



HopeGateWay

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Sunday, December 2, 2018 Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Serve

Welcome to worship at HopeGateWay!

We're so glad you're here today! We'd like to get to know you, so please take a minute to fill out a Welcome card, and join us for conversation, a cup of coffee or tea, and a bite to eat!

Sundays at HopeGateWay

- 9:00 am Worship Celebration
- 10:15 am Coffee and conversation
- 10:15 am HopeGateWay Kids
- 11:00 am Worship Celebration

Share the joy! Invite a friend to join you next Sunday!

Lean In Toward the Light

Advent worship series starts today!

Advent is a four-week season of anticipation and preparation leading to Christmas. During this year's Advent worship series, Lean In Toward the Light, we'll reflect on several Biblical stories of hope and anticipation — stories that invite us to lean in toward the light — to claim the hope and joy of this season. Make a commitment to be here every Sunday in Advent, as a way of staying focused and grounded — expectant! — so that the joy of Christ's birth will truly come alive. Invite a friend to join you for worship next Sunday!

HopeGateWay Kids

Sundays at 10:15 am | Room 3-4

All kids, grades K-5, are invited for engaging, multi-sensory explorations of the Bible and concepts of faith through storytelling, art, and creative activities. HGW Kids meets in room 3-4 between our two worship gatherings. Invite a friend!

Youth Group

TODAY | 2 – 4 pm | HopeGateWay

Youth grades 7-12 are invited to meet up at 2 pm here at HGW for two Christmas service projects: assembling Christmas gift boxes for recently housed families who have graduated from Greater Portland Family Promise, as well as Christmas gift bags for Hope House residents. Interested youth may come at 1:30 to participate in a planning session. Mark your calendar for a Youth Group Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 16, 4:30-6:30 pm. Questions? Contact Katie Holicky, Youth Group Coordinator: katie@hopegateway.com

Advent Conspiracy. Turn your Christmas upside down.

Discover the true meaning of this season: Worship fully. Spend less. Give more. Love all. Replace consumption with compassion, and honor the one whose birthday we celebrate. We challenge you make a meaningful gift to help people in need. This year's Advent Conspiracy gifts will go to Maison Shalom, a ministry that helps orphans and street children in Burundi and Rwanda, and to Greater Portland Family Promise. Your gift this year will make a world of difference!

Advent Small Group: *The Living Nativity*

Tuesday evenings | 7:00-8:30 pm at the parsonage

Friday mornings | 10:00-11:30 am at HopeGateWay

Join a four-week small group during the Season of Advent, leading to Christmas. We're using a resource called *The Living Nativity*, by Larry Peacock, which offers a prayer, a reading, and reflection questions for each day of Advent. Two options: Tuesday evenings at the parsonage (31 Sheffield St.) or Friday mornings at HGW. We're exploring how common Christmas traditions came to be, but most importantly, we're gathering to share in community as we prepare our hearts this Advent season. Interested? Sign up on the clipboard today!

New Centering Prayer Group

Tuesdays beginning Dec. 4 | 12:00-12:50 pm | HGW

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead. Starting this week, Jonathan Wright-Gray and others will lead a Tuesday mid-day Centering Prayer group — an opportunity to connect with God who is present within us every moment of every day. As the Season of Advent begins, join with others in nurturing this new peace-filled spiritual practice — an oasis in the middle of your day. Beginners at prayer are welcome!

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 8 | 9am – 3pm | Kennebunk

Does this season leading to Christmas find you too busy, anxious and stressed, overwhelmed, or depressed? Do you long to get in touch with the deeper meaning of the season in the midst of all the commercial hype? Come away for a quiet day of rest, reflection, gentle play, and prayer — a time for being, not doing. Bring your own lunch. A free-will offering will be received. Rev. Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp, one of the retired pastors who's part of the HopeGateWay community, is leading this Advent Quiet Day, and she invites all. The gathering will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church, 138 York Street in Kennebunk. To reserve your space, contact St. David's: 207-985-3073 or cathy@stdavidskennebunk.org

Christmas Caroling at Cumberland County Jail

Thursday, December 13 | 5 pm | Sign up today!

A service opportunity: A group of HGW folks will come together for Christmas caroling at the Cumberland County Jail, as a way of lifting the spirits of the inmates and jail staff. Advance registration is required — we must submit names, addresses, dates of birth, and IDs by this Friday, Dec. 7. Sign up on the clipboard today, or contact Bethany in the church office (bethany@hopegateway.com / 207-899-2435).

Sharing the gift of hospitality

Coffee and snacks are an important part of our Sunday morning hospitality — and it's a great opportunity to serve! Please sign up to serve in this way in the coming weeks.

Grateful | Practicing Faithful Stewardship in 2019

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2019 stewardship commitment card, please do so this week, either by returning your card or by making your pledge online. Take some time to give thanks for all the ways HopeGateWay is making a difference, and then express your commitment for 2019 through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. We're counting on 100% participation!

Share the Warmth

Over the coming weeks, please bring winter hats, gloves, and mittens — handmade or purchased, all sizes. Place them in the basket, and we'll distribute them to help keep our neighbors warm during the cold winter months.

