

From the Minister

No H8



The Unitarian and Universalist churches of the past have been on my mind. For more than two hundred and fifty years we have weathered social and political upheaval. Like most human endeavors, our reactions and resistance have been mixed, some successful and others not. At our best we have championed the hurting and underserved. At our worst we have failed to help those in need. We have excluded people based on race, gender, class, nationality, religion, and education.

I seek role models and stories from history for the all times Unitarian Universalists clearly stood up to rising hate. We can learn from the successful examples. For example, when Martin Luther King, Jr. put a national call out for white clergy to join him and his growing movement of racial equality in Selma, a brave handful of Unitarian ministers traveled to be with him. Last month, a group of UU ministers answered the call to join with Native Americans at Standing Rock. The goal of the peaceful interfaith witness was to increase awareness of the situation and to advocate for elected officials to take action to end construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

I chose not to go. Was that the right thing to do? We can also learn from the times we missed the mark. We hesitated. We chose to stay silent. We elected to stay out of the fray.

I chose not to go because I see clearly the work we need to do in Tulsa. The Tulsa Police Department formally and fellow clergy informally are documenting the rise of hate acts in our city. Drivers raced through Nathan Hale High School's parking lot honking and waved flags with swastikas. The school is 61% Hispanic and African American. Pedestrians in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood, primarily Latino, report people shouting, "Go back where you came from! Go home!" Our Muslim citizens fear for their safety as do our LGBTQ community.



We have work to do in our own city to interrupt all acts of hate. The foundation of our church is our covenant. We agree to embody, "Love is the spirit of this church." We have to separate differences and disagreements from destructive words and acts. One definition from the FBI of a hate crime is an "offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity."

We cannot stand idly by any hate we witness. From our hymnal may we take to heart reading #457 by Edwards Everett Hale.

I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

Joyfully,



Rev. Cathey Edwards
Cathey@hopeuu.org

Volume 22

No. 12

December
2016

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December Services

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

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

Sunday Worship
11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 4
“Tending our Inner Lives”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, December 11
“Sing Noel”

Sunday, December 18
“Slowing Down”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Saturday, December 24,
At 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve
Candlelighting Service
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, December 25
“Let Christmas Come”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, January 1
“Yes, Let’s Start Over Again”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

December Theme: *Care of the Soul*

Do we have a soul? What does caring for a soul mean? Saving a soul? Beautiful soul. Old soul. Bless my soul! Soul music. *Anam Cara* (Gaelic for a soul friend).

During the month of December we will look at this archetypal ideal of a container for ideas, feelings, and impulses. Does this container need our attention and nurturing?

“All This Talk of Saving Souls” by Linda Underwood

All this talk of saving souls.
Souls weren’t made to save,
like Sunday clothes that
give out at the seams.
They’re made for wear; they
come with lifetime guarantees.
Don’t save your soul.
Pour it out like rain on
cracked, parched earth.
Give your soul away, or
pass it like a candle flame.
Sing it out, or
laugh it up the wind.
Souls were made for hearing
breaking hearts, for puzzling dreams,
remembering August flowers,
forgetting hurts.
These men who talk of saving souls!
They have the look of bullies
who blow out candles before
you sing happy birthday,
and want the world to be
in alphabetical order.
I will spend my soul,
playing it out like sticky string
into the world,
so I can catch every
last thing I touch.



About Our Monthly Themes

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.

Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas. This month we are exploring mystery together. Join us!



Children and Youth Programs

Susan Spooner, Director, susan@hopeuu.org

CYP Committee Members: Laura Reiman (Chair), Paula Haight, Kerri Vandiver, Ann Lee, Susan Farma Hai, Lee Ann Tolle

Childcare is available during all church events, committee meetings and Board meetings. If you need childcare during a church activity, please email childcare@hopeuu.org at least 2 business days before the event.

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.

December Programs & Events

Music for Sing Noel

Elizabeth Obal is teaching the children a hymn for our Sing Noel service on December 11. They are working very hard on the song and it is beautiful. The Youth are contributing to Sing Noel through reading and chalice lighting. Come and be amazed!

Monthly theme

Children and youth will also be learning, along with you, about this month's theme, Care of the Soul as well as Advent and Christmas.

Hope's parents' group "It Takes a Village"

Meets on the third Sunday of the month, **December 18, at 9:00 am**, in the Log Cabin. Childcare is provided without reservation beginning at 8:45 am. Please join us.

24 Hours of Hope

December 29 – 30

The youth will celebrate the winter holidays with our second "24 Hours of Hope". This is a time for fun, social justice work and spiritual practice exploration. We need adults to help; if you are moved to interact with the youth, call me!

