music, and History | Assembly Room
11:30 a.m. The Great Advent Bake-Off | Great Hall

Sunday, December 14
The Third Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Choir School Christmas Concert | Sanctuary

Saturday, December 20
Traditional Tableaux Service
5 p.m. | Sanctuary

Sunday, December 21
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Christmas Carol Sing-Along | Kirk Parlour

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5 and 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Services
Vivaldi's *Gloria* (7:30 p.m. service only)
Dr. Aaron David Miller, Organist; Dr. Matthew Culloton, Conductor; The Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra; Carillon Preludes | 4:30 and 7 p.m.: Timothy Short

Thursday, December 25
3 p.m. Christmas Day Carillon Recital

Sunday, December 28
The First Sunday of Christmas
10 a.m. Worship
No Nursery or Sunday School for children on December 28

Sunday, January 4
The Second Sunday of Christmas: Carols for Handbells and Harp
10 a.m. Worship | Prelude at 9:45 a.m.



The Great Advent Bake-Off Sunday, December 7 Great Hall | 11:30 a.m.

The Children and Family Ministry team is inviting House of Hope's most ambitious bakers to bake and bring their best Christmas cookie recipe. Everyone will have the chance to sample, enjoy, and vote for their favorite cookie using Jingle Bells. A special prize will be presented to the winner. This year we will have 3 bake-off categories: Sugar, Ginger, and Add-Ins (chocolate chip, nuts, dry fruits, etc.). Please make small cookies for the competition. Sign up to be a baker at <https://bit.ly/HOHAAdventBakeOff>

Choir School Concert: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Sunday, December 14
Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.

Join us for the annual Choir School Christmas Concert in featuring our choristers with Jessica Bandelin, conductor, and Timothy Short, piano.



Second Annual Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House

Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House



Wednesday, December 17
Assembly Room
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Connection invites you to our Second Annual Carols and Christmas Cheer.

- Visit with friends and neighbors
- Great food and beverages for all ages
- Kid friendly and activities available
- Join the chorus and sing carols with Aaron David Miller
- Visit with Santa Claus **Contact the church to volunteer.**

Traditional Tableaux Service

Saturday, December 20 | Sanctuary | 5 p.m.



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

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Motet Choir:

The Truth Sent From Above,
Vaughan Williams
O Thou the Central Orb, Wood

Choir School:

Annunciation,
Bandelin

Sacred Bells

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

Motet Choir:

Gaudete, Anonymous
arr. Matthew Culloton
Light Everlasting, Christiansen

The Bells of Hope:

Advent Meditation, Edwards

Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Motet Choir:

Et in terra pax (from Gloria), Vivaldi
In the Bleak Midwinter, Holst
arr. Aaron David Miller

Sunday, December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



A Note from Scott

"Diversity is divine expression. It is a celebrative and inexhaustible outpouring of the joyous fullness of the divine," proclaimed Anantanand Rambachan at the Minnesota Multifaith Network's annual conference here at House of Hope on November 6.

Rambachan is a retired professor of religion at St. Olaf, and his remarks helped to launch a full-day event of over 200 faith leaders exploring religious pluralism.

I delighted in how he spoke of the Divine:

The Hindu tradition to which I belong teaches us that this earth, our home, and indeed the entire universe, emerge from one limitless being. In fact, we are taught that creation is the outcome of the wish of this One to bring forth many; and what an exuberance of diversity flows from the One!

It is diversity that exceeds necessity and may be described theologically only as the overflowing expression of divine celebration.

What a joy to gather with siblings of so many different faith backgrounds and explore how we can work together for greater justice and peace. Our day began with a Buddhist sound bath. The leader guiding us in meditation and mindfulness as he played prayer bowls and chimes.

And at the end of the day, when we were all quite tired, we listened to an ensemble in brightly colored saris

perform traditional Hindu songs. In between we talked about religious and political violence, helping refugees, anti-racism work, ending gun violence, and challenging the rising religious nationalisms.

The conference on pluralism fell the same weekend as our Sunday Series with Katherine Stewart and her research into the anti-democratic movement that is exploiting religion with Christian nationalism.

At the conference, three other leading researchers of Christian nationalism also spoke. One, Matt Taylor, said that the propaganda that is driving our nation mad is theological, so we must respond to it by doing theology. Realizing that it is theological helps us to better understand why so many people experience Christian nationalism as anchoring, providing meaning, purpose, and belonging. He also told us that he prefers the term "Christian supremacy" because the movement has global, not just national, ambitions.

