

FOCUS



Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community

The monthly newsletter from Hope Unitarian Church

VOL. 26, NO. 3 | MARCH 2020

March Theme

PROPHETIC VOICES



This Month at Hope

PLEDGE DRIVE 2019-2020

Roaring into the '20s: Spiritual Growth through Generosity

The annual pledge drive is coming, and this year you'll notice some exciting changes. **The Reverend Diana Davies** of First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City will lead our pledge campaign. She will help us explore how our generosity toward the church is a vital spiritual undertaking in our lives.

Rev. Davies will preach on March 29 – a special day we are calling “Celebration Sunday.” Afterward, the church will hold a catered luncheon to celebrate the conclusion of this program. Save the date!

Throughout the month of March you'll learn more about this year's program from the Stewardship committee: **Josef Dalaeli, James Donovan, Paula Haight, Bruce Luria, Janet Nobles, Ryan Saylor** (Chair), **Annie Simpson**, and **Claudia Vandiver**.

Also in March...

Women of Hope presents: Interesting Birds of Oklahoma, with Dr. Jeff Cox, on March 5. See [p. 6](#) to find out more.

Our **Youth** will have a SCARY lock-in on March 13th and 14th at the

church. See [p. 5](#) for more information!

On Pi Day, 3/14, we'll gather at 3:14 p.m. to eat pie. See [p. 6](#) for details.

Finnegan's Awake performs at Adult Forum on Sunday, March 15. We hope you'll be here!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

ADULT FORUM: 10:00

SERVICE: 11:00

Childcare & Religious Education available from 9:45 until after the service

Breakfast on the Hill

9:00 a.m. the first Sunday of most months

Walking Meditation

9:00 a.m. the last Sunday of every month

Newcomer Orientation

After the service the first Sunday of every month in the Minister's Study

Invitation to Membership

After the service the third Sunday of every month

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Growing for Good

By Rev. Greg Stewart

What are the signs of a thriving congregation? Every faith community is unique, yet there are some commonalities among those that make a real difference for their members and the wider community. Among them:

☪ Good congregations **have visitors attending every Sunday**. There is a buzz among non-aligned seekers that something positive is happening and they are welcome to come and see.

☪ Good congregations **have an outward focus**. People come to be refreshed and refueled through ministries and then are a force for justice wherever life takes them.

☪ Good congregations **stand for something**. Far from being an outpost only for theological misfits, members can articulate what they do believe (as opposed to what they do not).

☪ Good congregations **exemplify a generous spirit**. Money is talked about freely and openly but is only one of several indicators. Congregants eagerly volunteer their time and enthusiastically share their talents.

☪ Good congregations **build a culture of generosity**. They understand that giving is, first and foremost, a catalyst for spiritual growth. That's the "What's in it for me?" of annual pledging. It changes you so that you can change the world.

☪ Good congregations **know their limitations**, even as they walk by faith. They don't keep adding programs. Instead they lead with their passions. They understand that virtually all church programs, events, and ministry teams have a shelf life.

Finally, good congregations **love the hell out of people**. It's why we're here! Bring your life's messes to us and we'll minister to them. Tell us why you don't fit in elsewhere and we'll make room for you here. Hold our hands and know that you're not alone.

Sound familiar? It does to me—thanks to you.

The joy continues,

LET'S MEET UP!

I'd like to get to know you better. Consider making an individual appointment with me. Invite me to your committee meeting. Meet offsite for breakfast, for lunch, or for a walk in the park. Stop by the church during my office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I'm eager to see you!

CONTACT US

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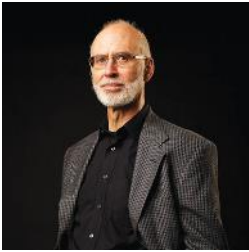
Building/Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.hopeuu.org

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Our Newcomer Orientation is on the first Sunday of each month. Visitors who are new to Hope will be invited to join him in the Minister's Study right after the service to watch a short film about Unitarian Universalism and ask questions. On the third Sunday, we'll offer an Invitation to Membership to those who wish to join the church.



Music News

By Dr. Joseph Rivers, Music Director

You may have noticed that we are presently using an electronic keyboard

to accompany services at Hope. So what happened to our beautiful Baldwin Grand Piano? I believe we would all agree that beauty must be periodically nurtured and restored, or it will wither. Indeed, just before Thanksgiving I received a call from Cynthia Jenkins of Jenkins Piano Company, who was tuning our piano for Sing, Noel. Cynthia informed me that Hope's piano had problems that needed serious attention, but that she was going to do a temporary fix in order for the piano to sound good enough for Sing, Noel. This was not a total surprise, for Chris Powell had noticed for more than a year that the piano has been experiencing issues such as sticking hammers and blunt, insipid notes.

