



916 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
www.houseofprayerhingham.org

Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

January 2024

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah and named it Ebenezer, for he said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12

"Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;" *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, by Robert Robinson

The prophet Samuel marked with a stone monument the site of God's Help in victory at Ebenezer. Ebenezer itself means "stone of help". In many traditions of Christian parlance, including Robert Robinson's famous hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, we hear of "raising our Ebenezer", by which we mark where God has taken us by His Grace.

As we begin the new year we can definitely mark our own Ebenezer, as we can praise God for his goodness and provision in our time of need. The year 2023 was one of waiting and expectation for House of Prayer, as much as it was for me. But this waiting for God was not a passive waiting. We grew within the waiting. God strengthened us to be the Church. And thus we glimpsed where God was taking us. He was taking us to the peak of enough-ness, where we realize that we are enough as we are for God to bring the Kingdom to us, that we are enough to make the church a place people can experience the closeness of God. God loves to give God's grace. From that point of assurance, of knowing we are the church that is beloved of God, we can walk towards the awaited and prayed for future with complete trust and courage.

House of Prayer, as an assembly of faithful people working together, and I, as one called to pastoral ministry, have been brought together from our time of waiting to nurture this blessing of knowing and relishing the gift of being the Church. Therefore, working together means moving forward with the gifts received from God, especially those learned in our active waiting and expectation. Let us bless each other with these gifts!

Weekly Virtual and In-person Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

www.houseofprayerhingham.org

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Dates to Note

Ivy Preschool Introduction/Q&A Session

January 14

Church Council Meeting

Via Zoom January 18

7 PM

Pastor Emmanuel Installation

January 21

2 PM

Father Bill's Sandwich-Making

January 22

LRC Connection Call

Via Zoom January 23

8 PM

Tidings Submission Due Date

January 25

Re-Imagining Worship Service/Congregational Meeting

January 28

LRC Film Screening Part 1 of 3 Souper Bowl of Caring

February 4

2024 will be a year in which I get the chance to get to know you more, and you'll get to know me. In that process of relationship, we will discover how each of us brings something beautiful to God's community. I can't wait to encounter those blessings along the way in this new year!

Ebenezer, until here God has helped us. Now another beginning. Let us actively wait on God to where He will take us next in 2024 as God's beloved church!

Pastor Emmanuel



Church Staff

The Rev. Emmanuel J. Correa Vazquez
Pastor

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Minister of Music Lenae Badger
Church Administrator Barb Mullin
Financial Secretary Sandy Swanson
Tidings Staff Dana Abbott, Barb Mullin

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hoptidingseditor@comcast.net

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Carla Hill
Vice President Kathleen Almand
Treasurer Kathleen Almand
Secretary Sue Bose

AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dana Abbott
Scott Hudson-Bryant
Naomi Just
Cathy Martin
Vicki Oman
Marci Sutkowski
Linda Vassallo
Shawn Wegener
Thea Morad

HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT

*To share and spread Christ's message of love.
To nurture a vigorous and
compassionate church family, open to all.
To provide meaningful worship and Christian education.
And to actively reach out to help and serve others.*

ELCA MISSION STATEMENT

*"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed,
gathered and sent for the sake of the world"*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education	Kim Boyd
Evangelism	open
Facilities	Shawn Wegener
Finance	Ed Martin
& Stewardship	
Parish Life	open
Shepherds	Sue Bose
Social Ministry	Cathy Martin
Worship & Music	Sandy Swanson

Our Journey Together-The Next Step

Now is the time for **your participation**. Together, we identified our goals for the future and ushered in a new Pastor. We ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your pledge in view of the bright days ahead for House of Prayer.

It is simple to make your pledge. Send an email to Sandy Swanson (Financial Secretary) sandswan@comcast.net , tell her you want to be part of this exciting time for House of Prayer and let her know what your pledge is.