These reminders of the dangers of supremacist thinking should renew our commitments to cultivating pluralism. I was personally grateful for a chance to learn from siblings of other faiths and cultures and feel my own spirituality to be enriched. As Anant taught, the diversity of creation is an expression of the joyous fullness of the Divine.

Peace,
Scott



In Memoriam: Sofia Ardan | November 4, 1979 - November 23, 2025

House of Hope would like to express our deepest sympathy on the death of Sofia Ardan. Sofia was a beloved staff member, a bright light, and a remarkably multi-talented singer, violinist, pianist, director, and performer. Since 2005 she taught and inspired children to love music and singing in her role as Director of The House of Hope Choir School. She was a member of The Choir School from 1987-1998 and was hired in 1998 as an Instructor with The Choir School. Sofia held a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota and studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London.



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 21 bulletin. Visit or call the church office, or sign up online:

<https://bit.ly/2025ChristmasMemorials>

The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is Sunday, December 14.



Christmas Sponsor-A-Family

Drop off gifts at the church by December 7.

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 60 families in partnership with some of our Mission Partners. Each family will receive a grocery store gift card. You can make a **financial contribution** by check with a notation of **Sponsor-A-Family** or **Give online:**

<https://bit.ly/HOHGiving> > Fund: Other > Memo: Sponsor-A Family



Stewardship 2026

There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world, that is not intended to make us rejoice. – John Calvin

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 16. More than half a million dollars has already been pledged, giving us a strong start toward our 2026 operating fund goal of \$1.35 million. If you have not yet made your pledge to support House of Hope's ministries and mission, we invite you to do so for 2026. Pledge cards are available at our entrances, or you can pledge using the QR code, or online at:

<https://bit.ly/HOH2026Pledge>



Capital Campaign Update

At Enrichment Hour on November 2, Senior Pastor Scott Jones announced that House of Hope will be able to pay off the loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program used for the recent HVAC upgrades by the end of the year. The repayment will be made with funds gifted by HOH members and funds from the endowment, which will be fully replenished by outstanding pledges through the end of 2026.

Year-End Gifts

We welcome your gifts in many ways, including check, credit card, appreciated stock or mutual funds, and qualified charitable distributions from your IRA, among others.

For payments toward your 2026 pledge in calendar year 2025, please note "prepaid 2026 pledge" in the memo line of your check. We are deeply grateful for your support of our Connect Stewardship Campaign!

Ways to Give to House of Hope:

Make a one-time gift or become a sustainer with recurring gifts:

- <https://bit.ly/HOHGiving>
- Text **HOH** to 73256

Deadlines for 2025 Year-End Gifts:

Mail postmarked mail by December 31; **Text and credit card gifts** completed by December 31; the transfer of gifts of **appreciated stock** must be completed by December 31; **IRA checks** meant to qualify for the charitable IRA "rollover," or qualified charitable distribution must be received by December 31; **Checks via carriers** such as UPS, FedEx, or 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.

Contact Director of Development Christopher Freeze with any questions at (651) 223-7544 or ChristopherF@hohchurch.org



Thank you to the House of Hope Community Garden volunteers for producing 1,000 pounds of organically grown produce this season!

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.
– May Sarton

Faith and Fibers

Faith and Fibers recently donated over 80 hats, mittens, fingerless gloves, and scarves to our recent Winter Clothing Drive, Project Home, YWCA, and The Beautiful Launderette. Faith and Fibers has furnished prayer shawls to congregation members and friends as well as Marvella residents. They also provide Baptismal blankets to children baptized at HOH. Additional volunteers are welcome to participate in creating these gifts of comfort and love.

Thank You! from Community Connection

Community Connection coordinators would like to thank all of you who attended one or more of our debut social and fun *First Friday Jazz* events. We learned from our surveys how much you enjoyed these events, connecting with old friends and meeting new people. We also thank the many wonderful volunteers for helping with these events. The *First Friday Jazz* series will return in 2026, beginning February 6.



Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Children and Family Ministry

Contact Dr. Jimmy Hoke:

JimmyH@hohchurch.org

Early Childhood Ministry:

Sunday Nursery available at 8:45 a.m. in Room 8

Sunday School:

Rooms 2 and 4 | 10:10 a.m.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

The Great Advent Bake-Off

Sunday, December 7

Great Hall | 11:30 a.m.

Youth Group

Sunday, December 7

Room 1/Youth Room | 6 - 8 p.m.

