



RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS

2023 MINISTRY REPORT & 2024 ANNUAL GIVING

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God!*

2 Corinthians 9:11



HAMLIN CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST

Dear Beloveds of Hamline Church,

There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is alive and working in and through Hamline Church!

Amidst a world of declining religious and secular engagement and a pandemic of loneliness, Hamline Church offers much of what people are longing for: welcoming and inclusive community, space to question and wrestle with faith, experiences of wonder and grace, and opportunities to make a difference in the world. While the numbers don't tell the whole story, they offer an insight into the here and now. Since 2013, Hamline Church has experienced the greatest growth in membership of any United Methodist Church in Minnesota. In 2023 we baptized 12 babies and our average weekly worship attendance rose to 230 surpassing pre-pandemic levels thanks to livestream technology.

Right now, God's presence is powerfully at work among us at Hamline Church, inspiring *new energy, new vision, new life*. We are vibrant and growing thanks to God's grace and your generosity. I am grateful to all of you who have said YES to living more deeply into God's dream for yourselves and Hamline Church. *Because of you, our church changes lives.*

As we launch the 2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign, we invite everyone to reflect on God's loving and faithful presence among us and dream with us.

My family's pledged gift to our congregation grows from my appreciation of the lives we touch. Generosity in all its forms comes as our expression of gratitude for this community. I hope you will join me in making a commitment to give this coming year, and, if possible, to join Ryan and me in increasing your giving for the year ahead.

Hamline Church thrives through shared commitment to our mission and through our gifts of time, skills, and financial resources. Explore the pages of this ministry report to learn more about the impact your gifts have made in peoples' lives and in our community. And prayerfully consider how you can help us reach our goal of \$600,000 for the 2024 *Releasing God's Blessing* campaign.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our lives and community. Thank you for your ongoing support and for walking alongside me as a part of Hamline Church.

With deep appreciation,

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard

Rev Mariah Furness Tollgaard

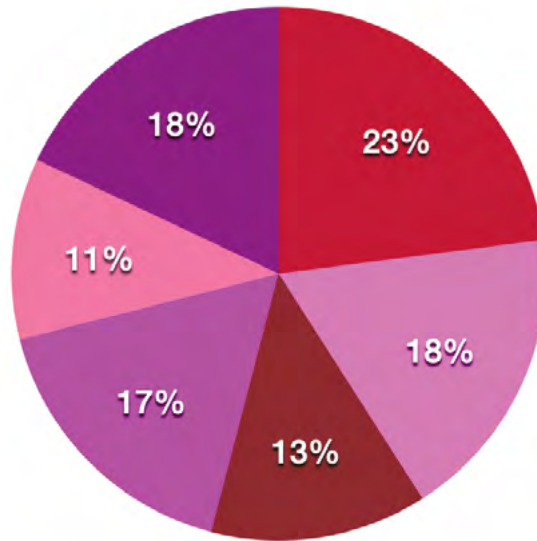


2023 IMPACT SUMMARY

GENEROSITY IN MISSION & MINISTRY

Over the years, we have committed our resources to God, and God has truly blessed and used them to change lives, transform communities and renew the church. Worship, music, spiritual development for children and adults, small groups, pastoral care and support, mission work, community projects and connectional giving to the greater United Methodist Church are all supported by your annual giving that provides the operating funds for our church.

EXPENSES



- Worship \$186,062
- Faith Formation \$145,613
- Service \$106,165
- Staying Connected \$137,524
- Supporting the Wider Mission \$88,986
- Foundation for Ministry \$145,614

INCOME

Our annual budget depends heavily on pledged income/regular contributions from you, our congregation. Your generosity provides a critical and essential piece of how we live out our mission.

- 75% Pledges and gifts (\$605,924)
- 15% fundraisers, grants, investment income (\$118,000)
- 10% building income (\$85,040)

TOTAL: \$808,964
Thank you for your support!



WORSHIP & MUSIC

2023 IMPACT \$186,062

At Hamline Church we mindfully cultivate a transformational worship experience for all in attendance, whether in person or online. Our preaching and worship leadership, diverse guest preachers, and special music Sundays ensure that we connect with the world outside our walls and traditions that enrich our spiritual journey.