See you in church!

Susan Spooner

Director of Children and Youth programs



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

Music Notes



This year Hope's music program will present our annual "Sing Noel!" service on December 11. The theme will be "Celebration of Light and Peace."

The service this year will help center us during this season through readings, choral anthems, hymns, and special music. There will songs of celebration, peace, light, solstice, and stars, prompting us to take in the meaning of this season and to continue to work for world peace and peace within our own families and communities. The service always ends with the traditional "Peace, Peace/Silent Night," which after such a musical and reflective journey never fails to touch our hearts.

Our seasonal celebratory journey will continue with our traditional Christmas Eve service on December 24. In spite of a world filled with violence, conflict and uncertainty, we can rest assured of this, according to a famous rabbi: "The world stands upon three things: Upon truth/Upon peace/Upon justice" (Rabban Ben Gamliel).

Joseph Rivers, Director of Music
joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:00 am, Sanctuary

December 4—Generosity Sunday—Our guest speaker will be **Ron Miller** of **Therapeutics Service Dogs of Oklahoma**, our generosity plate recipient for December.

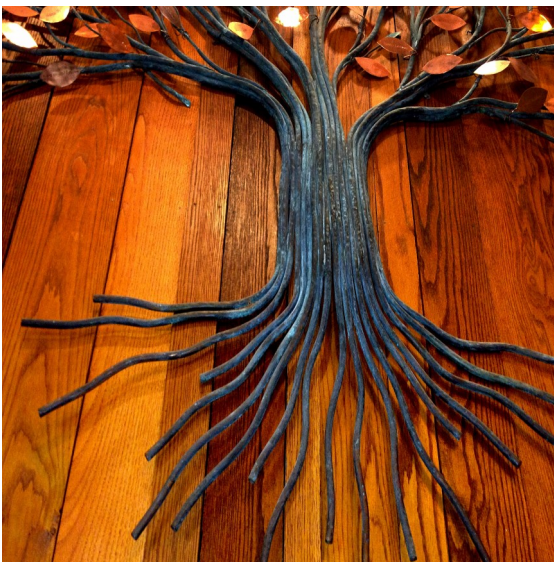
December 11—Adults meet in the Log Cabin, to view a documentary about an alternate sexuality, *Guys and Dolls*. The tag line is "For some people, finding a partner in life can be difficult. For others, it's almost impossible."

December 18—Maria Elena Kuykendall will come and speak about "The Power of Families", a Hispanic outreach initiative.

December 25—No Adult Forum.

Please contact Chris Anrig, Adult Religious Education Chair at cmnrig@hotmail.com for additional information.

Roots Class



Wednesday, January 11, 18 & 25th
7:00 pm—8:30 pm

Class size limited to 10. Register now!

An informal, adult religious education class that introduces the ideas, people and history of Unitarian Universalism and Hope Unitarian Church. It's a step further into this community dedicated to religious freedom and seeking. Classes take place in the Minister's Study. **Sign up now**, in the folder on the Administrator's desk, email hopeuu@hopeuu.org or call the church office (918) 481-0999.

Childcare available with reservations made at least two days before the class. Please email childcare@hopeuu.org to reserve a spot.

Garden and Grounds

It's pansy time in Oklahoma. In northern parts they are summer flowers that freeze out in the winter but in our latitude they survive cold and add color through most of the winter and spring but do not survive our summer heat.

Pansy tutorial: Plant in full sun before the first frost so the roots have time to get established. Wet the roots and water the pansies. And don't forget to water if the winter is dry. The larger flowered pansies have a splashy appeal but it is the smaller-faced pansies and the violas, with their dime-sized flowers, that appear to overwinter better. (And in my experience survive much later in the spring.) Pansies are heavy feeders, so fertilize every three or four weeks. They prefer daytime temperatures of about 60 degrees and nighttime temperatures in the 40s but they can survive snow and freezing temperatures.

So why has the name of this tough little flower become an insult? Trivia 1: The word "pansy" comes from the French "pensée", which is the past tense of "to think". This term came about in the mid-fifteenth century, and essentially, it was used pejoratively to describe a man who thinks too much - like a woman was the intimation. Thinking men were not brawny, active, robust men, therefore the insult. Trivia 2: (Pesticide free) pansies are edible. The blossoms add color and flavor to a winter salad and historically were used in teas. Candied and sprinkled with sugar, pansies can be used as cake decoration.

Tulsa is way behind on rainfall this year and the winter is predicted to be warmer than usual, as has been the trend for some years, so watering new trees and shrubs especially evergreens is especially important. Dogwood trees set buds in the fall, you can already count the blooms we will see along Dogwood Trail next spring (if we keep them watered).

