5 CORE Practices of a Fruitful Congregation

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<th>Practice</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Radical Hospitality...</td>
<td>encourages Christians to offer the absolute utmost of themselves, their abilities, and their creativity to welcome others into the faith.</td>
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<td>Passionate Worship...</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Intentional Faith Development...</td>
<td>shows how high quality learning experiences for all ages mature the spirituality and faith of congregational participants.</td>
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<td>Risk-Taking Mission and Service...</td>
<td>reminds us that by reaching out and taking risks, churches become the resources God uses to change lives and transform the world.</td>
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<td>Extravagant Generosity...</td>
<td>shows how generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to Jesus, and strengthens congregations to fulfill Christ’s ministries.</td>
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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.

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Cover photo courtesy of Scott Mayer
Dear Hennepin Members and Friends:

I hope you are experiencing a wonder-filled summer! As we explore The Gift of Wonder during our summer sermon series, we are finding new ways to discover God’s presence through spiritual practices that remind us that God delights in us! So often we view our spiritual practices as just one more thing to add to the list of “shoulds” and “musts.” But I wonder if our lives would feel different if we thought of spiritual practices as a way to find refreshment and relief from the constant demands of life. I wonder if our spiritual practices would feel more like a cool drink of water on a hot day or fresh wind blowing through our lives if we could remember that God is always as close as our next breath, the One who delights in us.

What a wonder-filled summer we are having at Hennepin as we experience growth and change within our staff. We are thankful that God keeps on sending us wonderful staff members who are dedicated to serving Hennepin so we can keep on being the kind of church community that leads others to meet God with a sense of wonder.

We welcome Rick Belbutoski, our new Director of Youth and Young Adults. Rick loves people! He is looking forward to meeting all youth and their families. He is leading the Youth Mission Trip in early August, and he is already working with the Youth Team to plan some fun events for our teens. Rick will be working with our young adults, too. He comes to us with great experience and enthusiasm for building a strong youth and young adult ministry at Hennepin. Please reach out to welcome Rick, his wife Erin, and their daughter Olivia, to the Hennepin community.

We welcome Michelle Gertz as our Interim Organist for the summer. She is a gifted musician and a wonderful human being! Her hymn playing lifts us up and moves us to worship God with beautiful sounds and energy. Mark Squire, Director of Music and Fine Arts is leading a task force to audition candidates for the organist position. Please pray for the candidates and task force as they plan for our future.

Bryant Holmstrom, Director of Facilities, is leaving to join his father-in-law’s company as a Project Manager. Bryant has been a very effective leader of our facilities team. He also shepherded our recent construction projects, ensuring these were on time and on budget. Thank you, Bryant for your years of excellent service to Hennepin. A task force has been formed to interview candidates for this position as well. Please keep them in your prayers.

We also say goodbye to Mark Peterson, Program Director of Koinonia. Mark has served part-time as Program Director of Koinonia since 2012. He has coordinated retreats, planned outings and set the stage for people of all ages to experience God and Christ-centered community at our Koinonia Retreat Center. Mark has also served as a trainer and facilitator for our Care Team. He has done an excellent job in both areas of ministry and we wish him well as he finishes this season of ministry.

Finally, we say goodbye to John Cole, whose position as Community Organizer has been eliminated as part of staff restructuring. John has served The Dignity Center as both volunteer and staff, and he has made a powerful difference in the lives of many, many people. We are grateful for his gifts to the Hennepin community.

Today, as I write this, the sun is hot and the air is humid. But it won’t be long before it begins to cool down and the days will grow shorter. It will soon be time to put away the summer toys and head back to school. With each season, there are new opportunities to explore, to learn, and to reconnect with God and with each other. Sunday, September 8, we will kick off a new season with HENNEPIN EXPO! There will be great food, fun, festive worship and lots of ways to get re-engaged in Hennepin LYFE! Mark your calendars now so you won’t miss it.

God is surprising us each day with blessings that are right in our midst. Keep your eyes open! Holy Spirit breakthroughs are happening every day at Hennepin!

—Pastor Judy
Pizza or Tacos?: An Ice-Breaker Interview with Rick Belbutoski

1. What draws you to working with Youth and Young Adults?
I know from experience how meaningful having a strong community at church can be. Data actually suggests that every young person needs 4-5 positive adult role models in their life to be able to reach their potential. I was blessed to have people like that in my life growing up, and it's a blessing to be able to be that for someone else.