From all of us on the Stewardship Committee **a big Thank You!**

Ivy Preschool Coming to House of Prayer this Summer/Fall

HOP Council has signed an agreement with Ivy Preschool for their utilization of three rooms at the church for a nursery and preschool program, beginning in the summer of 2024. The school has begun some welcome upgrades to the rooms, the hallways adjoining them and the front landscaping. The nursery and classroom next to the kitchen and one of the restrooms will be used by the school during the week and by HOP on weekends. The Founders room will be converted to an office space for Ivy. We look forward to the new activity and life that this collaboration will bring to HOP's facilities. Upgrades completed so far include: new light sconces in the hallway; fresh paint in the nursery, the room adjacent to the kitchen, and the hallway between them, as well as the Founder's Room and bathrooms. Cabinets have been installed across from the bathrooms, along with a new coat rack. Future plans include upgrades to the HVAC units in the nursery and classroom near the kitchen, cleanup of the landscaping in the front of the church (circular drive), upgrade to the restrooms (enclosure of the urinal in the men's room). On January 14th after worship in the Sanctuary, please join Kristin Frey and Robin Delott, the co-directors of Ivy pre-school for an information and Q and A session on plans for the school.



Please consider yourself welcome to join the Lutherans Restoring Creation Upcoming Connections Calls:

**January 23rd
Zoom at 8pm ET
Sacred Grounds**

Join us in welcoming Naomi Edelson, Senior Director, Wildlife Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation.

The Sacred Grounds program support houses of worship in achieving their visions around a wide range of interests and needs such as community building, increasing access to safe outdoor spaces for all, improving water quality, and creating new wildlife habitat.

Also... Save the Date:

February 27th
8pm ET

Regenerating Life: How to cool the planet, feed the world, and live happily ever after

LRC is offering a free link to the film + hosting a discussion with film-makers. See the trailer: <https://hummingbirdfilms.com/regeneratinglife/>

To register or for more information about these events ask Phoebe Morad for details or visit www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org

Social Ministry *Cathy Martin, Chair*

Wellspring: We collected about 13 Christmas dinner boxes for Wellspring plus additional food was donated. We thank everyone for their participation for this worthy cause. Please keep on the hunt for copy paper boxes with lids. Easter is not that far away for the next time we collect dinner boxes. If you do have access to boxes or have any extra, please put on the shelf above the coat rack across from the restrooms. Staples print area sometimes has empty paper boxes that they will let you take, or other print shops may have some too. Since it is January, please bring in soup for our monthly contribution to the food pantry at Wellspring. The green trunk in the hall is the location for donations.

Father Bill's: A bedding and towel drive is going on for January. Please only new items. The monthly bagged lunch is scheduled for January 22. Signup sheet at church if you would like to contribute items for the lunches.

Friends of the Homeless: Dick Newell is in the charge of the Friends of the Homeless. This is the organization that set up the holiday shop in our fellowship hall in December. He also came and did a temple talk about the group and discussed the tremendous need for support. They are looking for families that would host homeless families until they can find more permanent housing. The church at large could also support the group through giving rides and providing for basic needs. If interested in working with this organization, please speak to Kathleen Almand. (kathleenalmand@gmail.com).

Giving Tree: The Giving Tree was set up by Victoria Warneck and many gifts were provided for the kids. Thank you! This program is conducted in association with Ascentria. The Christian Education students decorated gift bags for this program. We also had a late additional request to provide Christmas gifts for children with developmental disabilities. We provided gifts for 11 added families (gifts shown in the picture below). We have a very caring and giving congregation!



A big thank you to Mabel Ericson who made 7 hats, 1 scarf, and 3 cowls for the **Christmas at Sea** program for the Seamen's Church Institute. They are beautiful and will be very appreciated by the recipients while at sea during the cold winter months. If anyone is a knitter or crocheter and looking for a project during the winter or anytime, we can provide the patterns (and lessons) for the requested items. Easy and basic patterns available.

If you would like to join our committee or participate in any of the activities we do, don't hesitate to ask. **Our next meeting is Monday, January 8, 2024 on Zoom at 7 PM. Please note, this is rescheduled from Sunday, January 7th.** Please join us. Our committee is open to anyone. Any questions, contact Cathy Martin at cathymartin19@verizon.net or 617-645-9636.

