



# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023 PREVIEW



# PASTOR'S GREETING

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*"Community is a basic need and hunger of the human heart. We are created for community, but often we do not experience it in the individualistic and competitive cultures that shape our lives. Community is a place of acceptance, intimacy and vulnerability, where we can bear fruit in solidarity with others and be the body of Christ for the sake of the world." (Henri Nouwen, Community)*

Dear Hamline Church Family,

It's been nearly six decades since the Beatles sang about empty churches and "all the lonely people" who cling to and abandon these ancient institutions. Yet it was just this year Dr. Vivek Murthy, the United States Surgeon General, issued an "Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community" in response to what he has declared "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation." Here's an excerpt from Dr. Murthy's letter at the beginning of an 82-page document produced by the Public Health Service:

*People began to tell me they felt isolated, invisible, and insignificant. Even when they couldn't put their finger on the word "lonely," time and time again, people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds, from every corner of the country, would tell me, "I have to shoulder all of life's burdens by myself," or "if I disappear tomorrow, no one will even notice."*

Friends, this is a world that aches for the Good News. Not a gospel of strong-arming people in to correct dogma or casting judgment. Rather the Gospel that will save souls – right here and now. The world aches for connection, for community, for relationship. The world aches for spaces where we are allowed to show up with our whole selves and find that we are together, seen, and valued. And, the research Dr. Murthy has collected shows pretty convincingly that when humans don't have connection their lives are shorter and worse.

One cure for the loneliness epidemic? Go to church. Or any other faith community, for that matter. Faith communities offer one of the few places left in Western society where people gather across familial, generational, and economic lines outside the trappings of consumerism. The Gospel of Jesus is one of intimate connection – it paints a picture of growing closer to God through a Way that requires the faithful to grow closer to one another. Our Christian calls to worship, to pray, to serve, to do justice... are all calls to build and belong in community.

From the Advisory document I mentioned: "Among people not reporting loneliness or social isolation, nearly 90% have three or more confidants. Yet, almost half of Americans (49%) in 2021 reported having three or fewer close friends —only about a quarter (27%) reported the same in 1990." **Our number of lonely neighbors has almost doubled.** How might we be called to respond? *If community is literally life-saving, what's our next faithful step?*

I believe that Hamline Church already has many gifts to offer as hope filled responses to this challenge, and there is more to be done. In these pages you'll find many invitations and opportunities to engage in the work of being church I hope and pray that you'll join us in the rich sharing of life together. Yet I also know that it is possible to feel lonely within community – if this is you, please reach out to me or Pastor Heather and we can help you find ways to connect. We all feel lonely at times.

In our Annual Giving campaign this November we focus on Releasing God's Blessings – I am grateful for the many ways Hamline Church shares God's blessings to make a difference in the lives of others and our community.

As we enter the holiday season and the holy seasons of All Saints, Advent and Christmas – how are you feeling the Spirit's call to reach out in love to another? Because just maybe when we do, it is possible to find a remedy for our lonely hearts as well.

See you in church!

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Pastor Mariah

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard  
mftollgaard@hamlinechurch.org

# UPCOMING WORSHIP

## RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS

**Stewardship 2023: November 5, 12 and 19**

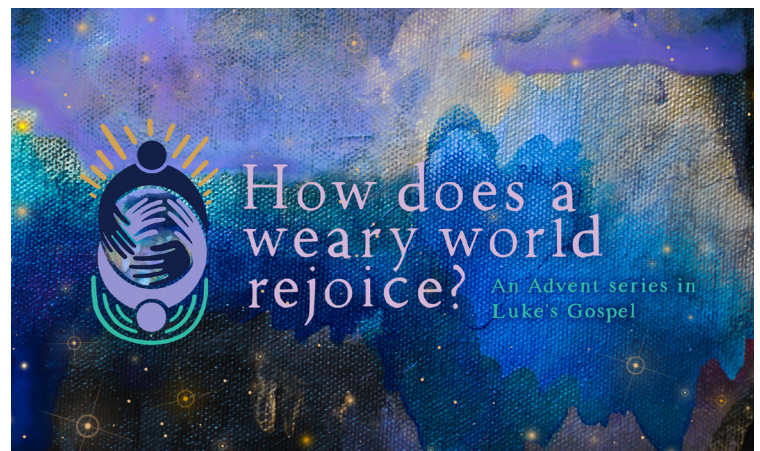
We often think of blessings as things we receive. While it is true that God, by grace, freely gives us all that we have, we are not just passive recipients of God's blessings! Just as God blesses us through people in our lives, so does God promise to bless others *through* us. When we live from a place of gratitude for God's gifts and trust in God's provision, we can be agents of God's blessing in our world. This November at Hamline Church we celebrate the opportunity to bless our church and our greater world when we share God's blessings. This November we celebrate the opportunity to bless others with the sharing of our gifts and resources, and we want you to know that *Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives.*



**RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS**

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023 HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.



This theme of course alludes to a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,”<sup>2</sup> which has an interesting history. The song was originally written by a French poet who was atheist, and the music was supplied by a Jewish composer. The hymn was later translated into English by an American Unitarian minister. In the 1800s, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to its justice-focused language in verse 3.3 Like Mary’s song, the hymn reminds us that justice and joy belong together. Sometimes our joy is an act of resistance.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

## CHRISTMAS 2023 HAMLINE CHURCH

November 26 | Advent 1

December 3 | Advent 2 - Ceremonial Hanging of the Greens

December 10 | Advent 3 -Hamline Church Festival Chorus presents Snow Angel

December 17 | Children’s Pop-up Pageant

December 21 | Open Sanctuary on this Longest Night for time of rest for the weary: 5-7pm

### December 24 - Christmas Eve

10am | Morning worship in your Christmas Pajamas

5pm | Lessons & Carols worship with Chancel Choir

10pm | Candlelight & Communion

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Rev. Heather Grantham, Associate Minister for Spiritual Formation  
hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org

## HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Are you interested in going deeper with your spiritual journey here at Hamline Church?

