

FOCUS

JULY 2024



REFLECTION



JULY AT HOPE

July at Hope Unitarian Church promises a month filled with community, learning, and celebration. Finishing out the month, on Sunday, June 30th, we invite everyone to join us for our Pride Service. This special gathering, beginning with Breakfast on the Hill at 9:45 AM, will celebrate diversity and inclusion with uplifting music and reflections.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Thursday, July 18th, when we'll host Game Night starting at 6:00 PM. Games begin at 6:30 PM, offering a chance for laughter, camaraderie, and friendly competition among friends old and new.

For those eager to deepen their understanding of Unitarian principles, our Roots Class awaits you on Saturday, July 20th, at 9:00 AM. Whether you're new to our community or a longtime member, this class provides a nurturing space for growth and connection.

Please note, the Women of Hope will be taking a break from their monthly meeting this July, but they look forward to resuming their gatherings next month.

Join us this July at Hope Unitarian Church as we come together in fellowship and exploration.



IN THIS ISSUE

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

CARE TEAM

JULY EVENTS

ABOUT HOPE CHURCH



REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER ON HERITAGE

Over the years, I keep hearing this phrase: "set in stone." When something is set in stone, it means it is locked in, unchangeable, and static. This idiom comes from ancient Mesopotamia. When rulers would make decrees, they would be struck into clay tablets and dispersed among the people. One of the old Bible stories talks about Moses going up to Mount Sinai and receiving tablets of stone bearing the Ten Commandments. A faith passed down from generation to generation, set in stone.

But you need only to look at the rounded edges of a boulder or the deep cuts of the Grand Canyon to know that everything changes, even those things set in stone. Stone is so strong yet so brittle that even Moses shattered his. This is the wisdom of Unitarian Universalism. While many faiths look backwards to the lives of saints dead and gone, to books bound in leather, we choose to look forward. Oh, that doesn't mean we don't well regard these saints or even hold these books holy; it means only that revelation is not sealed.

These words written by James Luther Adams evoke a sense of and journey toward enlightenment, with the knowledge that this is a journey we will be ever on. A journey that will never end even though the journeyers will someday end. As Unitarian Universalists, we engage with the divine and human heritage as co-creators of a world that has not yet come to pass. Unitarian Universalists are architects and builders of a future for which some can only dream.



Rev. Justin would love to meet with you to provide pastoral care or just to get to know you!

His usual office hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 AM through 3 PM.

Please email him at revjustin@hopeuu.org to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom.

If your need is urgent, call him at 918-481-0999, x2.



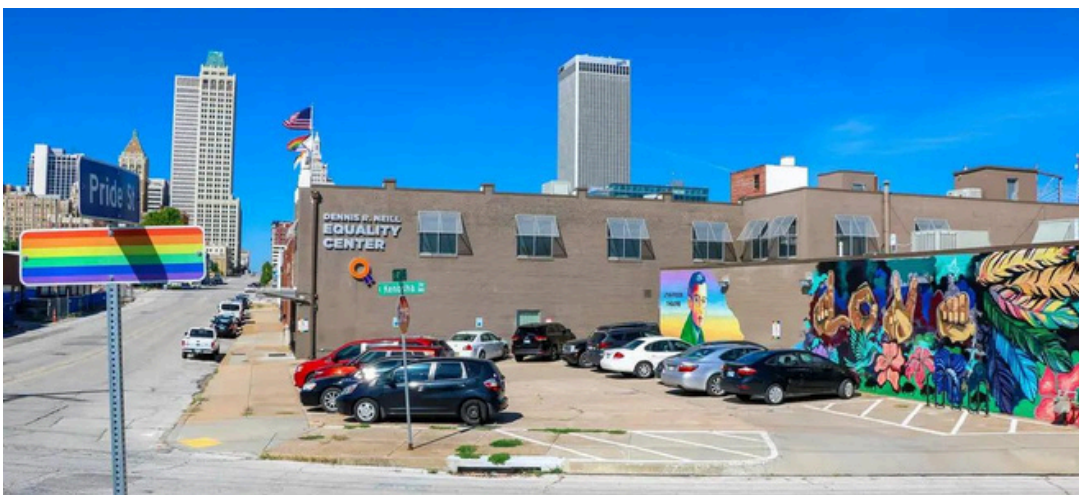
Oklahoma Equality Center

JULY GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Oklahomans for Equality strives to secure equal rights for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and families through advocacy, education, and community programs. Central to its mission is the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center, a vibrant hub for the LGBT community in Oklahoma. Established in 1995 and previously known as the Tulsa GLBT Community Center, it is one of the largest LGBT centers in the region, symbolizing the significant contributions of LGBT individuals and allies.

In 2005, following a successful capital campaign, OkEq purchased the Equality Center. The center underwent extensive renovations, powered by over 7,000 volunteer hours, and reopened in February 2007. The 18,000-square-foot facility includes an event center, lending library, and wellness center. Founded in 1980 as Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights (TOHR), OkEq has been a leading advocate for LGBT rights, hosting social events, establishing a speakers bureau, and initiating the first gay pride picnic in the state. During the HIV/AIDS crisis, OkEq became a state leader in testing and education by opening Northeast Oklahoma's first anonymous HIV testing clinic. In 1998, the H.O.P.E. (Health Outreach, Prevention & Education) organization was formed as a separate entity, though it continues to partner with OkEq.

