

Welcome to Hennepin Church!

We are glad that you chose to worship here today. We hope your time here is meaningful and helps nurture you in the way of Christ. At each entrance there are purple Welcome Bags for guests to receive if you want more information about the church. Blessings to you on your journey of faith!

Nursery for infants - age 3 is available today until 12:30 PM. An usher will be happy to help you find the nursery in **Room 103** of the Education Wing.

Coffee is available Sunday mornings in Carlson Hall. Our special thanks to Jim Cone of Coffee & Tea, Ltd. for supplying Sunday coffee!

Most Protestant churches now use blue as the color to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty and some churches use Bright Blue to symbolize the night sky, the anticipation of the impending announcement of the King's coming, or to symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation. On the third Sunday we light the pink candle to symbolize the joy we anticipate in the coming of Christmas.

Where + is indicated, standing or sitting, we praise God.
You are invited to read aloud the bold text.

9:30 AM WORSHIP ~ DECEMBER 11, 2011

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: WE ARE THOSE WHO DREAM

Practicing Beloved Community

PRELUDE *Improvisation on SLANE* Andrew Hackett

INTROIT *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION Don Forster

We are those who dream,
because God is a God of joy!
We are those who dream,
because God is a God of laughter!
We are those who dream,
because God has big things in store for us!
We are those who dream,
because even as we wait in darkness, we know there is light.
Come, Jesus, come,
Empower us to dream of the day
when peace will be common on earth
and to live as though it's already here.

+ HYMN NO. 203 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* ELLACOMBE
Stanzas 1, 2, 5, 7

ADVENT PRAYER Justin, Lisa, Eleanor and Bennett Rice

...more than he could ever dream or imagine.

Dream-Giver God, today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kin-dom of God. May we be so courageous in our own lives. Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES



Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, and ends on Christmas Eve. During this season we follow the tradition of lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath. The Advent wreath gets its beginning from an ancient tradition of removing the wheel from the cart that aided the people in doing their work and bringing that wheel inside. In the darkness of their homes, they added candles to the wheel for warmth and a promise that the light would be returning.

WELCOME

Bruce Robbins

ANTHEM

Emmanuel Will Come
Journey

Patrick Liebergen

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

+ THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Wangberg, lector

As we hear your Word, O God, may we also breathe in your Spirit, so that our ears may be attuned to what you are saying to us this day. Amen.

PSALM 126

Hymnal Page 847

Sally Johnson

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, the Holy One will do this.

Pay attention to Paul's specific exhortations in this passage from Thessalonians. How does it challenge you today?

For next week, read:
Luke 1: 26-38, 46b-55

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us today.
Thanks be to God.

+ HYMN NO. 451

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

SERMON

A Letter to the Church on Hennepin Avenue

Christopher Jackson

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR OFFERINGS AND OURSELVES

MUSICAL OFFERING

Magnificat

J. S. Bach

The form of today's sermon echoes the letters of Paul that he sent to various churches, called "epistles." This form allows me to step outside of myself, reflect more broadly, and offer my hope and challenge for you in the days ahead.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts;
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You have given us much, O God. Raise our expectations as you raise our generosity, knowing that you will always provide more than we can ever dream or imagine. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leah Rosso

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kindom 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 kindom,
the power, and the glory forever.**

Choral Amen

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

AN ORDER OF FAREWELL FOR REV. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

I thank you, the members and friends of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have served among you. I am grateful for these years of shared ministry. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave our church staff. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. Even as our relationship is changing, our care as sisters and brothers in Christ will continue. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for our beloved church.