Sponsor-A-Family Volunteering

Saturday, December 13

Assembly Room | 8 - 11 a.m.

White Elephant Party

Sunday, December 14

Youth Room | 6 - 8 p.m.



Mission Sewing:

House of Hope's Mission Sewing group recently donated 21 fleece blankets and seven quilts to Women's Advocates, the first shelter for victim-survivors of domestic violence in

the nation. Interested congregants are invited to join Mission Sewing in their work. Mission Sewing is the oldest continuously meeting group at HOH. They meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Their January meeting is January 8 since January 1, 2026 is New Year's Day.

Donations: Mission Sewing welcomes your donations of 2-3 yards of 100% cotton fabric, that could be used for future quilts. The fabric will be used to make 9 inch squares and backing for future quilts.

THE DIDIER SEMINAR 2026

Save the Dates:

April 17 – 18, 2026

Rev. John L. Bell

Scottish hymn writer and Church of Scotland minister

John Bell is a preacher, hymn writer, composer, lecturer, and broadcaster, who spends much of the year traveling, mostly in the Americas and Europe. He is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community.

DECEMBER

See Page 1 for a listing of our December worship schedule and special events.

Drop-In Knitting and Crafts Wednesdays | Library | 1 - 3 p.m.



Join us for drop-in knitting, crafting, and fellowship in the church library each Wednesday from 1 - 3 p.m. Bring your yarn project, and we will sit together, create, and visit! Coffee and water will be available.

Choir School Holiday Wreath and Plant Order Pick Up



Wednesday, December 3
Porte Cochere Entrance
4-6 p.m.

Sunday Enrichment: History of HOH's Christmas Tableaux

Sunday, December 7

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Sophie Stein and Aaron Miller will discuss the history, art, and music of the House of Hope Christmas Tableaux Service.

The Traditional Tableaux service will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 5 p.m.

Welcoming Class Sunday, December 14 Library | 11:15 a.m.

Whether you're new to House of Hope, or want to know more about how our community works, join us.



SUNDAY SERIES: {Trés} in Concert: Chamber Music Across the Americas Sunday, January 18 | 2 p.m.



House of Hope and Hope Arts Center are pleased to announce our next Sunday Series, a transcendent program that blends chamber music traditions with the syncopated rhythms of Puerto Rican and Caribbean soundscapes.

The program also includes a screening of the documentary musical experience *Pedacito de Tierra* (Little Piece of Land),

a newly commissioned chamber work by acclaimed Puerto Rican composer Angélica Negrón that gives voice to the history and presence of the Puerto Rican diaspora in the Twin Cities. The work was commissioned and produced by Puerto Rican saxophonist and cultural organizer José Antonio Zayas Cabán, who also performs in the premiere alongside the Grammy-nominated {Trés} Chamber Music Trio and special guest, Grammy-winning artist Miguel Zenón. "Negrón and Zayas Cabán invite listeners not just to enjoy the music—but to be changed by it." A panel discussion will follow the performance.

Tickets are available at <https://our.show/tres/sundayseries>

Christmas and New Year Office Schedule

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



Earth Care

Low Waste Holiday Meals

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) food loss and waste account for an astonishing "8-10% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions – that's nearly five times the total emissions from the aviation sector – and contribute to substantial biodiversity loss, using up almost a third of the world's agricultural land." Your mindful choices this holiday season can help curb that loss and waste. Carefully plan your holiday meals. Buy only what's needed and creatively use leftovers. Incorporate more plant-based meals to reduce your carbon footprint. Support local businesses and farmers to boost the local economy and reduce emissions associated with long-distance food transport. Begin making changes where you can. Every choice matters and makes a difference.

THE ANCHOR

THE ANCHOR (Pub. No. 011-331)
is published monthly except in August by the
House of Hope Presbyterian Church,
797 Summit Avenue, St Paul MN 55105-3392

Periodicals postage paid at St Paul, MN

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE ANCHOR, 797 Summit Avenue
St Paul, MN 55105-3392

Periodicals
St Paul, MN



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 KATHERINE STEWART



Katherine Stewart writes about the intersection of faith and politics, policy, education, and the threat to democratic institutions. Katherine is an investigative journalist and the author of *The New York Times* bestselling *Money, Lies, and God: Inside the Movement to Destroy American Democracy* (Bloomsbury, 2025).



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PHONE: (651) 227-6311 | FAX: (651) 227-9969
www.hohchurch.org | hoh@hohchurch.org

