

From the Minister

The Same But Different



On one level, ministry is a perfect job for someone easily distracted because the issues of leading a church constantly change. Like the tide, different demands ebb and flow. Sometimes the seas are calm and in other moments, a tsunami of unexpected change looms. In one minute I may be considering necessary policies and the next listening to the struggles of a teen or the joys of an elder.

It is a great profession for someone who has a touch of Attention Deficit Disorder or who thrives on change. I fall into this spectrum of characteristics. I thrive on variation and new possibilities.

On the other hand, not everyone who comes to Hope Unitarian Church values change. In worship, adult education and religious education, we work to balance the familiar with the new. Recognizable patterns and schedules allow Hope to be a safe, welcoming place. We want our children to know we have routines and adults they can count on being in place each Sunday. The same is true for youth and adults. We'd have to start over each Sunday if we were expected to innovate each week.

Yet building community and transformation requires disruption and change. As we welcome new people, we inevitably change. As we gain new insights and understandings, our perspectives grow and evolve.

We are deliberately inviting change into our church life in many ways. Stopping to plan a 50th anniversary for next year will energize us as we recall beloved memories and anticipate new developments for the next half a century. Hosting the Stewardship consultant **Bill Clontz** in July will allow us to see ourselves in a completely new light. Bringing on board in September **Yadene Hailu** as our Ministerial Intern will revolutionize us in unplanned ways.

Just as both our Unitarian Universalist and Unitarian Universalist Minister's Associations are looking carefully at structure to root out harm and not living up to ideals, Hope Unitarian Church attends to our own ways rooted in sexism, ableism, racism and other forms of exclusivity. These self-examinations will change us, leaving us not the same and very different.

Joyfully,



Rev. Cathey Edwards
Cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 23

No. 7

July 2017

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July Sunday Services

Sunday Worship
11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 2
“Celebrating Our Humanity”.
The Rev. Doug Inhofe
Guest Minister

Sunday, July 9
“A Justice to Come”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, June 16
“Question Box ”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards,
Joseph Rivers & Susan Spooner
See Page 6

Sunday, July 23
“Prophetic Imperative”
The Rev. Carlton Smith &
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Sunday, July 30
“Prophets of Peace”
The Rev. Cathey Edwards

July’s Monthly Theme: Prophecy

I am giving space to colleague **the Rev. Meg Barnhouse** in her essay “Brick by Brick” to describe the prophetic work we do together as a church. Prophecy is not fortune-telling or future-telling, but a vast enough awareness to possibly see what should come next.

“All summer, workers have been building a brick wall along the road by my neighborhood. Against the brutal heat, they stretch a tarp overhead to get a little shade. I’ve watched them take bricks in their dusty brown hands one by one, butter them thickly with mortar, line them up, and tap them down—row by row. One man who looks to be in his seventies is the leader. His skin is the color of bittersweet chocolate; his beard is gray. Slender and tall, he moves from one group of bricklayers to the next, reaching and bending, looking like a heron in a marsh. When he pauses, he stands very straight. I see him teach the others how to do the work.

“He stoops over to look at a line of bricks, hands on his thighs, inspecting the work. Sometimes as I drive by, I see him put his hand on the back of the person he’s teaching. Often they are both smiling.

“He looks like he loves what he’s doing. I wonder how he can love building walls, day after day, handling bricks, teaching the art of laying bricks. Is it the teaching he loves? Seeing how his students learn, what their styles are, how their work shows their character? Does he love the wall itself? Does he know about when it’ll be done? Does he look forward to seeing it finished? Or does he love the process, the feel of the bricks in his hands, the squish of the mortar, the challenge of making the symmetry of pillars and arches, the geometry of it?

“I think, from the look on his face, that he loves the process. I imagine that he never thinks about the end of the project, the completion of the wall. I think he will go on to the next wall as if it were just a continuation of this one, then the next one and the next, and never be bored.

“I want to be like that, and I am, I guess. In my job as a minister, the bricks are stories. I hear stories of family and work, stories of loss and reconciliation, stories of rejection and disaster, illness and healing, birthing and dying. I tell stories every Sunday and in between, teaching, challenging, confessing, inviting people to learn and laugh and think.