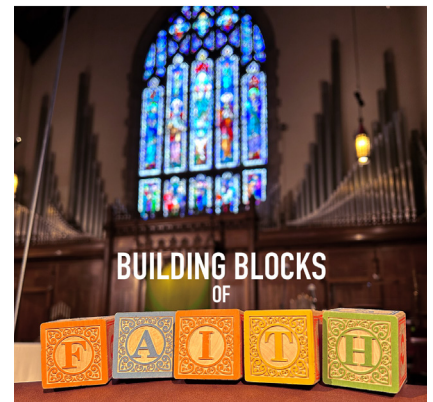
- **Membership Inquiry Class and Welcome Meal, Sunday, November 5 from 5-7pm at the Church:** (community room downstairs) This will be a laid back, all ages friendly time to get to know one another better and other members/staff of the Hamline Church Community. This will also be a time of dialogue and conversation about the ministry of Hamline Church and how to become more connected.
- **New Member Ceremony, Sunday, November 19:** The ceremony for welcoming members into the church will take place during our Thanksgiving congregational worship.

Please contact Heather Grantham (hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org) with any questions and/or to RSVP! If you can't make the above times but want to become a member, let Heather know and we can find another time.

## BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH - SPIRITUAL DIRECTION EDITION

Throughout the year, we will offer individual and group spiritual direction led by professional, trained experts in the field. Spiritual direction encourages folks to explore a closer relationship with God by reflecting deeply on experiences in everyday life. This reflection invites a recognition of the Divine's presence and grace in our lives.

Individuals will meet one-on-one with a spiritual director at their scheduling. The Group Spiritual Direction will take place once a month at the church, October through May. Contact Heather (hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org) on how to get connected to a Spiritual Director



## BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH - BIBLE EDITION

Are you interested in learning more about our sacred texts and how to read/understand the Bible? For four weeks in November and continued by 4 weeks in February, join us for an 8-week small group as we seek to make sense of the bible and rediscover the power of our sacred scripture today.

This small group will run Wednesdays, November 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th from 6:15-7:15pm. Group is led by the Rev. Paul Wilcox and will read together *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today* by Adam Hamilton.

## FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP UPDATES FOR ADVENT

The Faith and Fellowship book selection for Advent is *The First Christmas: What the Bible Really Teaches about Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The book treats the stories of the first Christmas. They are more challenging than is commonly imagined. Faith and Fellowship meets Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Parlor. Questions? Contact Barb Edgar (edgar002@umn.edu).

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# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP

**3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm via Zoom**

The Racial Justice Reading Group explores issues of social and racial justice through reading and discussion. We seek to grow in our understanding of and commitment to racial justice and reconciliation, through our faith that is rooted in Jesus' teachings which are inherently anti-racist. There are many conversations about race and racism, as well as many book groups and social justice clubs. This group focuses on what it means to be anti-racist within a racist society.

More info on the book club and where to get books is on our website: [hamlinechurch.org/racial-justice-reading-group/](http://hamlinechurch.org/racial-justice-reading-group/)

NOVEMBER READ - *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann

DECEMBER ACTIVITY: watching the new Scorsese film *Killers of the Flower Moon* together or separately and discussing.

If you'd like help acquiring a copy of the book or to RSVP to attend [hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org)

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE ENNEAGRAM

**Wednesday, December 6 from 6:15-7:30pm in the Green Room**

How is your holiday prep coming? Are you already worried that things won't be perfect enough? Is your jaw pre-clenched for another round of "friendly" competition with your cousin from up North? Have you rehearsed your part in the annual That's Not How You Make Mashed Potatoes argument?

The Holidays can be tough. Here we are surrounded by lights and children and music and great food - not to mention some of the most important people in our lives - so why does it seem all we do is get on each other's nerves? Surviving the Holidays with the Enneagram will give you some insight into why we push each other's buttons and some easy and practical tips for making things easier. Join us as we prepare for the holidays with grace, compassion and laughter. No previous knowledge of the enneagram is needed. Contact Beth Beaty ([babeaty@gmail.com](mailto:babeaty@gmail.com)) with questions and/or to let us know you are coming.

## HAMLIN CHURCH CARE TEAM

The Hamline Church Care Team are the first responders to the spiritual and social needs within our community. The Care Team cares for this community in all the ways it can through prayer, meals, cards, calls, and more.

If you are in need of spiritual care and/or connection, please reach out to the Care Team via Co-Chairs Judy Hartman ([judyhollyhartman@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhollyhartman@yahoo.com)) and Barb Brown ([babrown@q.com](mailto:babrown@q.com)) or Heather ([hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org))

# STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

Katie Morris, Director of Student Ministries  
kmorris@hamlinechurch.org

## VISIONING PROCESS WITH MINISTRY ARCHITECTS

### Join us November 12

At Hamline Church, we're grateful to be part of a community that welcomes and nurtures children, youth, and their families. This year, we're excited to work on a visioning process for our student ministries to ensure that this community has the foundation to continue building on our children and youth ministries, and that they can exist sustainably. To do this work, we're partnering with Ministry Architects, a church consulting company, through next summer.

