

House of Hope Art Collection



The first of House of Hope's artwork pieces were returned from off-site storage following our HVAC and electrical panel project and reinstalled in mid-December.

In selecting the pieces to bring back first the Arts Committee prioritized artworks according to these values:

- the well-loved "masterpieces;"
- those of artistic quality;
- those that portray aspects of the Christian story such as compassion, love, and joy;
- pieces that show inclusivity, diversity, and humanity;
- works that give viewers a sense of peace and calming.

The committee also considered carefully where to place each piece so some, such as *Harbor Ice*, the painting above the Kirk Parlour fireplace pictured above, have been returned to their pre-construction spots; others, such as *Bates & Wilson Streets*, below, are now hanging in different locations

to provide a fresh perspective and a more welcoming presence. The artwork is being returned in stages as the committee continues its process of selection and coordinates with the professional technicians handling delivery and installation.



– The House of Hope Arts Committee

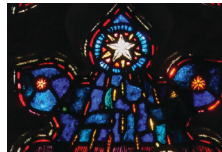
Carols for Handbells and Harp: January 5



Musical offerings throughout the service will be provided by the Bells of Hope with assisting artists:

Rhonda Grobe, Harp
Jeffrey Van, Guitar
Sophie Stein, Percussion
Jessica Bandelin, Soprano

Epiphany: January 6



Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations

of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.



Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 12

Each year, as we come out of Christmas, we have a Sunday to celebrate that Jesus went out into the wilderness to be baptized by John. Because he took this action, we also baptize as a sign that we and our children belong to God. A person can be baptized at any time in their life; in the Presbyterian Church we have become accustomed to baptizing infants. We then invite our young people to confirm their faith following a year of education and discussion. As the years pass, it is important to revisit our will to belong to God and reaffirm our will to serve God. On January 12, we will once again offer a liturgy of baptismal renewal and anointing during the service.

WORSHIP

10 a.m.

Sunday, January 5, 2024
Second Sunday of Christmas
with Holy Communion

Carols for Handbells and Harp

Bells of Hope:

What is This Lovely Fragrance, Waugh

A la ru, McFadden

Echo Carol, Zabel

What Child is This, Mizelli

Sing We Now of Christmas, McChesney

We Three Kings, Dobrinski

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, Short

Sunday, January 12, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

Renewal of Baptism

Motet Choir Anthems

Sunday, January 19, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Motet Choir Anthems

Sunday, January 26, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Motet Choir Anthems



A Note from Julia

Be Thou My Vision

I am approaching the year of our Lord, 2025, with trepidation. My heart is "disquieted within me," as the Psalmist would say. I started my ministry as a second career pastor in the year 2000. By September of 2001 two airplanes flew into each of the towers of the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon; a fourth plane crashed before hitting the White House thanks to the bravery of the passengers. At first it looked as though our country was going to mourn and come together but when we turned to war, things seemed to go back into a routine acceptance of this "broken world and fearful world." Much has happened in the ensuing 25 years including the growing political dissonance in our nation. I have prayed often that we might find more common ground and work together toward a greater good.

So, here's the thing, Søren Kierkegaard wrote, "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but to change the nature of the one who prays." Which is to say, we change the world from within. We do not pray to change God's heart or God's mind, we pray so that our own hearts and minds might be tuned by God to live God's love, truth, and justice.

Rather than ruminate on the world's problems, back in December I started singing as I commuted to and from work. It keeps me more open-hearted, and I can feel the resonant vibrations in my physical being. I sang Christmas carols, the occasional chorus from Handel, a little bit of Broadway, and some favorite hymns. The one I continue to return to is also

a prayer, "Be Thou My Vision." Back in the midst of the pandemic, I found a YouTube video of this hymn that was produced in Ireland by 300 churches coming together electronically. The video shows some of the beautiful Irish countryside and the lovely faces of the singers, instrumentalists, and dancers. The web address is below and if you begin, keep listening to the end. After the singing there's drumming, further instrumental music, a sung blessing, and the blessing of Aaron (Numbers 6:24-26) in Gaelic and English.

I come back to this hymn because, in it, God is my vision, my best thought, our light, our inheritance, our treasure, our wisdom and true word. In the old Irish poem on which the text is based, God is our battle shield, our sword, our dignity, our delight. God is our souls' shelter, our high tower, and the Power of our power.

The calling now, as it always has been, is to pray without ceasing. Use your words or Jesus' words. Use music or poetry. Sing, speak, or sit in silence. Repeat the words of Bartimaeus: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Or, memorize Mary's *Magnificat* Look for God's vision or the Christ light and follow. Listen for God's wisdom, and know you are always sheltered in love.