“Brick by brick, story by story, we build a church, seeing the patterns, the symmetry, the plain joy of setting one story on the other, sustained by the strong and beautiful structures they make. We will never be finished.”

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 Prophecy 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.

Wake Up! by Rev. Christian Schmidt (Adapted)

Let us wake up.

Not just from the Sunday morning exhaustion, from the wish for a few more drowsy minutes in bed.

Let us wake up to this world we live in: to its beauty and wonder, and also to its tragedy and pain.

We must wake up to this reality: that not all in our world have what we do, however much or little that is.

We must wake up to the idea that our wholeness, our lives, are only as complete as the lives of those around us, of those we are inextricably tied to in a great web of mutuality, of which all of us are part.

We must #staywoke, working justice in our country.

Let us wake up, let us stay awake, let us #staywoke.

Our Summer Time Sunday Schedule

10:00 All Ages - Welcoming

10:15 Summer Time and the Living is Easy!
Art, Outdoor Play and Chillaxin’

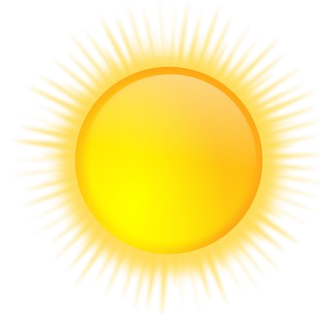
11:00 Multi-age Chapel (or Wonderbox on first Sunday)

11:20 Summer Time Continues

Weather permitting, outdoor play may commence at any time.

Please make sure your child is dressed to enjoy the outdoors

Parents are always welcome to join in our fun and learning.



Upcoming CRE Events

Sunday, July 2

Youth serve breakfast to pay toward their Boston Trip!

Sunday, July 9

YRUU (youth group) meets at 12:15

Swimming is the activity.

Sunday, August 6

Youth serve breakfast for Boston Trip fundraiser!

Sunday, August 13

YRUU (youth group) meets at 12:15

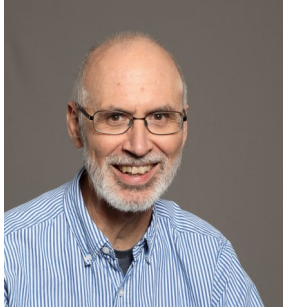
Sunday, August 27

Youth led service.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Youth serve breakfast to support the Boston Coming of Age trip.

Music Notes



As we head into mid-summer, the Hope Singers will continue their break during July, and we will also enjoy the talents of guest musicians as well as of some of Hope's own gifted musicians.

On July 9, **Julia Harris**, violinist, will be joined by two other violinists, **Rachel Hay** and our own **Elizabeth Obal**, who will perform several pieces throughout the service for a very rich array of musical selections.

The following week we will host a return visit by **Cindy Novelo**, singer, violinist, guitarist and songwriter.

Later in the month we will have the pleasure of hearing for the first time at Hope the guitar-piano duo consisting of **William Bajzek** and **Angeline LeLeux-Bajzek**.

In between we will be hearing from our pianist **Chris Powell** and our resident singer **Larry Sharp**.

And who knows what other surprises will be in store for us musically this coming month? It is certain that each and every week we will continue to enjoy the musical offerings that accompany our search for truth and meaning, and in this month connect with our monthly theme, which is "Prophecy."

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



Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary

July 2—Generosity Sunday.

Our generosity recipient for July is **2-1-1 Oklahoma**, a statewide program of the Community Service Council in Tulsa and Heartline in Oklahoma City. Our speaker is **Jim Lyall**, Retired Associate Director of Community Service Council.

July 9—Welcoming Congregation

Lenny Hope will present about our progress on being a welcoming congregation.

July 16, 23 and 30—Documentary

Chris Anrig will be showing the documentary *A Place at the Table*.

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



Remember those thank you notes we wrote during the Sunday service on May 21? Many people wrote a general thank you note to the church. Here are some more of those notes. More next month.

"I am grateful for ALL the people who had the vision, built the congregation, led, argued, forgave, discussed again and through thick and thin have made Hope Church what it is today."