I should mention that the TU School of Music entrusts Jenkins Piano Company with all of the tuning and repair of their many grands and uprights, as it has done for over 30 years, including the two 9-foot Steinways that our piano faculty hand-picked from the factory in New York. So after the New Year, I again spoke with

Cynthia, and she explained the following.

The most urgent problem is that the backs of the hammers have become detached, and the hammers must be replaced. There is no way to repair this problem without replacement, which involves installing new hammers, shanks, and flanges. In addition, the damper and damper guide rail felts will be replaced, and the dampers and damper action will be regulated. The pedals will also be regulated, along with the trap work. Finally, due to wear and middle-age, the bass strings will be replaced for a more vibrant bass sound.

The piano was moved professionally by Tony Doss piano movers, and is presently at the shop at Jenkins Piano Company, where the parts are being custom ordered and installed, and the piano regulated. Once this work is completed, the piano will be moved professionally back to Hope Church. Thanks to a kind and generous donation by **Mr. George Krumme**, who originally donated the piano to Hope Unitarian Church, our beautiful 9-foot Baldwin grand piano will be endued with new life to enable it to serve the Hope community and make great music for many years to come.

Are you
receiving our email
communications?

If you aren't receiving *Highlights, Focus*, or churchwide announcements by email, you might be missing out!

You can sign up for any of these on our website here:

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

You can also call the church at **918.481.0999** or email us at hopeuu@hopeuu.org to be added to any of our email lists.



MARCH'S GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Our March Generosity Recipient is **Fransein House**, a new facility for women and girls who have been victims of human trafficking.

In keeping with its longstanding tradition of seeing gaps in social services and looking to fill them, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM) has set its attention on the enormous issue of human trafficking in our city, especially in regards to young women and girls, and the lack of facilities or treatment to care for the very specific set of needs presented by that demographic. Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, an 82-year-old interfaith organization, has been behind a number of community institutions that spun off into independent ministries, including Meals on Wheels, The Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, and LIFE Senior Services. The next multiphase project will address the needs of women and girls who have been trafficked. The first phase will be called **The Fransein House**, named after Doris Fransein, former Tulsa County District Court chief juvenile judge. It will be housed near the Family Safety Center and will be a crisis-stabilization unit with referrals for treatment and care. The next phase will be a "Tulsa Girls Home," similar in size and scope to the existing Tulsa Boys Home, and will be a residence program to help these victims recover and live more full and complete lives. Currently there is only one residence treatment center in the entire state. That needs to change and TMM is dedicated to changing it.

Outreach News

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

A new order of Fair Trade goods has arrived from Equal Exchange and is on the cart in the Fellowship Hall. Try out the new whole-bean **Love Buzz** coffee, which is described as having a bold and intense flavor.

By purchasing from Equal Exchange, you are not only supporting small farmers around the world, but also supporting sustainable farming methods that help green the earth and fight climate change. Most Equal Exchange products are organic. The farmers protect and improve forest cover and habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife through shade farming. With fair trade premiums, the farming cooperatives are also able to make investments in education, health programs and social



FEED THE HOMELESS

In February our Feed the Homeless crew served 150 plates at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. **Joe & Mary Newman** did the shopping on Friday, and **Maggie Scott** did Friday prep cooking. **Eddie Humphreys, Rich Jackson, Lavon Boeck,** and **Chris Dunn** cooked on Saturday, led by **Brandy Morgan**.

Servers included **Guy & Judy Sims, Cynthia Heifner, Janet Nobles,** and **Lisa** and **Chris Dunn**, led by **Anita Ward. Mary and Matt Baird** delivered the food.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication!

*Our Feed the Homeless program is on the third Saturday of every month. Cooks meet at Hope at 2:30 to prepare the meal; servers meet at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless at 5:00 to serve. You can sign up in the green notebook at the church. The next Feed the Homeless is **Saturday, March 21.***



CEREAL SUNDAY

March 15

Bring a box of cereal (preferably not Cheerios) for us to take to the Day Center for the Homeless when we prepare their meal on the 21st.

Children and Youth

By Tennille Wilson

Come to our Youth Lock-In on **Friday, March 13th** from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. **March 14th!** The youth will be cooking, eating, laughing, and playing together!! Save the date **April 19th** to witness the important UU rite of passage that is youth sharing their credo statements (statements of their belief). We look forward to seeing you!

This month in CYRE our theme is *Faith*. We will be planting sunflower seeds to grow on our playground, making our own "pies" for Pi day, and much more.

We always need volunteers for our babies and toddlers and children with special needs. Please sign up in the green notebook to designate your time. Everyone who participates in activities with children must complete a background check to become a registered volunteer.