- Strong growth in average worship attendance! 2023 to date averages 230 weekly worshippers (online and in person). This compares to 185 in 2022 and 185 in 2019 (in person only).
- Rondo '56 - a collaboration between our Music & Arts Series and Community Conversations Ecumenical Consortium. Close to 400 guests were treated to a portrait in music, stories and archival photos of St. Paul's thriving Black neighborhood in the '40s and '50s.
- Invigorated Handbell Choir – The group has grown to 12 regular ringers with additional substitutes and can now offer 4 octave repertoire. The group attended two enrichment activities including BELLFEST! and a seminar for directors and ringers.
- The Chancel Choir offered two special music Sunday including its first ever concert as part of the Music and Arts Series presenting Franz Schubert's Mass in G with orchestra, and other choral favorites.
- Added over 120 new subscribers to our YouTube channel.
- We are proud to be able to offer high quality live-streaming and on demand versions of services thanks to our amazing worship technology team of staff and volunteers.
- Dozens of weekly worship volunteers (greeters, readers, ushers, musicians, liturgical artists) share their talents every Sunday.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- Sound and lighting upgrades in the sanctuary planned for early 2024. Including adding a wi-fi based assistive listening system.
- Chancel Choir has 31 regular singers on the roster. Continue to discover the hidden talents of additional singers in the congregation and beyond by offering enticing programming, lower commitment project specific works, and a welcoming, enriching, and fun experience for all.
- Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hamline Church's Casavant Frères Organ in Nov. 2024 by commissioning a special piece for Organ and Choir, making organ repairs and upgrades, presenting a world class organist in recital, and recognizing former Hamline Church organists.
- Establish a more permanent and accessible rehearsal and performance space for the Handbell Choir in the sanctuary to support and showcase this thriving ensemble.
- Create more multi-generational access points and participation opportunities for our growing congregation.
- Continued integration of the House Band into our worship experience with collaborations with the chancel choir on anthems, hymns and more.
- Provide historical context and interesting facts about the varied and diverse music offered in worship to enhance appreciation and the worship experience.





STAYING CONNECTED & CARING FOR OUR CHURCH

2023 IMPACT \$137,524

One of the greatest ways we love God is by loving each other. At Hamline Church we are committed to connecting with God and each other in meaningful ways through all of life's stages. We also provide a variety of communication resources to keep our community informed and connected. Here are some of the ways we've done that this year:

- Provided care and support in major life milestones including 12 baptisms for children and 3 celebration of life services for beloved saints of Hamline Church.
- Welcomed over 20 new members and new babies!
- Produced a photo directory of the church community. Over 400 church members were consulted to update records and photos resulting in a new photo directory and updated contact information in Realm our online membership directory.
- The Care Team continued to nurture our community through cards, prayers, meals, visits, phone calls, home communion and much more.
- Knitters, quilters, and other fabric crafters continue to create prayer shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets for those marking milestones and/or needing support.
- Volunteer appreciation month in May celebrated the hundreds of volunteers who serve in ministry in and outside of our walls.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- Utilize the Care Team to continue supporting and connecting with people in new and intentional ways.
- Further develop Membership and Hospitality Team to help develop best practices for engaging new people and welcoming new members during their first year of membership.
- Communication upgrades including: increased use of additional social media platforms (Instagram and TikTok) to reach new people, website refresh and more multimedia offerings for worship.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

2023 IMPACT \$145,613

We are so excited about all the ways the Hamline family has reunited in this past year to learn, grow and develop as disciples of Jesus. From birth through adulthood there are offerings for all ages. Ways we have come together to grow and learn include:

- Ministered to over 250 members of our Hamline University Community through food, fellowship, small groups, hosting groups including World Christian Student Federation, tamales holiday party, and internship opportunities.
- Wednesday Night Dinners bring folks together for food and spiritual formation opportunities. Highlight was our pancake night. We feed on average 50 folks each week for twenty weeks during the program year.
- Launched our Building Blocks of Faith small group series which helps to deepen our ongoing discipleship. In 2023 we dug deep into Wesleyan theology, spiritual direction, and biblical understanding.
- Facilitated a Wonderfully Made Retreat for 10 tweens where they learned about adolescent development and their bodies through a progressive Christian lens.
- 10 campers attended UM summer camps at Northern Pines or Koronis where they deepened their faith with God and connection with one another.
- Provided rest, renewal, and relaxation for 15 people at our annual women's retreat held at ARC Retreat Center.
- Gathered 12 seasonal small groups in conjunction with our Lenten series *Good Enough* and our fall worship series *Living Faith the Wesleyan Way*.
- 9 ongoing faith and connection groups, including Centering Prayer, Men's Breakfast, Racial Justice Book Group, Fiction and Fellowship, book studies, covenant groups and more.
- 10 of our families gathered at Northern Pines Camp for a winter retreat in January - it was a time of fellowship, playing in the snow, and enjoying the winter camp experience together.
- We celebrated 3 confirmands in June as they decided to be confirmed and join the church as adult members.
- Sacred Studio, our Sunday morning spiritual formation for children, continued to offer space to explore bible stories and get to know God's love. We also began a new opportunity for 5th and 6th graders to bridge their experience from Sunday school to full worship, where they sit together in worship, then gather after the sermon to check in and share about their experience.
- In June, 30 of our children (along with some incredible youth and adult volunteers) spent a week exploring what it means to share God's compassion with others at Compassion Camp VBS.
- Our youth fundraised, prepared, and went on two summer trips. In July, a group of 4 youth and 2 adults ventured into the Boundary Waters to spend time in creation and challenge themselves mentally and physically. In August, 11 youth and 3 adults drove to Detroit, Michigan for a week of service in the Motown city.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- Offer group and individual spiritual direction from two spiritual directors in our congregation to encourage folks to explore a closer relationship with God by reflecting deeply on experiences in everyday life.
- Continue our new Building Blocks of Faith series to provide foundational learning opportunities to support growth as disciples in key areas of spiritual formation.
- New small group opportunities for spiritual growth including centering prayer, enneagram and faith, and how to share our faith.
- We're beginning a visioning process with Ministry Architects, church consultants, to dream about and build upon our children and youth ministries, which will be an exciting project that we'll continue throughout the year.
- We're excited to continue some beloved traditions in student ministries - winter retreat, VBS, summer youth trips. We're also excited to follow the Spirit as it leads us to new things - more opportunities for families with young children to connect, community-building and service opportunities for youth, and more!





SERVICE REACHING OUT TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

2023 IMPACT \$106,165



We put our mission into action by advocating for justice for God's kin-dom — our neighbors near and far, as well as the planet. Here are some of the ways Hamline Church has recently carried out the call to love God and neighbor.

- The Barnabas Fund (Neighbors in Need) continues to support individuals and families through unexpected financial emergencies. Over \$10,000 given so far this year to help with assistance for car repair bills, payments for utilities, and rent assistance. This fund also supports local community service organizations, such as Small Sums and Open Hands Midway.
- Hamline Women welcomed community members with two markets and a barn dance. They also hosted the Twin Cities District meeting of United Women in Faith.
- Numerous brick oven events fed neighbors and our congregation at community gatherings.
- Earthkeepers led an energy audit of the building, hosted a land acknowledgment small group and continued to care for the greenway and grounds. A new project produced sleep mats for unhoused people.
- Dorothy Day volunteers served meals to thousands of unhoused neighbors in response to especially high demand.
- Continued partnerships with McVay, St Paul Interfaith Action - School Tools Drive, CROP Walk, ISAIAH, Keystone Emergency Services, MN Foodshare, Every Meal, Eureka Compass Community Meals, Hamline Midway Elders, and more.
- Celebrated the 126th year of the Hamline Church Dining Hall with new foods favorites holey hamloaf sandwiches, affogatos, and mini-donut and dill pickle lemonade paletas.
- Continued our strong partnership with Emma Norton Services through financial support, personal care product donations, holiday gift drive, and Pastor Heather led a bible study for the residents of Emma Norton Residence with clergy from other area churches.
- SPROUT Garden continues our partnership with Hamline University and Hamline Midway Elders. Hamline Church hosted three interns from HU who helped plant and harvest over summer and fall to deliver to households in the neighborhood with the help of our kids on Sunday mornings in the summer.
- Provided clothing, personal items and snack bags for unhoused Ramsey County youth in partnership with Face2Face's SafeZone.
- Refugee Ministry team continued support for Afghani Family especially in areas related to immigration, parenting resources and independent living skills.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- Go deeper with our commitment to become an antiracist church by personal growth and partnership with Community Conversations Ecumenical Consortium.
- Next steps in developing a Land Acknowledgement statement and determine efforts toward repair with the help of Sacred reckonings small group and Earthkeepers.
- Complete our pledge to Emma Norton's Restoring Waters Campaign. Contributions of over \$44,000 were received in 2023. Our total pledged contribution is now at nearly \$150,000! We are helping ENS connect with other churches to raise \$450,000 to complete the campaign.
- Organize and participate in volunteer opportunities at Restoring Waters when building opens in fall 2024.



FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY

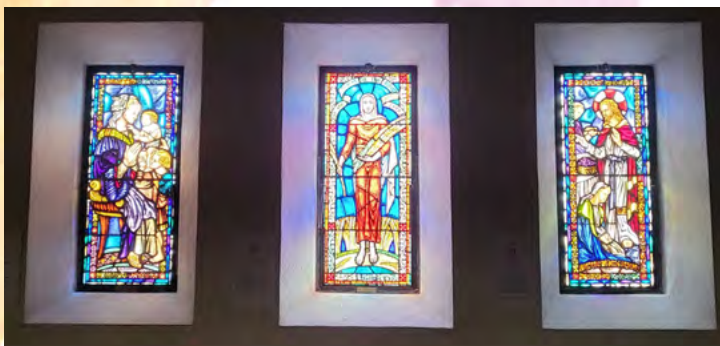
2023 IMPACT \$145,614

The conscientious stewardship of our physical building and financial resources enables us to live our vision to be a Sanctuary for the City in our community and beyond. In addition to paying bills to keep the lights on and general maintenance to keep the doors open, financial resources from the operating budget, endowment funds and generous donors allowed us to accomplish the following initiatives:

- Celebration of the completed restoration of all stained glass windows in the sanctuary on Heritage Sunday and, with the support of the History & Archives Team, showcases the history and artistry of the windows.
- Plaster repair around the sides of the stained glass windows and in other areas around the building.
- Completed all security upgrade recommendations including installation of additional cameras, motion sensors and a new intercom system.
- Upgraded to energy efficient LED lights in all of the classrooms for free through participation in the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) with Xcel Energy.
- Replaced the surface of the playground and installed a foam-padded artificial turf for fall safety and long term durability.
- 8 staff and volunteers participated in CPR and First Aid training.
- Development of a system of care for groundskeeping in collaboration with volunteers including 14 volunteers at the spring work day, 26 volunteers at the fall work day, and 4 volunteers that gave their time and effort individually throughout the summer.
- Made accessibility improvements and developed an accessibility task force for next steps.
- Church Council approved over \$10,000 in growth grants to support new ministry initiatives.
- Onboarded new finance manager and facilities manager.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- Analysis of facility condition assessment, energy audit and accessibility audit to build short and long term plans for capital improvements.
- Build partnership with new daycare provider Miracle Grow.
- Install sound and lighting upgrades in the sanctuary.
- Improvements in our waste management system, including the addition of a 3-stream waste receptacle to the greenway.
- Conduct exterior maintenance and repairs to mitigate infiltration of the elements.
- Improvements to accessibility in the sanctuary, entrances, restrooms and more.
- Continue establishing routine care for church grounds and gardens. Look to foster the growth of more native and pollinator friendly plants throughout.



SUPPORTING THE WIDER MISSION

2023 IMPACT \$88,986

We honor our connection to the United Methodist Church and give thanks for the ways our ministry can impact more people and places through our shared giving and collective efforts.

- Paid 100% of apportionments to the Minnesota Annual Conference
- Continued involvement in Minnesota Methodists & Reconciling Ministries Network including the Twin Cities PRIDE festival and PRIDE day at the Hamline Church Dining Hall
- Hosted Jan Lawrence, Executive Director of RMN and contributed \$2,000 toward their work for inclusion in the greater UMC
- Awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Minnesota Annual Conference for higher education ministry to support our campus ministry with Hamline University
- Support for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to aid international response (Ukraine, Israel/Palestine) and domestic natural disaster recovery
- Approved Sharon Fields as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry, and celebrated Chaplain Kelly Figueroa-Ray's commissioning as a provisional elder.
- Were blessed by the leadership of our Certified Lay Ministers, Lay Servants and Lay Speakers as they served in our church and conference.

RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2024

- LGBTQ+ advocacy before and after the UMC General Conference
- Continued collaboration with Hamline University and the Wesley Center for Spirituality and Service
- Support the greater MN Annual Conference through providing leadership on various conference committees and action teams including higher education, finance, episcopacy, and more.



RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS - TOGETHER

WHY MAKE AN ESTIMATED GIVING CONTRIBUTION FOR 2024?

At Hamline Church, our single most important source of funding for our ministries comes from the estimated giving contributions during our annual stewardship campaign. We are deeply grateful for the faithfulness of our congregation, as we have consistently received at minimum — a 95% fulfillment rate for all promised commitments. These commitments provide us with a forecast on which we build our expense budget for the coming year. We acknowledge each gift to be as unique as the individual giver, and we strive to be exceptional stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

This year, help us release God's blessings by estimating an annual gift that is both responsible and significant based on what God is calling you to give.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION & COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 19, 2023

On Sunday, November 19th we will gather for worship at 10am and you are invited to bring your 2024 Annual Estimate of Giving Card. Please turn in your card or submit your annual giving commitment online at: hamlinechurch.org/give on or before November 19, 2023.

OUR GOAL FOR 2024

Our goal for this year's annual giving campaign is \$600,000 in pledged support. This goal reflects the bold vision laid out in the preceding pages for how Hamline Church will serve our community and the world in 2024. This goal also allows us to balance our budget, fairly compensate our hard working staff, and keep up with the steep costs of inflation that impacted all of us this past year.

PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART

Percentage of Giving to Consider as an Annual Gift

ANNUAL INCOME	2%	3%	5%	7%	10% (tithing)	15%
\$20,000	\$400	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$130,000	\$2,600	\$3,900	\$6,500	\$9,100	\$13,000	\$19,500
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000	\$22,500
\$170,000	\$3,400	\$5,100	\$8,500	\$11,900	\$17,000	\$25,500
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
\$250,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000	\$37,500

LEGACY GIVING




The Hamline Church Endowment Fund provides a way to further your lifetime commitment and stewardship by supporting your church through planned giving by remembering Hamline Church in your will, trust, retirement accounts and life insurance designations. To learn more, contact Brittany Pennington, Investment Team Chair or check the box on your commitment card.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about stewardship at Hamline Church please contact the Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard. If you have questions about your annual giving, please contact Gregg Dahlke, Lead Financial Secretary. If you are experiencing financial hardship, don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from participating and serving in church. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance is not based upon your capacity to give financially. Please feel free to let one of our pastors know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you.



RELEASING GOD'S BLESSINGS

-  [FACEBOOK.COM/HAMLINECHURCHUM/](https://www.facebook.com/HAMLINECHURCHUM/)
-  [YOUTUBE.COM/HAMLINECHURCH](https://www.youtube.com/HAMLINECHURCH)
-  [@HAMLINECHURCH](https://www.instagram.com/HAMLINECHURCH)



HAMLINE CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

1514 Englewood Avenue | Saint Paul, MN 55104
All are welcome | [hamlinechurch.org](https://www.hamlinechurch.org) | 651.645.0667



2024 ANNUAL GIVING COMMITMENT

GIVING OPTIONS *(select only one)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

I/We pledge to give: \$ _____

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Annually
- As follows: _____

For a total annual giving commitment of:

\$ _____

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
Please set up EFT for me/us. I have included a voided check, if signing up for the first time. Please select timing of electronic funds transfer

- Monthly — the 5th of each month.
- Monthly — the 18th of each month.
- Please increase my pledge by \$ _____ per month.

Cash or Check
(Offering envelopes are provided in the pews. If you prefer personalized pre-printed envelopes please circle YES)

Non-Cash Gift
I/We would like to make this gift in securities, mutual fundshares or IRA charitable rollover. (Please have someone contact me)

Hamline Church Online Giving
I/We will set up an account or already have one.

Signed _____

Date _____

LEGACY GIVING

The Hamline Church Endowment Fund provides a way to further your lifetime commitment and stewardship by supporting your church through planned giving by remembering Hamline Church in your will, trust, retirement accounts and life insurance designations.

- I/We have remembered Hamline Church in our will or legacy gift.
- I/We would like information on how to provide for Hamline Church in my/our will.

Please bring your Commitment Card to worship on Thanksgiving & Commitment Sunday, November 19 or complete your card online: [hamlinechurch.org/give](https://www.hamlinechurch.org/give) before November 19, 2023.