5 CORE Practices of a Fruitful Congregation

Radical Hospitality...
encourages Christians to offer the absolute utmost of themselves, their abilities, and their creativity to welcome others into the faith.

Passionate Worship...
explores how the ingredient of passion can transform a worship service and offers insights and ideas on how to have worship that deeply touches souls and changes lives.

Intentional Faith Development...
shows how high quality learning experiences for all ages mature the spirituality and faith of congregational participants.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service...
reminds us that by reaching out and taking risks, churches become the resources God uses to change lives and transform the world.

Extravagant Generosity...
shows how generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to Jesus, and strengthens congregations to fulfill Christ’s ministries.

Our Mission
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision
We will grow in our love of God and neighbor, reach new people and heal a broken world.

Our Strategy
We are committed to the five practices of a fruitful congregation.

- A LETTER FROM PASTOR JUDY  PG. 3
- AU REVOIR FROM PASTOR NATE  PG. 5
- REFLECTIONS ON MY TIME AT HENNEPIN, ANDREW HACKETT  PG. 6
- MEET SUNDAY BRUNCH SUPERHERO, DWIGHT SOLIE  PG. 7
- OLD SCHOOL BY STEEPLE PEOPLE-SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE...  PG. 8
- SACRED JOURNEY AT 25  PG. 11
- DISPATCHES FROM BAIWALLA, SEIRRA LEONE  PG. 12
- MOVIE & A MEAL: FIGHTING BIG OIL WITH FRIENDSHIP  PG. 14
- URBAN THEOLOGY, IMMERSION BY ENCHANTMENT  PG. 16
- SAY JAMBO! TO OUR NEWEST REFUGEE FAMILY  PG. 17
- MEET OUR 2019 HENNEPIN SCHOLARS  PG. 18
- MISSA GAIA: EARTH MASS  PG. 20
Dear Hennepin Friends,

I feel like I have been in a whirlwind since I returned from General Conference 2019, where the General Conference voted to affirm the Traditionalist Plan. The United Methodist Church all over the globe is coming to terms with what that means for our future. We can’t be sure yet of all the implications, but we do know this:

1. Statements of resistance have been written in almost every annual conference except in the deep south of the United States, Africa, Philippines, and Eurasia. Minnesota has a statement of resistance and you can sign it by going to www.minnesotamethodists.org. You will also find links to websites where you can read about what is happening all over the nation.

2. Leaders from all areas and caucus groups are acknowledging that the United Methodist Church is broken and that our differences are irreconcilable. There is growing consensus that the UMC is divided and will likely formally split at the General Conference in 2020, which will be held in Minneapolis.

3. Leaders are working to formulate plans to present at the General Conference 2020. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas (the largest UMC church in North America with 22,000 members), is meeting with leaders across the nation to discuss new ways of being Methodist. These conversations may lead to actions that result in a new denomination that is fully inclusive. He believes that there are many people in the US and Western Europe who desire to be church together.

There will be a meeting in May of about 500 leaders representing every annual conference at Church of the Resurrection to make plans for a what is next. In September there will be an open meeting at Church of the Resurrection where we will rally for a new way forward to form an inclusive Methodist church. Hennepin members and leaders will be at the meeting in the Fall. Please let me know if you would like to go.

4. I am co-convener of Minnesota Methodists, and we are working with communities all over Minnesota to bring people together to move to an inclusive future together. We are hosting Town Hall meetings throughout the state to inform people and ask them to be a movement to join this new inclusive church together. You can become involved in this movement by signing up at www.minnesotamethodists.org.

What are we doing at Hennepin?

We have reaffirmed our commitment to be an inclusive church that welcomes all people. Our commitment to full inclusion is rooted in our Wesleyan theology of love and grace. There are many members of Hennepin who are questioning whether we can continue to be a United Methodist congregation given the decisions of the General Conference. The leaders of Hennepin are committed to listening carefully and engaging in conversations with others across the nation who are asking the same questions. We need to listen to each other and see what God is doing in our midst.

As we engage in “what is next?” conversations, we will need to remind each other that to be loyal to the United Methodist Church is to resist evil and injustice and to affirm that the church is open to all people. Our commitment to full inclusion is rooted in our Wesleyan theology of love and grace. There are many members of Hennepin who are questioning whether we can continue to be a United Methodist congregation given the decisions of the General Conference. The leaders of Hennepin are committed to listening carefully and engaging in conversations with others across the nation who are asking the same questions. We need to listen to each other and see what God is doing in our midst.

