

## From the Minister



### *Together We Are Stronger (Fiercer, Funnier, Kinder)*

I write this column surrounded by the sounds of raucous cicadas, the visions of an ever-changing sky carved by silhouettes of swallows swooping, and the intoxicating, sweet

smells of grass and pool chlorine. This classic Oklahoma summer, state park setting nurtures our gathering of several hundred Unitarian Universalists. A dozen of all ages from Hope Unitarian Church are at The Point. We are here to relax and learn with our counterparts from churches all over this part of the country.

Part of what we experience here is carefully planned. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Deanna Vandiver, serves as a community Unitarian Universalist minister supported by the three main churches in New Orleans. She embodies how effective our tradition can be in serving and changing a community through collaboration. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and all its political fallout, the churches formed the [Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal](http://www.celjsr.org) ([www.celjsr.org](http://www.celjsr.org)). As Co-Executive Director, the Rev. Vandiver oversees social, economic, environmental and racial justice training and actions. Imagine Tulsa UU churches supporting a UU community minister to amplify and engage our values in Northeast Oklahoma.

The Rev. Carlton Smith is speaking nightly during the Sunset Talks. He is exploring more deeply the conversation about the entanglement of joy and sorrow he began at Hope last month.



Our children are off with their cohorts immersed in the wisdom of Hogwarts Camp, exploring their values in Coming of Age, and bonding with fellow youth.

The true depth of being at The Point is the accumulation of unplanned moments—the conversations around the pool, meeting along the hiking path, and the informal, after-hours, late-into-the-night gatherings outside as the heat dissipates and the stars come out.

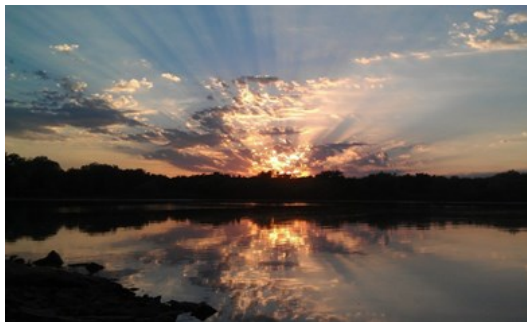
We are learning how the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, Texas just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They rallied around their history, decade by decade, in many of the same ways Hope's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee has begun thinking about honoring the church's founding and growth. We hear more about the revolutionary UU street protest choir in Dallas. We swap stories, favorite books, and music.

In other words, developing deeper relationships with fellow Unitarian Universalists allows us to see our church and work in Tulsa from new angles. We can see more clearly how precious our community is as it is yet how much more we can do together.

Joyfully,



Rev. Cathey Edwards  
Cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 23

No. 8

August  
2017

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## August Sunday Services

**Sunday Worship**  
**11am - Sanctuary**

**Sunday, August 6**

*What's The Big Idea*

“Taking More Than One Stance: Christian and Buddhist Beliefs in Dialogue”

Sister Ellie Finlay

Blending a deep commitment to of Episcopalian Christianity while founding and teaching for an interfaith meditation center, Sister Ellie will explore what it means to have feet firmly planted with integrity in different religious traditions.

**Sunday, August 13**

*What's The Big Idea*

“The Sacred Fire of Community: Cherokee Beliefs in Unitarian Universalism”

The Rev. Gary McAlpin

Hope Church sits atop a hill that once belonged to the Creeks Nation after Caddo Mississippian tribes. As a ceremonial leader in one of Cherokee Nation's traditional ceremonial grounds, continuing traditions of ancestors, how do these rites and values inform what it means to be Unitarian Universalism?

**Sunday, August 20**

*What's The Big Idea*

“Taming the Monkey Mind: Buddhist Beliefs in Unitarian Universalism”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism have centuries' long history of encounter and exchange. As one of our sources, how does this exchange of ideas and practices speak to today's world and needs?

**Sunday, August 27**

*What's The Big Idea*

Hope Youth

## August Monthly Themes

**What's the Big Idea?**  
**Our Hyphenated Religious**  
**Pluralism Unitarian-Universalist-???**



In honor of the start of school, that season when families often move to or within Tulsa, we host a worship series designed to explore the basics of Unitarian Universalism. We are a religious tradition committed to expansion and inclusion of people and ideas. In this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the year that Martin Luther nailed his criticisms of the Christian Church to the church door and the start of the Reformation, we can trace our devotion to theological inquiry and claim ourselves the people who continue to ask, “Why?” We are Protestants in the deepest sense of protesting and rooting out distorting religious ways. Sometimes we have to reclaim what we once rejected, such as spiritual discipline and learning beyond science.

