

Complex world. Thoughtful church.

June-July 2022
No. 18-06



Clockwise from Top Left: Morgan lending a helping hand with Solomon in the courtyard; How many solar panels can you count? See page 11 for more updates on our solar array; Gathering in line for wood fired pizza; Hope Diamonds gathering in the lounge; Tim and Gier mounting the new entry monitor; PEASE students have no fear of spring hail storms; Solomon hard at work crafting during worship; Raymond's baptism with Maria and Nat.

Jesus of the People

In response to George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police officers two years ago, our Hope staff and Racial Justice Team created an outside prayer vigil space on Hope's street-side patio for the neighborhood to access during those initial months of grief and unrest. This powerful image, *Jesus of the People* by artist Janet McKenzie, was the central focus behind a table filled with flowers, prayer resources, and baptismal waters and continues to be displayed in this location.

Twenty-two years ago, Janet McKenzie painted *Jesus of the People* in response to the National Catholic Reporter's art contest question: "What would Jesus Christ look like in the year 2000?" McKenzie modeled a present-day Jesus after an African American woman, a radical departure from the white depictions of Jesus we all—white, Black, Indigenous, and people of color—grew up referencing. The image received first place out of 1,678 entries from around the world. McKenzie, a self-described recluse, received the gamut of responses for her winning piece, from praise and gratitude to condemnation and death threats, stressing the crucial need for this profound reflection of Jesus.

McKenzie, breaking cultural barriers in representing Jesus as a Black woman, helps us break through our own acquired constructs and extend our grasp of how Jesus lived his life within humanity. Beyond his being placed into a minority culture that was exiled, captive, and enslaved many times before his birth, Jesus not only strongly identifies with those who are disenfranchised and oppressed, but he embodies their pain—their suffering is his suffering. He teaches us that giving comfort and aid to those who are vulnerable, marginalized, and unprotected is giving comfort and aid to him: *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:40).

Looking closely, we notice more ways the artist magnifies meaning. Jesus stands within a color field of bright magenta pink, pink being associated with femaleness, nurture, love and compassion. Jesus wears a black robe like those worn by priests, symbolizing simplicity and humility as well as death to oneself in order to live wholly for God. Around this robe, *Jesus of the People* wraps two contrasting fabrics—perhaps a metaphor for societal divisions and their resulting tensions. One hand grips a cloth of pink tinted gray while the other grips a cloth of soft black. Jesus holds these fabrics together, embracing them both, clothed in them both. Jesus looks into our hearts with compassionate, knowing eyes that have experienced the depths of suffering. A halo of white light (containing every color of the rainbow combined and favoring no color over another) illuminates the twisted branch of thorns crowning Jesus' deep brown, sculptured hair like a sacred headdress. Jesus' stance is paused, inviting us to come and follow.

This *Jesus of the People* is framed within additional expansive symbolism. In the upper left we see the Chinese yin yang symbol illustrating the interdependence of seemingly opposite forces: maleness cannot exist without femaleness, light cannot exist without dark, etc. The traditional yin yang emblem is an all-encompassing, continuous circle divided by an "S" line into two mirroring, perfectly balanced shapes: one white and the other black, with a round seed of the opposite color held within each. In the artist's version the contrasts are blended into a dark gray, the interesting result of mixing equal parts of white (reflective) and black (absorbent) paint. When nothing is dominant and everything coexists in harmony, the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

In the upper right we see the combining of two other powerful symbols: a black feather and a cross. Indigenous cultures across time and continents understand feathers to be mystical objects, their air shafts able to carry messages and prayers between Mother Earth and the Spirit World. A black feather, whether used in sacred rituals or found on a path, represents spiritual wisdom. Most profoundly, a black feather is considered to be a symbolic representation of God's protection. Here, the positioning of a black feather hanging from a cross evokes Christ's crucifixion and resurrection for the redeeming of all people, so that not even death can separate "any" of us from the love of God. Protection, indeed.