2. What would you like folks to know about your own faith journey?
It's definitely been a journey. It continues every day, and I'm thankful for all of it. I was raised and confirmed Lutheran. My pastor growing up used to say there are more Lutherans in Minnesota than there are in Heaven. My youth director when I was in high school left the Lutheran church where I grew up to become the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Luke's UMC, and later offered me an internship there. That was my introduction to what it meant to be Methodist. In between, I attended a Southern Baptist Church Plant, and a Pentecostal Bible study. I align best theologically with the type of Methodism that's preached at Hennepin, but I'm thankful for having worshiped with Christians who have varied opinions on what it means to be a Christian.

3. Pizza or tacos, and why?
Pizza. Because it's better. And liking pizza is basically a job requirement for Youth Ministers.

4. What’s your favorite Bible story or scripture passage?
I've always been fascinated by the woman at the well. I love everything that the interaction between Jesus and the women tells us about God—about what God is really all about. It's a reminder to love your neighbor regardless of what social categories they may fall into.

5. Favorite subject in school?
This is really hard because I didn’t really like school until I got to college. Math was my least favorite. I guess English was my favorite. I've always loved to write, and I had some extraordinary English teachers.

6. First live concert?
When I was in Elementary school, my mom took me to a Barry Manilow Concert. I think I still know every word to “Coppa Cabana.”

7. Batman’s Batmobile or Wonder Woman’s Lasso of Truth?
I wasn't introduced to Wonder Woman as a kid, but I was totally into Batman. I even saw the original movie with Adam West. So, I guess I have to go with the Batmobile.

8. Favorite author or band?
My favorite author right now is Simon Sinek. His book, “Start with Why,” blew my mind, and helped me sort through my own calling. He's not marketed as a “Christian Author,” but this guy is preaching the Gospel. Band-wise… I'm a big fan of many kinds of music— Paul Simon, Lizzo, John Mayer, Vampire Weekend, St. Paul and the Broken Bones...

9. First “real” job?
My first job out of college was working in a partnership between a college ministry organization and Big Brothers Big Sisters. I provided faith-based support to college students who were mentoring “at-risk” kids in the community.

10. Things you are most excited to do as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Hennepin?
I'm all about developing new leaders. There's such a good energy around the youth ministry, and there are several youth who are committed to developing a great culture for their community. I'm committed to listening and learning from the youth and their parents to create an atmosphere where youth can grow in their faith and as leaders. That's the same approach I bring to young adult ministry, too. The YAM leadership team is filled with former youth group leaders. It's a lot of fun to come alongside them as they continue to learn how to serve their peers and share their faith.

This summer, Rick Belbutoski joins the staff of Hennepin Avenue UMC as our new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Rick brings years of experience working with youth and their families. At Meridian UMC in Indiana, he revitalized a struggling youth program, increasing participation by 200% in 12 months. He has had several leadership roles with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Indiana. Rick, his wife Erin and their daughter Olivia are excited to get to know our Hennepin community and make their home in the Twin Cities. Introduce yourself to him! Contact him at rick@haumc.org, or meet him at Hennepin on Sunday mornings.
Hennepin’s Young Adult Team invites folks 21+ to

PUB THEOLOGY
Spirited Conversation, Spiritual Matters.

Every Third Wednesday at 6:00pm-7:30
Sisyphus Brewing | 712 Ontario Avenue W, Minneapolis, MN 55403

haumc.org/pubtheology

AUGUST 18, 2019
FIRST ANNUAL
HENNEPIN AVENUE UMC YOUTH
MINI GOLF INVITATIONAL

12-4 pm
$10 FOR YOUTH
EMAIL rick@haumc.org WITH QUESTIONS
Passionate Worship

The Gift of Gilding: Restoring the Frame of “Adoration of the Shepherds”

by Margaret Osborne, Member of the Fine Arts Team

Artisans from across the country gave Hennepin Avenue UMC a gift of their talent this summer. The Society of Gilders held its annual conference in St. Paul on June 17-21, and they offered to restore a picture frame in the local community. The Fine Arts Team was approached by local gilder Carol Lenington this spring to see if we were interested.