The first piece of this process is to invite Ministry Architects to join us on November 12 for some listening sessions. They'll spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through focused listening sessions. We hope that we'll have a broad spectrum of parents/caregivers, youth, volunteers, and folks who love our young people participating! We want you to have an opportunity to share your insights, frustrations, and dreams.

After the listening sessions, our consultant will create a report to share with us what they've heard about children and youth ministries, and where God might be leading us next. See the schedule for these listening sessions below, along with more information from Ministry Architects. Please join us in this powerful process - we want to include as many voices as we can!

**RSVP to let us know you plan to join at [hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](https://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central) so that we can prepare for the sessions. If you have any questions, contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org))**

### November 12: Listening Sessions

We've grouped the sessions by "interest," but you can attend whichever session best fits your schedule (except for the youth session - that's just for them!)

8:4am, Room 7 | Parents/Caregivers of Children (childcare available)

11:30am, Parlor | All Congregation (childcare available)

4:00pm, Room 6 | Youth (6th-12th Grade)

5:15pm, Room 7 | Parents/Caregivers of Youth (Dinner and games available for youth in the youth room during this session)

6:30pm | Online via Zoom

### Tuesday, November 14

7:30pm | Online via Zoom: Meeting to hear the report from Ministry Architects

## FAQ FROM MINISTRY ARCHITECTS

### Why Ministry Architects?

At Ministry Architects, we believe there is a better way, a better way than one-size-fits-all training events and quick-fix searches for superstar staffers. It all starts with building intentionally. So like architects, we don't tell churches what they want to build. We start by listening and then show them a blueprint of exactly how they can move from where they are to where they want to be. And then we walk alongside them as to make sure that they build the kind of infrastructure they will need to create the children's and youth ministries they dream of having. We have made it our mission to help churches establish sustainable, deep-impact children's and youth ministries, one church at a time.

### What is going to happen when Ministry Architects is here?

Ministry Architects will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through focused listening groups. After spending a day in these listening groups (and taking copious notes), the Ministry Architects team will hunker down to write a report, sharing with the church what they've heard about the children's and youth programs and where they hear that the church wants to go. After that, the report will be presented to the congregation, laying out a blueprint for how to move forward.

# STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

## **As a parent/caregiver, why should I attend?**

As a parent/caregiver, you have the strongest influence on your child's spiritual development, and you are the center of faith formation in your family. Ministry Architects wants to hear your hopes, dreams and concerns about the children's and youth ministries. Parents and caregivers can give feedback on how the children's and youth ministries are helping their child/youth to grow into the person that God created them to be. Parents and caregivers are a vital piece to the Christian nurture of their children and Ministry Architects wants them to be invested in the process of building a strong foundation.

## **As a volunteer, why should I attend?**

Volunteers obviously care about the children's and youth ministries through their commitment of time, energy, and love. You can give perspective to how you see the ministry affecting the lives of the children and youth because you are on the "front lines." You can see what the strengths & challenges are and can bring about change and improvement to the ministry in which they are serving. Your feedback is invaluable.

## **As a church member who is not a part of the children's or youth ministries, why should I attend?**

Faith formation is a community effort – it takes many folks to model the Christian life to young people. Members of the church set the example to children and youth on how to worship, how to live a Christ-like life, and how to serve Christ in others. As a member of the church, your feedback is significant in moving the children and youth ministries forward in a sustainable model. As Christians, we are called to nurture faith in our young people. Investing your time in a listening group shows the care that members of the church have for its children and youth. Ministry Architects values the "outside" view that you can give.

## **What will the report look like?**

The Assessment Report will start by reflecting back to the church what the Ministry Architects team heard people saying about the children's and youth ministries. We compare your church to norms across the country. We will point out the assets of the programs – the things to protect and keep. We will also share the challenges that we see – the things that are roadblocks to the ministries moving strategically forward. We then lay out a blueprint for how to strategically move the children's and youth ministries from where they are now to where you want them to be. These recommendations include a detailed timeline laying out the process month by month.

## **WEDNESDAY CONNECTION**

### **Continues through November 15**

Join us for fellowship, music, and connection on Wednesday evenings! Sign up for dinner at [hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](http://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central)

5:30-8:30 Childcare in Room 10

5:30-6:15 Children's Music for k-6th grade

6:00-6:45 Dinner in the Community Room

6-7 Band Rehearsal

6:30-7:30 Fall Small Group

6:30-8:00 Confirmation Class

7-8:30 Chancel Choir

## **FAMILY WINTER RETREAT**

### **January 12-15, 2024 at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, MN. Register by December 20th!**

This weekend is a special way for families of all shapes and sizes to connect with outdoor winter fun and cozy indoor activities. Cost is \$47/person with a \$130/immediate family/night max, children 3 and under are free! Scholarships are available, so please let us know if you have any concerns about cost.

We'll stay at the lodge at Northern Pines, along with a few other smaller cabins. Rooms in the Lodge, New Wesley and Cornerstone are clean, but simple, and require us to bring our own bedding, towels, soap, etc. Register early to reserve a spot in the Lodge, where rooms sleep different numbers of people and have a variety of bunks, double, and single beds. Register online at [hamlinechurch.org/families](http://hamlinechurch.org/families) or contact Katie with questions ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org))

# STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

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## CHILDREN

Birth-6th grade

### MILESTONES

At Hamline Church, one of the ways we walk alongside our children and their families is through our Faith Milestone Program. Every year, we take a moment to celebrate a milestone in each child's life. Just as throughout the Bible, God's people mark the places where they encounter God with a stone, we present each child with a smooth, cross-embossed stone to mark the occasion. We usually recognize the milestone in the Sunday worship service, where we have a chance to share more about it!



