

Lent and Holy Week 2026



**Midday Lenten Prayer Services
Wednesdays in Lent
Elizabeth Chapel | 12:15 p.m.**

House of Hope will offer a short, contemplative prayer service 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.



**Formation Classes:
Methods of Interpretation
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25
Kirk Parlour | 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Our Formations series will continue 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.

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.

HOLY WEEK

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29
Sanctuary | 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion: April 2

Elizabeth Chapel | 12 noon
Office of Tenebrae | Sanctuary | 7 p.m.

Good Friday: April 3

Elizabeth Chapel | 12 noon
Good Friday Choral Vespers | Sanctuary | 7 p.m.
Poetry of Mary Oliver and Susan Palo Cherwien
A moving and reflective collection of poetry alongside by Lotti, Culloton, Gibbons, Walker, and more.

Easter Sunday: April 5

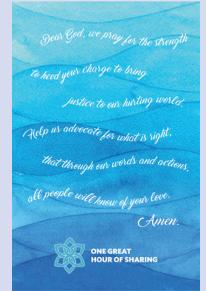
Sunrise Service | Elizabeth Chapel | 7:30 a.m.
Festive Worship with Organ, Choirs, and Brass
Sanctuary | 9 and 11 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Received during the season of Lent, Presbyterians worldwide join in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing disaster assistance, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Ways to give:

- Special envelopes in the pew racks on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, or mail your gift with memo: OGHS
- Online: bit.ly/HOHGiving > Fund: Other Gift > OGHS
- Text: HOH OGHS to 73256



March Food Drive



1 in 10 people in Minnesota have limited or uncertain access to adequate food. You can make a difference during the March Food Drive as we support the food pantries at Hallie Q. Brown Community Center and Neighborhood House. Rising food costs and inflation are drastically affecting families in our community.

Hunger in Minnesota:

- Feeding America reports in Minnesota, 596,190 people are facing hunger - and of them 185,010 are children.
- Minnesotans made an estimated record-breaking 9 million visits to food shelves in 2024. This is up 20% from the previous record of 7.5 million set in 2023.

Our March Food Drive is vitally important as we help the 1 in 7 hungry children, or 1 in 10 people overall. Food insecurity makes children uneasy, stressed, and unable to concentrate. Parents worry they can't fulfill basic food needs for their family.

How can you help?

- **Financial donations help our food partners buy more.** They can multiply cash gifts through buying in bulk, and they can buy what they need the most.
- **Bring food donations** to the shopping carts by the Elizabeth Chapel and in the Narthex. A list of most needed items can be found at our welcome centers.
- **Volunteer at Loaves and Fishes.** Contact Norma Herther or Kevin Loney for more information.
- **Volunteer at Neighborhood House** food markets.

Ways to Give Financially:

- **Check, or Cash in pew envelopes** with memo: Food Pantry
- Text **HOH Food** to 73256
- Online: bit.ly/HOHGiving > Fund: Food Pantry

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, March 1
Second Sunday in Lent
Youth Sunday

Choir School:
Non Nobis Domine, Byrd
In Heavenly Love Abiding, J. N. Beck
Wayfaring Stranger, trad. Arr. Bandelin

Sunday, March 8
Third Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
Ecce quomodo moritur, J. Handl
They that go down to the sea in ships,
Sumsion

The Bells of Hope:
Ostinato, Krug
Prelude on the hymntune Rhosymedre,
Wagner

Sunday, March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
Adoramus te, Christe, Barnum
Dixit Dominus, Naumann

Sunday, March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Motet Choir:
Almighty and Everlasting God,
Gibbons
Agnus Dei, Haydn

Sunday, March 29
Palm/Passion Sunday

Motet Choir:
Himmelskönig, sei willkommen,
J.S. Bach

Choir School:
Hosanna!, Nelson



A Note from Scott

In January I attended an annual gathering of United Church of Christ Senior Ministers. The event includes continuing education but also lots of time for renewal, fun, and friendship. We gathered on St. Pete Beach in Florida, which is, honestly, part of the attraction to the event for me, coming from winter in Minnesota and Nebraska before that. Always great, in the middle of snow and bitter cold, to get a week of sunshine and warmth and, if possible, lie beside the pool or the Gulf.

Our keynote speaker was Luther Seminary professor Cody Sanders, who led our House of Hope officers' retreat last August. Cody spoke about ministry in the polycrisis. "Polycrisis" being the term that is now catching on to describe our era of multiple, systemic, interconnected, and ongoing crises that have no foreseeable end or return to "normal."

Cody spoke about shifting our understanding of hope away from an individual disposition to a communal practice. A practice that makes a realistic appraisal of the world, becomes comfortable with uncertainty, and understands the vital role that despair plays in hopefulness. True hope we arrive at through loss and grief. This kind of hope needs to be formed in community.

Among the ways Cody talked of how the church can form hope during crises included inspiring people's imaginations, doing grief work, tending to our souls, aiming at adaptiveness, and responding to the "organized abandonment" that seems to come from traditional centers of power such as government and big business.

The days in Florida were not intended as training and motivation for what ministry was going to be like in the Twin Cities over the last month, but the Spirit worked it out that way. The weekend I returned House of Hope hosted two community events that were true balms for a hurting community.

The Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama, who has participated in conflict resolution work in the wake of the Irish Troubles, read from his poems and spoke of the healing and transforming power of words. Then the Puerto Rican music group {Trés} opened their Sunday Series concert announcing, "Bring all of your feelings; we're here to take care of you for a little bit." The panel discussion that followed the concert centered on the importance of the creative process to challenge injustice, build resilience, and inspire hope.

Last Saturday we hosted a Minnesota Community Sing. Around 1,000 people attended in person, and many more online from across the country. We were standing room only in both the Sanctuary and the Assembly Room, as folks sang together songs of justice, protest, and envisioning a better world.

I'm proud of the ministry we've done in the last month (and these are only a few examples of all that has occurred). Ministry that has risen to the challenge of this latest crisis and met the moment with creativity and imagination. Ministry that has spoken the truth, made room for grief, and worked to bring people together in collective acts of hope.

– Scott

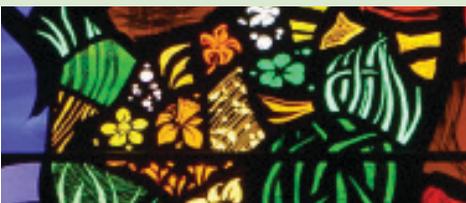


The Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, March 1, 2026 following worship for the purpose of approving clergy terms of call, and presenting the Session approved 2026 Operating Budget.



Easter Memorials:

You may purchase an Easter lily (\$15) or make a donation in any amount in memory of or in honor of loved ones for publication in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Your donation will support the ministries of House of Hope. The deadline for reserving Easter Memorials is Palm Sunday, March 29. Contact the church office, or sign up online: <https://bit.ly/EasterMemorials>



Congratulations to our 2026 House of Hope Chili Cook-Off winner, Tim Godfrey!

Pictured: Tim Godfrey with Dr. Jimmy Hoke.

SAVE THE DATE:

2026 Women's Retreat

Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26, 2026 Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse, Collegeville, MN

Watch for more information about registration.

THE DIDIER SEMINAR 2026



with Rev. John L. Bell

April 18 – 19



John Bell is a Scottish hymn writer, composer, broadcaster, and lecturer, 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.

The Shaping of What We Believe:

Singing is neither a harmless nor a neutral activity. For many people what they sing shapes what they believe about God as much, if not more, than preaching.

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/Didier2026>

Saturday, April 18

8:30 a.m. Coffee and Treats

9 a.m. Session I: *The Subversive Potentials of Sung Text*

10:30 a.m. Session 2: *Correcting the Balance*

The song of the church is not a closed canon enshrined in a denominational hymnbook. It has to be constantly renewed as our awareness and understanding of God's will and God's world increases.

11:30 a.m. Discussion and Closing Remarks

Sunday, April 19

Rev. John Bell will join us in worship to preach and lead our Sunday Enrichment.

Sunday Enrichment | 11:15 a.m.

The Importance of the

Imagination in Unlocking Holy

Scripture. To take the Bible seriously, for many people, means to study it. That is often a cerebral pursuit. Perhaps there are other means by which the depths of divine truth may be discovered through music, hymns, and song.

The Houses of Hope Fund

For more than 25 years, The Houses of Hope Endowed Fund has been supporting affordable housing needs in Saint Paul and the East Metro and has made grants totaling over \$3,300,000 to support building or rehabilitating housing and addressing housing insecurity. Established in 1999 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of House of Hope's founding, money was raised by individual contributions and matched by Trustees from the General Endowment for a total of over \$4,000,000 for this endowed fund. On Sunday March 22, we will celebrate the success of The Houses of Hope Endowment Fund during worship and in Adult Enrichment. Several of our housing partners will join us to talk about what our partnership has meant to their organization's ability to provide and support housing needs in our community. It is truly something to celebrate HOH's efforts since the first grants were made in 2000.