When you look at a painting, you may not immediately notice the frame, but it can do much to enhance or detract from the painted image. One of the reasons the Art Gallery looks so beautiful is because of the work that has been done to take care of both paintings and frames. Over the years we have conserved most of the paintings given to Hennepin by T.B. Walker, and placed them in new or restored picture frames. The frame for “Job’s Messengers” was in poor shape and required extensive work, so currently it is out for repairs at a local studio. The “Adoration of the Shepherds” painting was conserved in 1981, but the sturdy frame around it was untouched and looked dull and dirty. Carol agreed this frame would work well for The Society of Gilders’ restoration project.

Hennepin Avenue UMC paid for the professional movers who took the painting down and removed it from the frame, as well as the gilding supplies (including 23K gold leaf). Up to ten gilders worked on the restoration over the course of four days. First they cleaned the surface, made minor repairs, and sealed it to prepare for the gild. Next they applied a “size” which provides a tacky surface to hold the gold leaf. Then they carefully applied the gold leaf and brushed it into position around the complex surfaces of the ornate frame (gold leaf is so thin that it will fly away or disintegrate if you try to pick it up with your fingers). After a protective shellac, the surface looks too bright and gaudy, so then they “tone” it, applying darker pigment to the recesses and polishing the high points. This brings out the texture of the frame and gives it the proper “age.”

The next time you visit the Art Gallery, be sure to look for this painting on the North Wall. You will be amazed how much better it looks with this beautifully restored frame! Our thanks to the gilders who shared their unique talents to make this happen.

Coming Soon!
Fine Arts on our website

This August, we’ll reveal a new page of our website devoted to the amazing fine arts collection and exhibitions here at Hennepin Avenue UMC. Explore and discover at www.haumc.org/fine-arts.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Fine Arts Team, contact Mark Squire (mark.squire@haumc.org) or Beth Arel (betharel@msn.com).
Hennepin Avenue UMC Serves with Pride

by Lona Dellesandro, Incoming Chair of the Outreach Team

Every June, people come together across the country to commemorate and honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, which sparked the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement. It is an opportunity to recognize the diversity in God’s human creation, and to create safe spaces for those who face oppression, bigotry and violence just for being who they are.

In Loring Park, the Twin Cities celebrated Pride this year on June 22-23, 2019, and HAUMC joined with both the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations and the Council of Downtown Churches to spread God’s message of love and peace to the estimated 300,000 people who attended. It was clear that many people were surprised to see Methodists at the event, and more than a few had questions about what the future holds for the UMC after the votes at the special session of the United Methodist Church General Conference in February. Most people just wanted to pick up a peace necklace, which has become a traditional handout at the MN Reconciling Congregations Booth for the last several years.

But no matter what the reason for stopping by, each soul reached by one of the wonderful volunteers who manned the booths that weekend left with a clearer understanding that the churches represented at the booths are open to them, will embrace them and welcome them in fellowship, and will advocate for their right to peace, prosperity and self-determination. Please join us next year to volunteer – you will truly be touched by the joy you bring to your LGBTQIA+ siblings. For many of them, church has been a place of ridicule, resentment and rejection, and with our presence at Pride, we show them that Christ’s church stands with them in solidarity.

To learn more about Minnesota Reconciling Congregations of the United Methodist Church, visit www.mnrcumc.org.

To find more information about Hennepin Avenue UMC’s position on inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, and to discover ways that you can share radical hospitality with the LGBTQIA+ community at Hennepin and in our greater community, visit the new Inclusion page of our website: www.haumc.org/inclusion.
This spring during our Green Faith worship series, we explored what it means to confront global climate change from a faith perspective. With so many people engaged in how we might protect and care for creation, we formed the Green Team in the efforts to build on this momentum. My expectations were far surpassed when more than forty people signed up to be a part of the team.

The team spent our first meeting together getting to know each other, learning what it is that brings us to this ministry and how we might serve with the talents, time, and expertise we already have. As I listened to all of the stories in the room, the little voice of hope in my mind transitioned into a full blown shout of excitement. I am amazed by the breadth of knowledge, skills, and passion that livens up our team.

The Green team is an opportunity to put dreams into action through laity-led planning and implementation. And in that spirit, our second meeting consisted of a brainstorming session devoted to dreaming about all the approaches we may use to change our world and promote living in sustainable ways.

We’ve designed our team to organize around a 3-legged stool system, as presented in EarthKeepers Training by the greater UMC Annual Conference.