Muffi Abrahamson, for Arts & Environment

The Trees

It began almost a year ago when my wife, Candy, suggested that it would be nice to plant a couple of evergreen trees behind our townhome next to the fence. They would provide both a visual and a sound barrier for the fence and busy street behind it. I agreed, and I got busy researching trees. By which I mean I talked to my friendly neighbor a couple of weeks later. He knows a lot about trees. He gave me some advice, and referred me to his favorite tree company. A few weeks later the tree expert came out and looked at our yard. A few weeks after that we got a quote for planting two evergreen trees: \$1,000 for 2 trees, 3-4 feet tall. Guaranteed for one year. Well, it was now too late in the season to plant trees, so we decided to think about it for a while.

Then I heard about a program from the city park and recreation board which offered home owners trees they could plant themselves. The cost for two evergreens was \$40. Being a frugal person (some would say cheap) I recommended this option to my wife. After all, how hard could it be to plant a couple of trees? I don't exactly have a green thumb. In fact, when it comes to yard work and gardening, I am "all thumbs." But just think how much money we would be saving.

We picked up the trees the first week in May. The trees looked great. But – how can I put this – they were small. Only 12" tall. I actually felt a little embarrassed to have my neighbors see me plant my pygmy trees. But I was committed. The hottest, steamiest day of the entire spring found me in the backyard digging holes for my new trees. (My friendly neighbor, the tree expert, loaned me his shovel. I didn't even have a shovel.) Sure enough, as I bored into the hard clay soil, my tiny trees lying nearby, Mrs. Friendly Neighbor came over to see my trees. I said they were really small, and she said they looked very healthy. Nice and green - politely. Regaining my composure I said, "Maybe my granddaughters will come and see these mature trees someday." She smiled.

I believe that a man of a certain age planting one-foot-tall trees is not a sign of foolishness, but a sign of my hope for the future. No matter how bad our world seems now, I am confident that God will be with us, and that there is hope for a good future. Hope, of course, is not an excuse for my doing nothing, and simply relying on others to do it. Hope inspires me to do my part, to work for economic and social justice, to fight against climate change, to stand up against bullies and racists and to follow the example of Jesus.

Sometimes it feels like the little bit I do can never make a difference. And sometimes the hatred and evil in the world seems too great to overcome. But it is my trust in God's good future that enables me to believe that good will triumph over evil and love will triumph over hatred.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:5 – *Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

I don't expect that I will live to see my two Meyer Spruce trees grow to 60 feet tall. But I have confidence that my granddaughters will. And that they will see a better, more loving world that we will all work to bring about, empowered by the Spirit of God.

Pastor Tom Carlson, Sabbatical Pastor

Bible and Brews

Exactly what it sounds like... bring your Bible, your favorite brewed beverage, and a penchant for laid-back but totally engaging conversations about faith, scripture, and current events. We will meet on Monday, June 27 & July 25, 6-8 p.m. Watch for location information in the Thursday Epistle and save the date.

The World is heavy right now

The world is heavy right now. Racially motivated gun violence, COVID, women's healthcare access, the mass murder of children in their elementary school... I could go on, unfortunately. And all of this is on top of cancer treatments, caring for aging parents, a prolonged school year, and everything else you have going on in your personal lives. You all know this, but it is important to take care of yourself and your spirit, to monitor your wellbeing in the midst of these national and worldwide tragedies. At Hope Diamonds in May we talked about prayer and made some prayer beads together. Although thoughts and prayers aren't usually enough for needed systemic or policy changes, prayer can have powerful implications for our wellbeing, our sense of connection to God and to others. We have a few more prayer bead kits if you'd like to make some, too. Or, I can simply send you the instructions we used to make them and you can make some of your own at home. To begin your prayers, I leave you with the inspiration and important reminders from Mary Oliver.



You are in my prayers, Pr. Maria

Praying

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak."

- Mary Oliver, Thirst, Beacon Press, Boston, 37.

Faith Formation Events this Summer

We have a lot of exciting events coming up this summer for our youth! Join us when you can for fun, fellowship and more fun!

- Dog Park Day! It will be on June 25th! Meet at 9:00 am at Minnehaha Falls Dog Park Gated Entrance. All are Wanted!
- July 17th! Beach Day After church! Bring swimsuits, snacks, towels and all the excitement. We will be going to Bryant Lake. Call Morgan at 301.606.0400 if you have any questions
- July 22nd-July 24th! YOUTH CAMPING! We will be going not too far to Wild River State Park! We will be tent camping. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact Morgan at 301.606.0400.
- July 31st-August 5th! Amnicon!!!! We will be blessing our youth and chaperone before they go on their adventure.
- August 26th-28th AMNICON PART 2! We will be going on a family retreat to Amnicon! More details to come!!!