Shepherding *Sue Bose, Chair*

The Shepherding Committee is sending messages of caring, well wishes and prayers to approximately 16 households through our monthly Card Ministry. Bereavement Cards, sent five times yearly, are going out to the families of Janet Rydin and Rae Hall. During his first week at HOP, I met with Pastor Emmanuel to discuss the church members whom we have been calling and visiting. Soon after, a family member notified me by voicemail that a life crisis had developed for one of those members. A series of communications then followed to confirm the member's location and status and to clarify the wishes and needs of both the member and family. That information was subsequently relayed to the Committee, Pastor Emmanuel and Barb Mullin and a plan respecting those wishes and needs was put in place. We are here to help so please reach out to a committee member, to Pastor or Barb Mullin if you or someone you know is in need. The Committee wishes you all a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

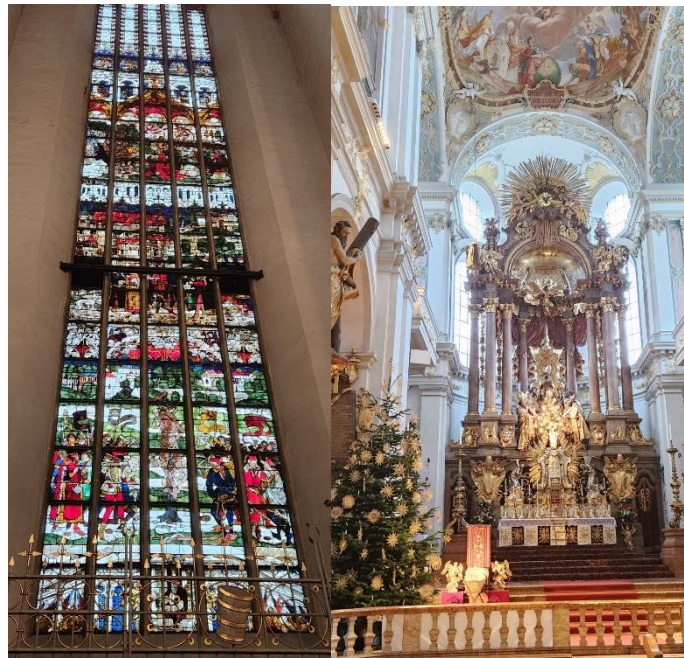
Sue Bose, Chairperson

Barbara Buntrock, Mardie Reimold, Kate Bergman, Dorothy Flett, Carla Hill



Christian Education Committee *Kim Boyd, Chair*

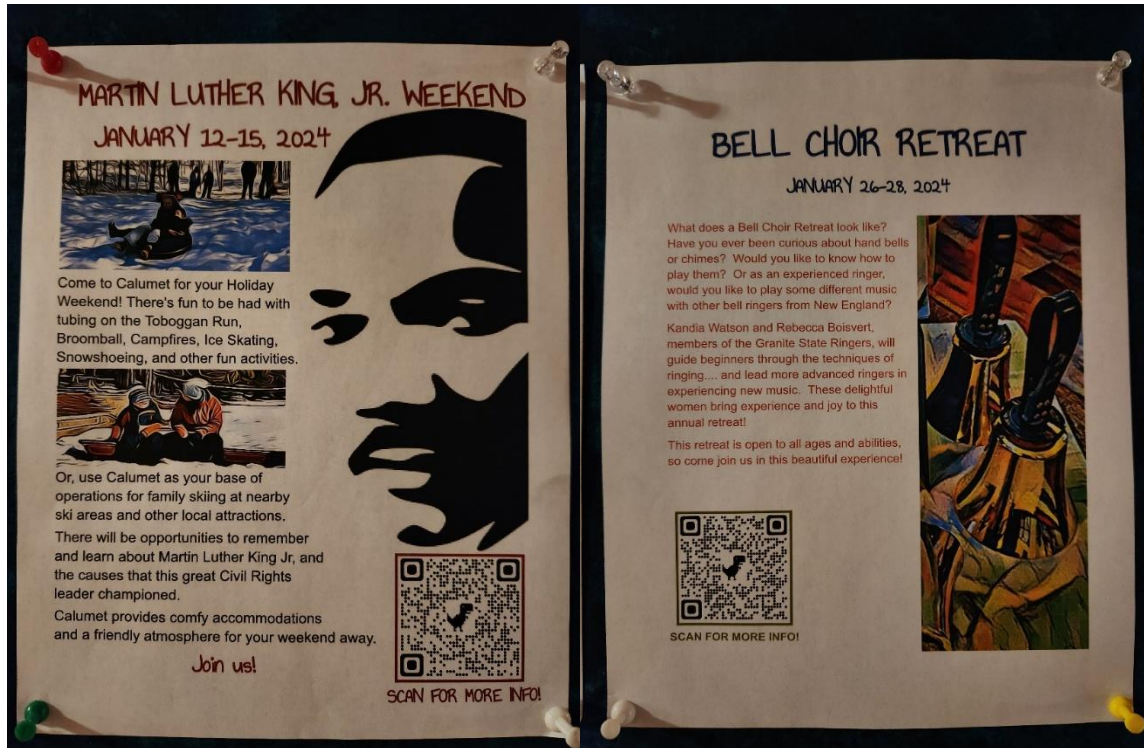
Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a relaxing and exciting Christmas break. Personally, it was a very busy month (I still haven't gotten out all my cards-lots of folks will be getting New Year's cards this year!) as my family traveled to Germany. We visited many Christkindlmarkts and churches in both Berlin and Munich. Oh, the high cathedral ceilings and stained-glass windows! I shared some of my pictures below. As for all of you, I hope you had the opportunity to meet and hear our new Pastor Emmanuel. (How fitting that he began his service to us during Advent!) I've heard he has a LOVELY singing voice.



