

From the Minister



We play a crazy card game in our family call Fluxx. It's wild because the rules change with each turn. You think you're ahead then, "Oops, now I am dead last." In five minutes you're on top of the game again. The game drives anyone is who is competitive crazy. A player has to learn to let go to enjoy the play.

Last week the Rev. John Dorhauer, the keynote speaker at our Association's Ministry Days in Columbus OH, encouraged churches to play more. He was very specific in his definition of play. He encourages our congregations to be more like Fluxx.

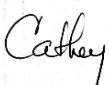
Some games and systems are finite, with clear boundaries, rules, winners and losers. Dorhauer claims many churches in America, not just Unitarian Universalist, are playing a finite game. His example is a church that counts members and dollars as the primary measures of its worth or success. Often the theology can be finite and fixed. Welcoming can be finite, with clear insiders and outsiders.

In an infinite game, the only reason to play is to keep the game going. You play for yourself and for all who come along later. This type of game is without boundaries. A church playing an infinite game is constantly thinking outside the box and reinventing itself.

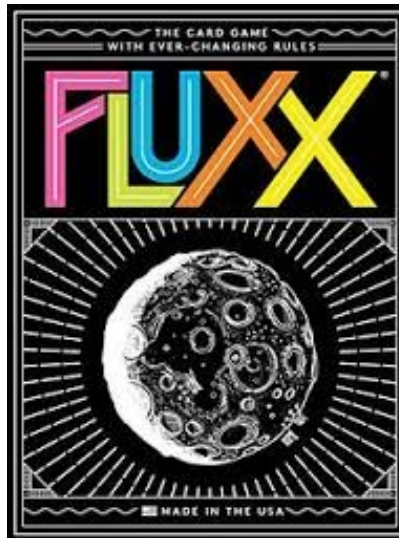
What does not change in this more dynamic church is its mission. The core church values remain while adapting to cultural changes. Change is not for the sake of change. Mission remains at its center. Dorhauer uses words like joy and play to describe these churches.

In essence he's asking Theodore Parker's 1841 question of what is permanent and what is transient in our church project? When we hold dearly to what is permanent and loosen our grip to the rest, we can play and enjoy our community all the more. We can be more effective and life changing.

Peace,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 22

No. 7

July
2016

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Sunday Mornings

July 2016

**Sunday Religious Education
for Children and Youth**
10 am - RE Wing
And Log Cabin

**Sunday Adult Religious
Education**
10 am - Sanctuary

Sunday Worship
11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 3

An Ancient Journey
The Rev. Kathy McCallie

Sunday, July 10

An Endless Journey
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, July 17

Empowering Yourself:
A Musical Journey
Eli & Bill Perras

Sunday, July 24

A Wild Journey
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, July 31

An Odyssey
The Rev. Dr. Jacob George

July's Theme: Journey

Do you love or hate to travel? Does the idea of flying, driving, riding, or floating delight you or frighten you? Is your daily routine a source of refuge or do you like disruptions? I am asking about one kind of journey---a physical trip or journey. Our reactions to taking trips (not all trips are equal or vacations) are clues to receptivity of change and new ideas. In turn, these preferences point to our willingness to enjoy or fully experience other types of metaphorical or symbolic journeys.

The metaphor of religious seeking as a journey is ancient. A pilgrimage to a holy or special place is an exercise in meeting yourself coming and going, discovering your true nature.

This month we will look at journeys--real and imagined, mythical or banal---for all they have to teach us and change us.



About Our Monthly Themes

Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas.

Our monthly themes express Hope Church's openness to theological exploration. They are not an endorsement of any particular creed or belief. Instead, they provide a monthly opportunity to examine in common a religious doctrine or idea.

If you are not receiving **Touchstones**, the electronic newsletter on the monthly theme, please let our administrator, Maggie Scott, know at hopeuu@hopeuu.org.

Children and Youth Programs



Susan Spooner
Director
918-932-4524
susan@hopeuu.org
CYP Committee Members: Paula Haight,
Kerri Vandiver, Ann Lee, Susan Farma Hai,
Laura Reiman



These young ladies are two of the many reasons I love serving Hope. United with caring parents, grandparents and other adults we are creating a faith journey few children and youth are allowed to experience. To me, these children represent the story of my own family and loving church community.

