



Season of the Child

I am finding it difficult to conjure up joy for the birth of a child when my nation continues to have policies detrimental to children and families. When we use children of any nationality as pawns for political gain, my Christmas cheer goes dim.

Separating families at our borders is immoral and wrong. Period.

As I write, there are 14,056 unaccompanied immigrant minors in Department of Health and Human Services. Clergy from Oklahoma just returned from El Paso and the Tornillo detention camp this week. They joined rabbis, priests, other clergy, and lay leaders who drove from Michigan to Texas to learn, witness and better understand.

Though they were unable to gain access to the tent city, they did see hundreds of children with fear in their eyes at makeshift community centers and church halls set up to support families.

I have seen tent cities when our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly leaders led a group in Phoenix to the inhumane camps Sheriff Arpaio oversaw. They were miserable enough for adults.

When the employed work in jobs that fall below a living wage, it is children who bear the brunt of hunger, disruption in routine, and access to opportunities. **One child in every seven** will be born into poverty in the United States. Unacceptable.

Each December at Hope Unitarian Church we read “For So the Children Come” from our hymnal (#616). It has these lines: “Yet each night a child is born is a holy night. / Fathers and mothers—sitting beside their children’s cribs— / feel glory in the sight of a new life beginning. / They ask, ‘Where and how will this new life end? / Or will it ever end?’ / Each night a child is born is a holy night.”



Aerial view of the tent city at the Marcelino Serna Port of Entry in Sept. in Tornillo, TX. Photo: Ivan Pierre Aguirre

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December 2018

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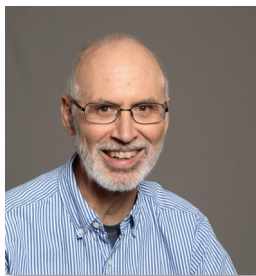
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May we commit ourselves to having our political, social, and religious systems live up to this understanding of the value of children. May we be able to say with full hearts, “Each night a child is born is a holy night.”

With muted joy,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org



Music Notes

Hope's music program will present our annual "Sing Noel!" service on December 9. The theme of "Sing Noel!" this year is "I'm Dreaming of Home." The notion of "home" can evoke many meanings, bringing to

mind the holiday song, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," or the loneliness of a soldier or other wanderer far from home, and even the feeling of home when we ascend Hope Hill. The "Sing Noel!" service will again inspire us through readings, choral anthems, hymns, and special music as we enter the winter holiday season. 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 the traditional Christmas Eve service on December 24.

May we all be filled with comfort and joy this season, and feel welcomed and loved at "home" in the company our beloved communities!

Joseph Rivers, PhD

Director of Music

joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Programs/Leadership Council Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 pm

Lay leaders across all of Hope's committees, programs, and task forces are invited to attend this quarterly meeting. Typically the agenda consists of planning upcoming events/calendaring. If you can't attend, you may send someone in your place, or email **Christy Levine** with any items/concerns that you would like addressed.

Roots Class

A Path to
Membership
Meets Thursdays,
Jan. 10-31
7:00-8:30 pm



Class sizes 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.

To register, you may email or call the church office or sign up in the folder on the Administrator's desk.

Childcare by reservation: childcare@hopeuu.org.



Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Learning is the work of a lifetime. On Sunday mornings you are invited to attend our regular adult forum that meets in the sanctuary and covers a wide range of topics.

To see what our topics are in December, please see each week's *Highlights* newsletter, which comes out on Fridays. If you don't already subscribe to *Highlights*, you can sign up at <http://hopeuu.org/blog/newsletter/>.

InReach

Kickstart your New Year resolution to meet more Hope members while deepening your personal spiritual growth by joining an InReach group. Trained facilitators lead groups once a month. The goal of each meeting is to spend time exploring the monthly themes in a deliberate and thoughtful way. There are daytime and evening groups with openings. Contact **Annie Simpson** at anniejsimpson@gmail.com or **918.409.4602** to sign up or for more information.

Care Team Corner

Thank you to all who offered your services at the Committee Fair. We have offers for transportation, visits, and meals. As our members need your support, we will contact you to provide your gift. It takes a village, and we appreciate our church community for your works of loving-kindness.



Deborah Whittaker, Care Team Chair

Children & Youth Programs (CYP)



Susan Spooner, Director, susan@hopeuu.org

CYP Committee Members: **Paula Haight, Kerri Vandiver, Ann Lee, & Laura Ezell.** The chair position is open.

*Need childcare for a church event? Please email your request to childcare@hope.org
Drew Maher is our childcare coordinator.*

A Typical Sunday

9:45 am Community Building for all ages

11:10 am Children’s Chapel focuses on this month’s theme.

Loving childcare is provided for infants through children three years old.

Most Sundays include outdoor activities. Please make sure your child is wearing sturdy shoes and clothing, so they enjoy being with nature.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 9, 11:00 am

Children sing in “Sing Noel!”

Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:00 am

“Winter Solstice”

Tentative: Youth go to a Christian advent service at Boston Avenue Methodist Church

Sunday, Dec. 23, 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

Monday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.

Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no childcare for this service; children will participate in the intergenerational service.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 10:00 a.m.