The Eagle Scout project (on the old AC pad) is in the planning/design stage. Should be a really neat area come spring. Thank you **Matthew Grove** and friends and family.

Janet Williamson
Garden and Grounds Chair



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 November we raised:

\$ 1,135.65 for Global Gardens

Here are the totals raised in previous months:

Thank you for your generosity.

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
October	South Tulsa Community House	\$1433.30
September	Harmony Project	\$1,550.77
August	Assistance League of Tulsa Louisiana Flood Relief	\$992.00 \$532.00
July	Lindsey House	\$1020.75

December Generosity Recipient



Therapeutics Service Dogs of Oklahoma is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, working to enhance the lives of Oklahomans living with disabilities. This organization, through the generous financial and hands-on assistance of volunteers, trains and places Mobility Assistance Service Dogs for individuals with physical disabilities as well as Psychiatric Service Dogs for military veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

Once trained, the dogs perform routine tasks to help make every day living easier. After training, the dog is placed with an individual in need at no charge and training support is given to the client and service dog for the life of the partnership. The cost of care and training for each dog is close to \$15,000. Therapeutics relies 100% on the support of the community as they do not receive federal or state funding, insurance reimbursement, or payment from clients.

Feed the Homeless Program



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

Thanks to the following people who helped in **November**

- Shopper: **Keith Hamilton**
- Friday cooking: **Mary Newman**
- Meal prep and cooking: With team leader, **Mary Newman: Eddie Humphreys, Susan Farmai Hai, Rich Jackson, Lana Larkin, Michael Simpson** and daughters **Kiri and Eden.**
- Serving at the Day Center with team leader **Anita Ward: Debby Baker, Ryan & Evelyn Saylor, Mary Baird, Janet Nobles, Stan Moore, Susan Farma Hai,** 120 plates were served.

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, December 17

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.

Cereal Sunday

Sunday, December 11

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. They are also in need of fresh fruit and snack items (soft granola bars and crackers).

Hope Outreach News

Hope's Partner in Education—MacArthur Elementary School

- MacArthur Elementary School continues to need Reading Partners. Reading partners can volunteer once or twice a week. They are trained and follow a highly effective, structured and easy to use curriculum. No formal teaching experience is required.
- Also needed is a volunteer to distribute the backpack food on Fridays from about 8:30 to 10:00 am.

Please contact Mary Newman at 918-810-0953 or try4peace@gmail.com if you are interested in either of the above.



Hope's Star Tree—Supporting Lindsey House

Members of the Outreach Committee have placed Hope's Star Tree in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are supporting **Lindsey House**, a nonprofit agency that provides long term shelter and supportive services to single women caring for children. Our Star Tree is full of the gift items they have requested.

- * **Choose a star from the tree,**
- * **Purchase a gift (All star items should be new) by December 11**
- * **Wrap it, attach the star to the gift securely, bring it back to Hope and place in the box provided.**

If you prefer to make a cash donation an Outreach member can shop for any stars left after the deadline date. Any extra money will be used to buy donations such as sheets and towels for Lindsey House. There will be envelopes on the tree for cash donations. Please write checks to Hope with "Star Tree" noted in the memo line. Please remember, **the deadline for bringing the gifts is Sunday, December 11.**

Hope Bakers! Please bake some cookies for the homeless!

On December 17 when we prepare our monthly meal for the homeless, we will be taking a bag of assorted homemade cookies to each client we serve.

Please bake a plate of cookies and bring them to the church. You can bake them ahead of time and place them in the freezer (be sure to mark them FTH so they are not confused with the Sunday cookies) or bring them fresh on Saturday, December 17 at 2:30 pm. We will be bagging the cookies at the same time the meal for the homeless is prepared.



November Board Meeting Report

The Board meeting this month started with the Hope Unitarian Church Foundation's annual meeting. They reported their financials and minutes from last year's meeting. **Paula Haight** and **Barry Kinsey** were presented and approved as new members of the Foundation, along with **Vanessa Torluemke** being reelected.

The regular board meeting started with minutes and reports being approved. The financial reports were reviewed and the preliminary numbers for the auction were shared. At this time, it brought in \$26,600.

A task force was being set up to decide what to do next with the information received at the Security talk we had from Mr. Johnson.

The board decided to look into costs for hiring a consultant to work with us on developing our mission/vision. Much of the literature we have read suggests this.

The table I created listing the goals established at our retreat was reviewed for the progress on each item. I will post this table so that members will see the things being done.