Back to Christian Education...we've had little time together this month due to the holiday weekends, but we did get the message of the wonder of the birth of Jesus to those who were here with us. We look forward to celebrating Epiphany on January 7. Don't forget that because of a long holiday weekend (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on January 14th. In addition, due to Pastor's installation service being at 2:00 p.m. on January 22, there will be NO Sunday School that day. We hope you will all join us for the other weeks to share how you spent your Christmas. See you right after the church service, around 10:45 a.m.! Just as a reminder, anyone ages 3 through high school are welcome to join us. Up to and including grade two can join in the Godly Play room (the classroom to the RIGHT of the fellowship hall at the very END of the hallway), grades 3-5 will now be meeting in the room next to the church secretary's office (also to the RIGHT of the fellowship hall), and grades 6 and up will meet in the hallway outside the sanctuary. All these changes are due to the new preschool that will soon be sharing our space at House of Prayer. And as a heads up to February, we will be hosting the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11th. Join us after church during coffee hour for a bowl of soup and bring a donation for the food pantry (a food item and/or money). Checks can be made to HOP and include

"Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo section. If you'd like to make a soup or help with the coffee hour itself, look for the sign-up sheet that will be posted in the hallway. Thanks for your support!

Don't forget that Camp Calumet is a great place to spend some time away from home...you can use the conference center as a place to park yourselves during a ski trip, or join in on some of the fun activities they have set up.



Staying around here, we'd love to have an activity to do during the cold, dark winter months together...do you have any ideas? Would you like to do a movie night? A family game night? Maybe go bowling together?? Or have a babysitting night at the church for Moms and Dads to go out for Valentine's Day (the weekend before, Feb 10th)? I'd love to hear your suggestions and a date that might work well for you all. Feel free to email me your thoughts at kimboyd61@hotmail.com.

From the Office

Barb is working on updating our church directory (the most recent one published is from 2019!). Please send along any additions/corrections to her at hopchurchoffice@comcast.net. Thanks!

Worship/Music Committee *Sandy Swanson, Chair*


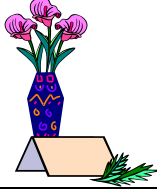
Our next Re-Imagined Service will be on January 28. Thank you to everyone who submitted a survey with your thoughts and suggestions concerning the Reimagining service going forward. We have incorporated some of your suggestions and would love to hear your thoughts on the changes.


In other news, we are talking with Walter from Social Mavens about the possibility of printing QR codes into bulletins as a quick way for HOP patrons to donate. Due to such a great response, we have decided to purchase another 25 hymnals and once again offer folks a chance to “sponsor” one in honor or memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet will be on the front table if you would like to participate. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up – the new hymnals will be in the pews this month.

