



# **HAMLIN CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**MAY - JUNE 2016**

# LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Hamline Church,

On Sunday, May 15th we celebrate Pentecost and the confirmation of 7 students. As we prepare to celebrate I got to thinking about what it means to be a pentecostal Christian (notice the lack of capitalization of the word pentecostal). Certainly the word “pentecostal” comes with all sorts of assumptions and presumptions. We think it has to do with speaking in tongues, loud shouts of alleluias, and dancing in the aisles of the church. We think it has to do with a particular theological position, or a certain style of worship. But at the heart of the word, being a pentecostal Christian in a pentecostal church is really very simple, and boils down to one thing—are we receptive to the Holy Spirit within and among us? Are we paying attention to where the Spirit might be moving in our church, in our community, and in our world?

In the United Methodist Church we like to say that we are pentecost people. We even include a flame in our denominational logo representing the Holy Spirit. But how often do we live as if we truly believe the Spirit is moving and speaking among us? How often do we wake up and ask ourselves, “what will the Holy Spirit say to me today? How will God choose to speak to me today?” How would our interactions with others change if we thought that there was a possibility that God’s Holy Spirit was moving and speaking through them? How would our own actions change if we believed that God was actually moving and speaking through us?

To be pentecostal Christians, we must be receptive to the voice of God all around us. Being a pentecostal church means being a church that pays attention. Not only that, we must be willing to let that Spirit voice guide us and move us in our lives. It means that we not only listen for the voice of the Spirit among us, but that we allow it to move us when we hear it speak.

We have been participating in the Healthy Church Initiative process since last summer. This is a two-year process of wondering, discernment, and self-study, during which we receive expert coaching and assistance in further developing our gifts as a congregation. HCI requires us to ask deep and meaningful questions about who we are, and put our identity into practice both in and outside our walls.

At this point in the process we have been presented with 5 strategic recommendations that have the power to shape our future. They provide a vision and path for Hamline Church in the coming years. It is now up to us to discern if the Holy Spirit is speaking to us through this process.

I encourage you to spend time reading the recommendations and supporting materials, asking questions of the HCI team and prayerful opening our heart to the leadings of the Spirit in advance of the Church Conference and congregational vote on May 8th.

So perhaps the question is, as we approach Pentecost this year, what is the Spirit saying to you? Where is the Spirit moving you? And are you willing to respond? Are you willing to be a pentecostal Christian? Are we willing to be a pentecostal Church? I hope so!

**Blessings,  
Pastor Mariah**

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## NOTICE OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

There will be a church conference on Sunday, May 8 to vote on our HCI Recommendations. See page 4 & 5 for all the information.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HAMLINE?

## *Congratulations!*



Hamline Church's own **Mark Ireland** was recently given the President's Community Partner Award by MN Campus Compact as the Hamline University awardee. All the university president's in the MN Campus Compact (dedicated to civic engagement) have the opportunity to give 3 awards--one to a student, one to a staff or faculty member and one to a community partner who embodies the dedication and commitment to civic engagement. Mark was nominated for his leadership with the Community Bread Oven, and thus the award is to him and to Hamline Church as Hamline University's Community partner!

Mark was presented the award on April 7th at the Minnesota Campus Compact annual gathering. Congratulations Mark and thank you for the wonderful ministry you do of connecting Hamline Church to the community!

## *Hamline Church Hosts the UMW District Meeting*



Rev Rachel Warner speaking to the UMW District Day hosted by Hamline Church Women/UMW on the topic "I'd Rather be Happy."



Hamline Church Kids are working hard on their parable presentations, short, stop-animation films of the Parables of Jesus! The World Premier is after church on May 22nd!



Hamline Church Youth served dinner at the Simpson Shelter in April. There was a small brownie disaster, but all around, everyone seemed to enjoy the meal!





# Healthy CHURCH INITIATIVE

## 1

### CLAIM A LARGER VISION TO BE **A SANCTUARY FOR THE CITY**

If you visit old European cities, what you notice is at the center is a plaza and a church, and that is the gathering place of the community. What if Hamline Church became more than just a church, or gathering place? What if Hamline Church was a true sanctuary when people could slow down, take some deep breaths, connect to what is ancient and true, and discover a community that helps them build strong lives of meaning, purpose and joy? This Church could be a place where the multiple worlds in which we live: work, family, neighborhood, and world--eternal and temporal, global and particular--all meet. This Church could be a place where we find a way to live lives that are authentic, empowered and hope-filled.