My two sons were raised in a UU church, from the ages of 6 and infancy. At the time, I did not realize how important this loving community would be in our lives. I certainly didn't recognize we were on a journey together. With these people, my sons learned to respect themselves and others, to live in community, to question and find their own answers. I learned how to be part of something bigger than myself and how to give and receive the love this community so freely shares. We loved and were loved by those trusted adults and youth through the struggles of the teen years, into adulthood and the death of my older son, Sean. Those trusted adults and my sons' friends grieved with us, loved us and held my family during the darkest time we have known. Those holy people hold a sacred place in our hearts and I am deeply grateful for their presence in our lives.

I tell you this story because we, too, are on a journey together, though most of us do not realize it. You hold me as I have joined this community and I hold you. No one knows where it will take us.

No one knows what our community will face in the years to come. We cannot anticipate the joy and sorrow we will share. The journey may not be easy and certainly will hold some heartache, but more importantly, it will be filled with love.

It is a privilege to be together on this journey of parenting and loving children. There are so many things to do and be, questions to answer and questions to leave for our young ones to answer. I hope you will walk with us, whether you are young or old or in-between. This journey is for the entire village.

Yours in Service,
Susan



Interested in more about parenting support and loving a child?
Send a friend request to Hope Unitarian Church: It Takes a Village.

Music Notes



As we head into mid-summer, the Hope Singers will continue their break during July and enjoy the talents of guest musicians as well as some of Hope's own gifted musicians. We will also welcome some guest ministers in the pulpit who are always supportive of the music we share on Sunday mornings.

July's monthly theme is "Journey," an apt metaphor for our spiritual and intellectual community and our experience of life's transitions.

"Journey" is also reflected in our musical narrative at Hope, in which we seek to engage our emotions and search for meaning, mark and celebrate the passing of seasons and life's transitions, and reflect the creativity and resilience of the human spirit. The richness of our religious, human, and spiritual music resources allows us to articulate and experience our values and our deepest emotions that add meaning to our lives in ways that can speak to each of us individually.

On July 20-23 I will attend the UU Musicians Network (UUMN) annual conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The UUMN is the musical counterpart to General Assembly, where UU musicians gather from all over the United States and Canada to share ideas, strategies, and music for our church congregations. It is a rich and informative experience dealing with every aspect of leading and making music in UU communities. All the UU musicians come with a strong sense of mission to provide meaningful musical and worship experiences for their congregations. I am grateful to Hope Church for its support again this year to attend this conference, and for its continuing commitment to Hope's music program.



-Joseph Rivers

From the Administrator's Desk...

The church will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Regular business hours, will resume on Tuesday, July 5, at 9:00 am.

Susan Spooner



Garden and Grounds

Summertime has officially arrived though it has felt like it for some weeks already. For a brief moment it is day lily time on the hill. Like the iris, they survive with little care and can show up in unlikely places. The weather experts predict it to be a hot dry summer for our part of the country and watering has started. Many thanks, as always, to our watering crew.

Lantana, cone flowers, day lilies, penstemmon, zinnias and daisies are the main color in the front entrance beds. A variety of native plants bloom in the rain garden, perennial garden and elsewhere. Most of the milkweed plants are in the big butterfly bed by the road, but some are in with the black foot daisies north of the road, in front of the cabin and across the front drive to give mama monarchs a choice of nursery options. Our Monarch Waystation certificate (#13542) is on the bulletin board. Monarch-Watch.org has lots of information on the species and the efforts being made to save it.

The Vitex (Chaste tree) down from the back patio is lovely right now and hosts many bees. The kids' garden has been planted with cherry tomatoes, parsley, rosemary and dill (as a black swallowtail host), and a sunflower garden has been seeded along the inner playground fence.