As we engage in “what is next?” conversations, we will need to remind each other that to be loyal to the United Methodist Church is to resist evil and injustice and to affirm that the church is open to all people. Our membership vows and we will be courageous and steadfast in upholding them, even as we engage in a lover’s quarrel with those who disagree. This does not mean that we won’t take action. It means that as we determine our next steps, we will be committed to strengthening unity and the bond of peace with each other as we seek God’s wisdom together.

(continued next page)
Our Strategic Council and Executive Committees have met to discuss possible next steps and Strategic Council will be meeting again on April 25 to determine specific actions. Please pray for our leadership. We are blessed to have thoughtful, mature lay leaders who are committed to faithful life. They will lead well in this time.

**What can you do?**
- Stay informed of the conversations that are forming across the nation and at Hennepin. Visiting our website at www.haumc.org for regular updates. There is a new LGBTQIA+ Inclusion page on our Hennepin website that will be updated often. Updates will also be available in print for those who don’t use the internet.
- Attend Town Hall meetings as they are scheduled. Ask questions. We are discerning together. We will host these congregational conversations to update you and give you a chance to weigh in on decisions.
- Schedule a conversation to learn and share concerns. If you personally, or your small group, committee, team or circle would like me to come talk with you, please schedule a time with my assistant, Dawn Breffle, at Dawn@haumc.org.
- Pray for Hennepin and stay engaged in our ministries. God is doing amazing things among us. General Conference decisions do not determine how we will minister in this neighborhood. We have work to do. Let’s dive in and grow our impact in this community. Let’s show the world just how vibrant and vital an inclusive church can be!

You are a people of great faith and determination. It is a joy to be one of your pastors for just such a time as this. The days ahead may not be easy, but we will make our way through this together because God is with us. I am grateful that I will travel with you as we follow God’s lead together.

In mission with you,

Senior Pastor
Judy Zabel
Good morning, Church!

It’s challenging to quantify five years of ministry. For example, how does one quantify prayer or deep conversations or hugs? What about tears and laughter, how are those measured? By number? By depth? By how often those moments return to me as beloved memories? I don’t know. Still, a few things are quantifiable, I suppose, so as they say on Marketplace, “Let’s do the numbers…” Here’s some of what went into five years as pastor at Hennepin Avenue UMC:

- 104 sermons
- 100 Confirmation class sessions
- 150+ Times with Children.
- 100+ times presiding over Holy Communion
- 5 funeral services where I was presider
- 11 weddings where I was presider
- 56 baptisms, 6 of them adults
- 3 mission trips
- 1 Disciple bible study class.
- 40 video productions
- 25 camps and retreats
- 65 Pub Theology meetings
- 3 jumps into the water, 1 at the YMCA, and 2 in frozen Lake Koronis
- A few dozen cups of coffee handed out at 7:00am in the morning
- 1 coffee spill. Okay, maybe two…

All of these add up to many wonderful experiences, and I’m grateful that we shared them. I’m grateful for all of our ministry together, friends. Yet, let’s move from the quantifiable to the incalculable. A picture is, after all, worth at least 1,000 words. Probably more!

The photo that appears with this article is one of my favorite photos of me serving God through ministry with Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. It’s a picture from “The Event” last November, 2018. It’s a typical group photo, yes? Here’s why it’s special. That weekend, everyone was broken into workshop teams, and that team was also your team for the lip sync competition. Out of 20 teams, ours won with our rendition of “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen, even though some teens on our team had never heard the song before! Our prize was the coveted Golden Chicken award. It’s a rubber chicken spray painted gold that honks when you squeeze its body. It is loud, it is messy, it is fun, it is meaningful. That, friends, is the Gospel. The Good News of Jesus is loud and proud throughout the world, it is messy because it calls us to dive into the work and get our hands dirty, and it is as fun and meaningful as we make it.

Every once in a while, when we are open to the Spirit, we grow in our faith. And this year, my most poignant faith revelation is that what matters to me most is what’s fun and meaningful. Those numbers aren’t just statistics. They’re special occasions that were fun and meaningful. Winning a Golden Chicken? Fun and meaningful. Yes, even a funeral can be fun when we laugh over good stories about good people. Yes, even jumping into a frozen lake can be meaningful when it gets kids to camp. Hennepin, serving God with you has been fun and meaningful. It has mattered.

And I thank you for that. I am proud to have been one of your pastors!
Rev. Nate Melcher

P.S.S. (Post-Script Sermon): Jesus loves you and your neighbor. So should you. Love yourself, love your neighbor. There is no path to Jesus that does not go through your neighbor. Thank God! Amen.
After 14 years at the pedals, our beloved organist Andrew Hackett is leaving Hennepin. Andrew and his family are moving out of state. Join us on Sunday, June 23, to hear Andrew play during Traditional Worship in the sanctuary one last time, and to send him forth with our blessings and love.