**AT HAMLINE,**  
**Our whole property is a plaza for the neighborhood.** There's a patio or garden around the bread oven. We partner with the University to create a green space for gathering. We host events where the neighborhood can gather and connect.



**AT HAMLINE,**  
**We host the conversations that the community cares about.** We are a bridge builder in the community. We build on the Art of Neighboring series with a commitment to practice and teach so that St. Paul really is a city of great neighborhoods.



**AT HAMLINE,**  
**People discover that food and fellowship are sacramental,** and this community is authentic and original, ancient and new. We ground all that we do in an invitational, contemporary way of offering Christ. With grace, we invite people to take the next step.

## 2

### **DARE TO BE A DESTINATION CHURCH:** GET SIMPLE AND EXCELLENT

Our church has the potential to be a regional church for the city of St. Paul. It is the only United Methodist Church within the city of limits of St. Paul that currently has that capacity. We have a great missional opportunity to be a church of impact. However, to be a destination church in which people are willing to choose us, we need to focus on and execute in all of these four areas at an exceptional level week in and week out:

#### ***Dynamic Worship***

Work with Dr. Marcia McFee as a worship consultant to address certain key issues:

- Sightlines during worship
- Congregational singing
- Flexibility of the space
- Visual elements
- Intentional planning

#### ***Quality Children and Youth Ministries***

Be on the cutting edge of children and youth ministries by working to:

- Create great spaces that say to kids "Hey, this is for you!"
- Move the nursery upstairs
- Have professional check in procedures
- Implement "Faith Stepping Stones"

#### ***Music and Arts as a Public Presence***

Continue to deepen on the Music and Arts Series by:

- Evaluating the first year, thinking of arts events as a "front door" to the congregation
- Always have a next step at wider events
- Consider a rotating arts exhibit

#### ***Update the Building***

Go into every room and ask "What message is this sending about who we are and what we're about?" Ensure that there is no hint of 1950, with hodgepodge furniture, unattractive bathrooms, or neglected common spaces.



# Healthy CHURCH INITIATIVE

## 3 FEED THE SOUL

Invite and form people around cultivating a spirituality of the inward and outward journey. This would be rhythm of worship and community, connecting faith and life and truly grounding people in a way of life that is true enough, deep enough and strong enough to sustain them for all of their life:

- Develop worship that is truly Wesleyan
- Create an intentional framework of small groups, where new groups start regularly
- Equip ministry leaders to be spiritual leaders
- Create conversational gathering spaces in the church

## 5 MAKE A PATH TO THE CHURCH & A CLEAR PATHWAY INTO THE COMMUNITY

HAMLIN-MIDWAY | HAMLIN UNIVERSITY | SAINT PAUL

To be a destination church, people need to know the church is here and what we are doing. And once here, we need to offer clear, intentional steps into community where people can encounter Christ, grow in their faith, discover their gifts, and become empowered for service and justice work.

- Contract with a branding expert.
- Create a regional marketing strategy.
- Have invites from every event to the next event.
- Connect what happens at the Dining Hall to who you are as a church.
- Triple Sunday Morning Hospitality:
  - + First Time Guest Parking
  - + Coffee Upstairs Before the Service
  - + Welcome Desk

Could this mean...Expanding the Commons to create a larger gathering space, with a new entrance to the green space or bread oven?

## 4 STRENGTHEN THE BODY

The church is more than a collection of people and activities. It is the body of Christ. How we live and work together is as important as what we do together. Hamline Church needs to focus what they do, and strengthen how they do it if they are to become a Sanctuary for the City that really has impact. We would invite you to take the follow steps:

- Conduct a Resource Audit of time, energy, and financial resources, and determine a staffing plan that accomplishes that direction
- Conduct a Ministry Audit of ministries focused on discipleship, fellowship, and fundraising
- Build into the board, staff, and ministry teams the responsibility for developing new leaders

## OUR NEXT STEPS

### VOTE TO APPROVE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS CHURCH CONFERENCE, MAY 8

The vote will take place immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. The vote will be taken by written ballot. Everyone is invited, members may vote. Our District Superintendent will preside over Church Conference. The vote must pass by 70%, and these recommendations must be voted on as a whole package.