Some milestones include a milestone exploration time, where the child and a parent/guardian can explore the topic together! You'll receive invitations before each milestone with more information. Contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) if you have questions, and see the schedule for this year below:

November 19: 5th Grade Service

January 7: Remembering Our Baptism - 1st Grade

February 11: I Can Pray - Rising 4 and 5 year olds

March 17: The Lord's Prayer - 6th Grade

March 24: Communion - 4th Grade

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sacred Studio is our spiritual formation time for children, prek-6th grade. On Sundays (except for the 1st Sunday of each month) after the children's moment in worship, children can go with staff and volunteers to explore a bible story through art, music, and games. This time is focused on making space for children to know God's love!

- Godly Play: Prek-K children will explore bible stories by building a practice of listening, wondering, and responding through art with this Montessori-based curriculum. Families can decide with their 3 and 4 year-olds when you would like to transition from the Frolic room childcare into Sacred Studio.
- Mini Revolutions: 1st-4th graders will use Illustrated Ministry's "Mini Revolutions" to explore bible stories through discussion, connections to the world, activities, and mini spiritual practices. This group will split into two depending on numbers each week.
- Tween Ducks: 5th and 6th graders will sit together in the worship service along with adult leaders, then gather after the sermon in the youth room to connect and reflect on worship together.

**SEEKING ADULT LEADERS!** Nurturing children in their faith journeys and helping to share with them the stories of God's love are both part of our baptismal promises that we make as a community. We are always looking for caring adults (and youth!) to be part of our Sacred Studio team - contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) if you would like to learn more.

### CHILDCARE: FROLIC ROOM

Childcare is available during worship for children 5 and under in the Frolic Room with our childcare specialists. This is a time for free play, stories, and building connections with church friends! Contact Katie Morris if you have questions about childcare at Hamline Church.



# STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

## SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a special time in the church year, the four Sundays before Christmas – it's a time when we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. We hear lots of familiar stories, take part in familiar traditions, and we can try new things too! Advent materials for families to take home will be available on Sunday, November 19th.

- November 26: First Sunday of Advent – Join us for worship and Sacred Studio!
- December 3: Second Sunday of Advent – We invite children to stay in the worship service with their families! We'll have materials available for children in the sanctuary. Stay for hanging of the greens after worship.
- December 10: Third Sunday of Advent – Join us for worship and Sacred Studio!
- December 17: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas pageant!

**SAVE THE DATE – POP UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ON DECEMBER 17** We hope you'll join us for this year's Christmas pageant at 10:00am Sunday morning, December 17. Our children have the opportunity to tell the incredible story of Jesus coming into the world on this special Sunday, see how they can participate below:

- Speaking Role – 4th-6th graders who are interested in being readers, get in touch with Katie! ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) This group will have opportunities for a bit more prep and rehearsal together.
- Non-Speaking Role – All children who would like to participate (infants-6th graders) can arrive a few minutes early on December 17 to find a costume, then listen for their character to be invited up to the chancel during the story, no rehearsal needed!
- Pageant Choir – Beginning in November, we will start learning a few pageant songs during Sacred Studio each Sunday. If your child would like to sing with the choir on pageant Sunday, they'll be ready to go!
- Prelude Music – Children who want to share a musical talent during prelude music at the beginning of the service, contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org))!



## CONNECT WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Monthly Email Update: To receive monthly email updates with information about children's ministry at Hamline, contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) or sign up with this QR code!
- Facebook Group: Connect with other caregivers for children and youth in the Hamline community! Contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) to join.



# STUDENT MINISTRIES UPDATE

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## YOUTH

6th-12th grade

### NOVEMBER 12 LISTENING SESSIONS

Youth can come to a special listening session just for them at 4pm November 12! If parents/caregivers are staying for the session at 5:15pm, youth can join Katie in the youth room for dinner and games during that session.



### SERVICE OPPORTUNITY AT EVERYMEAL

November 15, 6-8pm

Our confirmands are going to help package meals at Everymeal on November 15, 6-8pm, and we have extra spots! Open to youth, children 8 years and older, and adults! Contact Katie if you'd like to go ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org))

### EMMA NORTON GIFTS

Emma Norton Services provides trauma-informed resources to women, individuals, and families who have experienced homelessness. We partner with them in a variety of ways throughout the year, and we're excited to collect gifts and gift cards for the youth and families at Emma's Place again this year! Info to come soon about specific gifts needed, and a date for youth to go shopping together.

### ADVENT

The season of Advent is quickly approaching! This is a time full of all sorts of emotions as we navigate the season. Devotional materials for youth and families will be available starting November 19, contact Katie if you'd like an online version ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)). We also have opportunities for youth and families to lead in worship with our Advent candle lighting - if you're interested, contact Katie!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Join us to celebrate with games, snacks, and fellowship! Date and location to come!

### HAMLIN GRAD CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, December 20, 6-7:30pm

We're gathering our high school seniors and recent grads for a meal on December 20, hope you can join us! We know lots of folks are back in town around Christmas, and we'd love to connect with you. See details below, and please pass along to other recent grads!