Although I was a shy and relatively inexperienced youngster fresh out of school when I started here, Hennepin is now my home, musically, spiritually and socially. I feel enormously lucky to have landed here. The music program is strong and first-rate, the choir is talented and devoted, I get to command a large and versatile organ, and becoming friends with many of you has been a great source of joy for me over the past 14 years.

I’ve especially enjoyed the humor that we’ve shared. Whether it’s an accidentally played low pedal note during a sermon or a 2-year-old daughter yelling out “Daddy! Oh-gan!” during a moment of silent prayer, my gaffes have always been met with friendly laughter.

You have also been an astoundingly generous congregation. Angel and I will forever be grateful for the care packages and financial assistance we received following the births of our children, especially the triplets, and especially for the humbling outpouring of many kinds of support leading up to and following Celeste’s surgery. Thank you all so very much!

I will miss it here terribly. We will be back in the Twin Cities often; hopefully there will be opportunities for a “guest organist” to drop in? Oh, and I do hope that my replacement plays plenty of Bach, as I think there are one or two of his pieces I’ve left unplayed here at Hennepin. Perhaps he or she can pick up that slack. (Any musical nutritionist will tell you that a steady diet of Bach is necessary for your musical health.)

Thank you all for the amazing experience I’ve had as Hennepin organist!
Meet Sunday Brunch Superhero, Dwight Solie

by Michelle DeVaughn

Not all heroes wear capes--some wear aprons! Dwight Solie is the Superman running the dishwasher for Sunday brunch. Traditionally, the dishwashing shift is difficult to fill not only because of the physical requirements, but also because it runs to the very end of the clean-up time after brunch every Sunday morning. Save for a couple of weeks to recuperate from eye surgery, Dwight has covered this shift by himself for more than a year!

Nancy Graves-Cronin, Hennepin member and Brunch volunteer, says, “Dwight truly embodies the hands and feet of Jesus. Our church kitchen would not run as smoothly as it does without his help and presence. He is dependable and hardworking. He is diligent in making sure the dishes get done for brunch use and helps with cleanup afterwards. Although you might not see him much, his quiet presence and ‘can do’ attitude touches all aspects of our Sunday Brunch. For that we are grateful to Dwight!”

Dwight was born with health problems and raised in an orphanage in Minneapolis. He was told he was not expected to live beyond 8 years old. On a special house visit at age 15, his host family brought him to Hennepin. Although he has visited many churches since then, Dwight decided to return to Hennepin about 5 years ago when he felt called to attend church regularly. Radical Hospitality seems to have something to do with it: Dwight says, “I like the people of Hennepin. They are friendly; shaking hands and hugging all around.”

God has always been important to Dwight. He explains, “I was born again when I opened my heart. Now He knows who I am.” Whether it was when he quit smoking or weathered ups and downs with work, God has helped him. As he explains about God’s grace, “He sends his angels and we don’t always realize it.”

One Sunday, Pastor Judy asked Dwight if he wanted to help with the dishes. He saw it as an opportunity to “work for the Lord.” It started with a shift here and there and then when the new kitchen was completed he created his “little place,” efficiently keeping up with all the prep and serving dishes. He has increased his brunch impact by coming in on Saturdays or early Sundays to set all the tables. He adds his own creative flair by mixing up the colored placemats.

Cheryl Gibbons, Hennepin’s Community Engagement Specialist, says that “for Dwight, helping for Sunday Brunch is much more than an opportunity to serve. He puts his heart and soul into his work. He even took it upon himself to provide something special at Christmas with individually designed baskets that included ornaments and adorable stuffed animals for each table. He has a servant’s heart and believes and trusts he is using his God-given talents to serve at Hennepin.”

Stacey Grimes, Former Food Ministry Team Chair and current Brunch Volunteer is a big fan, too: “Having Dwight as part of the Breakfast Team has been a total blessing! By reducing how much other brunch volunteers have to do during ‘crunch time’ on Sunday morning, he has made it much more enjoyable and way less stressful!”

Dwight believes strongly we, the community of folks here at Hennepin, are the Church, which is why Pastor Judy says ‘Good Morning Church’ when she greets the congregation on Sundays. He continues his work because of his love for God, and his desire to be useful. Dwight says, with a bright smile, “We feel different when we serve Him. Plus, I can’t sit around, I get bored.”
Have you heard? Old School by Steeple People was voted Best Thrift Store 2019 by The City Pages! A kind of second-coming of Hennepin’s former thrift store, Steeple People, Old School has been open at 1901 Nicollet Avenue since late last fall.

This spring, during our Green Faith discussion series, we are connecting the dots between spirituality and environmental sustainability, and Old School is part of that: Thrifting is a powerful way to support environmental justice. Learn more from some of our customers, donors, and volunteers!

