



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

First Sunday of Advent: December 1

Worship with Holy Communion | 10 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent: December 8

Worship | 10 a.m.

The Great Advent Bake-Off | 11:15 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent: December 15

Worship | 10 a.m.

Choir School Christmas Concert | 11:15 a.m.

Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House

Wednesday, December 18 | Assembly Room | 5 -7 p.m.

Traditional Tableaux Service

Saturday, December 21 | Sanctuary | 5 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 22

Worship | 10 a.m.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along | Kirk Parlour | 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve | Tuesday, December 24

Noyes Memorial Carillon Preludes | 4:30 and 7 p.m.

Candlelight Services 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Special Music at 7:30 p.m.: Vivaldi's *Magnificat*

Christmas Day Carillon Recital | 3 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas: December 29

Worship | 10 a.m.

No Nursery or Sunday School for children.

Second Sunday of Christmas: January 5

Worship | 10 a.m. | *Carols for Handbells and Harp*

Introducing: The Great Advent Bake-Off Sunday, December 8 | Great Hall | 11:15 a.m.



The Children and Family Ministry team is inviting *House of Hope's most intrepid 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. We will also have coffee and festive drinks. Do you have a cookie recipe that you want to show off? Sign up to be a baker here:

<https://bit.ly/HOH2024AdventBakeOff>

Choir School Concert: *Around the Manger* Sunday, December 15 | Sanctuary | 11:15 a.m.

Join us for the annual Choir School Christmas Concert in the sanctuary featuring our four choirs with Jessica Bandelin, conductor, and Tim Short, piano.



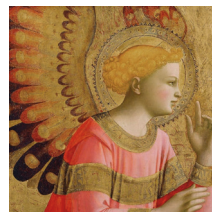
Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House Wednesday, December 18 Assembly Room | 5 - 7 p.m.

Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House



We're planning a Christmas celebration for all ages of the congregation and our neighbors! Save the date and plan to join in the fun! We will have both kid friendly finger foods and adult hors d'oeuvres, holiday treats, and beverages. Caroling will take place between 5:30 and 6 p.m. Santa will also be making a visit!

Traditional Tableaux Service Saturday, December 21 | 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.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along Sunday, December 22 | Kirk Parlour | 11:15 a.m.

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

**First Sunday of Advent
with Holy Communion**

Motet Choir:

I Will Great Rejoice, Nystedt
*O sing unto the Lord with
Thanksgiving*, Harris

Choir School:

Bereite dich, Zion, J.S. Bach

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Motet Choir:

O Thou the Central Orb, Wood
They that Wait Upon the Lord, Near

Bells of Hope:

Canticle of Hope, Dobrinski
Lost in the Night, Moglebust

Choir School:

Dormi, Dormi, Italian Carol

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Motet Choir

Hallelu, Paulus
Gaudete, Anonymous, arr. Culloton

Choir School:

Sans Day Carol, English Carol

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent: 10 a.m.

Motet Choir:

Alleluia, angelus Domini, Garcia
In the Bleak Mid-Winter, arr. Miller

Choir School:

Maria Wiegendlied, Max Reger

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

**Candlelight Christmas Eve
5 and 7:30 p.m.**

Special Music at 7:30 p.m.:

Magnificat, Vivaldi: See Page 5.

Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas



A Note from Scott

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church at 175



A milestone in the history of our congregation slipped by recently with little fanfare or recognition: On November 26, 1849, the Rev. Edward Duffield Neill organized the First Presbyterian Church in the frontier village of St. Paul. Six years later, on Christmas Eve, 1855, he founded House of Hope Presbyterian Church. In October 1914, the two churches merged to form the House of Hope Presbyterian Church and moved to a new building located at Summit Avenue and Avon Street.¹

175 years. That's a long time in a Midwestern, North American context—not so much in an East Coast or European context. For example, the church I served in New York City was founded by the Dutch in 1628, and a church that Gail and I visited a few years ago in Venice [the Basilica of Torcello] was founded in 638.