I'm grateful to have a place to come to that helps me to get out of my thinking brain for an hour or so each week. It's what "church" is for, for me."

"Thank you for being a very inclusive church."

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 June we raised:
\$959.67 for CASA**
Thank you for your generosity.

Below are the totals raised in previous months:

| Month | Organization | \$ Amount |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| May | ACTION | \$1,549.00 |
| April | Keystone Ancient Forest | \$1,518.50 |
| March | Meals on Wheels | \$1,425.45 |
| February | MacArthur Elementary School | \$2,075.00 |

July Generosity Recipient 2-1-1 Oklahoma



2-1-1 Oklahoma is a statewide program of the Community Service Council in Tulsa and Heartline in Oklahoma City that offers free assistance to connect people in need to help resources in their area. **2-1-1 Oklahoma** is available 24/7 in multiple languages by talk, text, or online.

In 2016, **2-1-1 Oklahoma** responded to requests for help from all 77 counties in Oklahoma, totaling 291, 515 families served across the state.

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 **June**

- Shopper: **Mary Newman**
- Friday cooking: **Mary Newman, Jean Coffey, Joan Scheulen**
- Meal prep and cooking: With team leader, **Maggie Scott: Anne Steiner, Susan Spooner, Josh Lee, Maya Clugston, Sarah Grove.**
- Serving at the Day Center with team leader, **Anita Ward: Claudia, Larry, Kerri & Ruby Vandiver, Debby Baker, Janet Nobles**

We served 112 plates.

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, July 17, 2017

Volunteers Needed!

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

Cereal Sunday

Sunday, July 9

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.

Macarthur Elementary School

Our Partner in Education, MacArthur Elementary School, was awarded a bike club for the school year 2017-2018. This club is to help students learn about bike safety and bike repair. The school will be given 20 bikes and at the completion of the program the students will be able to keep a bike. The curriculum for the bike club will have a STEM component. The club will meet after school on Tuesdays and will last from 45 minutes to 1½ hours. It will be fun, educational and hopefully encourage students who are selected to have better attendance in school.

In order for this program to be successful MacArthur is looking for volunteers. You do not need to be a professional cyclist, just be willing to learn and have fun with kids.



Our new Board for 2017/18. Pictured left to right

Claudia Vandiver – VP Finance & Planning, **Anita Ward**—Past President, **Marcia Schaefer**—Treasurer, **Ryan Saylor**—Trustee, **Barbara Witt**—Trustee, **James Donovan**—Trustee, **Paula Haight**—VP Programs, **Annie Simpson**—Secretary, **Cate Potter**—President Elect, **Diana Cox**—Trustee, **Ken Jones**—President

Brown Bag Lunch Group
Ethical Will/Legacy Letter Project
Thursday, July 6, 2017, 11:30 am
Writing Your Obituary

The group will finish the sessions on Legacy Letter, sometimes referred to as an Ethical Will this month. (**The Rev. Cathey** will be on Brown Bag hiatus in August. It will likely still meet without her).

An Ethical Will is not an oral history, memoir, or autobiography—these detail the “who, what and when.” Instead, a Legacy Letter is a more focused document. It explains the why, it shares how you felt, what you learned, and the impact life events had on you and your family.

Writing Your Own Obituary

This July 6 we will read to each other obituaries we have written for ourselves. “Why, one might ask, would anyone want to write his or her own obituary? Out of sheer narcissism? Utter morbidity? An insatiable desire to control things? Any or all of those motivations may be at work, but, to put a more positive spin on things, the act of writing one’s own obituary can also be a thought-provoking, rewarding and deeply clarifying experience.”

¹

Let me be clear. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WRITE OR SHARE YOUR OBITUARY. Some are willing to write one but do not want them to leave the class. We will honor our covenant by respecting the privacy of our time together.

¹ Alan Gelb, “5 Good Reasons to Write Your Own Obituary: The Case For Taking Hold of Your Life Story,” August 4, 2015. <http://www.nextavenue.org/5-good-reasons-to-write-your-own-obituary/>

Staff out of office

The Rev. Cathey Edwards will be out of the office **June 19—July 4**

Please refer pastoral care emergencies to **Maggie Scott**, Church Administrator, and outside office hours to **Tara Saylor** or **Deborah Whittaker**.