The establishment of Oklahoma's first LGBT Community Center in 1996 was a milestone for OkEq, quickly becoming a central gathering place for the community. With the success of the Pyramid Project capital campaign, OkEq secured a permanent home for the community in 2005. After extensive renovations, the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center opened on January 23, 2007. The ongoing support of the community ensures that OkEq remains a steadfast advocate for equality and justice for all.



Donate
Volunteer



MESSAGE FROM THE CARE TEAM

VOL-UN-TEER; A PERSON WHO FREELY OFFERS TO TAKE PART IN AN ENTERPRISE OR UNDERTAKE A TASK.



The Care Team has been acknowledging the works of volunteers in our church community each month. We will continue to do so under Volunteer Appreciation going forward.

This month we honor James Donovan. There isn't very much that James has not done when called upon for Hope, including ministering a Sunday service. He's been the President of the Board of Trustees, most recently. That was a second term in the last five years. He spearheaded the search for our Interim Minister and led the Search Committee for our called Minister, Rev. McCreary. He's been a part of many Stewardship (pledge drive) programs. James was instrumental in the logistics of opening the church after Covid. He's done a tour of organizing Key persons and scheduling Greeters for Sunday mornings. He's set-up and taken down more tables for more events over the years than one can count. Thank you, James, for your commitment to Hope.





JULY EVENTS

● Board and Committee Meetings

All Hope members are welcome to attend the following meetings, which are held at the church unless otherwise indicated:

- Finance Committee: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, July 16th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 23rd

● Church Events

All are welcome to attend the events listed below. (This is not a complete list of events taking place at the church this month; other events may be private or limited to members of specific church groups.) Dates and times listed below may change! Please check the church's online calendar at www.hopeuu.org/calendar for the most current schedule of events.

Connie Seibold Memorial: Tuesday, July 16th at 1PM. At Zarrow Pointe

Roots Class: 9:00 AM, Saturday, July 20th

Game Night: 6:00 PM, July 18th, games begin at 6:30 PM

Sundays: Children and Youth Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10:00 AM, Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

● Log Cabin Rentals

The following support groups currently rent the Log Cabin on a weekly or monthly basis:

- Sundays, 2:00-3:00 PM: Gamblers Anonymous (GA)
- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM: SouthSide Recovery/Narcotics Anonymous (SSR/NA)
- Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-noon: Al-Anon
- Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 PM: Codependents Anonymous (CoDA)
- Usually the 3rd Saturday of each month, 4:00-6:00 PM: Victims' Voices (victim impact panel).

Check their website or www.hopeuu.org/calendar for specific dates.

● Cereal Days

Breakfast cereal (no Cheerios, please!) for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless can be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or Tuesday thru Friday from 9AM-3PM.

This Month's Cereal Sunday will be on July 14th.



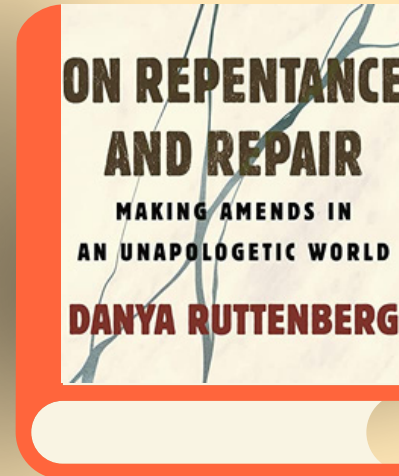
JULY EVENTS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Larry Knoles - 2
- Elke Johnson - 5
- Mary Gardner - 7
- James Young - 8
- Barbara Richardson - 18
- Andy Scott - 20
- Alyssa Self -23
- Gary Van Winkle -31



UU Common Read 2024

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World" by Danya Ruttenberg.



July Adult Forum Topics

- July 7: Generosity Recipient: Oklahoma Equality Center
- July 14: ACTION Update with Emilee Bounds
- July 21: Summer Self Care with Emily Scherer
- July 28: The Supreme Court of the United States with Charlie Dugan





ABOUT HOPE CHURCH

HOPE'S MINISTER

Rev. Justin M. McCreary

Rev. Justin's usual office hours are Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10 AM-3PM.

Please email him in advance at revjustin@hopeuu.org to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom.

If your need is urgent, call him. 918-481-0999, x2.

SUNDAYS

Children's Church and Youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Forum: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m.

Weekdays

Hope's general office hours are 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays. If you wish to visit the church in person, please call ahead to check staff availability. (For security reasons, external doors are kept locked unless an event is in progress.) We respond to email and voicemail messages from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays.

HOPE'S STAFF

Justin McCreary

Minister

Morgen Fields

Church Administrator

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

CONTACT US

Hope Unitarian Church

8432 South Sheridan Road

Tulsa, OK 74133

Mailing address:

PO Box 35284 Tulsa, OK 74153-0284

918-481-0999

hopeuu@hopeuu.org

www.hopeuu.org

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Tracy, President

Vanessa Self, President Elect

James Donovan, Past-President

Jeff Dossett, Vice President of Finance and Planning

Mary Baird, Vice President of Programs

Christy Chesnut Levine, Secretary

Cynthia Heifner, Treasurer

Emily Scherer, Trustee

Currently Vacant, Trustee