Anne Steiner will be looking into the possibility of having a Poverty Simulation done by OU at our site. The board will be organizing the phone tree in case calling all members is needed should we have bad weather and need to close the church.

The Committee on Ministry's purpose, membership on the committee, and conduct of the committee was accepted by the board. A question was asked if we would be doing this for every committee. It was pointed out this committee reports directly to the board.

A discussion was held on the makeup of the executive committee. For now, this is being tabled. We decided we would keep our next meeting on its regular meeting time, Dec. 27.

Anita Ward

President, Board of Trustees

Hope's 2016—2017 Board of Trustees

L-R standing—Janet Nobles, Anita Ward, Annie Simpson, Cate Potter, Anita Wood, Larry Sharp

Seated—Claudia Vandiver, Elke Johnson, Anne Steiner, Ken Jones, Marcia Schaefer



Care Team

The recent election has left me destabilized. My first instinct was to think politically: what type of activism could I engage in that would have an impact on the political landscape? But as the weeks have passed, I've been reminded of this quote attributed to Mother Teresa, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." I will still engage in political work, but even as the winds in Washington change direction, I know that my family and my extended Hope family will have pressing needs. Attending to those needs will create meaningful change and raise my spirits.

You might join me in making a special visit to a Hope member who you know is lonely, you might reach out to someone who hasn't been to church in awhile, or join with the Care Team for more formal work.

I also plan to also take seriously my own care at this time. Please know that we have a list of therapists if you or someone in your life would benefit from talking with a helpful professional.

Please remember, the Care Team is here to support you. Don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can provide a bit of comfort.

In Hope and Caring,

Tara Saylor telltara@gmail.com



Brown Bag Lunch News

Brown Bag Lunch is every Thursday at 11:30 am

Bring your lunch and enjoy some lively conversation. Starting December 1, and every first Thursday in the month thereafter, Rev. Cathey Edwards will lead the group on the topic of Ethical Wills.

There are many other terms for the proposal—legacy letter, written spiritual legacy, and even celebration of life. It is an ancient tradition (codified in Judaism) for passing along personal values, beliefs, blessings & advice.

For the meeting on December 1, think about or write about (in advance):

- Do you know the story of your name?
- Who are you named after or for?
- What do you know about that person (those persons)?
- If you write an ethical will/spiritual legacy letter, who would you be writing for? Why?

This topic is an on-going project. If it is something this group likes, we'll devote 6 months to a year of our first Thursdays together.

Each session stands alone. Those who've done a writing assignment can share if they choose. We can discuss the topic inspiring others to go home and write. Or folks can just listen and share that day.

Upcoming Services for Christmas and New Year

Christmas Eve

Candlelighting Service

Saturday, December 24, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Join us on Christmas Eve for a family friendly service in our beautiful candlelit sanctuary.



Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25, 2016 at 11:00 am

“Let Christmas Come”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

New Year’s Day Service

Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 11:00 am

“Yes, Let’s Start Over Again”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards



Our Christmas Day and New Year’s Day services are simple, abbreviated, family friendly, and music filled and begin at 11:00 am. There will be no 10:00 Adult Forum or Children’s Religious Education on those mornings.



Sing Noel

Sunday, December 11
at 11:00 am

A service of song and music
reflecting on the need for world
peace and peace within our own
communities

Featuring the extended Hope
Singers, The Hope Chimers,
The Children's Choir
and guest musicians.

Hope Events

Brown Bag Lunch—Now on Thursdays

Now meeting **every Thursday at 11:00 am RE Wing**
Bring your lunch and join us for lively discussions on current topics. See Page 9 for group news.
Claudia Vandiver cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com

Women of the Thread

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 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.

Carrie Muzika **Deborah Whittaker**
proenviomom@cox.net debsharmony@yahoo.com

Women of Hope

Socialization 6:00 • Potluck 6:30 • Program 7:00
Thursday, December 1

Showing *The True Cost*, a moving documentary about the textile industry and its effects around the world. It is 1.5 hours long. **And, please bring an unwrapped toy which will be donated to needy children.** Please bring a food item to share with the others. As always, wine will be available (\$2.00 donations are appreciated).

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 4, 8:00 am



The Aesthetics Committee invites you to our annual Hanging of the Greens family event. Please come early to join in the fun. We will be done by noon. Pizza lunch at 11:00 am.

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, December 4, 9:00 am

Join us for breakfast before the service on the first Sunday of the month. A donation of \$5.00 per adult is requested. Children eat free.