Maggie Scott, Church Administrator, will be out of the office **July 3-14**

Office hours will be reduced to 9 am-12 noon those two weeks, with volunteers covering the desk/phone. **Rev. Cathey Edwards** will be available after those hours by appointment.

Church office closed for July 4th holiday

Please note: the church office will be closed
Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4

Pledge checks

A reminder that our pledge year runs from
July 1 to June 30.

As we transition between the **previous pledge year 2016-2017**, and the **new pledge year 2017-2018**, please help us by writing on the memo line of your checks the pledge year to which you wish your donation applied.

Thank you!

Sunday, July 16, at 11:00 am

“Question Box ”

**The Rev. Cathey Edwards,
Joseph Rivers & Susan Spooner**



Do you have something you've always wanted to ask about Hope Church? You might get one answer from the minister but a different one from the Music Director, or Children and Youth Program Director? Hope Church's staff collaborate weekly. They see our workings from the same yet slightly different perspectives.

Sunday, July 16 is the day to hear them answer with insights from their expertise.

Prior to that date fill out a Burning Question form that you will find in the Fellowship Hall or you can email your questions to Rev. Cathey, Cathey@hopeuu.org by Thursday, July 13.

Questions will be collected before the service. If there is time, you can ask questions during the service.

They will be answered by the Rev. Cathey, Dr. Joseph Rivers, and Susan Spooner, during the sermon.

Children's questions will be answered too so encourage your little ones to ask what's on their minds.

Garden and Grounds

Summer is officially here and it is day lily time on the hill with several varieties blooming along the road. Rain has been adequate so far and except for the pots (that always need extra TLC) things are in good shape.

Those lucky enough to be out on the patio during the barbeque were treated with seeing seven “hawks” making lazy circles in the sky. Actually some looked like hawks with light areas underneath and made sharper turns, but they soared together like vultures. I didn’t have my camera to capture images and looking up “overhead flight silhouettes” on line didn’t help me much. Beautiful whatever they were congregating over our hill in the evening twilight - part of our habitat.

The “daisies” along the front walk are doing well in the beginning heat –some are actually daisies but also cone-flowers (Echinacea), black-eyed susans (Rudbeckia), zinnias and others. The coleus by the front pond is doing OK in what has been a difficult area. The milkweed is blooming, but I have yet to see many butterflies of any variety though it is a bit early and has been relatively cool. Monarch populations are reported to be down 30% from last year. We are doing our part.

The beautiful purple bush down from the patio toward the entrance to Dogwood Trail is a Vitex or Chaste Tree. Bees love it.

The two remaining roses in our “rose bed” were beautiful last year but are barely surviving this. The Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden (a WPA project in 1934-33) is one of a number of test gardens around the country and will be testing 200 varieties – three plants each to try and find some that do not succumb to the rose rosette virus. From the Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden website: “In former years it contained 9000 individual plants. Many cultivars were raised in-house and are no longer available. Now the 4 ½ acre site is in transition and will be far more diversified”. We will follow their lead. No new roses at Hope - abelia, milkweed, caryopteris, lantana, pentas and dusty miller now occupy that area, supporting the healthy diversity present in our perennial and rain gardens.

Janet Williamson – Garden and Grounds



Hope Events

Childcare is available by rsvp at least two business days before most events. Please email childcare@hopeuu.org to make a reservation.

Brown Bag Lunch

Meets every Thursday at 11:00 am in the RE Wing
Bring your lunch and join us for lively discussions on current topics.

The Rev. Cathey will lead the Ethical Will/Legacy Letter Project on July 6. See page 6 for further details.
Claudia Vandiver cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com

Women of the Thread

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the log cabin

Taking a summer break. We'll gather again in the Fall.
Carrie Muzika proenviomom@cox.net **Deborah Whittaker** debsharmony@yahoo.com

Hope Book Club

Monday, July 10 at 6:30 pm in the Log Cabin

Book club is usually every 1st Monday in the Log Cabin but we are changing it for July because of the holiday. Our next book is *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham. For questions contact **Chris Anrig** cmnrig@hotmail.com

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, July 2, 9:00 am

Breakfast on the Hill will continue throughout the summer months, but it will be a continental breakfast.