Ella Rasp & Rebecca Rasp are sisters who love to shop Old School together, and to donate their gently-loved items, too. Rebecca enjoys thrift shopping because she likes “breathing new life” into items, repurposing pieces of furniture, and experimenting with different styles normally outside her comfort zone. Rebecca says, “It’s easy to try something new when you don’t sink a lot of money into it—if you change your mind, you can always just donate it back!”

Ella says that she has enjoyed seeing the evolution of Steeple People into Old School—the space has changed, but the fun hasn’t. Of thrift shopping she says: “I kind of love the thrill of the hunt.” She believes in donating in order to give items “a second life.”

Ella is right: according to Planet Aid, and environmental justice and advocacy group, “The secondhand clothing industry’s environment benefits range from fewer carbon emissions to saving water and reducing waste.” Re-using clothing, textiles, and household goods is a way of shopping locally—re-used goods don’t need to be shipped from where they are manufactured (often across the globe) to where they are purchased. Buying second-hand instead of new saves on packaging, too. Finally, donating gently-used items diverts them from landfills and garbage burners.

Randy Pollard is a long-time customer and donor: his first trip to the old Steeple People store was 12 years ago. A few years ago, Randy moved overseas, and had to leave many of his belongings behind, including a beloved antique egg beater. He moved back just a few weeks before Old School reopened. Back in the neighborhood again, Randy says that shopping Old School helped him transition back to U.S. life. “I came in here,
opened a [display cabinet] drawer, and got a little teary eyed.” There lay an antique egg beater just like the one he left behind.

Randy has a soft spot for all things cooking and dining-related. A few weeks ago he bought a beautiful Sango Versailles green and gold china teapot and cups. Then he spent hours searching online for matching saucers, with no luck. But when he came to the store the next week, he found the rest of the whole (donated) china set!

He says of Old School: “It’s just like home to me, like therapy to me.” He describes the store as peaceful, warm, inviting. He likes knowing that his money is supporting good causes when he shops Old School: “I can see where the money went to.” He says Old School is “the best thing that happened to me in Minneapolis.”

Emily Barker is an Old School volunteer, customer, and donor. Back in 2010, Emily used to shop at the Wedge on her lunch break. The Steeple People store lured her across the street, and she “immediately fell in love.” Emily is the commercial and multi-family recycling coordinator for the city of St. Louis Park. She loves thinking about waste prevention and re-use opportunities, like clothing swaps and gardening swaps. Emily made her own Old School name tag, mod-podgeing a magnetic name tag left over from a conference she attended. The drive to re-use and repurpose is strong in Emily; she grabbed an antique glass insulator while we were chatting and described how one could convert it into a candle holder.

Emily’s favorite Old School treasures are a pink and green perfect-fit peacoat she picked up last fall—“Literally everybody comments on it”—and a child-sized guitar she bought for her delighted son on Old School’s opening day. Emily mentions that her mom makes DIY guitar picks for her son out of raspberry containers or old credit cards. Clearly creativity and sustainability go hand-in-hand in Emily’s family!

Caitlin Bradley shopped at the old Steeple People store once just before it closed. One visit was all it took for her to grow attached to the thrill of the thrift store hunt, so when the old store closed, she was among our many customers who lamented, “Where did it go?!” She was happily surprised, like running into an old friend, when she stumbled upon the new store on Grand Opening Sunday.

Much of the time, Caitlin shops Old School for fun—to see what discoveries she’ll make. But sometimes, she shops with a specific purpose. When Caitlin started a new job, she needed professional clothing. She estimates she spent $20-$30 for an entire office-appropriate wardrobe, including lovely wool trousers that were exactly her size. Caitlin said of the thrifty treasures she found, “This is ridiculous! Who was the tiny lady who worked in an office and donated all these things I love?!” Her favorite Old School treasure? “A mustard gold Irish wool cardigan. I wear it all the time.” Caitlin says she paid about $6 for it.

Not only does Caitlin shop Old School, she donates to us, too. She recently parted with an enormous pile of jewelry-making supplies, including stone beads, findings, and wire. Our craft-making customers were thrilled, and the pile was gone in almost no time at all. Caitlin loves seeing the items that she donated hit the sales floor, and then returning to find them gone. She explained, “I want these things to have a home.”

**Connect with Old School:**

To volunteer: news@oldschoolthrifty.org.
To donate: the donation van will be in the Hennepin parking lot Sunday mornings all summer
To shop: Hours are Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
Find us on Facebook@OldSchoolbySteeplePeople.
For the last 25 five years, those who gather weekly at Sacred Journey have lived boldly into this question: What does Christian worship look like if you empower the laity and turn it over to them? Decisions about music, prayers, order of worship, preaching, use of art, the arrangement of the room, language and even theology have all been distilled from a process of community engagement. We have regarded leadership as a function rather than as a role, shared by lay and clergy, men and women, young and old. We strive to honor many voices and to celebrate our many gifts.