To share your gifts, please contact Tennille Wilson: tennille@hopeuu.org.



March Birthdays

Warren Cox	1
Stan Young	3
Michael Simpson	4
Lora Marschall	5
Christy Levine	6
Siannan Dunn	7
Diane Dudley	9
Anita Mills	11
Lottie Wilds	11
Lavon Boeck	18
Norma Eagleton	19

Correction

In February we left out a very important birthday: **Irene McKee**, the first woman president of the Hope Board of Trustees, had a birthday on Feb. 11. Happy belated birthday, Irene!



Board News

By Barbara Witt, Board of Trustees

Let me introduce myself.

I'm **Barb Witt**, a Trustee on your Hope Board. I want to share with members old and new how I feel about Hope. I've been a member for about nine years. I have seen many changes at

Hope, but the one thing that holds me close is the people. Some years I have been very involved and other years I have stepped back. This next term I will be very involved if I am voted in as VP of Programs.

My point is that it's good to try new things for personal growth, and since I've been on the board as a Trustee for only six months I've learned a lot and know I have many people I can call for help. Don't be afraid to jump in! We are all here to help!

I ❤️ Hope!

Transition Team

By Deborah Whittaker

Interim Ministry Workshop and Luncheon Sunday, March 15

Please join Rev. Greg for a second workshop to assist our congregation in reflecting on where we are in respect to our community service, spirituality support, social justice, etc. Utilizing this interim period will help us determine if we're on track with our mission statement and other goals.

The Transition Team will provide a luncheon with your food contributions after the Sunday service, with the workshop to follow immediately.

Your impressions and assessments are critical for a healthy congregation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nominating Committee

By Ken Jones

Your nominating committee members, **Cate Potter**, **Jo Ann Howse**, **Michael Simpson**, and **Ken Jones**, are putting together a strong slate of candidates for the 2020–2021 Board of Trustees. We are still searching for just the right person for President-Elect and Vice President for Finance and Planning. So if you are ready to step up and give back to our church, consider becoming a part of the team that is leading us into the future as a community. Contact any committee member for more information.

March Events

Monday, March 2

CYRE Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3

Programs Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 5



Women of Hope, 6 p.m. (Social Time); 6:15 p.m. (Dinner) 7:00 p.m. (Program)

On Thursday, March 5, we'll welcome Jeff Cox in collaboration with the Tulsa Audubon Society and his presentation of *Birds of Oklahoma*. He will share pictures and sounds of some of the more interesting birds you may (or may not) have seen in Oklahoma.

Jeff began watching birds at age 11 in Wichita, Kansas and developed a passion for birding that inspired him to earn a PhD in Ornithology. He has been a member of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee for almost 30 years. Throughout a 30-year career in IT Jeff continued watching birds, and now in retirement enjoys sharing his passion with others.

Please join us at 6:00 for social time, 6:15 for dinner and presentation at 7:00. Note the earlier time for dinner. The presentation will be advertised outside of the church, so many folks will be coming shortly before 7:00. Bring a couple of dollars if you would enjoy wine. Also, remember the ladies at the Tulsa Day Center and bring feminine hygiene products.

Invite a guest to join you for this interesting topic.

Deborah Whittaker, Anita Ward, and Ada Galli

Tuesday, March 10

Threads of Hope, 11:30 a.m.

We are now meeting just once a month, on the second Tuesday. We hope you can join us!

Movie Night, 7 p.m.

The Quiet Man is our March movie, and what better one to have, as St. Patrick's is only a week after our movie night. This 1952 movie stars John Wayne



and Maureen O'Hara. It has a strong supporting cast, and is a serious/comical love story of a man's return to Ireland, and trying to understand the local customs. Of course, he falls in love with a woman whose brother is strongly opposed to any such relationship. *The Quiet Man* was directed by John Ford, who won an Oscar for best director. Come and join us for a very entertaining movie on Tuesday, March 10, and we will even let you wear green. As always, soft drinks, popcorn, and conversation will be available.

Friday, March 13

Youth Lock-In, 5 p.m. (see p. 5)

Saturday, March 14

Pi Day, 3:14 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 is Pi (3.1415926) Day, and we're going to celebrate by eating pie!



You may bring your favorite pie, (homemade or store-bought), or you can just come eat! After the services on March 1 & March 8, you can sign up to bring a pie, or you can just show up with a pie on the 14th.

For more information, contact James Donovan at board-president@hopeuu.org.

Supper Club, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.

Our March restaurant choice is Tres Amigos Mexican Grill, located at 8144 S. Lewis Ave. Please join us on Wednesday, March 18, at 11:30 for a casual and fun lunch. Contact **Lynn Walters** if you plan to come so she can make reservations.