Janet Williamson



Everyone's Journey is Different

Contributed by Hope's Youth



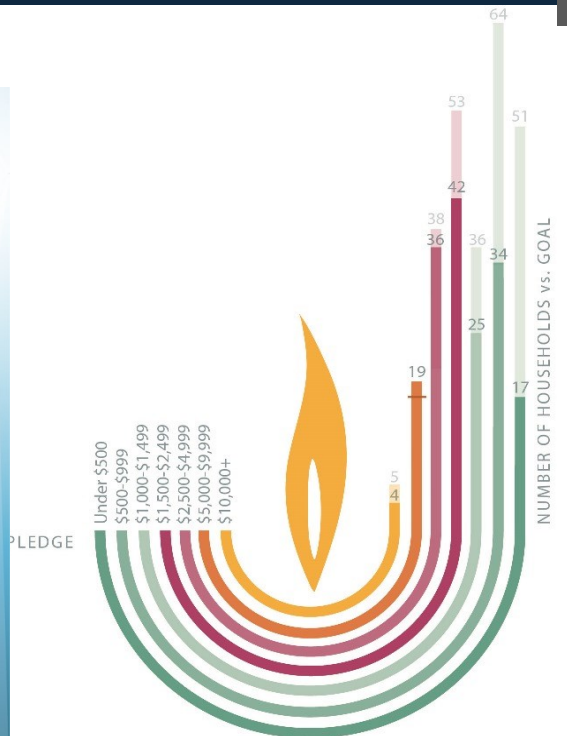
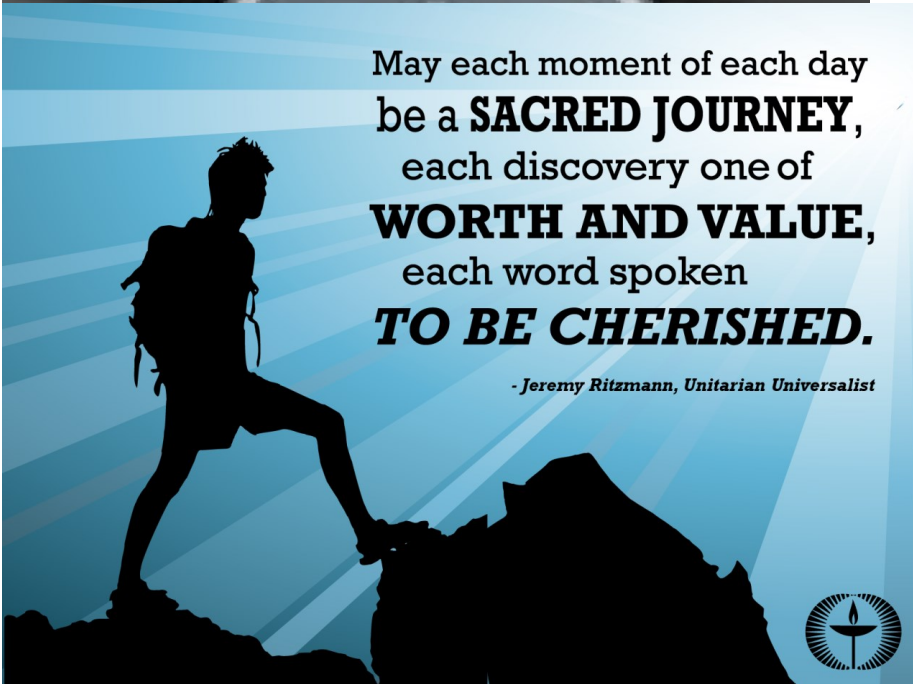
A JOURNEY
OF A
THOUSAND
MILES
BEGINS with
a SINGLE
STEP. | LAO TZU

 www.jwickdesign.com



May each moment of each day
be a **SACRED JOURNEY**,
each discovery one of
WORTH AND VALUE,
each word spoken
TO BE CHERISHED.

- Jeremy Ritzmann, Unitarian Universalist



Based on graphic designed by Kinnie McEvoy, UU Congregation of Phoenix

Get Your Hope Swag On!

T-shirts, caps, koozies and reusable bags are available in the Fellowship Hall during regular church business hours and on Sunday mornings. Proceeds benefit youth activities.



The Point (aka "SWUUSI") July 24-29, 2016

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

Come! A UU family summer camp. Join our growing group of all ages from Hope who attend. **The Point** is a customizable Unitarian Universalist retreat for all ages.

Imagine five days of UU covenant and community in a resort-like setting on the shores of Fort Gibson Lake in Oklahoma. The Point offers personal growth, faith renewal, learning opportunities, spiritual practices, community worship, music, excellent cuisine, sustainable practices, social gatherings (dance, movie night, talent show), outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Each day begins and ends with worship, but how you spend your day is completely up to you! <http://www.thepointuu.org> for more details.



**Southern
Region**

Hope to YOU at THE POINT!



Hope Outreach

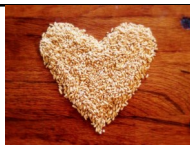
Generosity Offering

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the undesignated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church.