Yoga Sunday!

NOTE: The office in RE

Susan Spooner has reclaimed her former office downstairs in RE. Some groups have been meeting in that space for a while now, but might be unsure if they can continue now that it’s an office space again. Rest assured, you can still meet there, with the following exceptions:

- Wednesday afternoons
- Sunday mornings
- Sometimes after church on Sunday; please check with Susan if you want to meet there after church.



If you’re looking for the library that’s been housed in that office, it’s now on the south wall in RE. Susan is adding books to it regularly—everything from parenting books to ministry, spirituality, mythology, and even children’s picture books. Stop by and borrow a good read!

Outreach

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.

The Outreach Committee would welcome suggestions from church members or not-for-profit groups for Hope Church's Generosity recipients. Contact **Mary Newman** or **Anita Ward** to offer suggestions. Thank you for being the generous church that you are!

December Generosity Recipient

Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges

Our December Generosity recipient is [The Center for Individuals With Physical Challenges](#). Their mission is to provide opportunities for persons with physical disabilities to enhance the quality of their lives. The center provides rehabilitative fitness, adaptive recreation, community reintegration, adaptive sport services, support groups, and transition services to individuals with a variety of physical challenges.

California Fires

The UUA Disaster Relief Fund provides financial assistance to Unitarian Universalist congregations impacted by the California wildfires and other natural disasters. In addition to facilitating their own disaster recovery, congregations receiving disaster relief fund have the discretion to provide financial assistance to their members, as well as to support local organizations serving the community at large. Go to <https://givinguua.org/disaster-aid> to donate and help out the California wildfire victims. Either the UUA Disaster Relief Fund or the UUSC is selected once a year as Hope's Generosity recipient.



MacArthur Elementary School

MacArthur still needs volunteer reading partners. Reading Partners trains volunteers to work one-on-one with students struggling with reading, following a structured, researched-based curriculum. It is a commitment of once or twice a week for 45 minutes. Please contact **Mary Newman** at **918-810-0953/try4peace@gmail.com** for more information.

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:

Shopping: Keith Hamilton

Friday Cooking: Joan Scheulen & Jean Coffey

Cooking: Team Leader Maggie Scott; Lana Larkin; Eddie Humphreys; Coe McGinley; and Carmen Kinsey

Serving: Team Leader Anita Ward; Mary Baird; Ryan & William Saylor; Joey Dewiel; Barbara Witt; and Gail Hawk

Transport: Mary Baird

The next Feed the Homeless date is Saturday, December 15

Volunteers Needed!

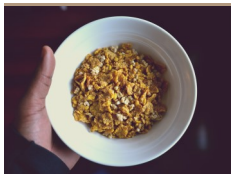
We still need a few more people to cook at Hope at 2:30, and to help serve at 5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. You can sign up in the binder on the Administrator's desk or call the church at **918.481.0999**.

Attention Hope Bakers

On December 15th when we prepare our meal for the Day Center for the Homeless we will provide a bag of homemade cookies for each client we serve that day.



You can help with this tradition by baking cookies for us. You can bake them ahead of time and put 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 15th at 2:30 pm. Please also join us at 2:30 pm if you would like to help us sort and put the cookies in snack bags to be handed out at the Day Center.



Cereal Sunday—Sunday, December 9

Please bring a box or two of cereal (preferably not Cheerios) for the homeless. There's a cereal basket in Fellowship Hall. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** on the third Saturday in the month when we serve their meal.

Hope's December Events

Need childcare? Email childcare@hopeuu.org at least 48 hours in advance to secure a spot.



Hanging of the Greens and A Christmas Carol Saturday, Dec. 1

Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 to decorate our beautiful space for the holidays, and stick around for pizza! Then at 1, we'll

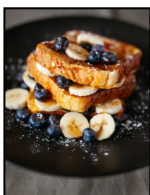
have an all-ages, audience-participation reading of Charles Dickens's classic story "A Christmas Carol." Come prepared to laugh, boo, and perhaps play a role. You are encouraged to bring cookies to share.

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, Dec. 2

1st Sundays

A big THANK YOU to **Mary Gardner, Rick Eagleton, Joan Scheulen, Lynn Walters, Jean Coffey, Anita Wood, Elke Johnson, and Eddie Humphreys** for hosting November's breakfast. Our next breakfast is Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. and will be hosted by **Anita Ward, Deborah Whittaker, Janet Nobles, and Paula Haight**. We still need hosts for March through June. If you or your group would like to prepare and serve breakfast, contact **Christy Levine** at chrstlvn@gmail.com.



Hope Book Club

Log Cabin, 1st Mondays

The book club is on hiatus until spring. See you then!



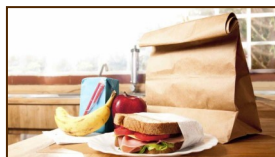
Threads of Hope 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the Log Cabin

Bring a sack lunch and join us with your projects! For more information, contact **Deborah Whittaker**.

