

Finance & Attendance Update:

Amount needed each Sunday to meet budget (2017):	2,669.25
Amount received last Sunday:	2,304.00
Total received to date this year:	125,157.00
Amount received last week for Capital Fund :	0.00
Total received year to date for Capital Fund :	22,521.00
Attendance last Sunday (morning and Christmas Eve 5 pm)	199

WEEKLY CALENDAR**Sunday, December 31**

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Grace Korean UMC Worship

Monday, January 1

Office Closed, Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 2

- 2:00 p.m. Pines Worship

Wednesday, January 3

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Mt. Royal
- 5:30 p.m. First Wednesday Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Meal

Wednesday, January 3 – continued

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon

Thursday, January 4

- 9:00 a.m. Painters
- 12:00 p.m. Yoga
- 6:30 p.m. Qigong

Sunday, January 7

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Music & Worship Mtg.
- 3:00 p.m. Grace Korean UMC Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Please come and help fold the newsletter on Tuesday, January 2nd at 10:00 a.m.**

*We want to **thank Dick Scheibe** for all the goodies that he has provided for us over the last couple of years. Unfortunately, Dick can no longer get the baked goods from his source. We need volunteers to bake for Sunday Fellowship time. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please talk to Bev Merritt if you are able to bake once in awhile.

***First Wednesday Worship is this week.** We invite you all to start off this new year focused on the one who has given us this precious life. Stay for a meal afterwards!

***The office will be closed on Monday, New Years Day.**

***Page Turners** will meet on January 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Mathison Room. The book is "Jesus Cow" by Michael Perry. *New members always welcome.* Contact Anna Allison at 724-5715.

***Men's Retreat, "The Life You've Always Wanted," February 9-10** with Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries, at Camp Amnicon. See poster on bulletin board or contact Rev. Joel for more information or to register (715-394-9608; pastor@superiorfaithumc.org).

***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins January 18. Watch for materials in the narthex and online, and plan to participate with Christians around the world.

STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Kid's Quest Director: Anita Rixe

Music Director: Liz Raihala

Custodian: Matt Johnson



December 31, 2017

Hope United Methodist Church

301 West St. Marie Street

Duluth MN 55803

Liz Raihala – Accompanist

Pastor Laurie Boche

pastor@hopeumcmn.org // office@hopeumcmn.org

www.hopemethodistchurch.com 218.724.2266

Office Hours: Monday – Friday ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

With God's grace, we care for the soul for a lifetime and beyond.

Order of Worship 1st Sunday after Christmas / New Year December 31, 2017

PRELUDE "The Holly and the Ivy" arr. Keveren

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

What a year this has been!

So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.

In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.

Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow.

We don't know what it will hold for us.

In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.

Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence. AMEN.

***HYMN** "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" #152

GREETINGS

UNISON PRAYER

Keeper of our days, we are grateful for the ways you have been revealed to us in the past: through the love of community – gathered here and beyond; through nature and the beauty each season brings; and through a shared hope ignited within us that does not flicker or fade. Confident of your love, we bring our whole selves into your presence: our achievements and failures, our proud moments and hidden shame, our undying dreams and detached resolve. At this manger we meet you as our hopes are illuminated again by your love and light. As we turn our eyes toward the New Year, we know you travel with us yet give us enough space to dream. With gratitude for the days gone we ask for your blessing and your continued light as we follow your star into the New Year. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 148, p. 550

SPECIAL MUSIC "Welcome to Our World"
Liz Raihala

CHILDREN'S TIME sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come up #191

RECOGNITION OF LAY LEADERSHIP

TIME OF SHARING - JOYS AND CONCERNS

(We ask you to pass the registration pads at this time.)

SILENT PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***HYMN** "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" vs. 1-4 #2100

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:22-40, p. 55

MESSAGE "Going Home Again"

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY "Here We Come A-Wassailing" arr. Keveren

***DOXOLOGY** #95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN** "Once In Royal David's City" #250

***BENEDICTION - NEW YEAR LITANY**

POSTLUDE "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" arr. Keveren

**You are invited to stand as you are able*

LARGE PRINT hymnals, bulletins, and Bibles, as well as hearing devices are available from the usher. Nursery Care provided.

NEW YEAR PRAYER / BENEDICTION

Another year has turned its page, O Lord.

**We feel promises about to be fulfilled, hopes that may be realized,
And sorrows unknown—that may become ours to bear.**

All of this, we carry into a New Year.

We declare at the doorway into this year, that our trust is not in any man or woman to fulfill us, nor is our trust in circumstance, or a belief that the days ahead will be easy. We do not expect, in this New Year, for our every prayer to be answered in a way we would like.

You are in control, and we release our lives to you.
We put our trust in this: that You who have been with us through this past year, Creator God, and will be with us in this New Year.

It is in You we trust. If you go ahead of us, we will go; if you go behind us, we will go. If you will lead us in a cloud by day, and if you will light the night and its shadows with Your fire, we will faithfully follow. This is our prayer: in all things that happen this year we ask that we would be aware of Your presence, O Lord.

In this walk that will always be by faith and not by sight, Let us perceive Your nearness.

We will stumble and fall, and we will also succeed and triumph. We will laugh, and we will also weep. But in those moments in which we cannot sense You near, let us see with the eyes of faith the marks of Your presence all around us, beneath us, carrying us boldly into Your future. With You we walk, with confidence and trust, into this New Year.

In Your Name we pray, living Lord Jesus, Amen.

The Staff of Hope United Methodist Church thanks all of you for your thoughtful and generous gift to each of us this Christmas. It means a lot to know that we are valued, and to have your support for our best efforts!



We offer our deepest thanks to those key leaders who are retiring from their positions as 2017 closes. Fred Moen has served countless hours as Chair of Trustees, especially in overseeing this year's sanctuary renovations. Deb Hoff has led Staff-Parish Relations through several new hires, seeing that we have a strong and able staff. Becca Moen has offered committed leadership to the Outreach / Mission Team in its coordination and oversight of endless projects to share Good News to those in need, near and far.

We also thank Robyn Christianson for having served as Chair of the Administrative Council; she moves in 2018 to leadership of the Outreach / Mission Team. Other new leaders include Marcia Bowker for the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Doug Kuehl and Jim DeArmond co-chairing the Trustees. We are especially grateful to these new leaders in these key roles.

Each new project and each ongoing mission happens through its dedicated leaders, and every Team, Committee, project and event has hardworking servants who make it all happen. Key marks of a vibrant and vital church include a high percentage of engaged members, a sense of direction, a spirit of loving grace, and excitement about the future. As we enter this New Year, we can each find our place in the work and life of Hope Church!