



MACALESTER SUNDAY

February 1 | 10 a.m.

Celebrating House of Hope's connection to Macalester College.

Joined by: Macalester Bagpipe and Drum Ensemble, the Macalester College Concert Choir led by Michael McGaghie, and College Chaplain Rev. Dr. Hannah Adams Ingram, preaching. Come enjoy shortbread provided by the college.

The 11:15 a.m. Sunday Enrichment will be led by Michael Breidenbach who is the Director of Piping at Macalester College. He has been a full-time bagpipe teacher and performer since 1999. Mike has performed on stage with The Chieftans, Blink-182, and others.

First Friday Jazz Returns... Reimagined!

Season Opener: Friday, February 6

Assembly Room | 6 – 8 p.m.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FirstFridayJazz>



House of Hope and Hope Arts Center are pleased to share the next chapter of First Friday Jazz. This popular series has become a program of Hope Arts Center and will offer a quarterly lineup of cabaret-inspired events at House of Hope.

This evolution reflects both the growth of First Friday Jazz and its strong alignment with Hope Arts Center's mission to welcome more people onto our campus through vibrant, accessible arts programming. As part of Hope Arts Center, the series will feature more guest artists, eclectic live music, themed evenings, and opportunities for social connection—creating a relaxed, nightlife atmosphere where music, conversation, and community meet.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the evening will feature romantic jazz favorites performed by **Jazz Savvy, with guest vocalist Charmin Michelle**, whose rich voice and engaging presence will set the tone for a memorable night. "...Swing and savoir-faire. Grace and grooves. Intimacy and panache. Singer Charmin Michelle delivers all of the above and more." This is what *The Minnesota Star Tribune* had to say about this charismatic chanteuse whose conversational style recalls the late Billie Holiday and other legendary ladies of jazz. *Continued on page 3.*



MUSIC SUNDAY

**Dietrich Buxtehude:
*Eins bitte ich,
vom Herrn***



Sunday, February 15



Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) was born in Denmark, though he is considered both Danish and German by scholars. His musical reputation is firmly rooted in compositions for organ, but as music director at St. Mary's in Lübeck, he

composed (likely) hundreds of cantatas, one of which the Motet Choir is preparing at present. Much of his music was undiscovered until the 20th Century, and as one could guess, much of it was lost as well.

Buxtehude famously had such influence over both J.S. Bach and Handel that the former walked over 200 miles to meet him while the latter paid a visit in Lübeck when he was just 18 years old. In a tale that has likely grown in detail for a few hundred years (but is cited in Britannica!), both Bach and Handel were hoping to succeed Buxtehude at St. Mary's, but neither found Buxtehude's daughter attractive – and a marriage to her was unfortunately part of the deal. It worked out fine for both gentlemen as they somehow mustered on and built modest musical careers elsewhere!

Eins bitte ich, vom Herrn is a charming cantata for chorus, soloists, and small orchestra – quintessential Baroque "good mood music!" The text of the opening chorus paraphrases: *One thing I pray from the Lord, that I may stay in the house of the Lord the whole of my life, and witness the Lord's beautiful divine services and visit his temple.* The other texts hint at Lenten themes, though the music remains joyous and humble, so it is a lovely musical bridge as we change church seasons.

–Matthew Culloton, Choirmaster

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Macalester Sunday with the
Macalester Concert Choir



Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Motet Choir:
Cantate Domino, Schütz

Choir School St Nicholas Choir
Prayer of St. Francis, Litz

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Transfiguration of the Lord

Music Sunday:
Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra
Dietrich Buxtehude:
Eins bitte ich, den Herrn [BuxWV24]

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

Motet Choir:
Ave verum corpus, Mozart

Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
Ecce quomodo moritur, J. Handl

A Note from Scott

In a book I was reading this week, the authors discussed the value of anchoring—"If we do not take the work of anchoring seriously, we may find that our ships scatter or even sink with every strong gust of wind."

Of course the image of the anchor is a significant one at House of Hope. It's the title of this newsletter, obviously, but the images of anchors appear in the stained glass windows, the stone work, the chancel tiles, etc. The authors Kelly Hayes and Mariame Kaba characterize anchors as what "can provide a coherent understanding of the world in catastrophic times and help people maintain their values and commitments." Sounds a lot like religious faith to me.

They then go on to describe anchors further as "anything that helps ground people in a shared sense of history, compassion, and purpose." That definitely sounds like church to me. They write about how anchors will become even more important in the challenging years ahead.

I write this column the day after the murder of Renee Good. Last night I stood with thousands of other Minnesotans on Portland Avenue at the location of her killing to bear witness to our spiritual and humane values and demand justice.

Our spirituality and our religious faith are vital in helping to give us vision, a sense of purpose, and hope that our actions matter and will bring about a better world. And our faith and spirituality are encouraged and empowered when we gather together collectively as God's church, in worship, service, fellowship, and care.

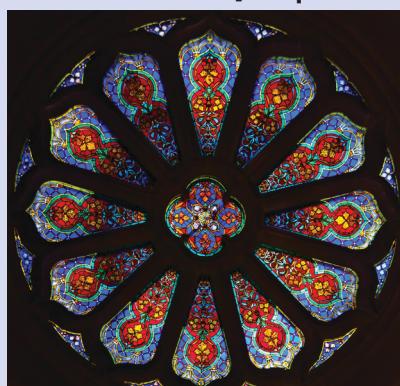
If you are angry, afraid, sad, or discouraged, I encourage you to gather with your siblings in Christ. Together we read the ancient stories, listen to the inspiring music of our traditions, sing out our lamentations and praise, shake hands and hug one another and share cups of coffee and plates of cookies. All because we recognize that each of us needs a house of hope, an anchor in the storm.

—Scott

Midday Lenten Prayer Services

Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25

Elizabeth Chapel | 12:15 p.m.



Beginning Wednesday, February 25, House of Hope will offer a short, contemplative prayer service in the Elizabeth Chapel. Led by clergy, Scripture reading, prayers, bells, and silence will invite us to ground and center ourselves in this season of renewing practice and deepening wisdom. Rather than giving something up this Lent, consider trying out this liturgy as a new spiritual practice. Come with eyes to see, and ears to hear.

Formations

Classes

NEW: Senior Pastor Scott Jones launched the first in a series of Formations classes for 2026 on January 21 to be taught by our clergy.



Join us for a potluck meal at 5:30 p.m. and then hear about and discuss the rich and wonderful explorations of God that are occurring in contemporary theology. Future classes will discuss methods of Biblical interpretation, practical spiritual skills, and the way of discipleship.

The God Revolution Continues Wednesdays, February 4 and 11

Kirk Parlour | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

In the wake of the Second World War and the Holocaust, in a period where ordinary people were beset with doubts and the problem of God's involvement with evil and suffering had become acute, many theologians grappled with new ways to think and talk about God, and generally resulted in the rejection of traditional understandings of God's power and action.

Methods of Interpretation

Wednesdays in March

Kirk Parlour | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Our Formations series will continue in March with a four-week series led by Senior Pastor Scott Jones on the methods of Biblical interpretation. "Interpretation is not a process along a linear trajectory from ignorance to understanding via the medium of the text . . . but an endless stimulation to further inquiry and conversation." So writes David Jasper in his book *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics*. "Hermeneutics" being the fancy word for the study of interpretation.

First Friday Jazz, Reimagined

Continued from page 1

Save the Dates: May 1, July 10, October 2



Event Details:

- Each evening is designed as a casual, social gathering, with live music, food and beverages, and space to reconnect with friends and meet new ones. Creative activities will also be available for children.
- **Pre-registration is appreciated to help us plan: <https://bit.ly/FirstFridayJazz>**
- No admission charge. Suggested donation of \$20 per adult paid online or at the door supports the continued growth of First Friday Jazz.
- **Volunteers play a vital role** in making these evenings welcoming and joyful. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/FirstFridayJazzVolunteers> or call the church office. Thank you for being part of what makes First Friday Jazz—and Hope Arts Center—such a dynamic presence in our community.



Welcoming Classes 2026

Whether you're new to House of Hope, or just want to know more about how our community works, join us at 11:15 a.m. in the Library:

**March 8, May 10,
September 13, November 8**

House of Hope Welcomes New Staff Member



Johan Wyckoff joined the House of Hope staff in January as our Communications and Events Coordinator.

Johan previously worked for nonprofit organizations including 180 Degrees of Minnesota, Dress for Success - Twin Cities, and, most recently, Proof Alliance. You can catch him at the office or at home with a good book and a cup of coffee.

Please join us in welcoming Johan to the House of Hope staff.

Nominating Committee

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

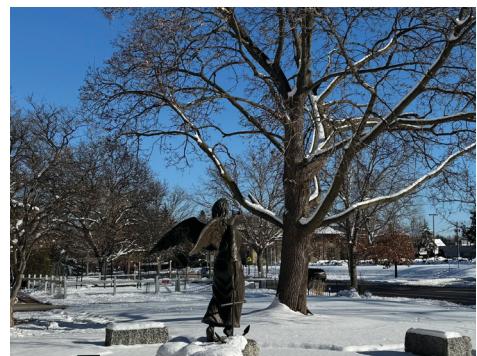
The Nominating Committee asks you to prayerfully consider the strengths of your fellow congregants and nominate people you think would be good additions to our church leadership. You may nominate yourself.

Please ask individuals you'd like to nominate for permission to submit their name.

A Congregational Meeting will be called for the purpose of electing officers in April or May.

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. **The deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 1.**

Contact Nominating Chair Mercedes Sheldon with questions: mmsheldon@me.com



A Note from Mercedes Sheldon, Deputy Clerk of Session



Last month, I shared with you that we are all called into “the divine work of now.” This month, I have been pondering Rev. Julia Carlson’s reminder from November that we each have the opportunity “to serve God’s initiative.” What is God’s initiative when considered in light of volunteering for a church board? Such service often seems quite mundane, sometimes even tedious. Often, we wonder if our investment of time is really worthwhile on any scale, let alone that of God’s initiative. Sometimes, especially when I am sitting in rush hour traffic on Highway 62, slowly crawling toward House of Hope for a one-hour meeting, I feel less like I am serving that initiative and more like I am frittering away my life. Then, I arrive, connect, think alongside other people of faith, and find my spirit lifted. For me, faith is deeply communal, as you may have noted in my past articles. Gathering together to serve God and this community is a spiritual act, even when it seems mundane or tedious.

More than likely, you know that life requires the mundane and tedious to happen for the joy and delight to exist. Planning an event, for example, requires a lot of minutiae, but the result is often a party full of connecting and laughing with friends and family. When the deacons plan a social gathering at church, they sort out those tiny details so that we can worship through the laughter of kids on bouncy houses while we enjoy ice cream on the lawn. When elders discuss the technicalities of installing solar panels on the church roof, they read analytical reports so that we can worship through caring for God’s resources. When the trustees review a bid for roof repairs, they look to the physical and fiduciary realities so that we can worship without concern for the structural safety of our building. I truly believe that these myriad tasks serve God’s initiative in this world. And they are only a tiny representation of the ongoing work of our volunteer leaders.

These are also all inward facing tasks. We know that God’s initiative goes far beyond our community. Deacons serve that initiative in how they offer hospitality to the stranger who joins us on a Sunday morning and to our neighborhood during committee-supported events like National Night Out. Elders do so by reviewing and approving policies that support community groups in our building and supporting committee-led philanthropy in partnership with organizations like Ujamaa Place. Trustees do so by caring for our assets so that we have spaces to worship and for congregational and community groups to gather, as well as funds for all of the work—great and small—that House of Hope does in the world.

So, how can YOU serve God’s initiative within our faith community? Of course, you can volunteer in so many ways! Join a committee, be a greeter, become a handbell choir member. Nominate yourself for the board that best suits your skills and interests during this season of your life. Nominate a fellow congregant whose skills and interest you see as a gift to the work of our church life together and beyond House of Hope.

Looking forward to serving alongside you,
Mercedes Sheldon



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.

Children’s Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, February 1 | 10:10 a.m.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:
ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Back by Popular Demand:

HOH Unplugged

Sunday, February 1 after worship

Unplugged, a comedy skit show conceived of, written, and performed by our youth began in 2025. Witty, charming, and good-hearted, it was a delight to all who came to see it. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 family max. Proceeds will benefit 2026 Chicago youth mission trip.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 8

Chili Cook-off

Sunday, February 15 | 11:15 a.m.

Youth Group

Sunday, February 15

Homes of HOH Youth | 6 - 8 p.m.

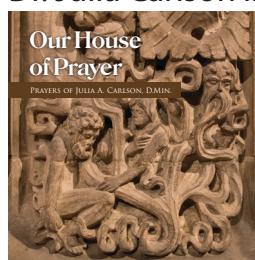
Contact Elsa for location.

Tubing/Broom Ball Tournament

Sunday, February 22

Location TBD | 11 a.m.

Our House of Prayer by Rev. Dr. Julia Carlson is available in



the office for \$25 or \$30 if you would like it mailed to you.

FEBRUARY

Sunday Enrichment with Michael Breidenbach

Sunday, February 1

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Michael Breidenbach is Director of Piping at Macalester College and Pipe Major—meaning leader and artistic/creative director—of the Macalester College Pipe Band. Mike and members of the Macalester Band have performed at House of Hope on Reformation Sunday and Macalester College Sunday for many years. Mike is a nationally recognized performer on the pipes. He will share the history and music of the pipes.

NEW: Caregiving Conversations

Sundays, Beginning February 1

Bridal Room | 11:15 a.m.

Providing support to a loved one is taxing; frustrations, loneliness, and even guilt can accompany caregiving. This is why, with support from our pastoral staff, House of Hope will offer a **6-month pilot program for caregivers on first Sundays of the month**. We'll get to know each other and exchange our thoughts about "How has caregiving changed my life?" Participants should be willing to keep all exchanges confidential. Parish Associate Rev. Dix Brachlow and Catherine Guisan will facilitate conversations. Join us when you can. Questions? Contact Dix Brachlow: brachlow@gmail.com

HOH Unplugged

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First Friday Jazz Returns!

Friday, February 6

Assembly Room | 6 – 8 p.m.

See pages 1 and 3 for details.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 8



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. Ways to give:

- Check or cash noted for *Food Pantry*
- Online: <https://bit.ly/HOHGiving> Fund: Food Pantry
- Text **HOH Food** to 73256

Sunday Enrichment with Rev. Shawna Bowman

Sunday, February 8

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Shawna Bowman will discuss how tapping into our creativity can help us experience our spirituality more fully. In addition, Rev. Bowman, who led our Art in Worship retreat in October, will be returning to do liturgical artistic engagement with the music and liturgy of the service as it unfolds. Come ready to watch Shawna dialogue with the service and sermon through art.

Mardi Gras Celebration and Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 15

Join us in the Great Hall for a Mardi Gras Celebration after worship.



This congregational event is filled with fun, fellowship, and delicious chili. Suggested donation is \$5. One talented chef will win a prize!

Chili Cook-Off Sign-up:

<https://bit.ly/HOHChili2026>

Sunday-Weekday Connections

Tuesday, February 24

Kirk Parlour | 5:30 p.m.

Sunday-Weekday Connections brings together women of the congregation for fellowship, supper, and a speaker.

Evelyn Klein will be our speaker and will share about her life as a writer. Please sign up by February 19 at <https://bit.ly/HOHSundayWeekday>

Drop-In Knitting, Crafts, and Conversation

Library

Thursdays | 1 - 3 p.m.



Join us for Drop-In Knitting, Crafts, and Conversation to work on projects or fellowship in the church library. Bring a project, and we will create and visit!

Winter Walk and Roll at House of Hope

Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Through March 27

Enjoy our indoor walking or rolling path away from cold, snow, and ice. In partnership with Interfaith Action, House of Hope will welcome members, friends, and neighbors to the building to enjoy some exercise away from winter weather.



Earth Care

Don't Trash It, Repair It

The third "R" of sustainability is **Reuse**. It could also be called **Repair**. Do you have a small household appliance, article of clothing or other item that is still usable but in need of some repair? Don't trash it. Instead extend the life of the item by taking it to a Fix-It Clinic at the Environmental Center in Roseville. These clinics are offered monthly, build community connections, and help reduce the number of repairable items that are thrown in the trash and sent to the landfill. Skilled volunteers provide assistance to help repair items for free. Plus, you can learn valuable repair skills to make future repairs yourself. For more information about these monthly Fix-It Clinics, visit <https://bit.ly/HOHPixit>

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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.

Periodicals
St Paul, MN

SUNDAY SERIES: {Trés} in Concert

Sunday Series featuring {Trés} offered a concert that mixed chamber music, jazz, Caribbean soundscapes, and storytelling. Rooted in the stories of Puerto Ricans living in the Twin Cities, the performance was followed by a thoughtful panel conversation exploring how the artists' deep personal and cultural ties led to the collaboration.

We're grateful to the artists, panelists, and community members who joined us for an extraordinary afternoon.



{Trés} Chamber Music Members from left: Casey Rafn, José Antonio Zayas Cabán, and Ryan Smith; with guest Miguel Zenón



Panel Discussion Members from left: Tom Crann, moderator, YourClassical MPR, Miguel Zenón, Dr. José Antonio Zayas Cabán, Angélica Negrón, and Dr. Katheryn Lawson



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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