See you in church,
Julia

To view the YouTube video, visit:
<https://bit.ly/HOHMyVision>

You can also find it by searching online 'Irish blessing, Be Thou My Vision.'

Pastor Nominating Committee Update



The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has approved terms of call for a Pastor candidate. We are excited to introduce this person to the congregation soon. – *The PNC*

Capital Campaign Gifts



We invite you to make a pledge or gift to our HVAC/electrical panel project. All gifts, regardless of size, are important. Our goal is to repay the bridge loan, restore funds to our endowment, and minimize the debt from the project. Contact Michelle Freyholtz with questions about gifts.

Stewardship 2025

CONNECT

Thank you to all who have pledged!



We are grateful for the strong start to our 2025 pledge goal of \$1.15 million. If you have not yet pledged to support HOH's ministries and mission, we ask that you consider making a pledge. Pledge cards are available at our entrances, or you can pledge using the QR code, or online at:

<https://bit.ly/HOH2025Pledge>

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

A Note from Mercedes Sheldon, Deputy Clerk of Session



Well, we survived another season of frantic dashing about as we participated in the intense chaos that is CHRISTMAS in American life

these days. Yet, like spiced cider and peppermint fudge, the gifts of the spirit are not limited to the season of Christmas.

As the Chair of the 2024-25 Nominating Committee, the words of Paul have been on my heart since we entered Advent so many weeks ago:

So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (NRSV, Romans 12:5-8)

God has graced our congregation with so many gifts, not the least of which are the individuals who find hope and home here. Over the coming few months, I ask you to ponder the gifts that God's grace has given YOU.

Perhaps **the gift of prophesying** seems out of place in our reformed and reforming church, but the Oxford English Dictionary points out that, in the Christian church tradition, this is the ability "to speak out on scriptural or other religious matters." What is more meaningful than the gift to observe, to see others' strengths, and then to speak out on who you see as future leaders of our congregation? You might nominate fellow congregants to serve as a Deacon, Elder, or Trustee. We on the Nominating Committee want to hear your thoughts!

Perhaps you are a **gifted exhorter** such that you might "strongly encourage"—as the dictionary puts it—others to see how serving the church would fill up their cup, building connections and inviting care of self and other. Perhaps the person down the pew or across the Kirk Parlour needs a bit of encouragement to see their own gifts as you see them. Chat with them, encourage them, and then write their name on the nominating sheet!

Perhaps you have **the gifts of ministry and of compassion**. Might you nominate yourself to be a Deacon, which the Book of Order identifies as a "ministry of compassion and service"? Perhaps you're **gifted as a leader**? Consider nominating yourself to be an Elder, so that you might "provide spiritual leadership, conduct short and long-term planning, determine goals and policies, conduct current operations, and provide resources to meet the congregation's needs." Leaders with the extra gift of **diligence** with regard to operations and resource management, might consider the role of Trustee.

Paul reminds us that "we have different gifts" and that God expects us to act on those gifts: to serve, to teach, to lead, to encourage, to speak. Yes, life is busy. Yes, being a Deacon or Elder, or a Trustee is time and energy. But it is also how we enact our faith. In the coming weeks, I invite you to discern your own gifts and those of your fellow congregants. Then, pick up a nomination sheet and put the gifts grace has given you into words!

With gratitude for the gifts God has graced you with,
Mercedes

Carols and Christmas Cheer

Our Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 18 was filled with joy, caroling, and fellowship. We are thankful Santa joined us for laughter and cheer.



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: SkyZone in Oakdale

Friday, January 10 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Please email Jimmy if you can attend.

Youth and Family Ministry

Contact Elsa Kendig:

ElsaK@hohchurch.org

Youth Group

Sundays, December 5, 12, and 19

Youth Room | 6-8 p.m.

Youth Winter Retreat

January 24-26

Presbyterian Clearwater Forrest

HOH Unplugged!

Sunday, February 2



Choir School Wednesday rehearsals for St Cecilia, St Nicholas, and Cantamus Choirs begin January 8. Alleluia Choir starts February 2.

New choristers welcome!

Register online at:

www.hohchurch.org/choir-school

CLOISTER GALLERY



Biblical Stencil Prints of Sadao Watanabe

Collection of

Bonnie and Peter Kramer

Sadao Watanabe, a Japanese Stencil Printmaker, who lived from 1913 to 1996, found his way to the Christian church after a miraculous recovery from tuberculosis. He dedicated his life to discovering artistic ways of expressing Christianity within a Japanese context and is considered one of the most talented Bible storytellers of the 20th century. Many of his works are featured at the MoMA, Art Institute of Chicago, Honolulu Academy of Arts, and the Vatican Museum of Modern Religious Art. The Cloister Gallery is honored to exhibit this amazing collection of Watanabe prints belonging to Bonnie and Peter Kramer of our congregation.