## TO VIEW THE ENTIRE REPORT:

[HAMLINCHURCH.ORG/HCI](http://HAMLINCHURCH.ORG/HCI)

**This is only a summary of our report!** The whole report is available online, including our strengths, our concerns, and an in depth explanation of all these recommendations. Paper copies are also available for pick up in the church office. Frequently Asked questions are also available on the website.

**You may contact the HCI team for more information:**  
Pastor Mariah, Maggie Nancarrow, Jan Bajuneimi, Sharon Fields, Gil Young, and Barb Deming

**Email Us:** [humc@hamlinechurch.org](mailto:humc@hamlinechurch.org)

# HAMLIN CHURCH KIDS

## *Dearly beloved*

We are gathered here today  
To get through this thing called life . . .

## *Cause in this life*

Things are much harder than in the af-  
ter world  
In this life

*You're on your own . . .*

## *If you don't like*

the world you're living in  
Take a look around you  
At least you got friends. . .

I know it's becoming passé to quote Prince lyrics, but to me, this sums up exactly what a place like Hamline Church can and should be for our families and children. Assurance of our place in the 'after world' doesn't translate to simplicity or ease in dealing with the messy, gritty, physical and mental grind of the here and now. We all need friends - and taking that a step further, a community. A network of people who can help hold us up, carry our burdens, listen to whatever is in our hearts and make sure we're not on our own in this life - somebody to help us 'punch a higher floor,' so to speak.

Another way to assure that we are not on our own in this life is to re-think our 'three-tiered' vision of the world, as Diane Butler Bass describes in "Grounded: Finding God in the World", the book for our congregation-wide book-club. Bass recommends that we no longer think of heaven as physically above us, humans here on earth, and hell physically down below us. Ask any of your kids: 'above' us are outer space, the planets, galaxies and black holes. 'Below' us is a thin cold crust of earth, then layers of stone, and finally in the deep center, a core of molten lava. Instead, Bass explains, God is among us, here on Earth, now. In the wind, in the water, in the soil - in the garden, where I hope our kids will spend some time and find that still quiet voice, encouraging them, and holding them up in this world, while they also learn to hold up one another.

Together, and with God, let's help each other - and our kids - get through this thing called life. I'll trust God that the after world will take care of itself.



# HAMLIN CHURCH KIDS

## COMING UP IN MAY

### **Sunday, May 1: Communion Sunday**

All kids in worship, or the nursery.  
Families can plant seeds in the SPROUT garden after the service. All-Church book club, discussing "Grounded"

### **Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day**

Pre-K through 6th in the SPROUT garden:  
Plant beans in pots to take home and nurture  
Kids will rejoin grown-ups in worship during the final hymn.

### **Healthy Church Initiative**

VOTE! Worship will be kept short so that we have time to vote on whether to accept the recommendations of the Healthy Church Initiative. All present members of Hamline Church are eligible to vote. Learn more about the recommendations at <http://www.hamlinechurch.org/hci.html>

**Saturday, May 14:** Planting SPROUT Garden, 11:30 am. Small seedlings for the garden will arrive around 11:30 am. Families are encouraged to help us get them in the ground and water the plants so they can get growing!

**Sunday, May 15:** Confirmation Sunday  
Pre-K / K: Godly Play - Parable of the Deep Well  
1st & 2nd: Parable of Parables  
3rd - 6th grade in worship for confirmation

**SIGN UP TO TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL HERE:**  
[hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](http://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central)

**Sunday, May 22: Last Day of Sunday School**  
Pre-K/K: Godly Play - Parable of Parables  
1st & 2nd: Parable of the Deep Well  
3rd - 6th: Prepare for Film Festival

### **Film Festival & Brick Oven Pizza Lunch, 11:30 am**

**Monday, May 23**  
Refugee Family Arrives!  
To get involved, contact John Bailey [johnbaileyinmn@gmail.com](mailto:johnbaileyinmn@gmail.com) or visit the church website at [hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central](http://hamlinechurch.org/sign-up-central)

## **Family Outside Service Opportunity:**

Saturday, May 21 - Gardening in Hamline Park (corner of Snelling & Thomas), 10am - 2pm. The Friends of Hamline Park are hosting a gardening day in this park that is heavily used by neighborhood kids just a few blocks south of church. (I won't arrive until noon, but feel free to arrive earlier. Let me know if you plan to attend, and I'll let the very kind and friendly organizers keep an eye out for you!)

## **COMING UP THIS SUMMER:**

Thursday, June 2  
Spiritual Formation Committee End-of Year Get-Together, 7 pm  
All parents, guardians, and Sunday-school teachers are welcome to join us at my house for drinks, snacks, fellowship and conversation about re-imagining Sunday School as part of the Healthy Church Initiative. Even if you've never attended before, your input and energy is welcome! Please let me know if you plan to attend: [ASlreland@HamlineChurch.org](mailto:ASlreland@HamlineChurch.org)

**Mon. - Fri., June 13 - 17 - Vacation Bible School!** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
We'll be 'traveling' the world, learning about God's love for all people, and how to care for God's amazing creation. Let me know if you need before or after care. Please register your child by May 30 on Sign-Up Central.

Register to volunteer: prepare snacks, gather materials and prepare craft packets, or join us on site. Sign up by May 30 on Sign-Up Central.

Thursday, June 16 - Brick Oven Pizza dinner, 4 - 7 pm  
Don't worry about what to feed your kid for dinner after VBS. Stick around a while for food and fellowship on the front lawn. Even if you don't attend VBS, you're welcome to join us! RSVP to Mark Ireland at: [mrichardireland@gmail.com](mailto:mrichardireland@gmail.com)



# Hamline Youth May and June 2016

## CONFIRMATION IS ON MAY 15.

Come celebrate our youngest new members as they take on their baptismal vows for themselves. We will be having beautiful musical performances by confirmands, as well as heartfelt statements of faith, and artwork. Your support means a lot to our kids.

## INTRODUCING THE YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM

Four senior high school students will be selected in the summer of 2016 to become interns at Hamline Church! They will work in a ministry of their choice, participate in spiritual development classes, and grow as leaders for the church and the world. Applications are at [hamlinechurch.org/youth](http://hamlinechurch.org/youth) and they are due on Sunday, May 22.

## YOUTH MINISTRY AND THE POWER OF RESURRECTION

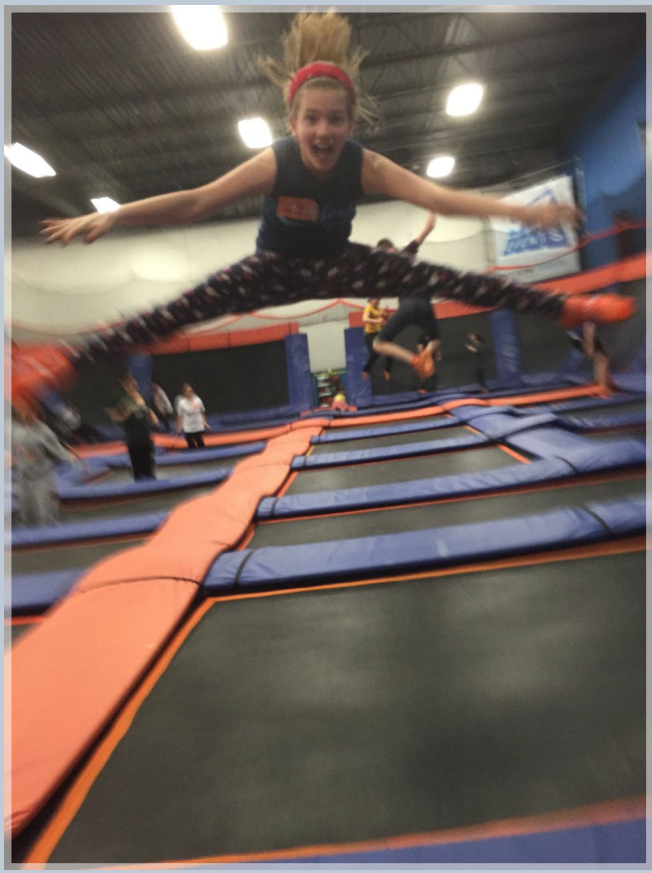
I was recently asked to write a piece for a blog on “What Youth Ministry Means to Me.” This is a really hard topic--what DOES youth ministry mean to me? Why do I do this, make time for this, instead of the bulletin, or the newsletter, or our church’s facebook account? What draws me to this position?

As I sat and thought about it, this is what came to mind. I love this work, because I can tell kids that God believes in them—loves them more than they can even fathom. And Youth Ministry as a whole is about mobilizing the whole church to do the same. Our job as a church is to show them that they have a place in God’s work of resurrection, both in their own church community, and in the wider world.

My faith is a faith in the power of resurrection, the power of God’s crazy decision to make death null and void, to make new things out of ashes. When I look around at mainline, pseudo-progressive churches in America, I see a lot of loss, a lot of confusion—a lot of ashes—but more than that, I see new growth popping up. I see resurrection for a failing church in America, and when I live into my role as a youth minister, that’s what I focus on. I see my job as helping teenagers to see God’s power of resurrection working through them.

Some of it is about the logistical stuff: giving them a language of faith that can express what they know to be true about their lives, or fun and dorky facts about the Bible, or just teaching them the stories that we use to talk about our relationship with our God.





Some of it is about the relational stuff: how to pray, and see God at work in the world, in one's life, and in others.

Some of it is love of neighbor stuff: cooking food and serving it to the homeless, giving pan handlers some toothpaste on the side of the street, or learning about the evils of systemic poverty.

But what all that comes down to, really, is getting our kids involved in the revolution of God, the wild ride that our whole Christian community is undergoing, as we try to reinvent the church in the 21st century. For me, my role as youth minister is about helping the kids, and helping us as a whole church, to embrace and empower the work that God does through these amazing young people.

On April 20, more than twenty of our youngsters and volunteers came together to serve a meal at the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis. It was a huge effort--about \$350 in food, and 40 lbs of ground beef--God only knows how many pounds of potatoes, beans, and garlic. The shelter guests were impressed with our kids. They know how to work, they know how to do customer service, and more than anything--they know how to extend a helping hand.

This year, our kids have served communion, been readers, helped in Sunday School, baked bread for the oven, dug out the garden, and read the Gospel of Luke cover to cover. They are such valuable members of our community, and that's thanks to you: the Hamline Church Congregation, who wants to shepherd these kids into a life of authenticity, hope, and ultimately, the resurrective power of God.

A special thanks, though, goes to Mark Krueger and Eric Molter for their help on the Simpson Shelter. Without them, I would have been lost in a sea of uncooked ground beef.

Part of the HCI Recommendations involves our youth ministry: developing it more, giving it room to grow and develop. I am excited to see where we might become a Sanctuary for the City, and what this means for our young people.

I have never had a more fulfilling job. I love this church. I love these kids. I love the God that put me here at this time and place, and I'm on board for this wild, unpredictable ride towards resurrection for the whole Church.

# A BIG YEAR FOR ANNIVERSARIES

Time to celebrate – but no candles, please! This year marks the 160th anniversary of the formal beginning of Methodism in what is now the state of Minnesota. The actual celebration will take place at the Annual Conference. However, we have some important anniversaries we can celebrate as well.



In 1886 (that's 130 years ago) a small group gathered in the Merriam Park neighborhood of St. Paul and formed the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. The women of the congregation quickly established a dining hall at the State Fairground to replace their first temporary building, located at Dewey and Marshall. (This photo is from 1903.) Fifty years later in 1936, Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church merged with First Methodist Episcopal Church to become First-Trinity, and later Church of the Good Shepherd.

In 1946, the Northern Minnesota Annual Conference, which had regularly met in Minneapolis, merged with the Minnesota Conference, which had regularly met in St. Paul. Chosen as location was a combination of Hamline University and Hamline Church, where various meetings, ordinations and other worship services were held. This partnership lasted until 1968, when the Conference outgrew those facilities with the denominational merge of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Annual Conference name was then changed to the Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

But times were a-changin' in other ways too. The General Conference met in Minneapolis in 1956 for its quadrennial meeting and approved full clergy rights for women. Though women had preached since Chauncey Hobart's wife did in the mid-1800s, they were not eligible for all the benefits that were given male clergy.



At the 1956 Annual Conference meeting held at Hamline Church, a historic moment occurred as the Rev. Mary MacNicholl became the first woman to become a trial member of the Conference. She already had a seminary degree from Drew University in New Jersey, had been ordained deacon in 1950 and elder in 1952. As Ken Beck recounted:

“She was ready, and so when the time came – is was like Lincoln said, ‘I will study and prepare myself, and perhaps the day will come.’ She had done that ... when the door opened she was already there.”

Rev. MacNicholl was voted into full membership in the Conference in 1958, and has been followed by a swell of women joining the clergy ranks in Minnesota.

As you can see, our heritage is rich, both within our congregational family and the Annual Conference. We have much to celebrate!

**Mary Bakeman, Church Historian**

# Announcements



## Refugee Family Arrival!

The Refugee Team is excited to announce that a family has been assigned to us for co-sponsorship. They are Karen, arriving on May 23. Please help us welcome Klue (Father), Naw (Mother), Sha (daughter, 4.5 years), Sheer (son 2.5, years), and Share (son, 1 year) in late May. More information is available by contacting John Bailey at johnbaileyinmn@gmail.com.

## PB&J Sundays during the summer

Child hunger is a great concern in the summer. More than 328,000 children in Minnesota rely on free or reduced price lunches during the school year. When summer vacation rolls around, these children and their families face the challenge of paying for those 10 weekly missing meals.

Because of this, each summer, food shelf visits from low income families with children increase sharply. To address this special need, during the months of May, June and July, we will be focusing our collections for the food shelf on child friendly items such as peanut butter and jelly, cereals and canned fruits. Please help us fill empty tummies this summer.

## Dining Hall Volunteers, Mark Your Calendars!

The Hamline Church Dining Hall will again be up and running at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds for the Minnesota Street Rod Association's "Back to the '50s" Car Show from June 17-19. Volunteers can sign-up online beginning Friday May 20. Or you can sign-up after church on Sundays in the Fireside Room beginning May 22. We'll also need volunteers for Dining Hall Clean-Up Day (on Saturday June 4) and on Prep Day (Wednesday June 16). Please mark your calendars and join us for a fun and exciting weekend of fellowship and hospitality.

## NEWS FOR BREAD HEADS

We are about to kick-off our summer season and we need your help. Our goal is to get a solid group of folks who are comfortable making the dough needed for bread and pizza events, lighting fires, and knowing where everything is. We can do it. Feel the bread rising!

### PORTABLE OVEN BUILDING CLASS

Be the neighborhood hero with your own pizza oven. There are still openings for the portable oven building class. The class is Saturday May 14th and the fee is \$80. Here's the link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/portable-oven-building-class-tickets-22175623888>

### CLASS, COMMUNITY BREAD BAKE, AND HAMLINE CHURCH KID FILM FESTIVAL

On Friday May 20, there will be a free bread-making class for beginners based on the book "Artisan Bread in Five Minutes A Day." Make the dough Friday night, and then bake it the next day.

On May 21, there will be our first Community Bread Bake of 2016. We will also be making bread for communion and Annual Conference.

After church on May 22, there will be the premier of the parable films that our Sunday School kids have been working on over the past two months and we'll be serving pizza.

NOTE: We will need volunteers to light the fire Friday night, bake helpers on Saturday mornings, and stokers of the fire Sunday morning, make pizzas after church, and clean-up.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-ALL CHURCH PARTY

On Thursday, June 16th, we'll have our first wood-fire pizza night. Bring any special toppings you'd like, and we'll cook it up.

NOTE: We will need volunteers to light the fire Thursday morning, stoke the fire mid-day, and make pizzas that evening and clean-up.

SAVE THE DATES:

### HAMLINE CHURCH'S PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Save the date for Hamline Church's Pizza and an outdoor movie nights. **Wednesday, July 20th and August 17th.**

Get involved:  
Contact Mark Ireland at [mrichardireland@gmail.com](mailto:mrichardireland@gmail.com)

This newsletter is a production of the Hamline Church Communications Team, especially Allyson Opps, our student assistant.



**Office Hours**

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# HAMLIN CHURCH

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