Brown Bag Lunch

Thursdays, 11:30 am-1:00
pm

The Brown Bag discussion group meets for lunch every Thursday. **Rev. Cathey** leads the group the first Thursday of the month. Together the group explores "**This I Believe**" essays by Hope members, famous people, and the average citizen. They will read, listen, discuss and even write or revise their own statements.



Women of Hope Holiday Party December 6, 6:00pm (reception); 6:30 (dinner)

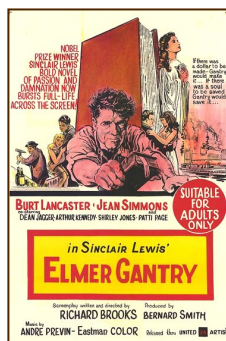
Our last gathering of the year is **Thursday, Dec. 6**. We forego a program and have a party with your contributions of a potluck dish. We're asking that you bring your favorite holiday story. It could be a fond memory, a funny experience, or almost anything. We will share our stories with each other and the best one will receive a door prize. Stories will be brief so we can all participate.

Our tradition is for each of us to bring an unwrapped toy for a local organization. This year we're donating our gifts of toys to the child cancer ministry in Tahlequah of our own **Rev. Gary McAlpin**. When asked, Gary told us: "Most of the families are financially drained because of the tremendous costs that childhood cancer afflicts them with, so they are very appreciative of anything that can help their children's Holiday time be better."

There are 14 families on a regular basis with 13 boys and 21 girls, ranging in age from 1 to 13 years. A sticker indicating boy/girl and an age or range would be helpful.

Guests are always welcome! We look forward to seeing you!

Anita Ward, Deborah Whittaker, and Ada Galli



Movie Night

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:00 pm

In December we're going to try *Elmer Gantry* again. This 1960 movie is based on a novel by Sinclair Lewis, and stars Burt Lancaster, Jean Simmons, and Shirley Jones. Both Lancaster and Jones won Oscars for acting, and the movie won another Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Elmer Gantry is a fast-talking, hard-drinking, traveling salesman who always has a risqué story and a hip flask to entertain cronies and customers alike. He is immediately taken with Sister Sharon Falconer, a lay preacher whose hellfire-and-damnation revivalism has attracted quite a following. Gantry uses his own quick wit and Bible knowledge to become an indispensable part of Sister Sharon's roadshow, but his past soon catches up with him in the form of Lulu Bains, now a prostitute. Come and see how *Elmer Gantry* ends up.

We will start the movie a little after 7:00 p.m. Please come join us and enjoy the movie, the free popcorn and soft drinks, and the discussions both before and after.



Walking Meditation
Sunday, Dec. 30
9:00 am

Every last Sunday in the month. Meet outside on the deck of Hope’s Log Cabin.

Wear shoes and clothing to match the weather. All ages welcome.

Volunteer Opportunities

Key People

If you’re available on evenings and weekends and enjoy a feeling of responsibility, you’d make a great key person! Key people take one-week shifts, during which they open the church and the Log Cabin as needed. If you’d like to participate in this necessary and rewarding program, please call the church office at **918.481.0999** or email **hopeuu@hopeuu.org**.



Greeters

Greeters are the first people everyone sees as they enter the church—they’re the face of our congregation, both to long-time members and to first-time visitors! If you’d like to serve in this important role, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the table by the front door.

Aesthetics Committee

The Aesthetics Committee needs help putting up candles in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service. If you can help, please contact committee chair Elizabeth Obal. Her information is in the church directory.

Membership

New member!

Please welcome **Bettina Larsen**, who became a member of Hope in November.



Members’ Birthdays
December

Madison Guthrie	4th
Maggie Scott	9th
Cate Potter	10th
Susan Swatek	13th
George Krumme	15th
Eric Reiman	19th
Jacci Hamilton	22nd
Sherrill Womeldorff	22nd
Anita Ward	22nd
Brian Marcum	28th
Mary Newman	31st

Key Person Schedule

December 3–9
 Fred Pottorf
 918-407-0924

December 10–16
 TBD

December 17–23
 TBD

December 24–December 30
 TBD

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone attending your function can open the building.
2. Find out if the 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.

Focus changes for 2019

In 2019, the *Focus* will go out on the last Wednesday of every month. Hence, the deadline will now be the Wednesday *before* the last Wednesday of every month. That means that in some months, the deadline will fall earlier in the month than it has in the past. Check the church calendar at **<http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>** for dates.

You may submit *Focus* articles in any text format: .txt, .rtf, .doc, .docx, etc. (but not in PDF, please). As always, you should send submissions to **hopeuu@hopeuu.org** and put “FOCUS” in the subject line.

Thanks!

For current events, visit the Hope Calendar at:

<http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

Focus Submissions

Send all input with “**Focus**” in the subject line. For the January *Focus*, the last day of consideration for submissions is **December 19**. Exceptions may be made when more information is needed.

Submissions may be made in the body of an email, or in Word or a similar text format—no PDFs, please. 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 **hopeuu@hopeuu.org**.



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FOCUS Issue September 2018 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
Yadene Hailu, Intern Minister, yadenee@hopeuu.org
Molly Ives Brower, Administrator, molly@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), rebecca@hopeuu.org
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 Paschal, Annie Simpson, Lynn Walters

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