Children's Ministry Retreat! We are looking for more people to join the Children's Ministry Team! If you are interested, please consider coming to the Children's Ministry Leadership Event at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 20th! Please contact Morgan for more information or if you have any questions!

***I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God
that has been given you in Christ Jesus 1 Corinthians 1:4***

Dear Friends,

I wish to express my deep appreciation for all of you who are a part of University Lutheran Church of Hope Congregation. You so graciously welcomed me and my husband Swan when we arrived 5 years ago, and you gave me the time and space I needed to get my feet on the ground. I have also felt deeply loved and cared for through the time of my husband's death and these many months of grieving.

I have been able to get to know a great many of you – and your loved ones – in my work of visitation and gathering people around those who needed care and nurturing. I have felt well-supported in my ministry here, and I've relied on many of you as partners and leaders in your own areas of expertise and leadership.

I am deeply thankful to have worked with colleagues, staff members and congregational leaders, past and present. Thanks especially to Nathan and Geremew, Bobby, Emily, Elise, Morgan and Seth, and our beloved ULCHers! Thank you all for the good work you do and the important ministry that arises out of what you do so well.

Special thanks to have tremendous respect and appreciation for Pastor Jen as a cherished colleague, partner in ministry, confidant and friend. I have watched and listened and learned much from her ability to lead this congregation in its ministry with integrity and trust, humility and grace.

Three years ago, none of us could have imagined the necessity and the skills required for us to worship, teach, learn, celebrate and communicate in the virtual realm. Neither could I imagine I would experience the most vulnerable events in my life during this time. But the Spirit moved and guided us through, as I found myself on the receiving end of the gifts and technical skills that so many of you volunteered your time to provide. The Zoom funeral for my husband and my Zoom retirement party offered awesome opportunities for my dear family and friends all over the country to participate. I will never forget the warmth I felt in those miraculous gatherings around me.

Thanks to all for the lovely flowers, cards and notes, the beautiful quilt, the exquisite pottery bowls by Wayne Lee and the generous monetary gifts. I am humbled by your care and appreciation in this time of transition for me. You will be forever in my heart and prayers.

Pastor Barbara Johnson



Worship and Music

10:00 a.m. Services Begin May 29th: Due to the end of our program year, our summer service schedule begins on May 29th, and will continue through the summer months. Join us at 10 a.m.

Outdoor Services Return in June: We will be doing 1-2 outdoor services per month in June, July and August. This is a great way to be visible to the community, and enjoy church in the morning air and breeze! Join us for outdoor worship on June 12 and 26, July 17 and 31, and August 14 and 28. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one, as we have a limited number of chairs available at ULCH. In the event of inclement weather or a lack of setup volunteers, services on these dates will be held in the sanctuary.

Outdoor Service Setup Volunteers Needed: We have a small pool of dedicated setup volunteers for outdoor services, but we could always use more! If you would be willing to help set up chairs, tables, move musical instruments, etc. for an outdoor service, please contact Robert Ragoonanan at robertr@ulch.org

Courtyard Concerts Return this Summer! Join us in the courtyard on June 13 at 7 p.m. for *An Evening of Jazz* with the Ted Olsen Trio. The Ted Olsen Trio is a group of close-knit improvisers that play with joyful sophistication and intuitive spontaneity. Their repertoire focuses on the jazz canon including: swinging standards, rollicking blues numbers, tasteful bossa nova, and captivating ballads, and they have been featured at Twin Cities venues including Icehouse, The Lexington, The Black Dog Cafe, and Jazz Central Studios.

Another concert will be scheduled for August, but the date is TBD. Check announcements in the Thursday Epistle in the coming weeks!

Soloists and ensembles for worship are welcome! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to offer a piece of music in worship, please let me know! Our congregation has many musicians of all ages, and all are welcome to share their gifts.