We have learned important lessons from this ongoing experiment. When we had more children worshipping with us, they taught us to keep worship active and visually interesting, and that it is good to engage all our senses. We have found that when “secular” music and writing are brought into the context of worship, they can become new voices of the sacred. We have been formed by an evolutionary theology that bridges both ancient tradition and modern science. We have learned to value questions more than answers, to walk our faith journey with more curiosity and less certainty. All this has evolved over time from the work of the community.

There was no grand vision guiding us, so we have never been particularly strategic in the choices we have made. Instead we have trusted God and the Spirit working within and among us to suggest the next steps along our trial and error journey. We are much more focused on our process than on our outcomes. Sacred Journey represents not so much a style or form of worship as it does a way to create worship and to be in community.

At this moment in history, when the future is uncertain for Mainline Protestant churches, it seems like a good idea to encourage many diverse experiments like Sacred Journey. Liturgy is the work of the people, which is to say it is the work of God through all the people. I would say it this way: worship is our Holy Play.
Dispatches from Baiwalla, Sierra Leone: Families are Grateful for School & Support

By Ann Carlson, Chair, Project Baiwalla, Sierra Leone Ministry

Greeting By The Elementary School Children
Upon Arrival In Baiwalla

After driving 8 hours in sweltering heat and bouncing on a rutted dirt road the last 20 miles, the Hennepin Avenue UMC Baiwalla Mission Team of 5 arrived in front of the new secondary school. There waiting for us were 800 elementary school children dressed in their school uniforms, singing, dancing and drumming their welcome to us. Amazing! We piled out of the cars and joined in the singing and dancing, and then went to tour the new secondary school on which the workers are putting the finishing touches. It’s a magnificent facility consisting of a two story structure with 14 classrooms, a library, an auditorium and offices for the administrative staff. There are even flush toilets! (This is still a rarity in most schools in there.) It’s the best school facility we saw in Sierra Leone!

Pastor Judith Banya had arranged for us to meet our sponsored children. You should have seen the looks on the faces of Anita Nerhus and Momoh, a boy of 15 who is Anita’s sponsored child. When they realized who each other was, they both teared up. Later in the week Cheryl Hauser’s sponsored student, Moses, and my sponsored student, Ibrahim, came to the mission house, where we were staying, to get acquainted. Anita and Cheryl were invited to go to the homes of their children and were greeted by the children’s families. Meeting our sponsored students was incredibly touching for all of us.

A Meeting With The Kids Turns Into A Happening!

Later in the week, the mission team invited the 120 sponsored children to come to a short meeting where we expected to sing as few songs, and greet them on behalf of Hennepin Church sponsors. We gave each child a Hennepin Avenue UMC pen. Not only did the 120 children show up, but their parents and representatives from the community, plus members of the Baiwalla United Methodist Church showed up, too. A representative from each constituency offered a heartfelt thank-you to Hennepin Church Sponsors for giving the 120 children an opportunity to get an education by paying for their school fees. The villagers, who live on $1.00 per day, do not take the education of their children for granted. They know getting an education is the key to their children’s success in life. So they expressed their heartfelt gratitude to us on behalf of all the sponsors for paying the children’s school fees.

Momoh, Anita’s sponsored child, empowered himself to stand up in front of the crowd and thank us on behalf of all the sponsored students. He said, “Thanks for sponsoring all of us by paying our school fees.”

New Secondary School Scheduled To Open In September, 2019

If the sponsored elementary school children continue in school, they will be able to attend the new secondary school which is scheduled to open in September 2019. This secondary school fills a gap in the region, as there is no other secondary school available. Momoh, now 15, expressed to Anita, that he would like to go on to college and medical school to become a surgeon. According to Pastor Judith, Momoh’s goal is realistic for him as he is bright, ambitious and an excellent student. Of course, he, as well as the other kids, will need ongoing financial support to go to school. Kids in Baiwalla know the value of an education for their future well-being. Yet they face the reality that in Sierra Leone, is not yet free; school fees are charged for every student, and often families cannot afford to pay these fees for even one child, much less for each of their children. Sponsorship of students transforms lives and helps to heal our broken world!

To learn about how you can sponsor a student in Baiwalla, come to the Hennepin Ministry Fair & Marketplace this summer in Carlson Hall—watch the Hennepin Facebook page and weekly newsletter for dates and times.
Movie & a Meal: Fighting Big Oil with Friendship

by Amy K. Griffiths, Director of Marketing and Communications

A few days before our second “Movie & a Meal” event here at Hennepin, communications staff spread out across the building to slap “sold out” stickers on the poster and flyers we’d created to promote it. It was thrilling to know that people from across the metro area were coming together for an evening of film, fellowship, and food—and to learn about environmental justice.