Who: Hamline Church seniors and recent high school grads

What: Dinner and fellowship with church friends

When: Monday, December 20, 6-7:30pm

Where: RSVP for location details

### SEEKING ADULT LEADERS

Do you feel called to accompanying youth in their faith journeys? You can join us as an adult advisor to connect with our confirmands, our youth, or in other ways. Connect with Katie ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) if you're interested or would like to learn more!

### CONNECT WITH YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Monthly Email Update:** To receive monthly email updates with information about youth ministry at Hamline, contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) or sign up with this QR code!
- **Facebook Group:** Connect with other caregivers for children and youth in the Hamline community! Contact Katie Morris ([kmorris@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:kmorris@hamlinechurch.org)) to join.



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Jane McClure & Jean Thilmany, Co-Chairs  
hamlinewomen@gmail.com

# HAMLIN CHURCH WOMEN

## HOLIDAY MARKET AND CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

Ring in the Christmas season with the Hamline Church Women! Two of our biggest fundraisers are also the most fun.



Our annual **Hamline Church Holiday Market is 9:30am to 3:30pm Saturday, November 18** at the church. Lots of great vendors have signed up but we have space for more! Come and get a jump on holiday shopping, for jewelry, pottery, woodcraft, mittens, baked treats and a wide array of handmade items. Come in and stock up on your favorite products. And don't forget our maker's market, so be ready to buy your favorite craft supplies at low prices. Volunteer slots are available. We do have some seated jobs! Sign up at [hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](http://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central). HCW leadership will sign forms for student credit. The book sale will return for the Spring Market.

Our **annual cookie walk is after church Sunday, December 17**, right after the children's pageant. Bring cookies and bars before church for setup. Then after church, buy treats for the holidays.

Not wanting to enjoy our tasty cookies? One option is to buy treats for the December meal service at Catholic Charities/Dorothy Day Opportunity Center. Hamline Church's meal crew has a tradition of bringing homemade treats and we will need several hundred cookies. Buying from the Hamline Church Women on cookie walk day helps the meal service and helps the women raise money for mission giving. Questions on either event? Contact us at [hamlinewomen@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinewomen@gmail.com)



Hamline Church Women also note that we will not be collecting gifts for Give a Little Gift. That program has changed. Ask us if you questions about other ways to donate to the Walker Methodist Auxiliary, which assists nursing home residents.

# MUSIC UPDATE

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David Kozisek, Director of Music & Worship  
dkozisek@hamlinechurch.org

## CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir now has 31 regular singers on the roster! We are thrilled with the growth of this fine ensemble and are still looking for a few more singers to join us on Sunday mornings. Ask any choir member and they'll tell you attendance is flexible so don't hesitate to "come on in" and give choir a try.

It's always a joy to present a special piece of music during the holiday season, and this year, singers are invited to join the Hamline Church United Methodist Festival Chorus for two performances of Sarah Quartel's Snow Angel. Already a favorite with choirs across the world, Snow Angel, is an evocative five-movement choral work that explores themes of love, rebirth, and beauty through the eyes of children and the heavenly army of angels that watch over them, yearning to make a difference to their lives. Scored for mixed voices, solo cello, djembe, and piano with narration of three angels who present their perspectives on their earthly charges. Snow Angel will be performed twice on December 10, 2023, first in the Worship Service at 10:00am and then again at 4:00PM with additional choral repertoire as part of the Music and Arts Series at Hamline Church. A reception will follow. Please consider joining us for this special opportunity with a limited rehearsal schedule:

Wednesday 11/29, 7:00-9:00pm

Thursday 11/30, 7:00-9:00pm

Wednesday 12/6, 7:00-9:00pm

Saturday 12/9, 10:00am-12:00pm

Performances: Sunday 12/10 10:00am & 4:00pm

## HANDBELL CHOIR

The group has grown to 12 regular ringers with additional substitutes and can now consistently offer repertoire that spans 4 octaves. Several ringers attended a seminar for directors and ringers on October 7 hosted by Bells of the Lakes at Hennepin Avenue UMC and are invigorated to showcase new sounds and ringing techniques in worship services on November 5, and throughout Advent. There is also discussion about establishing a small youth handbell ensemble to introduce a new generation to this accessible, enriching, and fun musical art form. Please reach out to the director, David Kozisek (dkozisek@hamlinechurch.org), if you know of someone who may be interested to learn more. Finally, plans are underway to establish a more permanent and accessible rehearsal and performance space for the Handbell Choir in the sanctuary to support and showcase this thriving ensemble.

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Kids in kindergarten through 6th grade have been meeting weekly with Emily, Kathy, and David in the parlor for 45 minutes of music making using their voices, bodies, and other instruments to increase their self-awareness, musicality, and expressivity - and to have fun! On Sunday October 29, they had a special opportunity to sing (and dance!) with the Roe Family Singers, performing "Keep on the Sunny Side." Check out their performance here: <https://tinyurl.com/kids-roe>. They'll sing again play some instruments in worship on November 19. Please join for rehearsals at 5:30pm on Wednesdays 11/1, 11/8, and 11/15. For more information about children's music at Hamline Church and to sign up, reach out to David (dkozisek@hamlinechurch.org).

## ORGAN CELEBRATION IN 2024

Planning is underway to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the installation of Hamline Church's incredible Casavant Frères Organ in November 2024 by commissioning a special piece for Organ and Choir, making necessary organ repairs and upgrades, presenting a world class organist in recital, and recognizing former Hamline Church organists in a special reception. Would you like to be involved in this celebration in some fashion? Please connect with David or Eileen Miller, for more information.