Grab a Wooden Nickel

If you regularly give electronically, pick up a wooden nickel from the red bowl in the back and drop it in the basket as it comes around, as a symbol of your offering.

Workshop: Tips for Applying for Asylum

Monday, December 10 | 10:30 am – 12:30 pm | PAE

The Refugee Human Rights Clinic and Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) offer a Pro Se Asylum Training. The workshop will cover who is eligible for asylum, what evidence can be helpful and how to apply using the Pro Se Guide and Pro Se Asylum Video. This workshop is not intended for those who have previously submitted their I-589 form or those who are in process with deportation or court proceedings. Portland Adult Education is located at 14 Locust Street.

Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate Give-Away

Saturday, December 15 | 1-4 pm | Monument Square

A holiday tradition! Join HGW friends for a fun afternoon! We'll sing Christmas carols and pass out free hot chocolate, cookies, and candy canes in Monument Square, near the city Christmas tree and the horse & carriage rides. We'll need lots of homemade cookies! Sign up on the clipboard.

Ongoing Groups:

- **Shambala Heart of Recovery** / Mondays, 6:30 pm
- **Women's Conduct / 12 Steps** / Tuesdays, 5:45 pm
- **Step Sisters / Women's Big Book** / Tuesdays, 7 pm
- **Tai Chi** / Wednesdays, 9 am
- **Chapter 2 / AA** / Wednesdays, 7 pm
- **Bible Study** / Thursdays, 10:15-11:30 am / 75 State St.
- **LGBTQ Group** / email Hayli: haylihukinney@gmail.com
- **Ladies Night / CA** / Thursdays, 7:30 pm
- **Drumming Circle** / 1st Fridays, 7 pm
- **Late Night Faith / AA** Fridays, 9 pm
- **SLAA / Augustine Fellowship (Men)** / Saturdays, 9 am
- **Out of the Dark / Candlelight CA** / Saturdays, 6 pm

Pastors

Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill allen@hopegateway.com
Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill sara@hopegateway.com

Administrative & Program Assistant

Bethany Smart bethany@hopegateway.com

Musician

Kelly Muse kelly@hopegateway.com

Youth Group Coordinator

Katie Holicky katie@hopegateway.com

Childcare provider

Keera Swan childcare@hopegateway.com

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Doing justice • Loving kindness • Walking humbly with God

Consider Electronic Giving | hopegateway.com/give

Your generosity fuels our ministry and mission. Consider setting up a weekly or monthly recurring gift with a transfer from your checking account or with a credit or debit card. Visit www.hopegateway.com and click on "Give."

Parking at 509 Forest Avenue

In addition to street parking, we have use of the underground parking garage, weeknights after 5 pm and weekends. Enter at the access ramp just beyond Portland Ballet / Casco Bay Movers dance studio. At the keypad, use code: 1101*

Prayer and Care

The Turnidge family, grieving the loss of Carolyn's Dad
 Mike Davis – recovering from surgery
 Rita Stahl – Wanda Stahl's mother, recovering from broken hip
 Hayli Hu Kinney's grandmother – health concerns
 Our Confirmation Youth
 All affected by the earthquake in Alaska
 All affected by the terrible, deadly wildfires in California
 All affected by violence and anti-Semitism in Pittsburgh
 All who struggle with the holiday season
 The large caravan of migrants traveling through Mexico
 Kelly Frey, Patsy's mother, for good news & continued healing
 Robin Jellis – as she continues her studies at ChIME
 All who have been affected by recent acts of gun violence
 Our country, during this time of polarization and turmoil
 Our planet Earth – the devastation of climate change
 All immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers
 Families and individuals experiencing homelessness
 Our elected leaders – for bold, justice-seeking leadership
 Ongoing concern for the future of health care in the U.S.
 All who are affected by the disease of addiction
 An end to racism, bigotry, and violence – everywhere
 Victims of sexual violence
 Shantia Wright-Gray's cousin, John – awaiting liver transplant
 Emile Uwimana – complications with diabetes
 Immigrant families – especially children separated from parents
 Our Muslim sisters & brothers experiencing persecution
 The people of Burundi during a time of unrest and violence
 A just and peaceful path forward for Israel & Palestine
 Fred & Irma Baker – health concerns
 Teresa Lefebvre – health concerns
 Shasta Beane – living with Parkinson's Disease
 All who are looking for employment or housing
 Peace in Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, and Angola

Hospitality	
Dec. 2	Wesley By the Sea folks
Dec. 9	Eileen Purdy, Matt Frey-Davis, Stephanie Cooke
Offering Counters	
Dec. 2	Annika Smart & Sam Johnson
Dec. 9	Sara Bruce & Pascoal Francisco



HopeGateWay
an open & affirming community
Our Reconciling Statement

We worship an inclusive and loving God, who calls all persons into relationship, both with God and with neighbor. In response to this love, demonstrated most perfectly in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as an open and affirming community, welcoming and celebrating people of all races, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, economic situations, and social statuses.