We started by talking about the practical changes we all can make in our individual lives, our immediate community and at Hennepin. We moved on to how we could create systemic change in our city, state, country, and world surrounding how we consume, protect, and interact with our environment. And the third leg we brainstormed on was how to grow, strengthen, or revive a spiritual connection with creation that grounds and fertilizes us to be sent out to do the work that so desperately needs to be done. These ideas spanned from implementing a composting program on campus, to supporting local efforts like the 100% Clean, Equitable Energy movement, to hosting a writing class about connecting ourselves with our environment.

The next task before us is to organize and prioritize all of the different goals that we have for the Green Team and form Task Forces to lead the efforts on individual projects.

We will continue to communicate about the actions we are taking, but the best way to be informed is to join in! The Green Team will continue to be an open and welcoming place for anyone interested in getting involved, if even just for an afternoon. Everyone has something to bring to this ministry. The best way I know how to make change is to be in community with one another, because where two or more are gathered God will surely be with us.

Visit haumc.org/green for more info.

INTEGRATE, EDUCATE, ACTIVATE
This summer, Hennepin Kids for LYFE has had the privilege of hosting 2 day camp experiences at Koinonia for Park Avenue UMC’s Freedom School. Freedom School is a national 6-week summer literacy program for children of color, founded by the Children’s Defense Fund. At Park Avenue UMC’s Freedom School, children who live in, attend school in, or whose parents work in the Central neighborhood of south Minneapolis are welcome; each summer up to 50 “scholars” are enrolled in the program.

Freedom School empowers youth to believe in their ability to make a difference in their lives and in the world through positive role modeling, literacy, and activism. The curriculum involves scholars (and their parents) in intensive reading, discussion, and social action. The program provides 2 meals and a snack daily to all scholars, and provides weekly, age-appropriate books for scholars to take home to help build their at-home libraries.

Nestled in the heart of the city, Park Avenue’s Freedom School program has often included urban experienced of nature, but this summer, Hennepin invited Freedom School scholars to get up close with the wonders of a more rural outdoor setting: Koinonia Retreat Center!

While at Koinonia, the students had the opportunity to swim, fish, hike and enjoy pontoon rides. As a host, it is always fun to watch young people marvel when they spot frogs lounging on lily pads, hear dragonflies buzzing over the pond, and speculate on what might be creating the bubbles just under the surface of the water. With plenty of space to run around, and plenty of country air to tickle their senses, the freedom these students found at Koinonia added a memorable new experience of the diverse and wonderful world around them.

It has been an honor to share the gifts of this outdoor nature experience with such great and amazing young people! Thank you to the volunteer hosts and chaperones who provided such generosity and spirit to the Freedom School day camp experience!
Can there be any better way to cap off our Green Faith sermon series than a Sunday filled with kids and puppies? We think not! On Sunday, June 30, Hennepin Kids for LYFE hosted our first ever Puppy Sunday!

As faith guides for our children, we are constantly tasked with finding ways to make the things that we discuss in our sanctuary and classrooms, Art Gallery and Social Hall, become real and relevant outside the walls of Hennepin. Throughout the month of June, we partnered with Happy Tails Animal Rescue. We talked in our classes about how God entrusted all of the animals of the earth to our care. Then we learned specifically about how Minnesota is one of the leading states for rescuing animals when natural disasters hit in other parts of the country, and how workers drive for hours and sometimes days to find animals without homes. Then they bring them to Minnesota, help them get healthy and help find them new homes.

Throughout the Sundays in June, our Hennepin Kids were busy making fleece blankets for rescue dogs, mixing up dog treats, and creating cat toys for our furry friends. On Puppy Sunday, Happy Tails brought 3 puppies to Sunday school. While we played with puppies, we learned that Happy Tails does not kennel their rescue animals. They only take as many animals as they can place in foster homes until they are permanently adopted. They also introduced us to their special program for military veterans called, “Cody’s Heroes.” This program pairs military veterans with rescue dogs. The veterans and the dogs receive free training for the dogs to become their support animals.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to partner with Happy Tails and to offer this opportunity for hands-on faith activism with our youngest Hennepin members!

Would you like to be a part of events like Puppy Sunday? Do you love sharing God’s message of care with young people? Become a Sunday School Teacher in our Hennepin Kids for LYFE Program! Contact Lynne Carroll at lynne@haumc.org.
Hennepin Expo
SUNDAY, SEPT. 8
11:30am - 2pm
Ministry Fair, Food Trucks, Live Music, Bouncy House, Sidewalk Chalk, Prayer Walls, and plenty of Fall Fun!
Free and open to all. Invite your friends. Meet our neighbors!