Although his prints feature Christian subjects, his technique is entirely Japanese, and his figural style is similar to popular Buddhist prints of earlier periods. Watanabe was inspired by the mingei (folk art) movement of the 1920s and 1930s, using only organic materials in preparing colors and handmade mulberry paper for printing his images. He often used crumpled wet paper suspended in soymilk which gives his works an almost three-dimensional quality.

— Adapted from *Sacred Art Pilgrim* and *Collecting Japanese Prints* websites

JANUARY

Scotland Pilgrimage Highlights

Sunday, January 5

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

In his poem "Twice Blessed," David Whyte wrote these words, "... And I allowed myself to be astonished by the great everywhere calling to me like an old and unspoken invitation ... "Twenty-seven members and friends of House of Hope answered that calling by traveling together through Scotland in September. We look forward to sharing our journey with the congregation following the worship service.

Capturing Your Family Stories with Brenda Hudson

Sunday, January 12

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Family stories help us understand who we are, where we've come from, and where we're going. Sharing our stories also strengthens family bonds and remind us that we will be remembered. In this interactive presentation, author and teacher Brenda Hudson will show you how to capture your family stories. She'll share principles for effective storytelling so even reluctant writers can have fun gathering their stories. Come prepared to write as Brenda will guide you through a quick story project. Brenda is author of *Story by Story, 15 Projects to Write Your Family Legacy*.

NEW! Welcoming Class

Sunday January 12

Library | 11:15 a.m.

Whether you're new to House of Hope, or just want to know more about how our community works, join our Welcoming Class. This takes the place of our previous New Members Class, and provides information about church membership, as well as other ways to connect to community life at House of Hope. We'll get to know each other, learn about shared congregational values, and connect

to opportunities to live out those values through our church life.

Ordination Anniversary Reception

Sunday, January 26

Kirk Parlour | 11:15 a.m.

January 30 marks the 25th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Julia Carlson's ordination. Join us after worship to celebrate Julia's ministry.

Affordable and Supportive Housing in the Twin Cities with Emily Goldthwaite

Sunday, January 26

Assembly Room | 11:15 a.m.

Emily Goldthwaite, Director of Congregational Organizing for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Emily has served in both local churches and nonprofit service agencies in the Midwest, and in Palestine and Israel. She will provide an update on Beacon's work to provide housing in the Twin Cities. She will provide a preview of legislative advocacy and updates on Prior Crossing and Gladstone Crossing. Rev. Goldthwaite will also share how we can take action toward the vision that all people have affordable housing.

Summit Sinfonietta

Sunday, January 26 | 2 p.m.

Summit Sinfonietta, directed by Dr. Donald Lovejoy, will present a free concert of music for winds at HOH. The repertoire includes Serenades by Richard Strauss and Wilhelm Berger, along with Jan Koetsier's Variations on an aria from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Sunday-Weekday Connections

Tuesday, January 28

Kirk Parlour | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for dinner and conversation. Shana Wagner will be our speaker. Register by Thursday, January 23 at <https://bit.ly/HOHSundayWeekday>

UPCOMING

2025 Women's Retreat

Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27, 2025

Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse
Collegetown, Minnesota

Watch for more information about registration.

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.



Earth Care

An Eco-Resolution

January beckons us with the possibility of new beginnings as we look ahead to the coming year and consider what we might do differently to make the world a better place. What can we do to reduce our impact on our already stressed planet?

If you haven't already done so, this is a great time to sign up for renewable energy with Xcel Energy's Renewable* Connect® Flex program. As one of the nation's largest voluntary renewable energy programs, Renewable* Connect® Flex allows Xcel customers an easy way to subscribe to up to 100% affordable and clean wind and solar energy. A renewable energy subscription offers various options, flexible enrollment and requires no equipment installation. For more information visit mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/renewable

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January Office Schedule

The church office and building will be closed on
Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's
Day and on Monday, January 20 in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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.*



Thank you to House of Hope congregants and friends who contributed funding or sponsored 60 families including 234 individuals who received gifts and grocery store gift cards! We also thank the HOH youth and parents pictured above who loaded 147 boxes filled with Christmas gifts into a 19-foot truck for delivery to coordinating agencies. We offer special thanks to Stacy Paleen and her family for coordinating it all. **Christmas Joy and Happy New Year!**



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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