Saturday, March 21

Feed the Homeless, 2:30 p.m. (cooking) 5:00 p.m. (serving)

Monday, March 23

Focus Deadline

Tuesday, March 24

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

Memorial Service for Leslie Chesnut (Christy Levine's mother), 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 29

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sundays This Month at Hope

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 Breakfast on the Hill (sponsored by the Outreach Committee)

10:00 Adult Forum: Generosity Recipient—Fransein House

11:00 Sermon: Charles Darwin's Religion
(Rev. Greg Stewart)

When the light goes on, when the page is turned, when our eyes are truly opened, is it possible to still believe? It is an old question, one asked by humanity's mythic "first family," Adam and Eve, and relevant for us today. My own mentor in this query is Charles Darwin, who was both unable to believe in God and unable to admit to atheism. Where did that leave him, and where does it leave us today?

12:00 Newcomer Orientation

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

SPRING FORWARD: Set your clocks ahead one hour

10:00 Adult Forum: Minister Search

11:00 Sermon: Sisters in Persistence
In this week's service we'll celebrate Women's History Month, led by Women of Hope.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Cereal Sunday

10:00 Intergenerational Program: Irish music, featuring Finnegan's Awake

11:00 Sermon: Mary Oliver's Conversion
(Rev. Greg Stewart)

Mary Oliver is sometimes referred to as

the Poet Laureate of Unitarian Universalism. Her words and poetic images resonate with religious liberals for their openness, inquisitiveness, and a tone that suggests she is spiritual without being religious. Then came late in life her embrace of orthodoxy. We'll explore, through her poems, this spiritual journey and consider whether Oliver is still one of us.

12:00 Invitation to Membership

12:15 Interim Ministry Workshop/
Luncheon

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

10:00 Adult Forum: UU Socially Responsible Investing Committee (Julie Skye)

11:00 Sermon: Ralph Waldo's Obsession
(Rev. Greg Stewart)

Ralph Waldo Emerson asked a lot of questions of those who claimed to be the voice of God in nineteenth-century America. He found religion stale, with adherents living vicariously through the real-time faith encounters of previous generations. His questions: "Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe?" "Why should not we also have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition and a religion by revelation to us, and not the history of theirs?" Indeed, why not?

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 Walking Meditation

10:00 Adult Forum

11:00 CELEBRATION SUNDAY

12:00 Celebration Lunch

KEY PERSON SCHEDULE

March 2–8: David Lynn

March 9–15: Jim Sleezer

March 16–22: TBD

March 23–30: TBD

Please call the church to find out who is on key duty for your event.

Policy for function organizers

- First determine if someone attending your function can open the building.
- Find out if the church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours.
- If no one is available and you need entry, contact a Key Person or the church a few days in advance of the event.

Are you following us on Facebook?

We post events and other church news there, as well as photos and even an occasional video! We'd love to connect with you.

<https://www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch/>



FOCUS SUBMISSIONS

Send all submissions to hopeuu@hopeuu.org with "Focus" in the subject line. For the April *Focus*, the deadline is **March 23**. (Usually it's the Wednesday before the last Wednesday in the month, but March is a weird month.)

Submissions may be made in the body of an email, or in Word or a similar text format. 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.

This month's contributors were **Deborah Whittaker, Larry Vandiver, Christy Levine, Mary Newman, James Donovan, Lynn Walters, Dr. Joseph Rivers, Ken Jones, Rev. Greg Stewart, and Barb Witt**. Thanks to all of our terrific *Focus* contributors! It wouldn't exist without you.



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Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community

FOCUS v. 26, no. 3, March 2020 by Hope Unitarian Church
 8432 S. Sheridan Road, Tulsa OK 74133-4137

TO:



Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation.

2019–2020 Board Members and Trustees

James Donovan, President
Lee Ann Cole, President-Elect
Rick Eagleton, VP of Finance and Planning
Christy Levine, VP of Programs
Anita Wood, Treasurer
Joan Scheulen, Secretary
Cate Potter, Past President
 Trustees: **Rick Paschal**, **Annie Simpson**,
Barbara Witt, **Brian Tolle**



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March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Programs Council Meeting, 7 p.m.	4 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.	5 Women of Hope, 6 p.m.	6	7
8 Spring Forward Cereal Sunday	9	10 Threads of Hope, 11:30 a.m. Movie Night, 7 p.m.	11 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.	12	13 Youth Lock-In, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.	14 Pi Day, 3:14 p.m. Supper Club, 6 p.m.
15	16	17	18 Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.	19	20	21 Feed the Homeless, 2:30 (cooking); 5:00 (serving)
22	23 Focus deadline	24	25 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.	26	27	28 Memorial Service for Leslie Chesnut, 2 p.m.
29 CELEBRATION SUNDAY	30	31				