

# HOUSE OF PRAYER

*Is a gathering of God's people who value:*

**Welcoming, Relationships, Compassionate Community, and Openness**

## Better Together



Pastor Eric Luedtke

There is something to be said for a child growing up and being able to do tasks for themselves. Parents celebrate these achievements – sometimes longing for that independence, other times wishing their child wasn't quite so capable just yet. Adolescence provides a testing ground for skills that we use “out on our

own.” But, as poet John Donne wrote, “no [one] is an island entire of itself” and I suspect that most of us realize this the moment we venture out “on our own.”

I've long noticed that churches have this tendency to try to go it alone in the world. Sure, we may be part of a denomination and we call on our Synod (or other judicatory officials) when we are required to or need some assistance, but when “things are going well” we like our autonomy and ability to steer our own path – following the Bible, of course. In fact, I would go so far as to say that we often see other congregations around us as “competition” for those who choose to affiliate with a local church body.

This is why I am excited to be part of House of Prayer – because this congregation is part of a collaboration of neighboring congregations who are seeking to work TOGETHER for the good of God's presence in our community. We do this through shared youth and outreach ministry, sharing our musical gifts with one another, and collaborative worship experiences throughout the year.

As we head into the season of Lent, we have an opportunity to build relationships with our siblings in Christ at Woodlake Lutheran Church through shared Ash Wednesday worship and midweek Lent activities where we will explore together how our collaboration allows us to make a lasting impact in our community.

My prayer for this season of Lent is that we will work to break down the barriers of “us” and “them” however they present themselves by daring to eat with people we don't know (or don't know well); by worshipping together in one voice; by opening our minds to new ways of being God's church in the community of Richfield, Minnesota. And, by the grace of God, we might grow in our discipleship.

Contact Pastor Eric with any comments, insights, or questions at [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org) / 612-866-8471, Ext. 2.



## LENT 2023

Woodlake Lutheran & House of Prayer Lutheran

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
(02/22)

12:00PM HOUSE OF  
PRAYER  
7:00PM WOODLAKE

**LENTEN WEDNESDAYS**  
@ WOODLAKE

5:30PM SOUP SUPPER  
6:30PM LENTEN SERVICE  
7:00PM COMMUNITY

CONVERSATION · PRAYER · RALY · MUSIC



## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing



Brent King  
HOP President

Over the three years (yes, three years) of the “COVID era,” Angela and I have made a point of taking Saturday drives and visiting cities in a 125-mile radius from home. We enjoy seeing the sights and often seeing smaller towns and areas we hadn't visited previously. A side benefit of our trips is playing SiriusXM radio, listening to “American Top 40” programs from the 1970s hosted by Casey Kasem.

On a recent, cold and clear Saturday, we drove to the Durand, Wisconsin area and listened to American Top 40 from 1973 (yes, 50 years ago!). One of the songs played was Stevie Wonder's, “Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing.” It's a great song that Stevie Wonder composed and performed, and I recall having either the album or the single.

As a 15-year-old hearing that tune 50 years ago, I recall liking the musical portion of the song; that is, the melody and harmony. I didn't think so much about the message. I'm sure I worried about typical 15-year-old things like making friends, trying to keep up with homework, and going through Clearasil like it came in a 55-gallon drum.

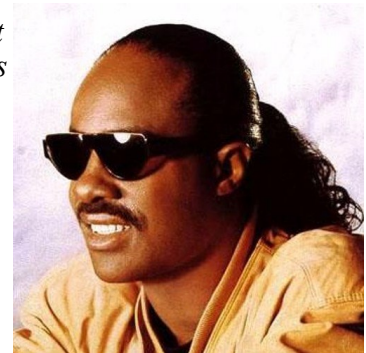
There's something that happens to us as we grow from 15-year-olds to adults: we worry more. I suppose it's natural as we start dating, get jobs, get married, become parents, become homeowners, pay taxes (rinse and repeat on that one), experience losses, get older, encounter health issues, become grandparents (you get the picture), we experience worry.