Robert S. Ragoonanan , Minister of Worship and Music



Community Engagement



The Racial Justice Movie Discussion will not gather for the month of June. We will rejoin on **July 17 at 7:00 p.m.!** Follow the Thursday Epistle to see upcoming movies and Zoom links. Email elisec@ulch.org for help accessing films or discussions.

Donation Requests: As the days are warming up, our neighbors' needs change. Please bring any of the following to Elise's office if you are able:

- Plain white t-shirts Plain white tank tops
- Cotton socks
- Deodorant
- Bottled water/Gatorade
- Umbrellas/rain ponchos

These items will be used in our Little Free Library donation system, as well as in Drop-in Resource days and other direct connections with our neighbors. Contact elisec@ulch.org with any thoughts or questions.

After the forum a continuing conversation with the Minnesota Council of Churches this May, the Racial Justice team is looking forward to continuing conversations on reparations and what the work might look like in our lives as a congregation. Your perspective is valued and needed in these conversations!

Do you have resources you are able to share with the congregation? Are there questions that still feel unanswered, and how might we find ways to grapple with the unknown? What helps you process through complex issues like these?

Any member of the Racial Justice Team is happy to have a conversation about this. If you're not sure who to go to, contact Elise at elisec@ulch.org for some guidance.

Elise Carlson (she/her), Minister of Community Engagement

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 2:00pm - 3:30pm PEASE Cooking Class 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	3 Piano Tunings (Time TBD)	4 Carlson Wedding - tentative
5 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:00am - 12:30pm Bread for the World Offering of Letters 11:30am - 1:30pm Confirmation Mini Retreat	6 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom	7 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee (hybrid) 7:15pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Executive Committee (hybrid)	8 5:30pm - 7:00pm Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team 6:00pm - 8:30pm Pease Graduation	9 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 1:00pm - 4:00pm PEASE Community Foundation 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	10 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	11 1:00pm - 2:30pm ULCHers rehearsal
12 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 3:00pm - 4:00pm TCB 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club	13 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 7:00pm - 8:00pm Courtyard Concert: An Evening of Jazz with the Ted Olsen Trio	14 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	15 *"The Visitor" Articles Due 1:00pm - 2:30pm Hope Diamonds	16 Outdoor Rec Camp/Paddle Wm Obrien State Park 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	17 Outdoor Rec Camp/Paddle Wm Obrien State Park	18 Outdoor Rec Camp/Paddle Wm Obrien State Park 1:00pm - 2:30pm Hope Diamonds
19 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	20 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	21 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board-Zoom	22	23 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	24	25 9:00am - 10:30am Dog Park Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates Centering Prayer 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Sanctuary and Lounge 2:30pm - 4:30pm Organ Demonstration for SAP Lutheran Organ Committee
26 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	27 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	28 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Racial Justice Team	29 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp	30 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 4:30pm - 10:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group		2

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	27 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD)	28 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Racial Justice Team	29 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp	30 9:00am - 4:00pm Shared Day Camp 4:30pm - 10:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	1	2
3 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube	4 4th of July Holiday - Office Closed 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom	5 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:15pm Personnel Committee (hybrid) 7:15pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Executive Committee (hybrid)	6	7 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parents of PEASE 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	8 7:00pm - 10:00pm Craft Group	9 NA Meeting
10 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 7:00pm - 8:00pm Book Club	11 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom	12 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program	13 5:30pm - 7:00pm Zoom - Compassion Care Team 6:00pm - 8:00pm Facilities Team	14 9:30am - 11:30am Dorcas Circle - Courtyard/Lounge 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group	15 *"The Visitor" Articles Due	16
17 Picnic and Bike in Carver Park Reserve 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 7:00pm - 9:00pm Zoom: Movie Discussion Group with Racial Equity Focus	18 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 1:00pm - 2:30pm Hope Diamonds	19 4:00pm - 5:30pm Sanctuary Coalition Meeting 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 8:00pm Vision & Governance Board-Zoom	20	21 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Zoom - SE Como Hope Connections Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group	22 Youth Camping Trip	23 Youth Camping Trip 10:00am - 12:00pm Oblates group - Sanctuary and Lounge
24 Youth Camping Trip 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube 11:30am - 4:00pm Beach Day at Bryant Lake	25 9:00am - 1:00pm Quilters 12:00pm - 1:00pm Staff Meeting on Zoom 6:30pm - 8:00pm Bible & Brews (location TBD) Pastor Jen Returns from sabbatical	26 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 7:00pm - 8:30pm Zoom - Racial Justice Team	27	28 4:30pm - 8:30pm PEASE After School Program 6:30pm - 7:30pm AA Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary and Immigration Team on Zoom	29	30
31 Amnicon Youth Trip 9:00am - 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary, w/ Zoom/YouTube						