The largest Grant recipients include:

- Habitat for Humanity \$652,940
- Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative \$512,000
- Jeremiah Program \$403,600
- Rondo Community Land Trust \$295,007
- Ain Dah Yung \$223,368

Grants helped to fund building projects including:

Prior Crossing, Jeremiah Program, Ain Dah Yung, Emma Norton's Restoring Waters, The Lumen for low-income seniors, and the Rondo Community Land Trust.

In addition, grants to improve properties has kept Ain Dah Yung emergency shelter open as well as some of the YWCA properties that provide supportive housing for families. This year a grant to Woman's Advocates helped rehabilitate two apartment buildings with 19 housing units.

A sub-committee of the Community Action Committee (Mission Outreach and Peace and Justice Committees) reviews grant requests from qualifying organizations. Committee members also make site visits and meet with organization staff members to learn more about an organization or project before making recommendations to the Session.

A Note from Mercedes Sheldon, Deputy Clerk of Session



Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the three church leadership boards. Over the past month or so, the Nominating Committee has reviewed those forms, talked with clergy and other church leadership, poured over the directory and the rosters of those currently serving, and prayed together for guidance and clarity. In the tradition of House of Hope and in accordance with various policies, we are working to balance the needs of each board and of their various committees with the need for institutional knowledge {returning volunteers} and fresh perspectives {first-time Deacons, Elders, Trustees}. There are a lot of details to consider before we start calling individuals to ask them {you?!} to serve on one of the boards. In January, I referenced Rev. Phil Romine's sermon from last November, in which he called us into "the divine work of now." Attending to these details is, as bureaucratic as it may seem, part of our divine work.

In that sermon, Rev. Romine also prompted us to remember that "the time to say yes has always been now." We say yes in many ways and to many things. For quite a while, I said yes to opportunities and obligations beyond church, which meant saying "no" to calls from the Nominating Committee. And then, in March of 2024, I said yes to joining the Board of Elders. Serving you in the role of Deputy Clerk and as chair of Nominating has been an immense gift! Every one of the committee members, every Deacon you see on Sunday morning, every Trustee and Elder, said "yes" when called by their community into the work of church, and House of Hope is blessed by their willingness to put their gifts to work through the grace of God!

Should you receive a similar call, we invite you to consider which "yes" is right for you in this moment. We invite you into thoughtful consideration of how you might serve our shared community. Whether we call you in this particular way, or you see a need that you might meet, or someone invites you into one of the myriad other aspects of church life, your gifts are a meaningful part of House of Hope. How will you live into the fact that the time to say yes has always been now?

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.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Youth Sunday:

Sunday, March 1

Sanctuary | 10 a.m.

Youth House Group

Sunday, March 8

Offsite | 6 - 8 p.m.

Youth Group

Sunday, March 29

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

2026 Youth Summer Mission Trip

Dates: June 20-26

Work: We will be working at Clearwater Forest (painting, trail work, etc.), and possibly doing community service with local organizations.

Cost: \$350 per youth: Scholarships Available

Reservation Deadline: March 22

Contact Elsa Kendig for more information.



It's Time to Pay Per Capita



Per capita is a funding mechanism to support the work of the PC(USA) at the local, regional and national levels.

HOH annually pays per capita for each of its members (not each household). **2026 per capita is \$43.75 per member**, and we ask every member to contribute now.

House of Hope's per capita for 2026 totals \$50,750 based on membership of 1,160 members in 2024. You can **pay by check** or **pay online: bit.ly/HOHGiving > Fund: Per Capita Gifts**. Please note **Per Capita** when paying.



House of Hope Choir School Spring Flower Sale and Pick Up

Order Deadline:

Thursday, March 30 | 10 p.m.

Order online:

www.gertensfundraising.com and enter Store ID: 95

Curbside Pickup: Wednesday, April 29 | Porte Cochere Entrance 3:30 - 6 p.m.

MARCH

Caregiving Conversations

Sundays, March 1

Bridal Room | 11:15 a.m.*

Providing support to a loved one is taxing; frustrations, loneliness, and even guilt can accompany caregiving. House of Hope will offer a 6-month pilot program for caregivers on first Sundays of the month. Parish Associate Rev. Dix Brachlow and Catherine Guisan will facilitate conversations, while participants determine the direction of the group. Feel free to join us when you can. Questions? Contact Dix Brachlow: brachlow@gmail.com

* Following the Annual Meeting.