This is where I think we can tap on the great philosopher, Stevland Morris (aka, Stevie Wonder) for some guidance. There are so many things which are outside of our control, and which really don't deserve our worry. We can't change things that have happened in the past, we can't control what may happen in the future, and we can only really live in today.

I think this passage from Matthew 6:34 says it precisely: *“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Not worrying is easier said than done. I know I will be striving to accept what I can't change and working hard on the things that I can change. Stevie had this figured out; Wonder how he did that.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [brentgking8157@gmail.com](mailto:brentgking8157@gmail.com).



### Your Leadership Ministry Team

All these great people are here to answer questions and hear your feedback about HOP.

Brent King - Congregational President: [brentgking8157@gmail.com](mailto:brentgking8157@gmail.com)  
Paul Danielson - Congregational Vice President: [pdanielson1@comcast.net](mailto:pdanielson1@comcast.net)  
Charley Simonson - Treasurer: [charleysimonson@hotmail.com](mailto:charleysimonson@hotmail.com)  
Shirley Moen - Recording Secretary: [smoen@riverway.com](mailto:smoen@riverway.com)  
Kim Houle - Community Development: [wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com](mailto:wifeofadrumnerguy@gmail.com)  
Andry Jurcich - Congregational Development: [andryj@invisik.com](mailto:andryj@invisik.com)  
Steve Pierson - Support Ministry: [stevepierson56@hotmail.com](mailto:stevepierson56@hotmail.com)  
Betsy Paradise - Human Resources: [betsyparadise1@gmail.com](mailto:betsyparadise1@gmail.com)



## Leadership Ministry Team Update

### Monthly Finance Report

December financials show improvement in income over the prior month, especially offerings. Thank you to all who contributed in December! Expenses were also slightly lower than budgeted and this has brought us positive in revenue of \$11,117 for the year thus far. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [charleysimonson@hotmail.com](mailto:charleysimonson@hotmail.com)

Thank you, Charley Simonson, HOP Treasurer

<b><u>December Financials</u></b>				
	<u>Dec. 2022</u>		<u>YTD</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Offerings	55,918	49,000	203,616	204,000
Rental Income	10,050	8,750	55,450	48,400
Other Income	2,035	900	6,349	1,420
Preschool Income	8,823	10,000	40,245	43,325
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>42,578</b>	<b>44,950</b>	<b>229,080</b>	<b>228,495</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>				
	56,078	56,338	295,311	325,456
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>20,748</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>11,117</b>	<b>-28,311</b>

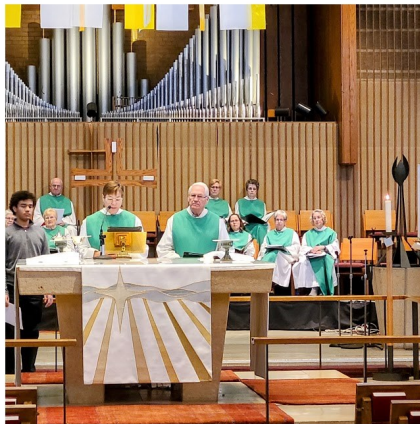
<b><u>Dedicated Fund Activity</u></b>		
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Dedicated Funds Received</b>		
Evangelism	0	0
Worship	0	20
Facilities	2,050	11,259
Fall Festival	0	2,745
Foundation	250	675
Youth and Family	0	2,908
Preschool	724	3,494
	<u>3,024</u>	<u>21,101</u>
<b>Dedicated Funds Spent</b>		
Evangelism	0	63
Facilities	0	4,935
Fall Festival	0	439
Foundation	0	425
Youth and Family	0	3,871
Preschool	769	5,799
	<u>769</u>	<u>15,532</u>
<b>Net Dedicated Activity</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>5,569</b>

## Around House of Prayer

### Installation of Pastor Eric Luedtke

During both the 9:30 am and 11:00 am worship services on Sunday, January 8, 2023, Pastor Eric was officially Installed as Senior Pastor of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

This is a celebration of the public commitment by both Pastor Eric and House of Prayer to our shared work in the Gospel. Thanks to Pastor John Hulden from the Minneapolis Area Synod, members of the Leadership Ministry Team, Call Committee, and all those who helped make this service special. It was a great day for worship, celebration, and Kringle (one of Pastor Eric's favorite treats)!