The Hope Book Club

At the ULCH Courtyard or Library

Sunday, June 12 at 7 p.m.: *White Shadow*, by Roy Jacobsen.

“The second novel in Jacobsen’s Ingrid Barrøy trilogy is set during Norway’s World War II occupation by Germany, telescoping the national predicament through the narrow lens of a solitary woman’s experience.” <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

July 10: *The Strength of What Remains*, by Tracy Kidder

“The Pulitzer Prize–winning author . . . returns with the extraordinary true story of a young man and his will to survive. . . . Deo grew up in the mountains of Burundi, and survived a civil war and genocide before seeking a new life in America. In New York City he lived homeless in Central Park before finding his way to Columbia University. But Deo’s story really begins with his will to turn his life into something truly remarkable; he returns to his native country to help people there, as well as people in the United States.”

<https://www.tracykidder.com/strength-in-what-remains.html>

Aug. 14: *The Biggest Little Farm: Saving Emma the Pig*, by John Chester

Contact Sonja Peterson at speterson@dunnwald.com or 612-242-8711 for a link to the meeting. Please also contact Sonja with book suggestions.

“Drink deeply from good books.” -John Wooden

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Join us after the Sunday service on June 5th for the Annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters. We will be writing to our Senators urging their support for the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 (S2956). The House has already passed it. So, you are also invited to send a thank you note to your Representative.

We will have everything you need to write a letter or send an email to your lawmakers in Washington: a sample letter you may sign or use to write your own, paper, pens, envelopes, stamps and information.

This year it is more important than ever to let your representatives in Washington know that you

care about the poor and hungry in this country and the world. With the pandemic and now the war in Ukraine that will drive the price for food sky high because they grow and export a high percentage of crops to those living in Asia and Africa, the gains that were made to combat hunger (cutting it in half since 1990 to 2016) are being whittled away. Your letters will urge our law-makers to continue to fund needed nutrition programs nationally and globally. This non-partisan, simple action generates billions of dollars for sustainable agriculture and better nutrition for those living in poverty throughout the world.

Donna Neste, Hope in the World

Hope Diamonds

Join us for Hope Diamonds on June 15th at 1:00pm a time to be together in fellowship and to celebrate our graduates! We hope to be able to hear from some of our graduates about their studies and next steps. Contact Pr. Maria (mariaa@ulch.org) if you have any questions or need a ride.

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert
Pastor for Care and Nurture
Pronouns: she/her

Birthdays

This birthday list of Hope's members and friends includes those who are 80 years and older, in addition to some whom may be home-bound, residing in assisted living, or a care center. You can find their contact info the ULCH directory. Cards, notes and phone calls are always appreciated!

June birthdays

June 1 – Bernice Davenport
June 7^t– Jeanne Berkeland
June 12 – Vadim Hillebrand
June 15 – Mary Sorensen
June 18 – Lyle Lutz

June 19 – William Cole
June 19 – Joan Campbell
June 22 – Allen Erickson – he'll be 90!
June 30th – Marge Halvorson – she'll be 90!

July Birthdays

July 10 – Marilyn Asp
July 20 - Pauline Hendrickson – She will be 80!
July 23 - Dick Hendrickson – He will be 80!

July 26 – Sharon Peterson – She will be 80!
July 30 – Garvin Davenport

August Birthdays

August 1 - Greg Peterson
August 7 - Betty Quie
August 9 - Nancy Swanson
August 15 - Roger Anderson

August 15 - Pamela McGowen
August 16 - Wayne Westwood
August 20 - LeRoy Erickson

Camping and Paddling on the St. Croix River

Our outdoor recreation ministry is looking forward to camping and paddling June 16-18. Once again, we'll paddle on the beautiful St Croix River and camp at Wm O'Brien State Park. Come for a few hours or the entire three days. We have secured a group campsite at a great location.