Nevertheless, the House of Hope (and its predecessor congregations) have seen a lot of history: a Civil War, several Economic Depressions, Pandemics, two World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, not to mention the sweeping cultural change of recent decades. And throughout it all, in *Ralph Adams Cram's* great Gothic building, surrounded and nourished by architecture and art, stimulated and encouraged by wise and thoughtful preaching, House of Hope's congregation continues to glorify God and to move out, day by day, into all the world.²

Many of you are aware that the original members derived the name of the church from the *Voyages of Devries*, a Dutch sea captain, who, travelling by yacht, in the Spring of 1639 had reached a Dutch fortification known as 'House of Hope.' Just as the Dutch redoubt in old colony times

was a House of Hope to the European traveler, so would the new Presbyterian church in St. Paul be a haven 'to all who feel themselves strangers in a strange land.'³

As we embark on another season of Advent in anticipation of Jesus' birth at Christmas, holding onto hope is crucial as we all seek to navigate these conflicted and tumultuous times through which we are living. Liz Clasen-Kelly, Executive Director of Roof Above in Charlotte, North Carolina, defines hope by saying: *Optimistic means 'things will get better.' Hopeful means 'things could get better.'* Picking up on this, Jan Edmiston, Executive Presbyter of Charlotte Presbytery says: *Today I believe that things could get better, but only if...*

- We notice our neighbors in distress;
- We serve in ways that address that distress;
- We shift from focusing on me to focusing on we;
- We understand that 'we' includes all God's children.

She continued: *We have an excellent opportunity as followers of Jesus to shift this perspective based on the Gospel. Imagine if—in each of our congregations—we worked towards shifting our church culture from serving ourselves first to serving our neighbors first. This would change the world.*

Indeed it would. On Sunday, December 1, as a part of the Advent Candle Liturgy, we will light the Candle of Hope.

So we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing, our hope, for a deeper faith and a just world. Amen

May it be so.
Advent blessings,
Scott

¹A Journey of Hope: The House of Hope Presbyterian Church 1849-1999, 150 Years, ^{2,3} Ibid. David W. Johnson, Arthor



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 22 bulletin. Your donation will support the mission and ministries of House of Hope. Visit or call the church office, or sign up online: <https://bit.ly/2024ChristmasMemorials>

The deadline for reserving Christmas Memorials is Sunday, December 15.



Christmas Sponsor-A-Family

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.

Drop off gifts at the church by December 8.

Don't like to shop? Donate and someone will shop for you!

- You can make a **financial contribution** by check with a notation of **Sponsor-A-Family**
- **Give online:**

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

Winter Clothing Drive



Drop off Donations in the Assembly Room by December 6.

House of Hope is sponsoring a winter clothing drive before our Minnesota winter arrives to share with several Mission Partners. *We are focusing on new or like-new warm outerwear including warm hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, wool socks, boots, jackets, snow pants (especially for kids), and coats.* Items can be for children and adults of all sizes.



Thank you to the House of Hope Community Garden volunteers for producing 752 pounds of organically grown produce this season!

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.
—Dorothy Frances Gurney*

Stewardship 2025 and Year-End Gifts



CONNECT

"This is a kind of miracle where people voluntarily join together and pool their resources to create places where community can thrive, and lifetime connections are made to sustain one another through the joys and sorrows of life." – Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake

Thank you to all who pledged on Commitment Sunday November 10.

Approximately half a million dollars have been pledged, and we are grateful for the strong start to our 2025 pledge goal of \$1.15 million.

If you have not yet pledged to support House of Hope's ministries and mission, we ask that you consider making a pledge for 2025.

Pledge cards are available at our entrances, or you can pledge using the QR code, or online at: <https://bit.ly/HOH2025Pledge>

We welcome your gifts in many ways, including check, credit card, appreciated stock or mutual funds, among others.

For payments toward your 2025 pledge in calendar year 2024, please note "Prepaid 2025 Pledge" in the memo line of your check.

Your support of our **CONNECT** Stewardship Campaign is truly appreciated.

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



Give here.



Pledge here.