Hope Book Club

December 5, 6:30 pm in the Log Cabin
(And every 1st Monday)

The Last Summer of Reason by Tahar Djaout will be our book this month. For more Information, contact **Chris Anrig** at manrig@hotmail.com.

Movie Night

Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm

December's movie is *Elf*, a 2003 movie starring Will Farrell and James Caan. *Elf* was nominated for a number of awards, and over the years has become a Christmas classic. It is the story of an infant, Buddy, who was a stowaway in Santa's toy bag when Santa was headed back to the North Pole. Buddy, even though a normal human, is raised by elves. Finally Santa allows Buddy to return to New York City to find out who he really is.

Please join us and help us enjoy some Christmas cheer. The movie will start shortly after 7:00 pm, and as always soft drinks and popcorn will be provided.

Hope Lunch Bunch

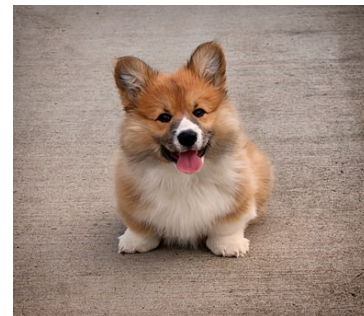
Wednesday, December 14, at 11:30 am

The Hope Lunch Bunch will be meeting a week earlier than usual due to Christmas week. Our luncheon will be at LaVilla Restaurant at the Philbrook Museum. Please call or email **Lynn Walters** by Monday, Dec. 12, if you plan to attend. Phone is 918-893-2655, 918-863-4508 (cell), or lfwalters@aol.com.

Family Fun Night

Friday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

This is an all-ages gathering! We will have tables in Fellowship Hall for playing games, and a family-friendly movie playing in the sanctuary. This month we will show *The Secret Life of Pets*. Popcorn will be provided. Only spill-proof cups allowed in the sanctuary.

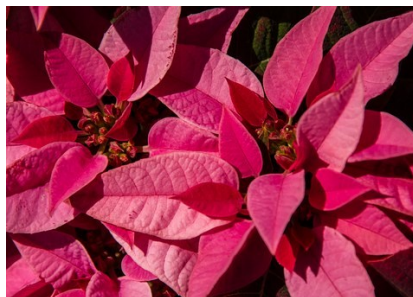


Poinsettia Delivery

Poinsettias will be delivered on:

Saturday, December 3, at about 10:00am

while we're Hanging the Greens for the holidays. I will have your individual purchases tagged for you to pick up at Sunday service.



Thank you for your donations to decorate the Sanctuary for the Holiday season.

Deborah Whittaker



Braver/Wiser is a weekly message of courage and compassion for life as it is. Every Wednesday, you'll receive an original written reflection and brief prayer, grounded in Unitarian Universalism, straight to your inbox. Go to <http://www.uua.org/worship/braverwiser/subscribe> to subscribe.

December Birthdays

Maggie Scott	9th
Cate Potter	10th
Susan Swatek	13th
George Krumme	15th
Eric Reiman	19th
Jacci Hamilton	22nd
Anita Ward	22nd
Sherrill Womeldorff	22nd
Brian Marcum	28th
Mary Newman	31st



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

November 28—December 4

Sherrill Womeldorff
918-638-7610

December 5—11

Eric Reiman
918-407-0924

December 12—18

TBA—Call church office

December 19—25

TBA—Call church office

December 26—January 1

TBA—Call church office

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 the event.**

For Hope's December 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 January 4, 2017 . Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, December 28



8432 S. Sheridan Rd
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-4137
(918) 481-0999
hopeuu@hopeuu.org

FOCUS Issue November 30, 2016, by Hope Unitarian Church, 8432 S. Sheridan Road., Tulsa, OK 74133-4137.

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

The Rev. Cathey Edwards, Minister, cathey@hopeuu.org
Maggie Scott, Administrator, hopeuu@hopeuu.org
Joseph Rivers, Director of Music, joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org
Susan Spooner, Director of Children and Youth Programs, susan@hopeuu.org
Rebecca Jones, Accountant (off site), rebtax@cox.net

Our Board of Trustees

Anita Ward, President
Ken Jones, President Elect
Claudia Vandiver, VP of Finance
Anne Steiner, VP of Programs
Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer
Janet Nobles, Past President
Annie Simpson, Secretary
Trustees: Elke Johnson, Cate Potter, Larry Sharp, and Anita Wood,



Hope Unitarian Church
8432 S. Sheridan Road
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-4137
(918) 481-0999
www.hopeuu.org
hopeuu@hopeuu.org
[www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarian Church](http://www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch)

Office Hours

Mon –Fri 9:00 am—3:00 pm