In May we raised \$1288.82 for Wing It
Here are the totals raised in previous months:
Thank you for your generosity

| Month | Organization | \$ Amount |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| June | Equality Florida | \$648 |
| May | Wing It | \$1288.82 |
| April | TMM Tornado Relief | \$670 |
| April | Guest at Your Table | \$1948.56 |
| March | DVIS | \$1,337 |
| February | Legal Aid | \$1138.05 |

July Generosity Recipient



Our Generosity Recipient for July is Lindsey House which is part of Transitional Living Centers of Oklahoma. Their focus is on families who are experiencing "situational homelessness", which may be caused by a job loss, divorce, medical expense, death of spouse, or other unexpected occurrence. Lindsey House provides housing and supportive services to mothers and their children to enable them to become financially independent. A representative will speak to Hope's Adult Forum on Sunday, July 3, at 10am.



Cereal Sunday Sunday, July 10

Please bring cereal for the homeless. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every month when we prepare their meal. The collection basket is in Fellowship Hall.

Feed the Homeless Program

Volunteers from Hope prepare and serve a meal for the folks at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every third Saturday of the month.

Thanks to Jay Stewart and his friend Royce, Eddie Humphreys, Susan Farma Hai, Emma Tracy and her friend Taner McKee who shopped, prepared and served in June.

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, July 16

2:30 pm at Hope to help cook and prepare food.
5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless to help serve the meal.

You can sign up for the months ahead. Sign up sheet is in the folder on Administrator's desk.

SUPPER CLUB

Supper Club is on hiatus for the summer. Look for information in the September Focus.

Coe McGinley

Hope's Village

Sunday, July 10

9:00 am in the Cabin

Parents, grandparents and anyone else who helps raise children, please join us as we explore the joys and challenges of child-rearing.

Childcare is available beginning at 8:45 am, no reservation required.

Susan Spooner



Hope Events

Breakfast on the Hill

We're taking a break for the summer and will begin Breakfast on the Hill again in September.

Brown Bag Lunch

Monday, July 18th at 11:30 am

Bring your lunch and join us for lively discussions on current topics.

Women of the Thread

Tuesday, July 12th and 26th at 11:30 am in the Log Cabin

You are invited to join this informal creative group working on our Threads of Hope. We work together to supply lap blankets, shawls, and baby blankets for our church community or you are welcome to bring a personal project. Please join us. Hope to see you there.

Carrie Muzika

proenviomom@cox.net

Deborah Whittaker

debsharmony@yahoo.com

Women's Lunch Bunch

July 20, 11:30 am

The Hope Lunch Bunch will meet at The Tropical restaurant, located at 8125 E 49th Street (just east of Memorial). Call Lynn Walters at 918-893-2655 or send an email to Lfwalters@aol.com by Tuesday, July 19, if you would like to join us for a fun time.

Hope Book Club

Monday, July 18, 6:30 in the Log Cabin

We will begin discussing Carl Sagan's "The Demon-Haunted World: Science As a Candle in the Dark".

Chris Anrig

cmanrig@hotmail.com

Women of Hope

Thursday, July 7, 6:00 pm

Our event will be at the home of Claudia Vandiver, at 7515 S. Braden Avenue. Come join us at 6:00 pm, and bring either a salad or dessert of your choice. If you need directions or more information, you may contact Claudia at 918/488-9828, 918/728-4852 or e-mail her at www.cvgardnr@sbcglobal.net.

Jane Brumley

W.O.H. Program Chair

Movie Night

Tuesday, July 12, 7:00 pm

Seven Days in May is our movie for the month of July. Many of the themes in this movie, which is based on a 1962 novel by the same name, still ring true today. The movie's screen play was written by Rod Serling, and it stars Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Edmond O'Brien, and Ava Gardner. Edmond O'Brien was nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actor.

The movie tells the story of an unpopular U.S. President who manages to get a nuclear disarmament treaty through the Senate, but finds that the nation is turning against him. Jiggs Casey, a Marine Colonel, finds evidence that General Scott, the wildly popular head of the Joint Chiefs and certain Presidential Candidate in 2 years is not planning to wait. Casey goes to the president with the information and a web of intrigue begins with each side unsure of who can be trusted.

Come and join us on Tuesday, July 12. We provide popcorn and soft drinks. If you need child care please contact **Susan Spooner** at susan@hopeuu.org at least 48 hours in advance.

Larry Vandiver



Notes from the Board

As I ready myself for my last meeting as presiding officer of the Hope Board of Trustees, I have to say, "It went so fast!"