Deadlines for 2024 Year-End Gifts:

Mail postmarked mail by December 31; **Text and credit card** gifts completed by December 31; **Gifts of appreciated stock** by December 22; **IRA checks** meant to qualify for the charitable IRA "rollover," or qualified charitable distribution must clear the account by December 31; **Checks via carriers such as FedEx and 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.

If you have any questions, contact Director of Administration Michelle Freyholtz at (651) 223-7556 or MichelleF@hohchurch.org



Make a Year End Gift to our Capital Campaign

As we approach year end, we invite you to make a pledge or special gift to the recently completed HVAC/ electrical panel project. All gifts, regardless of size, are important. Our goal is to repay the bridge loan from Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program, restore funds to our endowment, and minimize the debt from the project. Contact Michelle Freyholtz with questions about gifts.

Advent Resource

Kate Bowler offered House of Hope the opportunity to access a daily devotional for Advent. It is titled *The Weary World Rejoices*. Here is her invitation to join in, *Together, let's embrace this Advent with eyes wide open and hearts ready to receive whatever comes—whether it's the comfort of a quiet moment, the challenge of an unanswered question, or the joy of a small, unexpected gift. May our waiting be filled with a hope that is both honest and defiant, a hope that holds space for all that is still broken while believing in a love that will one day make everything right.* There are three ways to access the study:

- Download a printable PDF: <https://bit.ly/AdventPrint>
- Download an interactive PDF to access on your tablet, phone, or computer: <https://bit.ly/AdventInteractive>
- Sign up for daily access through an online course page: <https://bit.ly/KBAdventOnline>

You can do this on your own or with a friend; bring it to a group you are already in or invite friends to join you. The practice of Advent deepens our faith and this particular resource offers meaningful insights and thoughtful questions to enhance faith and life.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Children and Family Ministry

Contact Jimmy Hoke:

JimmyH@hohchurch.org

Sundays at House of Hope:

Nursery: Room 8 | 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PreK - 2nd Graders: Room 4

3rd-5th Graders: Room 7

Tweens Event: Christmas Fun at the Church

Friday, December 13 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Email Jimmy if you can attend!

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Youth Group

Sunday December 1

Youth Room | 6-8 p.m.

Pot-luck dinner, a project, and games in the church.

Sponsor-a-Family Volunteering Saturday, December 14

8 a.m. - Noon

This year, we need volunteers to help load gifts into the truck and/or help unload gifts at the delivery sites. Please R.S.V.P. to Elsa at your earliest convenience so we can make sure both teams have enough people.

White Elephant Christmas Party Sunday December 15

Youth Room | 6-8 p.m.

Join us for Christmas treats and a party! We'll celebrate, chat, and have an exciting white elephant gift exchange!

Emerging Adults Retreat: Post High School - Mid Twenties

December 28-30 | Location TBD Saturday Noon - Monday Noon

A chance to step away, be in community together, and ground ourselves to be able to reencounter the joys and challenges of everyday life. Please R.S.V.P. to Elsa by December 12 so we can make reservations.

CLOISTER GALLERY



Biblical Stencil Prints of Sadao Watanabe

Collection of

Bonnie and Peter Kramer

Japanese Stencil Printmaker Sadao Watanabe (1913-1996), considered one of the most talented Bible storytellers of the 20th century, found his way to the Christian Church after a miraculous recovery from tuberculosis. He then dedicated his life to discovering artistic ways of *expressing Christianity within a Japanese context*. Trained as a textile-dyer, he was inspired by the mingei (folk art) movement of the 1920s-1930s, using only organic materials in preparing colors and handmade kozo (mulberry) paper for printing his images. Although he drew on the iconographic conventions of Western religious art, his stylized figures; multi-tiered, flat-perspective compositions; and details of dress and setting are distinctly Japanese. For example, his Noah's ark menagerie is drawn from the animal signs of the Asian zodiac, including the tiger, ox, horse, dog, and roosters. In transposing familiar Bible stories into his cultural setting, Watanabe helps us see them anew, emphasizing the universality of the Christian message. He once stated, *I owe my life to Christ and the gospel. My way of expressing my gratitude is to witness to my faith through the medium of biblical scenes.*