On Saturday, May 4, this first event of our Green Faith discussion series began with a screening of First Daughter and The Black Snake, the riveting documentary by local photographer and filmmaker Keri Pickett. The film, shot over several years in locations across Minnesota and into Canada, follows the efforts by Winona LaDuke, famed Native American environmentalist, former Green Party Vice-Presidential candidate, and executive director of Honor the Earth, in her battle to stop development of several pipelines that would cut across Indian reservations in northern Minnesota, jeopardizing food and water sources for the Ojibwe tribes living there.

The film took viewers on an emotional journey full of laughter, frustration, outrage, admiration, and love. In it, we got to know LaDuke’s family, we saw wild rice harvested and winnowed using traditional methods, and we learned about LaDuke’s background as a Harvard-trained economist and entrepreneur of “a new green economy” built on solar thermal power and hemp farming. The audience sat on the edge of our seats during scenes of town hall meetings between indigenous people and Enbridge executives. We listened hard to learn about treaties protecting Indians’ right to harvest, fish and hunt on their own reservation, and their fight to enforce those treaties against state and federal government. One scene prompted protests from the audience: Ojibwe fishermen carrying their tribal IDs try to cast their nets into Mille Lacs, only to be chased off the lake and fined by officers the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Throughout the film, LaDuke’s ethical commitment to sustainability, environmental justice, family, and fun came through, summarized in Honor the Earth’s motto: Love water, not oil.

Following the film, we experienced the food of local chef Sean Sherman, better known as The Sioux Chef. Sean’s approach to Native American Cuisine has garnered much press, and on the evening of our Movie & a Meal event, he was in Chicago receiving a James Beard Foundation Leadership Award. Currently running a catering company, with a restaurant in the works, the collective of The Sioux Chef “are a team of Anishinaabe, Mdewakanton Dakota, Navajo, Northern Cheyenne, Oglala Lakota, Wahpeton-Sisseton Dakota and are ever growing. We are chefs, ethnobotanists, food preservationists, adventurers, foragers, caterers, event planners, artists, musicians, food truckers and food lovers...We exist to educate and make indigenous foods more accessible. We are committed to revitalizing Native American Cuisine and in the process we are re-identifying North American Cuisine and reclaiming an important culinary culture long buried and often inaccessible.” Our meal featured cornbread with locally-harvested honey and maple syrup; kale salad with puffed wild rice and pepitos; and a corn soup. Dairy-free, gluten-free, and vegan, the meal was composed of pre-Columbian ingredients consistent with what Native American people in Minnesota have been eating for thousands of years. And yes, it was delicious!
Following the meal, Pastor Frenchye Magee led Keri and Winona in a discussion of the film and their work as artist and activist. We learned about the current status of the pipelines and permits to build them, about the difference between tar sands oil and fracked oil, and about threats to the Constitutional rights of water protectors protesting at pipeline sites. At the heart of the discussion, though, was another story—the story of the friendship between Keri and Winona.

Keri Pickett is a Minneapolis-based photographer and filmmaker who began her career in New York, working at The Village Voice. Keri’s photographs have appeared in Life, Time, People and more. Her portraits of Mary Jo Copeland, Minneapolis missionary to the homeless, are featured in the book Saving Body & Soul: The Mission of Mary Jo Copeland. Keri is the author of two books: Love in the 90s, a photographic love letter to and portrait of her grandparents, and Faeries, a Lambda Literary Award-winning portrayal of gender play and the values of “radical faeries” at their retreat in northern Minnesota. Her first feature-length film, The Fabulous Ice Age, tells the story of her uncle Roy Blakey’s time as a figure skater, and the community and collection of ice-skating history that he continues. She has been awarded fellowships from the Bush Foundation, Jerome and Target Foundations, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is a 2017 McKnight Fellow for Media Arts.

Keri first met Winona when they were 25 years old. They reconnected when Keri photographed Winona for People magazine, and again when Keri made her portrait when Winona was named Ms. Magazine’s Woman of the Year. Their friendship blossomed over time, and as Winona pointed out, they are both turning 60 this year. During the discussion they joked about how Keri filmed more than 900 hours of footage for the film, and made herself a part of Winona’s world in order to get the takes for the story she wanted to tell. They shared wisdom about how many social justice and activist movements are being led by women, and how women’s wisdom is powering these cultural changes to honor the earth and practice sustainability. It was easy to see the sisterhood between them, and difficult to bring the discussion to a close. Clearly their work together is “a God thing,” and we were blessed to be a part of it.