*this liturgy is adapted
from the United Methodist
Book of Worship*

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up blessings upon you and give you peace.
Amen.**

+ HYMN NO. 670 *Go Forth for God* GENEVA 124

+ BENEDICTION

Finally, my brothers and sisters, farewell.
Listen to my appeal: agree with one another, live in peace;
and the God of love and peace will be with you.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Meine Seele erhebt den Herr'n* Johann Pachelbel

*The German translation of the Magnificat begins:
"Meine Seele erhebt den Herr'n" - My soul magnifies the Lord.
Pachelbel sets the tune to which this text was traditionally sung in two
different ways: once for manuals alone, and once with the tune in the pedal.*

OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION FOR CHRIS

Everyone is invited to attend an open house reception in honor of Chris Jackson and his 24 years of service. This gathering is taking place at the parsonage from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM today. You are welcome to come and go anytime, including before **or after** the Advent Concert at 11:00 AM. This event takes the place of our regular Breakfast at Hennepin.

Today's acolytes are Bonnie Bond and Donna Hedin.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Today's flowers are given by Steve and Carol Jackson in honor of Elizabeth Jane Jackson's 11th birthday.

Are You Curious About Hennepin Church?

Following this worship service, at about 10:35 AM, meet at the communion rail in front of the Sanctuary for a **Church Tour**. We welcome you to Hennepin Church today!

WELCOME, GUESTS! We are glad you are here! Our hope is that you have a meaningful worship experience this morning that helps you to connect with God and others and to live in the way of Christ. In order to get to know you better, we invite you to sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of your pew and include any information that will help us respond to you. There are Welcome Bags at the main entrances with more information about Hennepin Church, but we'd always prefer to answer your questions face to face so feel free to ask anything. We welcome new insights, new questions, and new people!

HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
55403

612.871.5303

HENNEPIN
CHURCH
.ORG



OUR MISSION

*To invite all peoples on a
spiritual journey guided by
scripture, tradition, experience
and reason that leads to a
Christian faith exemplified by
loving relationships with God,
all others, and ourselves.*

MINISTERS

Every member of Hennepin Church

CLERGY

Bob Brinkley – Pastoral Visitation; Paula Colton – Youth Ministries; Matt Hunter – Outreach; Christopher Jackson – Church Administration; Sally Johnson – Worship & Spiritual Formation; Bruce Robbins – Pastor; Leah Rosso – Young Adults & Hospitality; Wayne Clymer – Bishop in Residence; Richard Waggoner – Music Emeritus.

PROGRAM STAFF

Cynthia Ashley – Parish Nurse; Ann Carlson – Dignity Center; Kevin Dahlen – Koinonia Manager; Andrew Hackett – Organist; Jack Fistler – Legacy Giving; William Mathis – Music & Fine Arts; Mary Martin – Dignity Center Volunteers; Dana Neuhauser – Children's Ministries; Daniel Pederson – Communications

TWIN CITIES

SUPERINTENDENT

Elizabeth Lopez

MINNESOTA AREA BISHOP

Sally Dyck

Weekday Events Get Involved... Volunteer... Donate

Men's Bible Fellowship: At 7:00 on Friday mornings a group of men gather for Bible study, conversation and fellowship. All men are invited to attend this lively discussion.

Thursday Bible Study concluded its series on Thursday, Dec. 8. Class will resume on January 5, at 11:00 AM in the Longfellow Room for a study of the proverbial Old Testament Book of Job. Mary Mensheha and Juanita Reed-Boniface are class leaders.

New Life Adventures: Dec. 9 at 12:00 Noon is our Christmas Luncheon with musical guest is the women's group "Grace Notes Trio." A great time of food and fellowship. Cost is \$15 and **reservations are due TODAY, Dec. 4.** Sign up at the reception desk today!

The Science & Faith Roundtable: If you're interested in how science and religion can be partners in the quest for truth, this group may be for you! Our next meeting is on **January 26, 2012: Theology in the Context of Science** by John Polkinghorne.

Kjerringsleppets, a women's book group, meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 - 7:00 PM in the Longfellow Room. The group is open to women of all ages and welcomes new people. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Johnson at Sally@haumc.org. **Dec. 7: Christmas Party!** Bring a Christmas/Advent poem/story.