Our commitment to religious pluralism within is what we will explore during worship this month. Unitarian Universalism is already a hyphenated, a co-joined religion. The American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America formally merged in 1961. We count multiple sources of sacred texts and religious wisdom as our foundation. We are People of the Books, plural. We are People of the People. We accept the “words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice compassion, and the transforming power of love.”

In the pulpit this August are people who navigate religious multiplicity with integrity. We also will hear from our youth as they explore their own religious depths.

### 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 the above and **Ambiguity and Paradox** together. Join us!



## Children and Youth Programs

Susan Spooner, Director, [susan@hopeuu.org](mailto: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](mailto:childcare@hopeuu.org) at least 2 business days before the event.

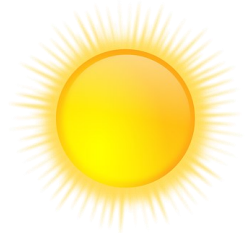
### Religious Education for Children and Youth

**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.

### Our Summer Time Sunday Schedule

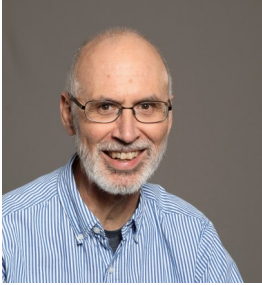
- 10:00 All Ages - Welcoming
- 10:15 Summer Time and the Living is Easy!  
Art, Outdoor Play and Chillaxin'
- 11:00 Multi-age Chapel (or Wonderbox on first Sunday)
- 11:20 Summer Time Continues



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.*

<i>Children &amp; Youth Upcoming Events</i>	
<i>Sunday August 6, 2017 9:00 am</i>	<i>Breakfast on the Hill Youth prepare and serve Breakfast on the Hill. Your generous donations go to pay toward their UU Pilgrimage to Boston!</i>
<i>Sunday August 13, 2017 12:15 pm</i>	<i>Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (For youth 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) We will eat lunch at Hope and then venture to The Family Aquatic Center, located at 1400 S. Main Street, between Houston (81st) and Washington Streets (91st), in Broken Arrow. We will return to the church by 3:00. Cost is \$5 for swimming plus concession stand money. We need parents to drive!</i>
<i>Sunday August 20, 2017 9:00 am Log Cabin</i>	<i>It Takes a Village Join parents, grandparents and others who have beloved children in their lives to discuss the ups and downs of raising children.</i>
<i>Sunday August 27, 2017 10:00 am</i>	<i>UU Youth 101 What is YRUU? What is "Coming of Age"? How can the congregation support the youth in their spiritual journey?</i>
<i>Sunday August 27, 2017 11:00 am</i>	<i>Youth Led Service Join the youth for a completely UU service. You will learn: Who are Hope's youth? What is near and dear to their hearts? What is it like to be a UU youth living in the Bible Belt?</i>

## Music Notes



The Hope Singers, Hope's resident choir, will return after a summer break, during which we have enjoyed performances by several gifted guest musicians, including both instrumentalists and vocalists.

The Hope choir and music program are planning for an exciting year ahead as we rehearse and sing for Sunday services and engage with the monthly and weekly service themes that give direction to our conversation and worship as a free church community.

I am grateful for Hope's support and encouragement of the choir and music program. We look forward to serving the church in the coming year as we continue our journey along the winding road of life's seasons and milestones, climbing ever higher in living out our values and goals.

We invite all of you who love music and have an ability and love for singing to rehearse with us on Wednesday nights starting on August 9 at 7pm, and sing with us for Sunday morning services. If you know anyone who is looking for a church choir in which to sing, please encourage them to join us. Auditioning is really simple and easy—all they have to do is show up and sing along with us.

**Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music,  
[joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org](mailto:joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org)



## Adult Forum

### Sundays, 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary

#### August 6—Generosity Sunday.

We will have a speaker from **A New Leaf**, our generosity recipient for August.

**August 13**—We will have a speaker from **Tulsa Police Department**

**August 20**—Discussion of plans for **Hope's 50th Celebration**

**Aug 27**—**Susan Spooner** will talk to us about the youth **Coming of Age Program**

**Please contact Chris Anrig**, Adult Religious Education Chair, at [cmnrig@hotmail.com](mailto:cmnrig@hotmail.com) for additional information.

## 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!

## 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 July so far we have we raised:  
\$1,063.10 for 2-1-1  
And still one more week to go!  
Thank you for your generosity.**

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
June	CASA	\$959.67
May	ACTION	\$1,549.00
April	Keystone Ancient Forest	\$1,518.50
March	Meals on Wheels	\$1,425.45

### August Generosity Recipient



#### A New Leaf

Their mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities with life skills, marketable job training through horticultural therapy, community-based vocational placement, and residential services to increase their independence and individual choices.

All their products can be purchased at two retail locations. Please visit them at 2306 S. 1st Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 or 2405 S. Elm Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 to purchase all your gardening needs

To find about more about this organization go to <https://www.anewleaf.org>

## 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 **July**

- Shopper: **Keith Hamilton**
- Friday cooking: **Jean Coffey, Joan Scheulen**
- Meal prep and cooking: With team leader **Linda Tracy: Eddie Humphreys, Jay Stewart, Rich Jackson**
- Serving at the Day Center with team leader **Anita Ward: Guy & Judy Sims, Rosanna Metcalfe, Ann Lee, Josh Lee , Maren Lee and Debby Baker**

We served 116 plates.

**Next Feed the Homeless date is:  
Saturday, August 19, 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, August 13**

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

Many volunteer opportunities are available at MacArthur Elementary, our Partner in Education. Some of the needs are for Reading Partners, help with distribution of food on Fridays for the Back Pack Program or volunteers who can assist with the after school Bike Club on Tuesdays.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact **Mary Newman** at 918-810-0953/[try4peace@gmail.com](mailto:try4peace@gmail.com) or **Paula Haight** at 918-250-9275/ [pjhaight@cox.net](mailto:pjhaight@cox.net) if you are interested in volunteering or have questions.

## **ACTION Holds First Accountability Session**

On Sunday, July 9, ACTION held their first Accountability Session with the candidates of House District 75 prior to the Special Election on July 11. The session, held at St. Matthew's Methodist Church which is located in the district, was a resounding success with almost 100 people in attendance. Our church was well-represented.

The candidates, Karen Gaddis and Tressa Nunley, were invited to attend two meetings. The first, a planning meeting, allowed the candidates to meet with representatives, learn how the session would be conducted and learn what questions would be asked, allowing them the opportunity to consider their answers. The second meeting, the Accountability Session, was open to the public. Only one candidate, Karen Gaddis, accepted the invitations. The other candidate agreed to meet with ACTION after she "won the election".

Lynn Rivers was one of the organizers and served as co-leader at the event. Joe Monroe and Rachael Brazelton participated by telling their stories on issues of concern to them. In all, fifteen Hope congregants were in attendance.

Hope is a founding member of ACTION, an IAF affiliate. This Accountability Session followed the standard protocol for such events held by IAF affiliates. It allowed the public to hear the views of the candidate in attendance. More importantly, the candidate was asked to commit to building a relationship with ACTION and working for issues of concern to families we represent. Specifically, the candidate was asked questions concerning education, teacher pay, higher education/student loans, budget and social service priorities and immigration. These are all issues that ACTION member institutions are working on. The candidate in attendance, Karen Gaddis, went on to win the election.

The Accountability Session gave us practice for more to come. With elections for numerous offices in 2018, ACTION, with Hope's participation, plans to do more of these events.

### **Claudia Vandiver**



## Hope Supper Club

If you would like to hostess/host one dinner for 8 to 10 people once during the church year, please join us Saturday, September 9, 2017, 12:00 noon for a potluck picnic at **Holway House on Grand Lake** (the lake home of some Hope members).

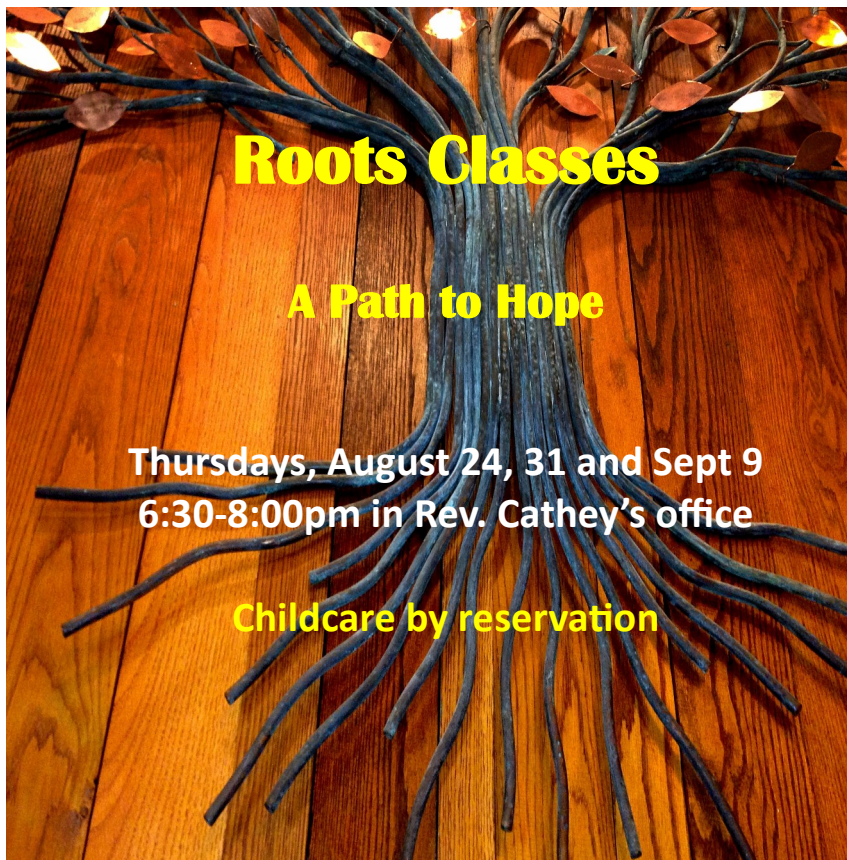
Maps available on the table adjacent to the Administrator's desk.



Members from last year will be contacted by email and sent a copy of the map. Children are welcome, so bring bathing suits, towels, lawn chairs, bug spray, sunscreen, leave kitchen sink at home. BYOB, ice tea, ice and water plus all cutlery will be provided.

Members are invited to six adult supper clubs during the year as guests.

Your Supper Club contact is Coe McGinley  
[coemcginley@yahoo.com](mailto:coemcginley@yahoo.com) or (918)747-7929



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.

Sign up in folder on  
Administrator's desk or email or call  
the church office  
[hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org)  
918-481-0999

## Garden and Grounds



We are into serious summer heat now as we often are in Oklahoma this time of year. Rainfall is limited and days of 100 plus degrees rapidly evaporate what moisture there is.

Many plants just cannot take up water as fast as they lose it in such heat no matter how much we pour on. So special appreciation to the daisies, rudbeckia (black-eyed-Susans), Echinacea (cone flower), periwinkles, zinnias and lantana, that keep blooming through such stress.

And special appreciation to the human volunteer hose brigade that helps them all survive.

Lantana is a genus of about 150 species of perennial flowering plants in the verbena family Verbenaceae. They are native to tropical regions of the Americas and Africa but exist as an introduced species in numerous areas (and are considered invasive in some areas of the world.) The genus includes both herbaceous plants and small shrubs.

Lantana's aromatic flower clusters (called umbels) are a mix of red, orange, yellow, or blue and white florets. Other colors exist as new varieties are being selected. The flowers typically change color as they mature, resulting in inflorescences that are two- or three-colored.

Some butterflies are attracted to lantana flowers, most notably swallowtail and birdwing, skippers and certain sulphurs and brush-footed butterflies. I have no idea why the beautiful one out front has survived and thrived for this its fourth year when four others planted the same time and presumably the same variety and numerous replacements have not.

Garden Treasure Hunt: : In the perennial bed is a wild (Texas ?) sunflower of some sort (can't locate its name), but I think the green "flower" left after the yellow petals have fallen, and the brown seed pods are as interesting as the blooming flower.

**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](mailto: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.

**Claudia Vandiver** [cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com](mailto:cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com)

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### 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**

**Deborah Whittaker**

[proenviomom@cox.net](mailto:proenviomom@cox.net)

[debsharmony@yahoo.com](mailto:debsharmony@yahoo.com)

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### Hope Book Club

**No meeting in August or September.** Next meeting is October 2. We will read *The Confidence Man* by Herman Melville. For questions contact **Chris Anrig**  
[cmnrig@hotmail.com](mailto:cmnrig@hotmail.com)

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### Breakfast on the Hill

**Sunday, August 6, 9:00 am**

Youth prepare and serve Breakfast on the Hill. Your generous donations go to pay toward their UU Pilgrimage to Boston!



### Women of Hope Salad Supper

**Thursday, August 3, 6:00 pm**

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



Come join us on Thursday, August 3 for our last salads and desserts event of the season. Our hostess will be **Deborah Whittaker**, For directions and further information, you may contact Deborah at [www.debsharmony@yahoo.com](mailto:www.debsharmony@yahoo.com), or cell 918/639-1559. Please bring salad or dessert to share. We'll meet at 6:00 pm and wine will be available for a \$2.00 contribution.

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### Movie Night

**Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 pm**

Our August Movie is *Sense and Sensibility*, a 1995 movie directed by Any Lee, and with the screen play written by Emma Thompson.

The movie is based on Jane Austin's novel, and tells the tale of the Dashwood sisters as they face financial hardships brought on by the death of their father. The cast includes Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Kate Winslet, and Alan Rickman. The Golden Globes awarded the movie with the best picture of the year, and best adapted screen play. *Sense and Sensibility* was also awarded an Academy Award for best adapted screen play.

Free popcorn, soft drinks, and a chance to be a movie critic after the showing.

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### Hope Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, August 16 at 11:30 am**

Hope Lunch Bunch will meet at the Cheesecake Factory located on 71st street in front of Woodland Hills Mall We hope you can join us for a nice lunch and friendly conversation. Please let Lynn Walters know if you plan to come - [Lfwalters@aol.com](mailto:Lfwalters@aol.com) or 918-893-2655.

## Hope's 1st 50 years



On December 8, 1968, Hope Unitarian Church was officially chartered. That means 2018 is our 50th anniversary and cause for a celebration! Let's start in January, 2018 with months of festivities that will culminate in a gala on the weekend of **October 6 and 7, 2018.**

Whether you came to Hope in 2017 or in 1968, we want ***everyone*** to be a part of this commemoration. From the youngest among us to the eldest, your participation in crafting ideas for this 'golden' year will add to the enjoyment for all of us.

To get your creative juices flowing.....

- What would be some fun events to have that could include the number 50?
- What would your children get a kick out of doing for 50 minutes?
- What might be an enjoyable way to find out 50 facts of Hope history?

We'll want your ideas and input at the Adult Forum on Sunday, August 20.

**In addition, what are your ideas for a logo to commemorate this milestone? We'll have a contest for your design entries and let the congregation make the selection for use on everything from banners to napkins!**

Lots more to come.....

Your 50th Task Force members: **Paula Haight, Ken Jones, Bruce Luria, Coe McGinley, Meredith Miller, Janet Nobles, Marcia Schaefer, Susan Spooner, Alice Vanwormer, Anita Ward and Deborah Whittaker**



## Members' Birthdays in August



Rosanna Metcalfe	2nd
Claudia Vandiver	2nd
Elizabeth Obal	3rd
Stan Bear	5th
Anne Steiner	5th
Lana Larkin	6th
Rich Jackson	8th
Joe Newman	13th
Charles Mills	15th
Myra Monroe	16th
Chris Anrig	19th
Kael Marsh	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

#### July 31-Aug 6

Fred Pottorf  
918-407-0924

#### Aug 7-13

Jim Sleezer  
918-853-5114

#### Aug 14-20

Sherrill Womeldorf  
918-638-7610

#### Aug 21-27

David Lynn  
918-250-3677

#### Aug 28-3 Sept

Eric Reiman  
918-407-0924

#### **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 August Calendar  
see Hope's website  
[www.hopeuu.org](http://www.hopeuu.org)**

### Focus Deadline

Submissions for Focus should be sent to [hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto: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 30, 2017 . Next Deadline: 9 am, Wednesday, August 23, 2017**



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FOCUS Issue August 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**  
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**Cate Potter**, President Elect  
**Claudia Vandiver**, VP of Finance  
**Paula Haight**, VP of Programs  
**Marcia Schaefer**, Treasurer  
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**Anita Ward**, Past President

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**Office Hours**

Mon–Fri 9 am—3pm