Here's the exciting details:

- at Wm O'Brien St Park we've reserved the Riverside group campground for up to 35 people. This park is less than an hour from the metro area.
- it will be on the nights of June 16 & 17. Please come one or both nights. Camping fee is paid for by ULCH so no cost to campers. Call Bryan to reserve one of these 35 camping openings.
- Some of us will also be camping in RVs at the Riverway campground adjacent to Riverside Group camp (are you confused yet?). If you want to RV camp check out reservations at <https://reservemn.usedirect.com/MinnesotaWeb/>
- the plan is for two paddling events.....a standard 2-3 hour trip from Osceola to Wm O'Brien Saturday morning. This is the same easy degree of difficulty as in the past. Boats are available for rental. Contact <https://www.taylorsfallscanoe.com/canoe-and-kayak/osceola-landing-shuttle/>
- the other paddling trip will be an additional longer trip on Friday morning. It will either start or end at Wm O'Brien State Park. It's an exciting option.
- For anyone interested there's also great hiking and biking options in this park and vicinity
- Expect informal campsite meals Thursday supper through Saturday breakfast. Bring your own food.
- Group picnic at the park Saturday afternoon. Bring food along for this gathering too. Location tbd.

To either reserve your tent campsite or ask other questions call or message Bryan Kufus 612-685-0402.

SOLAR POWER EDUCATION, AND RENEWING HOPE'S GREEN TEAM

The Hope Green Team met in May to begin planning an education program about our solar array. Our audiences include our congregation (all generations, members and friends, including ongoing real-time data); the community (neighborhoods, Marcy/Holmes, Dinkytown, Luther Seminary, U of M; public schools, PEASE; other congregations (those interested in emulating us and those who don't yet have sustainability activities).

For Solar Power, we are planning or considering several events:

A Solstice Party some Sunday in June to coincide with the June pizza lunch. Tours, coloring sheets.

A Major Celebration in September to coincide with Welcome Back Students, Autumn Equinox. Considering: live music, food (pizza, beverages), brochures, decorations, children's activities, guided tours, bike drawing and clinic, and city/county/neighborhood representation. Invite: neighborhood; other congregations; U of M students, faculty, staff; PEASE students, staff, families.

An Adult Forum in September to educate and update the congregation.

A Fundraiser for reliable electricity for people in Puerto Rico/other countries with failing electrical grids.

Planned Solar educational materials include:

ULCH.org: Information about solar power, real-time data from our system, list of resources. Occasional Facebook and Twitter posts, brochures, signage and articles in publications (Hope *Visitor*, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Organization newsletter, *Minnesota Daily*, *Living Lutheran*, Minneapolis Area Synod e-news)

Next Steps for the Green Team

Clarify how we fit into Hope's organizational structure. Originally part of Facilities Team (research arm), now part of Hope in the World ministry area (Environmental Justice).

Renew our identity as a Climate Justice Congregation. We earned certification from InterFaith Power and Light in 2019. In the past 2½ years, most of the energy for sustainability was devoted to the solar array – at exactly the right time (broad congregational support, could continue through lockdowns, closings, etc.) Now we need to broaden our focus to becoming a zero-waste congregation, mitigating more runoff, starting research for geo-thermal power, and being a resource for people wanting to learn about individual and household ways to address climate change.

Succession to new leadership. Many people have been involved in various Green Team activities, but ongoing engagement flows and ebbs along with the ebb and flow of the energy Kathy and Marty can devote to it. The next proposed major project is geo-thermal energy – we can find and develop lots of expertise for that. But project management of the less/non-sexy things (e.g. runoff, becoming a zero-waste congregation, etc.), and the ongoing maintenance of the Green Team's visioning, needs a new Kathy and a new Marty to step up.

Develop current, accurate list of all Hope members and friends willing to participate in sustainability activities.

Stay tuned for news about education events and other Green Team activities, volunteer for those that float your boat, and use and share the many learning resources we have.