## Around House of Prayer



### **Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. - Psalm 100**

We have all experienced Jon Kietzer's musical legacy during his past 50 years at House of Prayer Lutheran Church. He has enhanced our musical experience as an organist and has also served as the director of adult and youth choirs, bell choirs, and the brass and wind ensemble. Thousands of worshippers have been welcomed, entertained, and spiritually moved by Jon's creative leadership of the music ministry program.

Jon's 50-year legacy will continue as he retires through your support to the House of Prayer Foundation's newly created: **Jon Kietzer Music Ministry Fund**

Donations will be used for special musical projects and events, i.e., concerts, educational outreach and youth activities. Please consider making a gift that will keep on giving!

You may donate online (no login required) at: <https://hoplc.org/give>

Donations may also be mailed to House of Prayer or given during the weekly offering.

House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
Attn: Kietzer Music Ministry Fund  
7625 Chicago Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

The House of Prayer Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

Please **SAVE THESE DATES** for Jon's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary/retirement celebration:

**Sunday, February 19** – 5:00 pm – Concert - The Gustavus Wind Orchestra

**Sunday, April 16** – 7:00 pm - Hymn Festival with seven organists

**Sunday, May 21** – 9:30 am Worship Service – Music Sunday – Celebrating Jon's music ministry  
A catered lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, June 4** – 9:30 am Worship Service – Minnesota Boychoir will sing during the service

**Sunday, September 10** – 9:30 am Worship Service – Jon's official retirement/50<sup>th</sup> anniversary date  
A reception will follow the service

## Around House of Prayer

### Fellowship Speaker Series

On Thursday, January 12, from 1-3 pm, we welcomed Maser, Amundson, & Boggio P.A. to speak on the topic of elder law in a seminar titled Estate Planning 101. Following the speaker, we had cookies and coffee fellowship.

Contact Steve Barnes at [sebarnes36@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnes36@gmail.com) or Noel Sagness [ncs6391@gmail.com](mailto:ncs6391@gmail.com) if you have speaker suggestions or would like to help plan the next event.



### Caring for our Congregation Homebound Ministry Team

Our Homebound Ministry Team keeps our members connected and cared for when they are unable to attend worship regularly. Individuals or couples make regular visits to members for prayer, conversation, and bringing them communion.



If you aren't able to be in worship regularly and would like to be visited by a team member or if there's a congregation member you know of that should be on our list, please contact Cathy Shromoff at [cshromoff@msn.com](mailto:cshromoff@msn.com) or Pastor Eric 612.866.8471, ext. 2 or [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org) and we'll make sure to coordinate a visit.

If you're a caring soul who would like to be part of the team that makes visits, contact Cathy Shromoff at [cshromoff@msn.com](mailto:cshromoff@msn.com) or Pastor Eric 612.866.8471 ext. 2 or [eluedtke@hoplc.org](mailto:eluedtke@hoplc.org) and we can tell you more about being part of our care team.

### Spiffin' Up the Place Sanctuary Cleaning

Thanks to the Altar Guild for organizing sanctuary cleaning day on Monday, January 9, and for all who came to help!



There were buckets, gloves, dusters, and a lot of hard work. The sanctuary is sparkling!

The Altar Guild meets regularly on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1pm in Parish Hall. Come join the fun!

For questions, please contact Nancy Bjornstad at [ne\\_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com](mailto:ne_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com), Sharon Stewart at [system13@gmail.com](mailto:system13@gmail.com), or LeRae Finn at [leraef@comcast.net](mailto:leraef@comcast.net).