– adapted from *Sacred Art Pilgrim* website

DECEMBER

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

Michael Barone's Pipedreams Episode to feature Aaron David Miller: Another Miller's Tale

Monday, December 2

Michael Barone's *Pipedreams* will feature Aaron David Miller "in a return visit with a multitalented Minnesota colleague, American composer and improviser Aaron David Miller." You can listen on the *Pipedreams* website www.pipedreams.org or on Classical MPR on Sundays from 6-8 a.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive



Wednesday, December 4
Rooms A&B
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To sign up, go to:

www.redcrossblood.org/give

Sponsor Code: houseofhope

There will be a registration table outside the Kirk Parlour on Sunday, December 1. Contact: Deb James; dsjames96@gmail.com



Choir School Holiday Wreath and Plant Order Pick Up

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

Welcoming Class

Sunday, January 12
Library | 11:15 a.m.

If you are interested in learning more about House of Hope, please join us!



Vivaldi's Magnificat, RV 610



**Special Music
for 7:30 p.m.
Christmas
Eve Service**

The House of Hope Motet Choir and Chamber Orchestra
**Hannah Armstrong and Diane Koschak, sopranos; Allison Eckberg, alto; Bryan Garcia, tenor
Matthew Culloton, conductor**

With an election season behind us that centered loudly on women's health rights, a musical work about a young and frightened mother-to-be, denied access to shelter and care resonates differently. Just over three hundred years ago, sometime around 1715, composer and priest Antonio Vivaldi penned the first version of his canticle setting for a Venetian young girl's orphanage (Ospedale della Pietà) where he was also Music Director. In the following years, he added new versions of the solo movements, and also rearranged the vocal parts to better fit a choir with tenors and basses. The work is in nine short movements, which include a middle apex ("the mighty are thrown from their seats") sung and played in dramatic unison lines. Perhaps Vivaldi's chorus of orphan girls were that much stronger together.

– Matthew Culloton



Christmas and New Year Office Schedule

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

THE DIDIER SEMINAR 2025 with Caroline Oakes May 3 - 4, 2025



Author of *Practice the Pause: Jesus' Contemplative Practice, New Brain Science, and What It Means to Be Fully Human*, Caroline Oakes presents the benefits of contemplative practices on emotional, psychological, and physical health, highlighting the spark of the divine dwelling within us.



Fall Congregational Retreat

A group from HOH traveled to Clearwater Forest for a retreat in November and had a wonderful weekend. We are already planning a spring retreat from May 30 to June 1.



Earth Care

Christmas Bird Count

Looking for a new holiday tradition? How about the Christmas Bird Count—an annual census of birds in the Western Hemisphere. The Saint Paul Bird Alliance will hold its 2024 Christmas Bird Count on **Saturday, December 14**. Anyone can participate. You don't need to be an experienced birder. Since 1900, volunteer observers, from casual nature enthusiasts to experienced ornithologists, have collected data that allows researchers to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. This family-friendly activity is a great way to explore Saint Paul's natural areas while contributing to valuable scientific research. You can join with an experienced area leader or you could even participate in your own backyard. For further details visit <https://bit.ly/StPaulBirds2024>

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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.

SUNDAY SERIES WITH KATE BOWLER, PHD

 On Sunday, November 3, in the sanctuary, we hosted a highly successful Sunday Series with 4X *New York Times* bestselling author, Kate Bowler. Approximately 700 people from throughout the metro area were in attendance, the majority of whom were first time visitors to a House of Hope event. Kate Bowler is a professor of American Religious History at Duke Divinity School who specializes in contemporary church history but has developed a large following outside of church circles by candidly sharing her experience with Stage IV cancer in several recent books and popular podcasts that challenge our cultural assumptions around positive thinking and why bad things happen to good people. A book signing followed her address that was at times both humorous and poignant. It was clear that many people in the audience had benefited greatly from Kate's writings due to their own struggles with illness and loss. All in all, she provided words of hope and encouragement that were greatly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.



 HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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