HOPE Solar Array

How is the solar system working? The solar system has been operating normally since February 21 (almost 3 months) and we are starting to get a sense of how much it can deliver. It got off to a slow start, due to a rainy April, but May has been terrific. Already we have generated more than 20% of what we need to cover all our electricity use in 2022. At its best, the system will produce about 550 kilowatt hours per day--more than twice the energy the church buildings need.

What else do we need to do? Of course, clouds, rain and snow ensure that we cannot produce that much every day. From November through January the system is likely to produce very little. So we also need to cut down on energy use. Building on previous work done by the Green Team, the Facilities Committee is cataloguing every light fixture and seeing where we can replace with energy-saving LEDs. Tim Abrahamson calculates that we could save as much as \$2500 in electricity costs through this switch-out program alone.

At the same time, we continue to explore the idea of placing car chargers on the west of the solar canopy, and to activate the electrical and internet outlets on the canopy so it can serve as an event space. Stay tuned for further news!

Finally, the solar educational committee is constituting itself, to provide outreach about solar and environmental justice within the congregation, PEASE, and the neighborhood, including the university community. An event is being planned for the fall. If you would like to help out, please contact Beth Kautz or Tim Abrahamson.

Life Events at Hope

We're a community called to hold one another in prayer in every season—in our deepest need and grief, and in our experiences of new life. Here are a few of the life events affecting our community. We need your help to know for what we can pray. Please alert a pastor or contact the church office. We include in prayer...

Welcoming children and Baptisms — We give thanks for all children and their parents. We pray that they all may have enough to be fed in this time of formula shortage, to be safe in their schools, to have shelter over their heads. May parents have the support they need to be the best parents they can be and may all children have adults in their lives who love and care for them. We pray for growth in faith for Jackson, child of Jayme and Joe Ferguson, welcomed into God's family through the sacrament of baptism on May 22.

Marriages—We pray for all those preparing for marriage, and for all relationships of commitment.

Deaths – We pray for God's strong embrace for all who grieve, especially the families of the children and 2 adults who died at the hands of gun violence at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Significant Illness—We pray for those living with illness, cancer, recovery, uncertain diagnosis, hospice, chemical dependency and other addictions, and mental health struggles, including Marcheta Scribner (in comfort care), Anne Bidne (in hospice), Mario, Roger Anderson, Stewart Herman, Steve Ganzkow-Wold, Steve Schreuder, Brian McCaffrey, Miriam Hougen, Janet Carpenter, Norm Bailey, Hannah Kiresuk, and Chuck Lewis. We also pray for caregivers.

Separation, divorce, retirement, moves, graduations, new beginnings, the COVID pandemic, and the civil rights movement of this time.

Treasurer's Report

Apr 2022 and Year-to-date Income and Expense

	Apr Actual	Apr. Budget	Apr. Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
General Giving	36,034.24	41,391.46	(5,357.22)	164,648.55	167,804.38	(3,155.83)
Rental Income	11,983.96	13,312.58	(1,328.62)	54,973.45	53,250.32	1,723.13
Total Income	48,018.20	54,704.04	(6,685.84)	219,622.00	221,054.70	(1,432.70)
Salary & Benefits	32,565.21	36,369.25	(3,804.04)	133,066.16	143,677.00	(10,610.84)
Total Expenses	55,303.49	58,921.95	(3,618.46)	220,779.97	233,877.06	(13,097.09)
Net Oper Income	(7,285.29)	(4,217.91)	(3,067.38)	(1,157.97)	(12,822.36)	11,664.39

Monthly Financials

General giving totaled \$36,034.24 for the month of April. This was just over \$5k less than budgeted. Rental income for April is a little behind our expectation for April with an amount of \$11,983.96. While this month the giving was lower than expected the total for the year is still 98% of the budgeted amount.

The total expenses for April were \$55,303.49. This included another high gas bill. We also saw the expenses for our Easter worship musicians and the harpsichord/piano tuning. As of April 30th, we have \$403K in current assets – primarily composed of our checking and savings account of which \$126K is for the dedicated accounts.

Capital Campaign – Opening Doors

The Opening Doors Capital campaign received \$11,261 in the month of April. We continue to pay our monthly mortgage with the contributions to this campaign. Please reach out to Nathan Obrestad (nathano@ulch.org) or myself if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for continuing to support the Capital Campaign.