### Book Discussion Group

House of Prayer Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, February 2, at 1:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

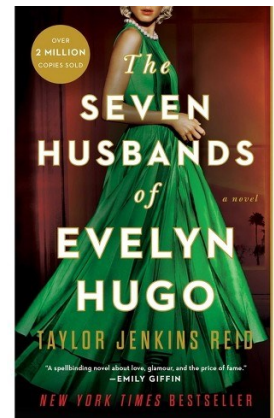
At our February meeting, we will be discussing *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 2nd –  
*Between Two Kingdoms*  
by Suleika Jaouad

We welcome anyone who loves to read!

For more information about Book Club, please contact Sandy Williams at [srwillms70@hotmail.com](mailto:srwillms70@hotmail.com).



## Around House of Prayer

### Table Top Board Game Meet Up

Join us on the first Friday of the month, starting February 3, from 1:30-5:00 pm for a new group at HOP. Come play a game, meet new people, and enjoy fellowship. The first meeting will be in Classrooms 3-4-5. Beginning in March, the group will move to the Narthex



If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Sara Barnaby at [anriasingames@gmail.com](mailto:anriasingames@gmail.com). All are welcome!

### Calling All Musicians!

The HOP Music Ministry welcomes all interested singers and ringers to raise our voices and instruments in song. Now is a great time to join in making beautiful music together! Whether you are an experienced musician, or wanting to become involved for the first time, we welcome you to join the Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir, or BOTH!

Please come join us for rehearsal(s) on **Welcome Wednesday, February 1, 2023!** We will have a special time of welcome, fellowship, and snacks to enjoy together on this date.

Our upcoming weekly rehearsal schedule:

Wednesday evenings:

Hand Bell Choir rehearsal	5:50-6:40 pm
Adult Choir rehearsal	7:00-8:30 pm
Sunday mornings:	8:45 am rehearsal; 9:30 service



Contact Roselyn Hanson Weber at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org) with any questions.

### HOP Adult Choir Attends the NLC Choral Tune-up

On a winter Saturday morning in mid-January, members of the HOP Adult Choir enjoyed singing together with 400+ other church choir members from across the Midwest at the annual Choral TuneUp, hosted by the National Lutheran Choir and its director, David Cherwien. Dr. Anton Armstrong, Director of the St. Olaf Choir, led the workshop with a sense of humor and high expectation for the singers. All participants appreciated the opportunity to sing together, and to gain new insights and techniques for improvement in choral singing. We look forward to sharing the music we learned at the workshop with our HOP congregation.

The singers also enjoyed continued fellowship at a festive lunch together following the Tune-up. All are welcomed to join us for this fun and engaging musical opportunity, as we look forward to next year's Choral Tune-up in January, 2024!

Contact Roselyn Hanson Weber with questions at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org)



### Card Ministry

Card Ministry is a group who enjoys fellowship and sharing their artistic talents to reconstruct used greeting cards. We meet the first and third Wednesdays at 10:00 am and sell cards the last Sunday of the month. The cards we remake are anniversary, birthday, get well, sympathy, thank you and thinking of you. Donations of these cards are greatly appreciated and we couldn't do it without them. We do not remake holiday cards. Come give us a try, you may be surprised how much fun cutting and gluing can be. We have supplies and fellowship to share! Please contact Nancy Bjornstad at [ne\\_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com](mailto:ne_bjorn.6203@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## Around House of Prayer

### Combined Choir Invitation with Woodlake Lutheran Choir

We have an exciting opportunity to join the singers from Woodlake Lutheran Church for several upcoming worship services this spring.

The combined choirs will sing for the following worship services:

**Epiphany Season (HOP)**

Sunday, February 5, at 9:30 a.m.