To learn more about First Daughter and the Black Snake, visit www.blacksnakefilm.com.

A screening of the documentary, followed by discussion with Keri Pickett and Winona LaDuke is taking place at Movies in the Park, a program of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Mia), on Thursday, June 13, in conjunction with their new exhibition, “Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists” on view June 2 – August 18, 2019.

To learn more about Honor the Earth and get your own Water Protector gear, visit www.honorearth.org.
Groups of people interacting with fish, squirrels interacting with people, horses prancing across a coliseum in a parade, and the enchantment of a spectacular solar eclipse are just a few of the events you’ll find yourself immersed in when looking at the current Carlson Hall exhibit, “Urban Theology,” by internationally known artist, James Boyd-Brent.

“Urban Theology is about everyday fleeting moments and are not narratives as such,” Boyd-Brent writes in his artist statement. You will find that these animated landscapes evoke positive feelings of commonality that can occur when a group of friends or strangers experience an event together. These etchings depict existential “embodiments of time, nature, space, and light.” “These landscapes are about how the world reveals itself as I’ve passed through it,” writes Boyd-Brent. Chosen to elaborate the theme of Hennepin’s Spring sermon series, “Green Faith: Mobilizing God’s People to Save the Earth,” this collection invites us to consider how we inhabit the spaces and places of our lives, and how “environment” in its broadest sense informs our sense of spirituality and of self. Fourteen intaglio (an Italian term translated as “carving”) prints fill the hall. Strong light and dark shapes of compositional form pull one in from across the room to examine the minute details of dynamic line work, hatching, and subtle mark-making. All created using several methods of intaglio printing such as etching, engraving, drypoint, and aquatint. It’s not hyperbole to state Boyd-Brent has mastered this intense process that dates back hundreds of years.

Hailing from the United Kingdom, Boyd-Brent studied printmaking at Ruskin University Cambridge and Central St. Martins, London. James is currently a Professor in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota here in the Twin Cities, where he has lived since the early 1990s.

All prints are available framed or unframed, and there are multiple prints in each edition.

This exhibit runs through June 12, in Carlson Hall, courtesy of the Fine Arts Team. If you are interested in joining, the team is currently seeking new members. Please contact Mark Squire, Director of Music and Fine Arts, at mark.squire@haumc.org for more information.
Did you know that the Swahili word for friend is “rafiki,” just like the wise mandrill in *The Lion King*? The Refugee Services Committee of the Minnesota Council of Churches has experienced the joys and challenges of being rafikis to a new refugee family who arrived in Minnesota from Africa just in time for a winter of record snow and cold.

In December 2018 the Committee, led by Ann Carlson, welcomed Jolie Shombo and her 6 children to Minnesota. Jolie and children are refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They came to the US after several years in a refugee camp in Uganda. Now they are living in an apartment in St. Paul and the children are enrolled in the St. Paul public schools. Jolie attends English classes for adults at a St. Paul school, as well as weekend English classes with other Congolese immigrants, in order to prepare for entering the workforce.

The Committee prepared the family’s apartment for them, including all furnishings, with generous donations from HAUMC members. After greeting the family at the airport, the Committee provided warm clothes, support and transportation to their many appointments, helped them learn how to use American appliances and provided friendly assistance with a myriad of other tasks. HAUMC has offered extravagant generosity to Jolie and children in so many ways.

The family attend worship regularly at HAUMC, with the children participating in Hennepin Kids for LYFE Sunday School. The children are Answer (15), Asiima (13), Alle (12), Amani (11), Alfoncine (8) and JohnMarie (5).

The Committee anticipates a longer than usual commitment to Jolie and children. The family’s life in Africa provided little opportunity for school attendance, so the children’s adjustment to American life is especially challenging. Also, organizing assistance for six children under 16 years old requires extra coordination and support. A local language services agency, Minnesota Interpreters and Translators (MINT) has offered pro bono interpreting services to help Jolie communicate at some of her most important appointments. The Minnesota Council of Churches will also continue to assist the family, but volunteer support from HAUMC will continue to be essential.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer team should contact Ann Carlson at carlsonaj99@gmail.com. Drivers to help get the family to HAUMC from their apartment in east St. Paul on Sunday morning or for special activities are especially needed. Gently used children’s clothes are also always appreciated.