We are also looking into pricing for a bulk mailing, possibly this summer. Our next Worship and Music Team meeting will be January 14.

Pastor Emmanuel, Lenae Badger, Kathy Sutkowski, Marci Sutkowski, and Scott Hudson-Bryant



	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
January 2	Michaela Johnson	January 8	Ken & Barbara Buntrock
January 3	Cathy Martin	January 14	Kristin & Bob Golden
January 6	Ursula Hackemer		
January 12	Donna Hudson-Bryant		
January 18	Gene Lancaster		
January 20	Glen Olsson		
January 24	Dee Davidson		
January 21	Camden Vassallo		
January 25	Tim Linscott		
January 28	Linda Vassallo		

	Happy Birthday
February 1	Drew Martin
February 15	Naomi Just
	Scott Morad
February 16	Emily Badger
February 23	Jack Morse

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary added to the calendar, contact Barb in the office.

Prayer list

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18

Armstrong, Sophie (Bergman's granddaughter)
Badger, Tim
Brett, Virginia (friend of Martha)
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)
Carlson, Joanne (Linda Lundin's sister)
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)
Dallamora, Joe (Jen M's father)
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)
Davis, Elise (neighbor of the Hayes)
Derderian, Craig (nephew of Parsekian's)
Derderian, Glenn and Sue (nephew of Parsekian's nephew and his wife)
Derderian, Gloria (sister-in-law of Parsekian's)
Ericson, Mabel
Ericson, Pochinart (daughter-in-law of Mabel)
Errichiello, David (Carla's brother)
Fields, Leisel (friend of Jen McCready)
Gall Family (friends of Lenae)
Galotti, Debbie (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)
Gitungano, Alex (friend of HoP)
Glynn, Mary (friend of Sue Bose)
Graham, Ellis (granddaughter of Rob Lacy)
Grankewicz family (Lenae's friends)
Hall, Gerda
Hall family
Hannigan, Mike (friend of Lisa and Rich Rege)
Hansen, Mark (friend of Jacqui Lyons)
Hickman, Myrtle
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Hilston, Paula (Pastor Hilston's wife)
Hutchinson, Rick (friend of Lundins)
Ikoribitangaza, Leo (friend of HoP)
Jensen, Dee (friend of Lenae's)
Just, Christian (brother of Ginny & Naomi)
Just, Ginny (former member)
Just, Naomi
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Knight, Patty (friend of Linda Vassallo)
Lacy, Rob
LaRocca, Debi & family (friends of Warnecks)
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)
McCullough, Lynne (relative of Emily Badger-McCullough)
McGivney, Marlene
McGivney, Paul (Dana's brother)
Meslo, Lisa (Hayes' sister-in-law)
Michaels, Marcia (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Mitchell, Marcia
Murray, Maggie (friend of Mary Jane)
Myers, Chuck (friend of Lundins)
Neat, Kathy
Niendorf, Kris
Nucifore, Linda Nilsson (sister of Karen Nilsson)
Nucifore, Alan (brother-in-law of Karen Nilsson)
O'Donnell, Kathleen (friend of Rita LaPlante)
*Olsson, Todd (Doris' grandson)
Oman, Linda
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)
Parsekian, Patty (MaryJane's daughter-in-law)
Phillips, Ed (friend of Lundins)
Pryor, Mark (friend of Leah McGaughey)
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Read, James L (friend of Martha Willson)
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)
Rodrigues, Mary Ellen (friend of Lenae)
Rogalski, Roberta (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Rush, Jean (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Rydin family
Santacroce, Linda (friend of Sue Bose)
Schooning, Sonia (friend of Martha)
Scott-Rawlins, Chereese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Severson, Karen (friend of Ann Moegle)
Silva, Jeffrey (grandson of Dorothy Flett)
Sullivan, Elisabeth (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Toomey, Skip (brother-in-law of Hayes)
Walsh, Dennis (friend of Chris Hayes)
Walter, Helmut (Stefanie Wegener's father)
Watt, George & Lynda
Weaver, Ryley (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
*serving in the military