Thank You

The Executive Committee alongside the Vision and Governance Board are grateful for all the ways you contribute to University Lutheran Church of Hope. We know financial contributions is just one way of doing that. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Thank you - Betty Schreuder, Treasurer

President's message: Vision Goals

I grew up in the congregation of University Lutheran Church of Hope and when I was 18, I went to college at Luther in Decorah, Iowa. Freshman year, I had three roommates from various parts of the country, all of us raised Lutheran. One night we were discussing our church and worship experiences, and I said, “I know nuclear disarmament is important but does the pastor have to bring it up during the sermon so often?” My roommates just stared at me with their mouths open wide. It was then I realized that Hope may be a bit different than other Lutheran congregations.

The pastor who spoke of nuclear disarmament was Lowell Erdahl, who went on to become Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota district and then the St. Paul area synod. He passed away just this past December. I was lucky to be taught and confirmed by him. Pastor Erdahl would often talk about how his faith influenced his actions, including protesting for nuclear disarmament. It was a part of his vision of how to live faithfully. He spoke about nuclear disarmament so often during his sermons that a friend and I would time how long it would take until he mentioned it (usually between 5-13 minutes).

ULCH has been a church that is familiar with addressing the current issues of the day. While at Hope, Pastor David Preus actively supported equal housing & civil rights. Hope became a Reconciling in Christ congregation before the ELCA decided to ordain LGBTQ clergy. Granted, there were many other churches that also focused on social justice and were even more progressive than Hope. But I appreciate that Hope didn’t shy away from political issues. Perhaps it is part of our mission.

The mission and vision of ULCH has been coming up a lot for me lately. In the past, if someone asked me to help create a mission statement or vision goals, I would run the other way screaming. I am not the wordsmith in my family, and if you know my husband and kids, you would agree! So quibbling over words is not something I valued in the past. But now as president of the congregation, I have been part of many discussions where we’ve come to “what do our Vision Goals say?” And it’s actually helped us focus and clarify. Who knew! Everyone but me, probably.

What are our Vision Goals? It’s what we started in 2015 with *Igniting our Life Together*. Today it continues with *Opening our Life Together* to focus on our vision in the ongoing pandemic. We put it in the beginning of our Annual Report to help remind us. In our leadership at Hope, issues and concerns arise that require a response; perhaps support with volunteer time, a decision to be made, or monetary support. With each discussion, it’s helpful to look at those Vision Goals and remember what’s important. So, I’ll leave you with Hope’s three current goals:

- *Cultivate deep roots in our neighborhood and the University community, by actively making our walls porous.*
- *Embrace all persons throughout their life journey in a community of love, respect, and acceptance.*
- *Fuel authentic worship and deepen spirituality.*

What are your vision goals?

Ann Agrimson, Congregational President

University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming Christian community of faith centered in God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for all the world.
601 – 13th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 ✖ Tel. 612-331-5988 ✖ Fax 612-623-0693 ✖ www.ulch.org

Pastors:

Rev. Jen Nagel,
Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert
Rev. Erik Strand, Rev. Tom Carlson

Minister of Worship and Music:

Robert Ragoonanan

Pastoral Intern:

Emily Brown

Minister of Community Engagement:

Elise Carlson

Minister of Faith Formation

Morgan Strudthoff

Church Administrator:

Nathan Obrestad

Financial Administrator:

Kari Olson

Custodian:

Geremew Beshah

Sunday Opener/Closer, Worship Tech:

Seth Strudthoff

Working in partnership with

Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Kate Reuer Welton

President:

Ann Agrimson

Vice President:

Paul Odenbach

Past President:

Uli Koester

Treasurer:

Betty Schreuder

Leadership Development & Communications:

Ann Agrimson

Paul Odenbach

Operations:

Betty Schreuder

Uli Koester

Worship & Music:

Matt Fry

Youth & Young Adults:

Jacob Lanthier

Education:

Shelly Parry

Hope in the World:

Sonja Peterson

Relational Ministries:

Dan Bielenberg

Board Secretary:

Bruce Eldevik

30% post-consumer waste.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.



NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Twin Cities,
Minnesota
Permit No. 944

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF HOPE
601 13th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437
Return Service Requested