Jolie and the children a happy and resilient family who appreciate the welcome they have received in America. They enjoy worship and Sunday brunch at HAUMC. They are all rapidly and adjusting to life in Minnesota, and learning English. But we can offer them a bit of radical hospitality and fun surprise by learning some of their language, too. Join in becoming their “rafiki” by greeting them in worship or at brunch with a smile and saying, “Jambo!”
Meet Our 2019 Hennepin Scholars

Hennepin Scholarships are given annually from scholarship endowment funds contributed by generous Hennepin members. A total of $18,000 was awarded for this year’s group of twelve scholars. These students are attending institutions across the country and in Canada, pursuing programs in a variety of subject areas. Their activities at Hennepin have included mission trips, volunteering for Vacation Bible School and Sunday school, serving community meals, youth choir and youth council. They have excelled in academics, music, drama, and sports, as well as in leadership roles.

SEAN CARROLL
Following a passion for storytelling and film, to study film and creative writing at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Earned Eagle Scout honor and participated in youth fencing. At HAUMC, VBS aide, LYFE camp and leader training, youth group, missions trips, Disciple Bible Study.

CHARLOTTE DEVAUGHN

FEVEN HANNS
Arrived in Minnesota and Hennepin as refugee from Eritrea with family in 2017. Within six weeks, enrolled at St. Paul College to study nursing and become a registered nurse, to serve refugee health needs. Recognized as a diligent and outstanding student, honored as featured speaker at several College events.

ELLIOT DOROW HOVLAND
Studying mechanical engineering at UC-Berkeley, passionate about environment, energy and resources. In environmental clubs and Cal triathlon team; research internship summer 2018. Youth choir and council, mission trips. Newspaper writer, three sports, academic & leadership awards in high school.

ADRIENNE MANBECK
BA in psychology from U of Minnesota, followed by two years as research fellow, National Institutes of Health in Maryland. Pursuing PhD in clinical psychology at UMN. A resource counseling advocate at Tubman Center, and mentored students from underrepresented groups on STEM career opportunities.

KATHERINE NORTHROP
Plans to study in social work areas, with focus on youth needs. Choice of college in Minnesota pending. Youth work interest emerged from missions trips, with goal to work overseas as well. Leadership recognition in soccer, golf and choir. At HAUMC, active in youth groups, choirs and mission trips.
Hennepin Scholarships were funded to provide both encouragement and financial assistance for students in pursuing their dreams. In short essays, as part of their applications, the students highlight their educational and career goals and how scholarships will help finance their plans. The comments reflect not only their ambitions and planning, but also their heart-felt interest in serving others and appreciation for the Hennepin community of faith.

Contributions to Hennepin Scholarship Funds are welcome anytime. For more information, contact Jack Fistler, Director of Legacy Giving: jack@haumc.org.

**KATHERYN ROACH**

Major in diplomacy and world affairs at Occidental, for career in foreign service or non-governmental work related to Middle East. Avid history and Arabic language student; semester abroad in Jordan. Sorority leadership and food bank volunteer. Active in youth group and choir and numerous mission trips.

**ROSALIE RUETZ**

Major in agricultural business management at Iowa State University. Interests in botany and agriculture and committed to expanding nutritional opportunities for people. Academic honors in high school; marching band; Girl Scout. Mission trips at HAUMC. Variety of clubs and peer tutoring at ISU.

**BEN SERSTOCK**

Majoring in civil engineering at UMN-Duluth. Civil engineering internship with City of Duluth, summer 2019. Four years on varsity lacrosse team, in leadership role in high school; member of UMD club men’s lacrosse team. Participated in mission trips at Hennepin.

**MAYME SIMMS**

BA in elementary education, UW-River Falls; M.Div./Community Development, Bethel Seminary. Pursuing administrator license at U of Minnesota to be school principal. Past roles in nonprofit human resources, church youth ministries and pastor, Elim Church. Choir and VBS volunteer at HAUMC.

**JAIIDYN SPENCER**

To study kinesiology at University of Manitoba, for career in pediatric physical therapy. Active in high school in volleyball, freshmen mentoring program and anti-bullying club. Honors in physical science, math and statistics. Recruited for volleyball at Manitoba. Involved in youth groups and mission trips.

**TY WILLIAMS**

Studying business at Iowa State University, with a career plans in corporate finance. Active leadership roles in fraternity on campus, and on investment club at ISU. Earned Boy Scout Eagle award, and participated in YES Volunteer Club in high school. Participated in mission trips at Hennepin.
Hennepin Avenue UMC invites you to experience

Saturday, June 1, 7pm
Sunday, June 2, 10am

Missa Gaia: Earth Mass

A musical celebration of Mother Earth, weaving together voices from all of God’s creation. Featuring local legend Thomasina Petrus and puppets from The Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater, with jazz and global musicians, Sanctuary Choir, and more!

On Saturday evening, enjoy the fully immersive concert experience. On Sunday morning, the Missa Gaia will be integrated into our Traditional Worship service. Both events are open to all—invite a friend or neighbor to join you!