## NOTE FROM THE ORGANIST

As this newsletter goes to print I am making final selections for Advent preludes and postludes. After selecting music the next important step is deciding which stops to use. The sound makes all the difference, it can make or break the piece!

In elementary school I remember hearing a recording that captured my attention. I wondered what instrument could possibly be playing that beautiful line? It turned out the magical sound was an organ 8 foot flute together with a 2 foot flute playing Bach's lovely Advent piece, Wachet auf. Ever since then I've always felt the 8 and 2 foot flute is one of the magical sounds I like to hear during Advent and Christmas. Whichever pieces make the final cut this year, I expect at least one will have my favorite magical sound!

We have flute stops on each keyboard of our organ at several different pitch levels. Stops that sound at the written pitch are called eight-foot stops, even if their low C is not actually eight feet long. Stops labeled 4' sound an octave higher than written, 2' stops sound two octaves higher and 16' stops sound an octave lower. Just some of the magic of our wonderful Casavant organ!

**Eileen Miller, organist (emiller@hamlinechurch.org)**

## MUSIC AND ARTS SERIES

The 2023-2024 season officially kicked off on Sunday October 29 with the Roe Family Singers as part of the Hamline Church Fall Festival. Here are some upcoming events to put on your calendar!

### **Minneapolis String Project, 11/19/23 4:00pm**

The diverse talents of Ernest Bisong, violin, David Feily, guitar, and Greg Byers, cello & bass make for a high-energy trio that deviates from the standard repertoire for bowed stringed instruments. MPLS String Project draws from jazz, fusion, soul, and an array of world music influences creating something unique, fresh, and hip. Tickets: \$20 or pay as able.

### **Hamline Church Festival Chorus: Snow Angel, 12/10/23 4:00pm**

A new holiday tradition begins. Explore themes of love, rebirth, and beauty through the eyes of children with Sarah Quartel's evocative and pictorial choral work Snow Angel. Additional contemplative choral anthems round out the program that leans into the mystery and anticipation of Christmas in a beautiful space that's fully decked for the season. Freewill offering to benefit special music in worship at Hamline Church.

We're also happy to welcome back Hamline University's A Cappella Choir on December 3, at 4:00pm and Cantus on December 17, at 3:00pm for their Christmas programs. You can find out more information and purchase a season pass or tickets online: [link](#). The Music and Arts Series provides exceptional and meaningful performances to enrich the lives of those in the Hamline Midway neighborhood and the greater Twin Cities community. We are always looking for programming ideas and volunteers to assist with the events. Financial contributions are also greatly appreciated and have a profound impact on the type of events we can offer. Finally, please consider liking the Music and Art Series Facebook Page here for updates and information about events.

# COUNCIL UPDATES

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## TOWN HALL MEETING

**Sunday, November 5 at 11:20am in the Community Room**

The Church Council invites you to an all church town hall meeting to hear updates about the overall state of our congregation with updates on the church's ministry plans, financial status, building projects and more. All are welcome!

## ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

Thank you to the many people who weighed in with comments and suggestions about the accessibility audit. The Accessibility Task Force and Church Council are processing the information and looking to next steps. We've already been able to implement some updates including: better signage, fixing gaps in the alley, removing a row of pews in the sanctuary for more accessible seating, and sound system modifications. We continue to strive into our value of ensuring that Hamline Church is welcoming and accessible for all people.

## 2024 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN: RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS

Not only are humans born to be generous, we are born in the image of a loving and generous God. And sometimes we need a reminder that generosity is core to our being. This November we take an uplifting look at the topic of giving, showing the blessing to be found in a consciously generous life, one which imitates the generosity of God. When you choose to live a generous life, you start to change—and so does the world around you.



Your annual giving reflects your tithes and offerings to support the annual operations of Hamline Church in 2024. This one-year pledge is for your commitment **RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS** to the mission and ministries of your church. Discover how God is transforming lives through your support of the ministries of Hamline Church, and find hope and inspiration that will help you plan your 2024 Annual Giving and prepare for Commitment Sunday, November 19.

## Thanksgiving Celebration & Commitment Sunday is November 19, 2023

We will consecrate our annual giving commitments during worship on November 19. You can make your 2023 pledge online at [hamlinechurch.org/give](https://hamlinechurch.org/give), bring your card to worship November 19, or return it to the church office before November 19. We will also be collecting monetary donations for Keystone's food shelf. Learn more about this campaign: [hamlinechurch.org/give/annual-giving/](https://hamlinechurch.org/give/annual-giving/)

## NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - TO CONVENE AS CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Tuesday, November 28 at 7pm via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86857711299>**

The Church Council will officially convene as a Church Conference to receive annual reports from finance and trustee, elect lay leadership and approve 2024 clergy compensation. Everyone is welcome, church members may vote. Regular Church Council meeting to follow.

## YEAR END GIFTS TO HAMLINE CHURCH

Hamline Church is a generous community - your giving makes a difference in so many ways. Thank you. At the end of the year, you may be inclined to make charitable contributions to organizations and projects you believe in. Consider making a special year-end contribution to Hamline Church. Give before December 31st to take advantage of tax benefits or utilize your required minimum distribution. Here are some opportunities you may want to support:

General Operating Fund

Barnabus Fund - Hamline Church's Benevolence fund to help neighbors in need.

Music & Art Series

Capital Improvement Projects - accessibility updates, sanctuary sound & lighting projects, furniture updates

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# PRAYER & ACTION FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

As we bear witness to the escalation of violence in the Middle East, our hearts break in response to the cries and suffering of God's people. We yearn for peace and wonder what can we possibly do to help bring it into being? Let us start today by joining with people of faith all around the world in day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Middle East. While mourning the tragic events happening in Gaza and Israel, let us remain committed to prayer and the belief that peace is possible among all God's beloved people even in these devastating times.