The December Hunger Offering will support Groveland Food Shelf. Hennepin Church is one of the five founding congregations of the Groveland Emergency Food Shelf serving hungry neighbors and teens. 2011 visits are up 23% vs 2010; 2010 visits were up **49%** vs 2009! Wow! A \$10 gift buys SIXTY pounds of nourishing food. Isn't that wonderful? Thank you for giving generously.

Dignity Center Needs - Card Tables: We are in need of two good used or new card tables. **Sandwiches and Cookies:** Can you make a couple bags of sandwiches for the Dignity Center? (Make sandwiches out of meat/cheese, no condiments, put in sandwich bags and all back in bread bag. Label/date and bring to reception desk). Cookies are also needed. **Donations of money** for the DC Client Christmas Party. If you can donate towards \$20 gifts cards for the clients or the cost of the party, write a check to the Dignity Center with Christmas Party in the memo line. Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Ann Carlson with any questions: 612-435-1336 or Dignity@haumc.org.

Community Meals: 250 guests braved the cold to join us for a delicious dinner. 30 additional guests brought 25 dogs and cats for excellent vet care. Careful buying strategies meant our guests received a warm pair of gloves. Your financial support, volunteer hours and your prayers make all of this possible. Thank you!

Project Homeless Connect: Monday December 12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Hundreds of volunteers are needed! Sign up at homelessconnectminneapolis.org. You'll help many experiencing homelessness to access housing providers, employment specialists, medical care, children's services and more. There's a place for you; training is provided.

Musical Instruments for Haiti: Do you have an instrument waiting for an eager child to give it some attention? So many of us do, and this is a great time of year to donate it to Hennepin's Global Outreach commission and take a tax deduction. Our sister church in Port au Prince, St. Martin's, is expanding its music program and they would really love to have it. Call 651-779-2700 x2568, email Deirdre.garvey@state.mn.us or simply bring it to church and drop it off.

SPECIAL IRA GIVING

JACK FISTLER, LEGACY GIVING

For those 70 1/2 or older, giving directly from an IRA may be a smart way to benefit Hennepin since the transfer isn't reported as taxable income. This provision is available only through Dec. 31; the transfer must be made directly from the IRA. Harness your IRA to make a Legacy Gift or apply to your stewardship pledge. For questions, contact Jack Fistler, Director of Legacy Giving at 612.435-1321 or Jack@haumc.org.

SUNDAY SPIRE



Printed on 100% post-consumer waste (PCW) recycled office paper.

Please recycle the bulletin!

Please email all information to Spire@haumc.org by 10:00 AM on Monday for the coming Sunday Spire, or drop off at church, attn: Daniel. Keeping your note to 50 words helps out a lot! Thanks!

HENNEPINCHURCH.ORG

Christmas Eve Worship at Hennepin

10:00 AM - Service of Healing - Border Chapel

2:00 PM - Journey on the Labyrinth - Art Gallery

4:00 PM - Family Service/Pageant - Sanctuary

11:00 PM - Candlelight and Communion - Sanctuary

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

One Morning Worship at 10:00 AM, Service of Recovery at 5:00 PM

TODAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

8:30 - 9:00	HOLY COMMUNION	BORDER CHAPEL
8:30 - 12:00	Knotty Quilter Sale	East Entry
8:30 - 12:30	Coffee Fellowship	Carlson Hall
8:45 - 12:30	Nursery/Child Care	Rooms 101 & 103
9:00 - 12:00	Steeple People Book Sale	East Entry
9:00 - 10:00	SACRED JOURNEY	ART GALLERY
9:30 - 10:30	FESTIVAL WORSHIP	SANCTUARY
9:30 - 10:30	7th - 8th Grade Sunday School	Church of Youth
9:30 - 10:30	9th - 12th Grade Sunday School	Senior High Room
9:45 - 10:00	Sunday School Gathering (PreK - 4th Grade)	Border Chapel
9:45 - 10:45	5th & 6th Grade Sunday School	Parsonage Basement
10:00 - 10:45	Preschool Sunday School	Room 105
10:00 - 10:45	Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School	Room 1/3
10:00 - 10:45	Kindergarten Sunday School	Room 5/7
10:00 - 10:45	1st Grade Sunday School	Room 4/6
10:00 - 10:45	2nd Grade Sunday School	Room 8
10:00 - 10:45	3rd Grade Sunday School	Room 201
10:00 - 10:45	4th Grade Sunday School	Room 203
10:30 - 11:15	Blood Pressure Screening	Room 204
10:30 - 12:00	Seeds of Celebration	Harrison Room
10:30 - 12:00	Little Kids, BIG Fun	Social Hall
10:30 - 1:30	Reception in Honor of Chris Jackson	Parsonage
11:00 - 12:00	MANY VOICES	BORDER CHAPEL
11:00 - 12:00	Music at Hennepin: Advent Concert	Sanctuary
11:00 - 11:45	Carol Choir	Room 8
4:00 - 6:00	Singing in the Light	Art Gallery
5:00 - 6:00	SUNDAY AT FIVE: A SERVICE OF RECOVERY	BORDER CHAPEL
4:00 - 7:00	Youth Fellowship	Off Site
7:00 - 8:00	Journey Rehearsal	Choir Room

MONDAY, DEC. 12

- 6:00 PM Young Adult Potluck
- 6:30 PM Faith in Action Team

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 6:30 PM Children's Council
- 6:30 PM Russia Partnership
- 6:45 PM Food Service Meeting
- 7:00 PM Koinonia Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

- 9:30 AM Knotty Quilters
- 1:00 PM Recyclers
- 1:00 PM Archives Committee
- 5:30 PM Open Yoga
- 5:30 PM Steeple People Board
- 6:00 PM Advent Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

- 3:00 PM Labyrinth
- 10:00 AM January InSpire Deadline
- 6:00 PM Staff Parish Relations

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Fellowship
- 10:00 AM Alanon

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

- 9:00 AM Grief Support Group
- 11:00 AM Open Yoga

SPECIAL HOLIDAY NOTES

The Building will be closed on Mondays Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for Christmas and New Year's holidays. **The deadline for the Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 Sunday bulletins will be 10:00 AM, Monday, December 19.** Both will print the week of Dec. 19.

TEDDY BEAR & QUILT SALE

DECEMBER 11 FROM 8:30 TO NOON

The Knotty Quilter's cupboard is overflowing, the holiday bin is stuffed and all the bears are ready to cue up for the Holiday Sale! We sell our creations to buy more supplies, to make donations that support the programs of the church and local, national and international outreach.

CHRISTMAS EVE HEALING SERVICE

On Christmas Eve at 10:00 AM, come down to the chapel to experience Christmas Eve worship that is quiet and healing. Come by yourself or invite your family or friends to come with you. New traditions can be helpful during difficult times, and we'd like to offer you a way to honor the people in your life and remember the hope and light that Christ brings.

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GIVING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT

At the end of October the Operating Budget Income Received in each of the past three years has amounted to:

2011 - 76% OF BUDGET

2010 - 80% OF BUDGET

2009 - 74% OF BUDGET

Thank you for your support!

BREAKFAST AT HENNEPIN RESUMES NEXT WEEK

There will be **NO** Breakfast at Hennepin **Today, Dec 11:** You are invited to a reception at the Parsonage, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM, for Chris Jackson, who is leaving our church staff. Please also consider attending the 11:00 AM Advent Concert, and join us afterwards, if you wish.

HENNEPIN CHURCH

WE ARE A CARING COMMUNITY

PASTORAL CARE: Please notify the church office if you, a family member or any other church member are experiencing illness, hospitalization, or another need for pastoral care.

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS are posted each week in the Pastoral Care section on the kiosk in Carlson Hall. Greeting cards for members in need of cheer are available to sign at the reception desk near the East Entry.

PACEM SINGERS are available to sing to Hennepin members and friends, bringing comfort of favorite hymns and songs to your surroundings.

DOWNTOWN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: www.mplsgriefsupport.com 9:30 AM Saturdays Sept. 3 - Dec. 31 at Hennepin Church, 511 Groveland Ave. **Dec. 17:** Ted Bowman "The Gifts of Grief and Hope."

Relevant

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY 6 PM – DEC. 14 AT THE PARSONAGE

Our Advent Bible study continues as we read and discuss the Scriptures that will be in worship the following Sunday (no matter what service you go to!) No preparation is needed. We will meet in the parsonage (next door to the church at 425 Groveland Ave. Come to any door.) All are welcome!
Dec. 14: A look at the Christmas Story from 2 Gospels.

SACRED WORDS OF DREAMING 11:00 AM – DEC. 18

The scriptures are filled with stories of those who dream. The Advent and Christmas lessons tell of Joseph's dream, Mary's dream and the dreams of the Magi. Join Bruce Robbins to explore these dreams that led people to places they never expected to go.

D.C. CLIENT CHRISTMAS PARTY 11:30 AM – DEC. 19

This year the Dignity Center gives clients a joyous, loving Christmas celebration on December 19 from 11:30-1:30. We can't give this party without help from you, the Hennepin Church Community. Contribute money to purchase gift cards or to pay for the party; contribute a salad, vegetable or cookies to serve or volunteer your time to be hosts for the party. Checks can be written to HAUMC Dignity Center, memo: Christmas Party. Contact Ann Carlson for more information: 612-435-1336 or Dignity@haumc.org.

NEW STAFF CONTACT INFO WELCOME MARY HELFRICH

Dec. 1 we welcomed Mary Helfrich to Hennepin Church as our new office manager. You may reach her at MaryBeth@haumc.org or 612-435-1325. Mary will handle building scheduling, support for Bruce and Administrative Committees and some office management.

Inclusive

OPEN YOGA WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 PM SATURDAYS AT 11:00 AM



Open Yoga embraces you wherever you are in relationship with your own body. Just show up in comfortable clothes. Your first class is free of charge. After that, pay what you can. Led by Leslie Ball, a certified yoga instructor with the international Yoga Alliance.

YOUTH SKI TRIP TO MICHIGAN IN JANUARY

The Youth Ski Trip to Michigan will take place over MLK weekend again in 2012. Please sign up online or by contacting Paula@haumc.org for more information. This trip is a great time for bonding with friends and an excellent opportunity to bring friends on a fun church trip. Scholarships are available and you are encouraged to sign up early. We will be taking a charter bus as we did in 2011. Cost is \$140. Your fee covers food, lodging at a church, lifts, and program. Extras include ski rental (about \$52) or snowboard rentals (about \$70) and personal spending. Non-skiing youth and adults pay \$75/person.

SPECIAL SALE
COLLECTED FROM SHELVES OF
**STEEPLE PEOPLE
SURPLUS STORE**
BOOKS
LOVELY LINENS
UNIQUE DECOR ITEMS
HIGH QUALITY MERCHANDISE
BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK OR CASH
SUN. DEC. 4 & 18
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EAST ENTRANCE OF HAUMC

WOOD BOWLS AVAILABLE



Thanks to fallen cherry, maple and birch trees and Bruce Arones' talents, Community Meals is again selling hand-crafted bowls today and next week! 100% of sales go right to this joyful ministry's piggybank. Shop now for Christmas or an up-coming gift. See our table in Carlson Hall today and next week, Dec. 18!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Sign up to donate Sanctuary flowers in 2012 by providing your name and phone number on the calendar in Carlson Hall. A couple weeks before your selected date you'll be reminded to order your flowers and asked for a dedication to put in the bulletin.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM

Come worship on Christmas Day! How often do you have the opportunity to worship on Christmas Day morning with your church family? This year we will be celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day! We hope you will come in whatever attire works for you on Christmas morning and enjoy singing carols and reflecting on the joy of God's great news to us. We will have **one service at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary. Christmas Day won't be on Sunday for another seven years! Make the most of it this year with your church family. New Year's Day, January 1, we will also have one service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary with a focus on peace. Both Sundays our 5:00 PM recovery service will be meeting in the Chapel as usual.