**Ash Wednesday (Both HOP & Woodlake)**

Wednesday, February 22, at 12:00 p.m. at HOP and 7:00 p.m. at WL

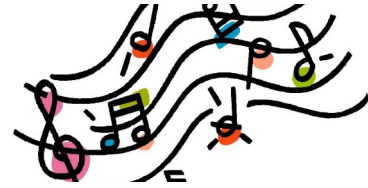
**Lent (Woodlake)**

Wednesday evenings in March (1, 8, 15, 22, 29): 6:30 p.m. Lenten services

**Easter Season (HOP)**

Sunday, April 16, 7 p.m. (4:30 p.m. rehearsal) - **Hymn Festival**

Sunday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. service (8:40 a.m. rehearsal) - **Music Sunday**



Our adjusted rehearsal schedule during Lent:

5:00 - 5:45 p.m. – Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (HOP Sanctuary)

7:00 - 8:30 – Adult Choir rehearsal (Woodlake Lutheran)

## Children, Youth and Family

### House of Prayer Preschool

Hello from HoPP! As I went back to my February 2022 Hi Lines, I realized how much has changed in the last year.

The article I wrote back then was about how schools were going to distance learning again due to COVID, but that HoPP would be committed to staying open. What is interesting is that my memories of that specific COVID piece have faded. What I do remember is what the now one-year-old children were like back then, what sweet art projects we did, how much my staff bonded and laughed together to make it through the winter.

What it truly reminds me of is that God is good. And God is good to our preschool! We have been enjoying the snow (not so much the ice but we try to be positive!), our cozy room, and our sweet group. We will start to put plans in place for our summer offerings and enrollment for fall 2023 soon enough, but for now, we are just enjoying being together and remembering how blessed we are.

If you have questions about HoPP, please contact Nicole Olson at [nolson@hoplc.org](mailto:nolson@hoplc.org).





## Children, Youth and Family

### Snow Tubing and Lock In

#### Snow Tubing

RALY and the Woodlake Congregational Life Commission are excited to partner again this year for a fun event! We'll bring snacks and drinks, all you have to bring is warm clothing and all your friends! We recommend planning on parking in the overflow lot, as last year the main lot was full by the time we arrived.

**February 19th**  
**Elm Creek Park Reserve**  
**2 - 4 pm**

Cost:  
**\$10 for adults**  
**FREE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH!**



#### Youth Lock In

We invite all Middle School Students, friends, and their families to join us at Woodlake Lutheran Church on February 19th at 10:30 am for a modern contemporary service, then we invite the students to stay until the next day! This is a no cost event! Bring your friends!

#### Lock in Schedule:

- 10:30 am : Modern Worship
- 12:00pm : Lunch
- 1:00 pm : Leave for Snow Tubing
- 4:30 pm : Leave to return to Woodlake
- 5:30 pm : Check-ins & Games
- 6:00 pm : Dinner
- 7:00 pm : Games & Movie Marathon
- 12:00am: Midnight Devotion
- Overnight : Movie Marathon
- 7:00 am : Wake up & Clean up
- 7:30 am : Breakfast
- 8:00 am : Pick up

What is provided:  
 Snacks, Drinks, & all meals  
 Ticket to Snow Tubing

What to Bring:  
 Warm clothing for snow tubing  
 2 spare changes of clothing  
 Any overnight essentials

### January 15th Sledding Event



## Children, Youth and Family

### RALY Summer Schedule

It's not too early to think about summer!

Save the dates:

**Camp Week: June 25-30 & Family Weekend: June 30-July 2**

at Luther Park Danbury (1st-12th Graders)

Half week and full week options available! And there is a weekend family retreat option available the following weekend for those who want their youth to get a taste of camp, but still are too young to go alone! We want you to go to camp! Use the code "HOP Camper" and get a 50% scholarship on all programs! Additional need based scholarships available upon request.

**Vacation Bible School: July 10-13**

(PreK-5th Grade)

Vacation Bible School is an evening program focused on hands-on faith. This is a FREE week long program, and more details will be announced soon!

**Summer Stretch: July 10-13**

(Middle School Grades 6th-8th)

We are excited to bring the Luther Park summer staff back again this year!

Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and relationship building. Registration and schedule to be announced soon!

Contact Daniel Ditmanson at 612-866-8471, ext. 5 / [dditmanson@hoplc.org](mailto:dditmanson@hoplc.org) with any questions.



### Sunday School February Lessons

- 2/5 Jesus Goes to Nazareth  
Luke 4:14-30
- 2/12 The Disciples  
Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3
- 2/19 Four Friends—Jesus healing the paralyzed man  
Luke 5: 17-26
- 2/26 10 Men Healed  
Luke 17: 11-19

Contact Kristi Liu at [kline010@umn.edu](mailto:kline010@umn.edu) or Andry Jurcich at [andryj@invisik.com](mailto:andryj@invisik.com) for more details about HOP Sunday School or if you have questions.

**Come join us for Summer Fun!**

## In the Community

### Simpson Shelter

We served at Simpson Shelter on January 10th. Steve Pierson and I served lunch on the last day at Simpson Church, the site of the shelter for the past 40 years. Staff and current residents of the shelter were in the process of moving to the interim location, Zion Lutheran Church on 33rd and Pillsbury. The shelter will be located at Zion until the new shelter and apartments are completed. We served taco hotdish amidst the chaos of moving day. Everyone seemed to enjoy having a hot meal before moving on to Zion. Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions about Simpson, or want to help with preparing meals in the future, please contact Leanne Hyde at [maramom62@gmail.com](mailto:maramom62@gmail.com).



### HOP Community Engagement

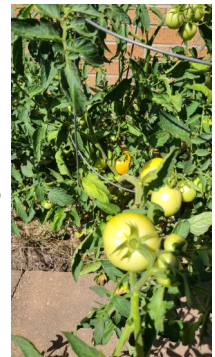


#### Every Meal

The month of February is a wonderful time to reflect upon, and generously support organizations that bring you joy while helping spread the Love of Christ. One such program is Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story). They have proclaimed their Mission and outlined their Values and course of action with their vision statement <https://www.everymeal.org/about/mission-vision/>. Participating children are discreetly provided with a meal kit each Friday, so that they have access to food over the weekend when they are away from school. Last November, Every Meal proudly served its' 10-millionth meal at Centennial School right here in Richfield. You can read more about that here: <https://www.everymeal.org/richfield-student-receives-10-millionth-meal/> Every Meal is in dire need of your financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can help: <https://www.everymeal.org/give/>

#### HOP Garden

Do you enjoy gardening? Do you know House of Prayer has a community garden? If you are interested in working with the community garden this summer, please contact Steve Pierson at ([stevepierson56@hotmail.com](mailto:stevepierson56@hotmail.com)) or Kim Houle at [khoule@seiu.com](mailto:khoule@seiu.com) to enlist!



#### VEAP

VEAP is making your donations “virtually” simple. If you are familiar with Amazon, you can choose and pay for donated items to be sent directly to VEAP, rather than making the trip yourself. VEAP updates this list regularly to list their most needed items. Please use this link to make virtual donations:

<https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/2JZBZOQ017HQ5>

House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**E-mail:** [office@hoplc.org](mailto:office@hoplc.org)  
**Website:** [www.hoplc.org](http://www.hoplc.org).  
**Pastor:** Senior Pastor, Eric Luedtke

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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 2944

**In-Person Worship Services:**  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
[www.hoplc.org/recordings](http://www.hoplc.org/recordings)



The *Hi-Lines* is published by the House of Prayer staff and volunteers. Any questions can be directed to Cara Wright, Director of Administration, at [cwright@hoplc.org](mailto:cwright@hoplc.org), or Mary Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at [mweaver@hoplc.org](mailto:mweaver@hoplc.org).

**Milestones**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**  
*Anniversaries (50+ years and 5 year increments)*

Couples	Date	Years
John and Pamela Bostrom	02/24	50

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**  
None in January

**A Look Back**



**Paul Douglas Visited to talk about Creation Care on February 20, 2018**