Hope youth will be in charge of breakfast on July 2.

A donation of \$5.00 per adult is requested. Children eat free.



Women of Hope Salad Supper

Thursday, July 6, 6:00 pm

During the summer, Women of Hope takes a break from regular programs and we have potluck suppers at someone's home.

Our meeting in July is at the home of **Coe McGinley**. Bring a **salad or dessert** to share and wine is available for \$2.00.

For further information and if you need the address, contact **Jane Brumley** at 918-488-1370 or the church office.



Movie Night

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 pm



The July movie will be *Love Actually*. It's a 2003 British romantic comedy, full of fun, chaos, and antics most of us will enjoy.

Come and join us for a great movie. As always, popcorn and soft drinks are provided along with discussions before and after the movie.

Hope Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, July 19 at 11:30 am

In July we will have lunch at one of our favorite places, the Tropical Restaurant, located at 8125 E. 49th St., Tulsa.

Please RSVP to Lynn Walters at lfwalters@aol.com or 918-893-2655 if you can join us this month.



The Point! Join us July 23-28

What is The Point?

The Point is a customizable Unitarian Universalist retreat for all ages.

Imagine five days of UU covenant and community in a resort 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 (concerts, movie night, bingo, talent show), outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Each day begins with worship and ends with a fun activity, but how you spend your day is completely up to you!

Our theme speaker this year will be The Rev. Deanna Vandiver. Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith will offer our Sunset Talks. Small groups and a more relaxing schedule are coming to The Point this year!

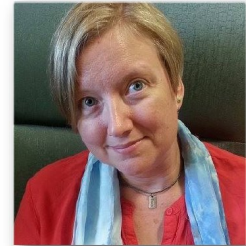
Rev. Cathey Edwards will be leading one of the workshops.

For more information go to <http://w.thepointuu.org/>
Register now at <http://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/ThePoint2017>

July 23-28, 2017

*The Lodge at Sequoyah
State Park*

thepointuu.org



Rev. Deanna Vandiver is a community minister in New Orleans, LA, serving as the Executive Director for the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal (www.celjsr.org). Since she accepted the call to ministry, she has not experienced one boring day. Good music, good food, and good friends have sustained her through heck and high water and she has a practice of gratitude for the wonders of this life.

She will lead us in exploring our 2017 theme: We'll Build a Land...Love Will Guide Us.

For Hope Members thinking of going to The Point



The Hope Foundation has funds available which can be used to help you with the cost of attending the Point. Application forms are in a basket near the Administrator's desk. Submit the form to **Cate Potter** who chairs the Scholarship Task Force .

Please get your request in as soon as possible so that the Task Force will know how many are applying.



Recent New Members' Dinner
Getting to know each other!

**Members' Birthdays
in July**

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Larry Knoles | 2nd |
| Marva Beair | 3rd |
| Annie Simpson | 4th |
| Elke Johnson | 5th |
| Mary Gardner | 7th |
| Patty Scheer | 16th |
| Barbara Richardson | 18th |
| Susan Barbee | 19th |
| Andy Scott | 20th |
| Wade Ezell | 24th |
| Charlotte Bailey | 28th |
| Gary Van Winkle | 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

June 26-July 2
Jim Sleezer
918-853-5114

July 3-9
Eric Reiman
918-407-0924

July 10-16
Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

July 17-23
Eric Reiman
918-407-0924

July 24-30
Sherrill Womeldorff
918-638-7610

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 July 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 2, 2017 . Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, July 26, 2017



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FOCUS Issue July 2017 by Hope Unitarian Church, 8432 S. Sheridan Road., Tulsa, OK 74133-4137.

TO:

Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation



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

Chris Powell, pianist

Susan Michael & Drew Maher, Child Care

Our 2017/18 Board of Trustees

Ken Jones, President

Cate Potter, President Elect

Claudia Vandiver, VP of Finance

Paula Haight, VP of Programs

Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer

Annie Simpson, Secretary

Anita Ward, Past President

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Office Hours

Mon–Fri 9 am—3pm