This has been a year full of meaningful and momentous occasions at our little church atop the hill. I have had the wonderful luck to preside during a year of growth, tremendous activities, a fantastic installation, fundraisers both successful and friendship building, and many have renewed their devotion to Hope. The great thing about being the presiding officer at Hope is that I have never felt that I was doing this job alone. Serving with me as leaders are all the Board members: Cate Potter, Elke Johnson, Larry Sharp, Anita Wood, VP Finance Fred Pottorf, VP Programs Deborah Whittaker, Treasurer Marcia Shaefer, as well as Past President Paula Haight, President Elect Anita Ward, Reverend Cathey and any number of you serving on committees doing the work of the church, as well as the volunteers who support our activities making our little church the best it can be. We all do this together as a labor of love.

As I get ready to step aside for Anita to take charge, I want to thank you all for your support this year, and leave you with this. I didn't have any idea that being President would be so much fun!

Janet Nobles

Soon-to-be Past President

I am excited and a little nervous as I begin my term as President of Hope. I am excited, because I know we have an awesome bunch of members who can do amazing things. I am nervous, because I do not want to let anyone or our church down. Just after typing this last sentence I am thinking how could I let our church down when my church family can get things done! So all I have to do is try to be there for you while you are getting those things done.

I will try to lead with "good listening ears". Please feel free to tell me if I am not succeeding at this.

I am hopeful I can lead with the goal of getting a good participation from all members in whatever we undertake. Soon I may be asking you to do something for our church. I look forward to working with each of you and enjoying good times.

Anita Ward

Incoming President, July 1, 2016



Adult Forum

Sundays

10:00 am

Sanctuary

Chris Anrig

cmanrig@hotmail.com

Adult RE Chair

July 3: Diana Morrison, Resource Development and Communications Director at Lindsey House, will speak. The Lindsey House is Hope's July Generosity Recipient.

July 10: Janet Nobles, Anita Ward, Paula Haight and Anne Steiner will share their experiences at the UUA General Assembly with the congregation.

July 17: Jan Figart, MS, RN, Associate Director and Senior Planner for the Community Service Council, will present information about Human Trafficking.

July 24 & 31: Chris Anrig and Anne Steiner will present The History of Unitarian Universalism.



Religious Education for Children and Youth Sundays 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Religious education is focused on the theme of the month as well as curriculum designed to help Hope's young ones discover answers to life's big questions. The curriculum includes chapel, religious education about Unitarian Universalism and other faiths, art, nature and outdoor experiences. Parents are always welcome to join their children in our religious exploration.

Susan Spooner

Director of Children & Youth Programs

susan@hopeuu.org

Hope Supports Orlando

On Friday, June 17th, the **Reverend Cathey** and **Reverend Gerald Davis** officiated at a service remembering those left murdered, injured and grieving due to the violence during the weekend of June 10 – 12. The service included reading the names of the 51 people who died and candle lighting. The \$468 offering is being donated to Equality Florida. Equality Florida is the largest civil rights organization in Florida, dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.



July Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Larry Knoles | 7/2 |
| Marva Bear | 7/3 |
| Annie Simpson | 7/4 |
| Elke Johnson | 7/5 |
| Mary Gardner | 7/7 |
| Andy Scott | 7/20 |
| Connie Seibold | 7/20 |
| Barbara Richardson | 7/18 |
| Susan Barbee | 7/19 |
| Wade Ezell | 7/24 |
| Charlotte Bailey | 7/28 |
| Gary Van Winkle | 7/31 |

Key People

When no one is at the church, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key people have keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Each takes a one-week turn

July 4—10

Eric Reiman
918-260-3677

July 11—17

Jim Sleezer
918-760-9711

July 18-24

Sherrill Womeldorff
918-638-7610

July 25—31

Jim Sleezer
918-760-9711

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone - attending your function can open the building.
2. Find out if church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours.
3. If no one is available and you need entry, contact above - volunteer Key Person **a few days in advance of your event.**

**For Hope's Calendar
see Hope's website
www.hopeuu.org**

Focus Deadline

Submissions for Focus should be sent to hopeuu@hopeuu.org with "Focus" in the subject line and are normally due **9 am the 4th Wednesday in the month.** Submissions are subject to editing for length and content.

The next Focus will be published August 3, 2016 . Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, July 27.



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TO:

Hope's Vision

Seeking Truth, Sharing Love
Within - Among - Beyond

Hope's Mission

Supporting the free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
Teaching the history and traditions of Unitarianism;
Promoting and defending freedom of thought;
Celebrating life's passages;
Serving the larger community with justice and compassion.

Hope's Values

Reason - Integrity - Tolerance

Our Staff

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Susan Spooner, Director of Children and Youth Programs, susan@hopeuu.org

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Ken Jones, President Elect
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Janet Nobles, Past President
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Office Hours

Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm