



Who Is “The Church?”

I have heard people ask, “What does the church think about _____?” Fill in the blank with anything: social issues, yesterday’s news, theological points, or the latest social media fad. “The church” is an easy shorthand way to ask what a collection of people might agree upon.

I try to take the phrase “the church” out of my speaking and writing. It implies an institution that operates as one person with a mind of its own. It assumes a church is an individual with agency. Instead, decisions are made by each one of us in relationship with each other. Relationship is key here.

“The church” phrase creates an imaginary distance. It removes accountability. It blurs power. I mention this phrase because it can cause misunderstandings about Hope Unitarian Church. That childhood nursery rhyme using two hands to make a church contains great wisdom. “Here’s the church. Here’s the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people.” The church is the people. For example, the Board of Trustees makes decisions and policies on behalf of the congregation and staff. This volunteer leadership body does this as democratically and transparently as possible. They act while keeping everyone in mind. They vow to stay connected with everyone. They want to hear what you are thinking and experiencing. No one person stays in power long as members rotate on and off the board. The people.

Another example is our Care Team, also a volunteer body. They are not home health professionals providing services. Rather they strengthen our bonds by bringing church volunteers into service for listening, bringing a meal, and pointing to community resources when members let us know they might need support. The people.

As Hope’s minister, I am not “the Church” either. I have influence. I provide leadership and ideas. I am most effective as your minister when I listen and collaborate as much as possible. I serve Hope Church.

When visitors or members treat church life as a commodity, bringing the mindset of a consumer and expecting services to be provided, they will always be disappointed. When we all realize we are people helping others, including ourselves, then our outlook and levels of participation change.

“The Church” is where two or more are gathered working together, to accomplish something beyond anything any individual can do. Open the doors and see all the people.

With Joy,
Cathey
The Rev. Cathey Edwards



Volume 24

No. 8

August
2018

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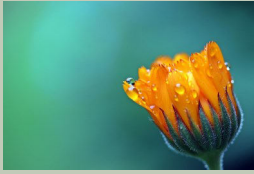
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Sunday Services August (I Iam— Sanctuary)



August 5th

Source 1: Women and Men Long Ago

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Unitarian Universalist tradition recognizes six major sources of spiritual wisdom. One critical source are the lives of past and current people, famous or unsung. Insights which arise from living our lives shapes a world view and something from which we can all learn.

August 12th

The Psalms Project—Source 2: Christian and Jewish Teachings

The Rev. Tamara Lebak

The psalms have spoken to generations across religious traditions. For almost a year, Tamara Lebak has been sitting with a Psalm a week and writing contemporary Universalist worship songs grounded in that Psalm. Come and hear this inspirational music!

August 19th

Source 3: The Harmony of Nature

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

In the harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life we are located in an essential Garden of Eden, we explore the lessons of nature, both in her beauty as well as in decay.

August 26th

Sources 4 & 5: Sense of Wonder & Use of Reason

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Combining two seemingly opposite sources of wisdom, we explore reasons and discoveries of Science along with the sense



WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

During the month of August, we return to the basics of our Unitarian Universalist traditions. Rather than looking at a monthly theme, we take a step out of the heat and into the shade to view the whole landscape of our religion.

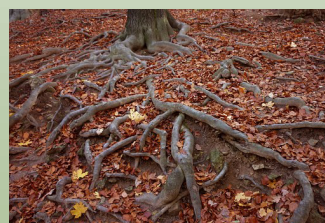
If you are new to Tulsa or to Hope, you will get an overview of our church and its values. If you are a long-time member, this month is the opportunity to round out missing information and to go more deeply into our fundamental principles.

The Big Ideas we will explore together this August are the six different sources of religious wisdom that inform Unitarian Universalism. It is a very broad umbrella of ideas.

Join us! We will return to monthly themes in September with Beloved Community

About 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 doc-



Want to know more about Hope and our beliefs? Sign up for Roots, a Pathway to Membership here in the Hope Community. Next class starts **October 11, 18, 25, and Nov. 1st**. Contact hopeuu@hopeuu.org for details.



Children & Youth Religious Education

Susan Spooner, Director, susan@hopeuu.org
CYP Committee Members:

Community Building begins at 9:45 am

Children’s Chapel, at 11:00, focuses on this month’s theme.
Loving childcare is provided for infants through children three years old.

Boston Pilgrimage July 13 – July 17, 2018

Dear Congregation – Thank you for supporting the pilgrimage with your time, treasure and talent. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and made this trip possible. The learning and growth that came with this journey cannot be measured.

You will hear more about our trip in an upcoming Adult Religious Education hour on August 19th.



Pictured in Photo:

Hope Youth who participated in the Boston Pilgrimage and in back center is **Yadenee**, Intern Minister.

Fall Break Nature Camp October 17 – 19, 2018

Hope and Under the Canopy (underthecanopy.org) are joining together to provide a nature based camp on Hope’s Hill.

Hours will be from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm.

Tuition Fees:

\$100 per child for Hope Families

\$125 per child families not associated with Hope

Hope families with adults volunteering as staff may receive reduced tuition.

Campers: Kindergarten – 6th Grade

Counselors in Training (CIT’s): 7th Grade – 15 16 – 18 years – May be CIT’s or paid staff if hired as childcare staff by Hope.

Registration opens soon!

For more information, contact Susan Spooner.

Upcoming Events:

Youth Group (YRUU) Sunday, August 12, 12:00 – 2:30.

Fall Break Nature Camp on the Hill October 17 – 19. Mark your calendar.

Need childcare for a church event? Please email your request to childcare@hope.org.

Drew Maher is our childcare coordinator.

“Patience is the art of concealing your impatience.” Guy Kawaski

For additional information about our programming, please contact **Susan Spooner** at susan@hopeuu.org.



Music Notes

Chris Powell and I will be attending the UU Musicians Network Conference

in Portland, Oregon during the first week of August.

We look forward to this inspiring conference, during which talented UU musicians from all over the country will converge with a multitude of ideas and strategies for better serving our local congregations.

In the meantime, we have two guest musicians performing at Hope. **Hayden Iskander** is a concert pianist and graduate from TU with a major in both piano performance and composition and is presently working on his master's at OU.

Hayden will accompany the service and perform for Hope on August 5. **Tamara Lebak** will visit us on August 12, and will speak and perform some original music on a theme she has been developing.

The **Hope Singers**, Hope's resident choir, will return after a summer break and begin rehearsing on Wednesday, August 15. 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

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:00
Sanctuary

August 5-

Outreach Special Guest from Women in Recovery– Panel about GA

Aug 12- New Sanctuary Network of Tulsa POC
James D./Linda Allegro

Aug 19-State of Children & Youth Education -
Susan Spooner

Aug 26

Hope Foundation Speakers– Foundation members will discuss how to become a member of the Hope Legacy Society, and tell us about an exciting opportunity to make your legacy dollars go even further!

Catch our Adult Forum news at Hope Unitarian's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch/>.



Photo of Rosa Hernandez and Bob Ritz, Adult Forum, Dream Act

Outreach...in Focus

Generosity

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 efforts to expand beyond our community.

In July we raised \$1636.98 for Los Pecesitos!
Below are the totals raised in previous months:

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
June	Iron Gate	\$978.00
May	Still She Rises	\$1,132.34
April	Healthy Community Store Initiative	\$1,312.00
March	Tulsa Control Initiative	\$1,117.61

Feed the Homeless Program

We need volunteers to prep cook and serve for Hope at **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** the third Saturday of every month.

Contact jenn@hopeuu.org to sign up or contact **Mary Newman**, Director Outreach Services at try4peace@gmail.com for more information!

July Volunteers

Shopping: **Keith Hamilton**

Cooking: **Pam Holt, Ryan Tracy, and Lana Larkin.**

Serving: **Anita Ward, Joey Dewiel, Judy and Guy Sims, Bruce Luria, Janet Nobles, and Christy Levine.**

105 plates served, thanks to our dedicated participants!

Next Feed the Homeless date is:

Saturday, August 18, 2018

2:30 pm: meet at Hope to prepare food and cook.

5:00 pm meet Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless (servers)



August Generosity is Women in Recovery

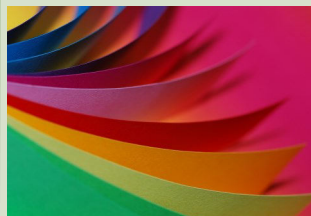
Women in Recovery, a division of Family & Children's Services, is an intensive outpatient alternative for eligible women facing long prison sentences for drug-related offenses. Operated in partnership with the George Kaiser Family Foundation, it works closely with the

criminal justice system and various community partners to ensure program participants receive supervision, substance abuse and mental health treatment, education, workforce readiness training and family reunification services.

Women in Recovery helps women conquer their drug addiction, recover from trauma and acquire the essential economic, emotional and social tools to build successful and productive lives.

Outreach...in focus

MacArthur Elementary School



Hope has been a partner in education with MacArthur Elementary School for the last two years. We have had donation drives for the school, provided snacks for after school clubs, and selected MacArthur as a Generosity Recipient. We have also had a Teacher Appreciation luncheon at the school, and provided volunteers for Bike Club, Reading Partners, the backpack distribution program, state testing, the fall festival and end of school year activities.

The Outreach Committee could not sustain Hope's relationship with MacArthur without all the volunteers and individuals who have donated their time and money. *Many thanks for your generosity.* Outreach is looking for someone, who is interested in coordinating our partnership with MacArthur along with Mary Newman this coming year. If you have questions or are interested please call or email **Mary Newman** at 918-810-0953 or try4peace@gmail.com.

Hope's response to the school supplies donation drive for Dream Act Oklahoma (DAOK) was amazing. DAOK plans to give the filled backpacks to the children this Friday, August 3rd.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these children, as they start the school year. The support and generosity of Hope Church is always overwhelming! - **Mary Newman**

Care Team Corner

Hope's Care Team is here for our Hope family! If you need help or just want to know how we can help call Hope at 918-481-0999.



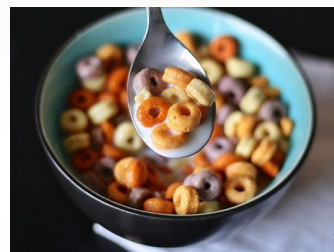
Cereal Sunday August

Sunday, August 12th

Please bring a box or two of cereal for the homeless.

This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless during Hope Volunteers Feed the Homeless serving day. Be generous, be kind.

Any questions, direct them to **Mary Newman** at try4peace@gmail.com or jenn@hopeuu.org.



Fair Trade Coffee Sold Here at Hope

Before or after Sunday Services pick up a bag of Equal Exchange Coffee in the Fellowship Hall. The coffee comes from small farms in Fair Trade to your cup.

Pricing is located on the coffee cart.



Gardens and Grounds

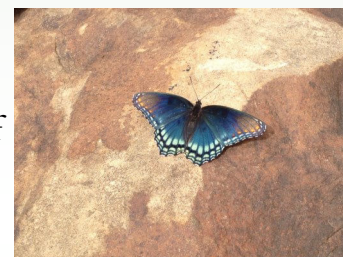
Janet Williamson

The seasons and cycles of a garden have long been my metaphors for life. Things start - begin, sprout, find fertile soil, send down roots. Some grow - form a tap root, networks, branches, leaves, seek the light. Some mature - bear fruit, create gardens, forests, tangled communities, evolve. All end - some quickly in wind, fire or flood, some slowly, gracefully leaf by leaf. Nature recycles - the twigs and dendrites, petals and photons, atoms and energy to make new things. The spiritual journey is to love it all.



I have wandered and worked all over the hill since 2012 and know every contour and many of the rocks and trees and critters including the resident (harmless) black snake. I have written forty-five *Focus* articles and six annual reports and now the time has come for me to “retire” from being head of the Garden and Grounds committee. This is a version of what I sent to my fellow gardeners and support troops. You are all wonderful and Hope Hill is one of my favorite places to be. It is where I immersed my soul in nature on an almost daily basis. It has been great fun and wonderfully rewarding and I am stepping back now so I can always remember it that way. I reread the annual reports and I am very proud of what we have done.

I smile when a new-comer says they drove up the road for the first time and had no idea this was up here! Or someone says how they love walking the trails meditatively. Or I see little kids down in the woods. Or a pair of hawks sailing over the pond. Or Larry Sharp’s tree grown from a New York acorn. Or a hundred robins among the daffodils. Or Warren trimming briars in the early morning along the road. Or Alice Van Wormer, shielded from the sun keeping the front beds tended in the heat. Or the rain garden doing its job and the seasonal perennials blooming untended through the leaves. Or Dogwood Trail in bloom near the signs Barry Kinsey made and Katharine Dillsaver painted. And more, much, much more.



But it has become harder to recruit folks for work days (only four showed up for the last one) and I am choosing to do less (even in my own yard). I have given up digging holes, moving logs and landscape timbers and dragging hoses in the summer heat. My partner, Gil has shut down his business (retired), his hip has been (very successfully) repaired, the granddaughters are ever more fun and free time and travel beckons.

I hope some one or two of you will take over and continue things. Gardening is not rocket science, (but it does help if you love it). There is some money in the Memorial Garden Fund if someone wants to plan a “facelift for the fiftieth”. And if the trails and the butterfly garden ultimately revert back to native wildness, that is OK. Our human efforts are fragile in the grand scheme of things but are often so very beautiful.



Peace, Love, and Joy
Janet Williamson

Membership Updates

The Hope Foundation



The Foundation's Board of Directors has the following to report from our meeting Thursday, July 19.

Legacy Society Forming

The Foundation will be forming the Hope Legacy Society, honoring those who have included the Foundation in their estate plans. Watch your mailbox in September! We will be sending out a letter to members and friends, asking that you provide your estate plans to us.

"Wake Now Our Vision" Legacy Challenge

The UU Congregation at Shelter Rock has announced a grant that will match legacy gifts at 10% of your gift, up to \$10,000! This is an excellent opportunity to make your bequest go even further. Forms and information that will allow us to claim these matching gifts will be included in the letter you receive in September.

New Director Elected

The Foundation has elected **Michael Simpson** to join us as a director, replacing the late Barry Kinsey. Hope's Board of Trustees will vote on a slate of directors in November.

Other Business

We discussed a rolling-average computation of earnings to be distributed to the church. Using this computation will help the Foundation even out our annual contribution to the church, smoothing out "highs" and "lows". We plan to have this in place in time for determining our grant to the church for 2019.



Our meetings are held at the church on the third Thursday of

Board Member News

The new Board of Trustees is off to a great start, full of plans for the year! We will kick things off by serving the monthly (continental) Breakfast on the Hill on August 5th. Also in August the board will be attending our annual retreat, where we will focus on developing goals for the year. Serving on the Board this year are: **Ken Jones**, Past President, **Cate Potter**, President, **James Donovan**, President-Elect, **Rick Eagleton**, V.P. Finance, **Christy Levine**, V.P. Programs, **Marcia Schaefer**, Treasurer, **Joan Scheulen**, Secretary, and **Annie Simpson**, **Ryan Saylor**, **Rick Paschal**, and **Lynn Walters**, trustees.

Please approach any board member if you have questions, ideas, or would like to join a committee.

A standing Nominating Committee has been created in accordance with the new bylaw to identify candidates for leadership positions throughout the year. Anita Ward is serving a one-year term as chair of this committee. Please talk to Anita if you are interested in becoming a leader at Hope.

Cate Potter,
President, Board of Trustees

Stewardship News

Did you know? The average pledge to Hope for this fiscal year is \$1,700. This pledge amount accounts for about half of the funds the church uses for our Outreach program, for things such as Feed the Homeless and Partners in Education.

Hope's Upcoming Events

Need child care? Request this at least 48 hours in advance with sspooner@hopeuu.org to secure a spot.



Book Club

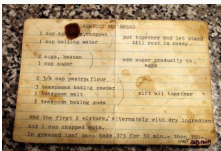
1st Mondays in the log cabin

Our next meeting will meet August 6th at 6:30 pm. Come discuss the NY Times Bestseller *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.

Threads of Hope

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the Log Cabin
Our group is going to break for the summer months. Enjoy and we'll see you in September.

Brown Bag Lunch



After hiatus in July, Brown Bag returns weekly on Thursdays starting August 2nd. Topic is "Food as Family History". Bring a recipe from your family cookbook to share! Share the story behind the dish and for bonus points bring

the actual dish to share!

Breakfast on the Hill

When: Sat, August 5th at 9:00 am.
Board members will be cooking and serving this day, so do not miss out!
Free for kids, 5 dollars for adults.

Women of Hope

Summer Salad and Dessert Suppers

First Thursdays

Thursday, August 2nd at 6:00 p.m.
Where: Home of **Diane Dudley**
What to bring: Salad or dessert to share.
Wine is available for \$2.00



Contact Christy Levine at chrstlvn@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, August 15 at 11:30 am

Hope Lunch Bunch will be going Mexican this month at Ted's Cafe Escondido on Wednesday, August 15, at 11:30. The restaurant is located at 3202 W Kenosha (71st), Broken Arrow.

If you can join us, please contact **Lynn Walters** at lfwalters@aol.com or 918-893-2655.

Supper Club Potluck

Saturday, September 8, Fellowship Hall

Everyone interested in our suppers please join us with the covered dish of your choice. Supper potlucks are second Saturdays of the month in homes with host or hostess who signs up to organize once during the year. Childcare available for a small fee.

Supper Club is a great way to get to know attendees and have a home cooked meal together.

Contact the office or Coe McGinley for details.



Movie Night

Tuesday, August 14 @ 7pm

Day of the Jackal (1973)

Set in the early 60s in France. The remaining survivors of the aborted French Foreign Legion have made repeated attempts to kill Charles DeGaulle, the president of France, resulting in DeGaulle being the most closely guarded man in the world.

As a desperate act, they hire *The Jackal*, the code name for a hired killer who agrees to kill President De Gaulle for half a million dollars.

The Jackal's preparations, so thorough, how could he fail? Even as we watch the French police attempt to pick up his trail, the Jackal prevails (movie historically

Celebrating 50 Years of Hope in August 2018

We began celebrating Hope's founding in January and throughout the year culminating on the **weekend of October 5-7th**.

Mark your calendars.

Important Dates:

50th Anniversary Planning Committee:

Join us in late August to attend the meeting for planning all things 50th here at Hope!

50th Celebration

Join Hope to celebrate 50 years October 6-7, 2018!



Minister's Office Hours

Make an appointment with Rev. Cathey Edwards during the following times:

Tuesday afternoons 3:30pm-5:00pm

Thursday afternoons 1:00pm-2:00 pm

Friday mornings 9:00am -10:00am.

You can schedule a time for meeting with Rev. Edwards at Cathey@hopeuu.org

Or with Jennifer Link at jenn@hopeuu.org

Call at 918-481-0999

Walking Meditation

August 26th,
9:00 am

Meet outside on the deck of Hope's log cabin.

Wear shoes and clothing to match the weather.

All ages welcome.



Member Birthdays



Rosanna Metcalfe	08/02
Claudia Vandiver	08/02
Elizabeth Obal	08/03
Stan Bear	08/05
Anne Steiner	08/05
Lana Larkin	08/06
Richard Jackson	08/08
Joe Newman	08/13
Chris Anrig	08/19
Charles Mills	08/15

A special birthday this month-
The Rev. Cathey Edwards , August 5th!

Key Person Schedule

July 30—Aug 5th
Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

August 6 August 12
David Lynn
918-250-5265

August 13—August 19
Jim Sleezer
918-853-5114

August 20—August 26
Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

August 27—September 2
David Lynn
918-250-5265

Church Events and Rentals

Rentals for groups and events are subject to approval from ministry.

When approved events take place, if the person in charge does not have a key or security code, a key person must be notified in advance.

For current events, visit the Hope Calendar at:
<http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

Focus Submissions:

Send all input with "Focus" in the subject line. The last day of consideration for submissions is end of third Wednesday in August. Exceptions made at times where more information is needed.

Submissions must be made in a Word Document or similar format by email only for consideration and please remember to keep the content short enough to fit on half a page or less within a newsletter.

All content is subject to revision and formatting. Send submissions to jenn@hopeuu.org

Thanks to all those writers in the Hope Community and for sharing your ideas and news!



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hopeuu@hopeuu.org

FOCUS Newsletter

Hope Unitarian Church
8432 S. Sheridan RD.
Tulsa, OK 74133-4137.

TO:

Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation

Our Staff

The Rev. **Cathey Edwards**, Minister, cathey@hopeuu.org
Yadene Hailu, Intern Minister, yadenee@hopeuu.org
Jennifer Link, Administrator, jenn@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, Nora Potter, Child Care

Our 2018-2019 Board Members and Trustees

Cate Potter, President
James Donovan President Elect
Rick Eagleton, VP of Finance
Christy Levine, VP of Programs
Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer
Joan Scheulen, Secretary
Ken Jones, Past President
Trustees: Rick Pascal, Annie Simpson, Lynn Walters

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;



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Office Hours
Mon–Fri 9 am—3pm