## **ACTION ALERT: TELL U.S. CONGRESS TO PURSUE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

As United Methodists, "we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ... As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them." United Methodist Social Principles 165.C

Church and Society has joined with ecumenical partners in calling Congress to take action that de-escalates the conflict, upholds international conventions and supports unrestricted humanitarian aid allowing agencies to provide food, water and medical supplies in the war-torn region.

You can raise your voice for peace now. Contact your elected leaders today and ask them to help stop the spread of violence, prevent further loss of life and support humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Financial contributions to support humanitarian aid can be given to UMCOR's international disaster response and recovery efforts at: <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-641-umcor-international-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx>

Or through the Hamline Church offering and note your contribution is for UMCOR



**UMCOR**

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

# FACILITIES UPDATE

Stephanie Engebrecht, Facilities Manager  
sengebrecht@hamlinechurch.org

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

We had an awesome turnout of 26 volunteers on October 14 to clean up the grounds for the winter! So many pesky weeds were pulled and we are making great progress in stewarding the native plants in the Greenway and the Gardens around the front of the building.



Stay tuned for more opportunities to help with gardening and landscaping next spring. We'll have lots to do! Possibilities for participation will include:

- Wednesday night small group/gardening group,
- Monthly Second Saturday work days (starting in April)
- Individual sponsorships of specific sections of the gardens and grounds (kind of like a great big community garden!).

Any other ideas for getting involved are welcome! Please contact the office to show your interest!

## OUR BEAUTIFUL BOILER



It wouldn't be an historic building without an historic heating source! While we are still looking into possibilities for heating and cooling our building in more efficient ways - and we've come a long way since coal!- for now, we still rely on our good old steam boiler. As our dependable boiler operator, Kelly Ferdig, will tell you - "it's old, but it'll run forever if you take care of it."

While it has its quirks for sure, we are thankful for the heat it pumps through the building as we head into the cold winter months. If you ever have any questions about it or issues with the heat, please call 651-645-0667 ex. 4, or email [sengebrecht@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:sengebrecht@hamlinechurch.org)

## THE RESURGENCE OF TEAM AWESOME!

Not long ago, and still to this day, an amazingly generous group of people have dedicated their time and energies into the health and maintenance of the Hamline Church's building and grounds. And now, while we have some staff that help lead the way on the care of these areas, there are still so many ways to serve the church through hands on efforts!

If you are the type that shows the shape of your heart through your hands and your dedication to community with your time, please fill out this survey (scan the QR code to the right). Working together is another way we build and strengthen our community!





## **SLEEP MATS: A VALUED SERVICE**

Would you dash half a block in pouring rain to unload a car if it got you first dibs on 600 plastic bags crocheted into a sleeping mat? Two young men at Dorothy Day did! The Sleep Mat Team had completed 6 mats by October 1. We decided to donate them to unhoused people using Dorothea Day services. Of course it was pouring rain at 2:00 when we were scheduled to drop them and the 2 men dashed out to help us unload the car. Sometimes it is difficult to know the impact we make, so we were grateful to learn how valued the mats are! Staff said the mats are claimed the minute they get inside the building, so getting wet to ensure you got one must have seemed like a good deal. The enjoyment we get from crocheting the mats was doubled when we saw and heard how truly appreciated they are!

Would you like to join the team, either to transform bags into plarn or crochet the plarn into a sleep mat? Email [HamlineEarthKeepers@gmail.com](mailto:HamlineEarthKeepers@gmail.com) or talk with us on 1st Sundays during Coffee Hour.



## **A SACRED RECKONING**

Hamline Church has started a new Social Justice study/action team to explore the histories of colonization and White supremacy in the Christian Church, and the impacts they have had on living beings, society and the Earth. It is rooted in relationship, spiritual practice, and faithful responsiveness to a national movement for reparations to Black and Indigenous communities. It involves the deeply liberative and spiritual work of repair woven into the work of reckoning. The text for the training is a free download at <https://www.sacredreckonings.com>. We welcome your interest and/or participation in the training and/or the team.

Have questions? Email [HamlineEarthKeepers@gmail.com](mailto:HamlineEarthKeepers@gmail.com) or talk with us on 1st Sundays during Coffee Hour.

# DINING HALL UPDATE

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## THANK YOU FROM THE DINING HALL

Whew! The Fair is over and what a Fair it was!!! It was one of the most profitable fairs we've ever had! However, it was also possibly one of the most grueling fair experiences some of us have ever had! We had some VERY successful New Foods on this year's Fair list, which was great. We had to tweak some things to get over some of the bumps of offering those items. We also made some process changes which required tweaking as well. We learned a lot so feel confident that next year will run smoother in that department!



#hamlinechurchdininghall

As is the norm in our church community, you all stepped up and did what you could to volunteer your services. A HUGE thank you for the hours and people power you all put in. The Dining Hall could not succeed without your help and flexibility (which we are sorry if we overused!)

Expenses this year also exceeded our expectations. In spite of that, the Dining Hall profits were such that we are still able to provide a substantial donation to Hamline Church. Our check, for \$60,000, was presented to the Church Council representatives with excitement!

As with all things in life, the Dining Hall Committee is facing major changes in the "retirement" of some of our key longterm members. These people were "stepping back" this year, but provided critical help throughout the Fair. Erik Hendrickson has stepped down after being our primary chef for 25 years. Mark Krueger, Jan Bajuniemi, and John Jakel are stepping into "consultant" roles so we won't see their lovely faces in the dining hall as much. We thank you all for your endless blood, sweat and tears!!!

Again, thank you all for everything you do! We look forward to another wonderful year in 2024!!!



Hamline Church's archive is more than a collection of papers, photos, maps and drawings. It provides connection to the past that is meaningful to those who are part of our story.

The church office received a call recently from Pastor James C. Holland. The retired Methodist minister lives in Brookeville, Maryland. He and his wife are still active church members and attend two churches in their home area.

Pastor Holland was recently cleaning a closet at his home, and was pleased to find the Bible he received at age 9 from Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church. He wanted to know who the church pastors and Sunday School teachers were at that time. That information brought forth his memories and how our church was an early factor in his life of Christian service and work as a pastor.

He has memories of growing up in the church and shared those. The chat with him was a great reminder of how something that seems small can have a big impact, and how a community can shape someone's life.

I welcome your history questions. My fellow committee members and I would also welcome some new faces, especially for our after-church tours. We are considering changes for those for 2024. Find me during coffee hour if you are interested. My tour days are third and sometimes fifth Sundays so you can also join me for a tour, or join Mary, Bill and Pris.

We also note that two church events are receding into the mists of history. Hamline Church hosted its last children and family barn dance in October, ending a tradition that began in 2002. We also see major changes to the longtime give a Little Gift Program, which the Hamline Church Women have participated in for decades.

One of our previous pastors used to note that everything has an end point. And that of course, adds to our story and our story.

*-Jane McClure, historian*

# CONNECT

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## THE LEGACY OF RACIAL COVENANTS: THE ENDURING IMPACT ON TWIN CITIES AREA HOUSING

*Sponsored by The Community Conversations Ecumenical Consortium*

**Saturday, November 18 from 3-5pm at Luther Seminary - Olson Campus Center 2481 Como Avenue, St. Paul**

Registration preferred at: <https://tinyurl.com/racial-covenants>

Although the overt practice of Racial Covenants that excluded home ownership based on race ended decades ago, its impact can still be seen today in the housing configuration of neighborhoods across the Twin Cities. The Community Conversations project will share the status of such covenants, the negative impact they have on communities today, and what's being done to address these issues. Hear from the University of Minnesota's 'Mapping Prejudice' & St. Catherine's 'Welcoming Dear Neighbor?' projects to learn what's happening across the Twin Cities. This is a free event.

The event was originally scheduled for September 24 at Hamline Church and has been rescheduled. The Hamline Church Holiday Market will take place on the 18th at Hamline Church, so be sure to stop by in the morning and do your shopping, and then head to Luther Seminary for this event!

## FREE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MEALS

**Tuesday, November 28 and December 26**

**from 4:30-8:30pm**

Hamline Church has partnered with Eureka Compass Vegan Food for a free monthly, sustainable, community meals! All proceeds go to a local non-profit.



### JOIN US FOR A FREE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MEAL

Join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a sustainable meal at Hamline Church. This COMMUNITY MEAL is a partnership between Eureka Compass Foods and Hamline Church.

## JOIN HAMLINE CHURCH IN FIGHT TO END HUNGER THROUGH CROP WALK

Hamline Church once again joined communities across the United States to help end hunger one step at a time, both around the corner and around the globe. CROP Hunger Walks support the international relief and development work of Church World Service. Twenty-five percent of the money raised goes to Interfaith Action's Department of Indian Works food shelf in St. Paul and the remainder is used to support Church World Services' hunger relief efforts in areas most in need throughout the world. Even though the St. Paul CROP Walk already happened on October 8, donations are still being accepted. Donate to Team Hamline Church online. Thank you to those who have helped raise \$1460.00 online and in person at church. <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/team-hamline-church>

## HANGING OF THE GREENS! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AFTER WORSHIP

All are welcome to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas after worship. All ages and ability levels are encouraged to participate. Contact Heidi Brezinka for more information.

## EMMA NORTON HOLIDAY GIFT AND GIFT CARD DRIVE

Again this year we will be collecting gift cards for Emma Norton residents and youth in the scattered site housing program. You're invited to donate \$25 gift cards for adult gifts - to make this super easy, purchase your gift cards after worship during coffee hour from our SCRIPS program or contact Virginia Anderson. Preferred stores for the gift cards are: Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Cub Foods, Aldi, HyVee, Visa/Mastercard. Turn your gift card donations into the Church office on or before December 4th.

## A NOTE ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

After this issue we will utilize our weekly newsletter as our primary source of information about events and happenings at Hamline Church. The bi-monthly newsletter will be discontinued, but you can expect to still see some longer form content in publications like our annual report. This decision was made after analysis of our open rates and in an effort to streamline communications. Those who receive the bi-monthly newsletter by mail will be mailed a copy of the weekly newsletter once a month.

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# CONNECT WITH US

- **GIVE US A CALL** (651-645-0667)  
The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-Noon.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA** Facebook, YouTube or Instagram
- **SEND US AN EMAIL!** Email [humc@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:humc@hamlinechurch.org) or contact a staff person directly  
(find contact info on our website: [hamlinechurch.org/about/our-staff/](http://hamlinechurch.org/about/our-staff/))

VISIT US AT  
**HAMLINCHURCH.ORG**

**651.645.0667**  
**[humc@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:humc@hamlinechurch.org)**



**HAMLIN CHURCH**

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