Sunday Enrichment with

Bruce Johnson

Sunday, March 1

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.*

Join long time HOH member Bruce Johnson as he showcases beloved children's book author and illustrator Tomie dePaola's book *Oliver Button is a Sissy*. Bruce will also share his own journey as a gay Christian.

* Following the Annual Meeting.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 4

Rooms A & B

Sign up to donate blood:
www.redcrossblood.org/give
Sponsor Code: houseofhope



Sunday Enrichment with

Dr. Ahmed Samatar

Sunday, March 8

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Dr. Ahmed Samatar, former Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College will present *Somalis and Minnesota: The Challenges of Critical Adaption*. He will discuss the reason for emigration and their struggles as immigrants in a different culture, as well as the gifts they bring. The issues of navigating differences is the challenge of our time, and experienced across all cultures.

Sunday Enrichment with Angie Elwell

Sunday, March 15

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Angela Elwell, a Social Worker specializing in Mental Health and Chemical Health, will lead a workshop promoting ways to age gracefully and spiritually well. Angela is the sales director at Seven Hills Senior Living.

The Singers Present: *My Soul's Repose: The Book of Psalms* at House of Hope

Sunday, March 15 | 3 p.m.

There are very few more timeless, mysterious choral favorites than Allegri's *Miserere mei, Deus*, with its soaring soprano solo, echoes of chant, and sumptuous choral harmonies. More color is employed in Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, which even includes music originally written (and scrapped) from *West Side Story*. The Book of Psalms, from which boundless choral music flows, is further explored through the imaginations of Bobby McFerrin, Caroline Shaw, Abbie Betinis, and Ernani Aguiar.

Tickets at www.singersmca.org

Concert also held on Saturday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis.

Circle of Grace

Thursday, March 19

Library | 5:30 p.m.

Music and Simple Movement as a Contemplative Practice

Join us for Circle of Grace gatherings that began last fall. You are invited to gather starting at 5 p.m. and we'll have refreshments. There will be a short presentation and facilitated discussion at 5:30 p.m. about

2026 Dates: April 16 and May 16



Sunday Enrichment: The Houses of Hope Fund

Sunday, March 22

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

See page 3 for more information.

Sunday-Weekday Connections

Tuesday, March 24

Kirk Parlour | 5:30 p.m.

Sunday-Weekday Connections brings together women of the congregation for fellowship, supper, and a speaker. Cheryl Stanford will be our speaker. Please sign up by March 24 at <https://bit.ly/HOHSundayWeekday>

Sunday Enrichment with Matthew Culloton and the Motet Choir

Sunday, March 29

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Join House of Hope's Choirmaster Matthew Culloton and the Motet Choir to learn about music for Holy Week at HOH. Through musical examples and a short lecture style, Matthew will offer a glimpse at what music was selected, what makes it so meaningful, and how each piece will fit into the Holy Week services.



Earth Care

Earth Care Congregation

Since March of 2020, House of Hope has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA). Earth Care Congregations initially commit to an Earth Care Pledge, developed by the Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (USA), to care for God's creation in areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Our Session affirmed the pledge in November 2019. Each February we apply for recertification. Because we have now been certified for more than five years, we submit a narrative report of our past year's activities instead of a checklist of required actions. House of Hope is currently one of twelve Earth Care Congregations in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. For more information visit https://bit.ly/EarthCare_PCUSA.

THE ANCHOR

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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.

Drop-In Knitting, Crafts, and Conversation

Thursdays

Library | 1 - 3 p.m.

Join us for Drop-In Knitting, Crafts, and Conversation to work on projects or fellowship in the church library.

Winter Walk and Roll at House of Hope

Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.

Through March 27

In partnership with Interfaith Action, enjoy our indoor walking or rolling path away from cold, snow, and ice.

Periodicals
St Paul, MN

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY SING



Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Community Sing at House of Hope on February 7.

- 1,000 people attended, filling the Sanctuary and Assembly Room with heart-warming music.
- 100 people from across the country joined us online.
- Together, we raised almost \$12,000 for initiatives at Neighborhood House, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, and The Immigrant Rapid Response Fund.

All of this was possible because of you. You lifted your hearts and voices for hope and justice in Minnesota, standing in solidarity with immigrant neighbors impacted by recent federal enforcement surges.

We are deeply grateful to collaborate with Hope Arts Center, The Singers, and singers from Giving Voice, Border CrosSing, Minnesota Chorale, National Lutheran Choir, the University of Minnesota School of Music, and One Voice.



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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