

# FOCUS

## SEPTEMBER

### 2024



# Invitation





# SEPTEMBER AT HOPE

As we transition into the vibrant season of fall, Hope UU has a lineup of exciting events that you won't want to miss! On Sunday, September 8th, start your morning with our Activities Fair at 9:45 AM, where you'll have the chance to explore the diverse opportunities available at Hope UU. Whether you're interested in social justice, spiritual growth, or community service, there's something for everyone. During the fair, join us for Breakfast on the Hill and enjoy a delicious meal with friends old and new as we celebrate the beginning of a new church year together.

For those seeking deeper engagement, consider joining our Advanced Introduction to Liberal and Liberation Theologies course, starting September 14th. This three-part series, led by Rev. Justin, will introduce you to a range of theological perspectives, including Liberal Theology, Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, Mujerista Theology, and Process Theology, and how they integrate with Unitarian Universalist beliefs. If this course piques your interest, please email Rev. Justin at [revjustin@hopeuu.org](mailto:revjustin@hopeuu.org) to sign up.

Looking ahead, don't miss our Annual Hope Auction on Saturday, November 9th. This year's theme, "A Fiesta of Fun & Generosity," promises an evening filled with dinner, music, and both silent and live auctions. It's a wonderful opportunity to support our church's mission while enjoying a festive night out. Ticket sales begin on October 6th, so stay tuned for more details. Let's come together this fall to celebrate, learn, and grow as a community.



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# REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER YOU ARE INVITED!

September in many Unitarian Universalist congregations celebrates new beginnings—a new church year, a new school year, and a new opportunity to make friends. We call this season Ingathering, and though it comes from our historical connection to academia, the idea of ingathering is rooted in the harvest. It is a season, an opportunity to gather what has been planted and toiled over through the long, hot summer. It also represents bringing people together. During the season of Ingathering, we celebrate what we have and who we are as a people and a church. It is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and recommit to our future together, a reminder of who we are.

This is a very energetic time for Unitarian Universalists. This new season brings with it new hope and new opportunities for love and shared joy. In this spirit, the theme for the month of September will be Invitation. Invitation evokes the idea that all are welcome; this welcome, though, is not a passive one. When we receive an invitation in the mail, we are being invited—we are being asked to join in. It is active. And though anyone who walks through our doors is welcome, it is a way to say we believe you will find a home here.

We take this opportunity to welcome not just people, but new ideas, new dreams, and new goals. We invite the idea that we are not done growing, that we will not just change but will invite change—that we will invite newness into ourselves. So let me take the opportunity to invite you to our faith, our church, and our community.



**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](mailto: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.**





# League of Women Voters Of Metropolitan Tulsa SEPTEMBER GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

The League of Women Voters (LWV) has been a cornerstone of American democracy since its inception in 1920, just before the historic ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Originally formed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women navigate their new civic responsibilities, the League quickly grew into a powerful nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering voters and fostering informed civic participation. Over the decades, the LWV has championed various causes, from advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment to sponsoring presidential debates, all while maintaining its commitment to providing voters with accurate, nonpartisan information.

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa, celebrating its centennial, exemplifies the national organization's mission on a local scale. For 100 years, the Tulsa League has played a crucial role in the community, focusing on voter education, registration, and advocacy. Their initiatives include organizing candidate forums, producing comprehensive voter guides, and conducting in-depth studies on pressing issues such as criminal justice reform. In recent years, the Tulsa League has also worked tirelessly to increase voter turnout, particularly among younger voters, who are often underrepresented at the polls.

The Tulsa League's efforts extend beyond election seasons, reflecting a deep commitment to civic engagement year-round. Their work to educate and engage the public ensures that all citizens, regardless of party affiliation or background, have the tools they need to make informed decisions at the polls. As the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa continues its work into its next century, it remains a vital force in the community, upholding the values of democracy and empowering every voice to be heard. Through their dedication, the Tulsa League helps shape a more informed and engaged electorate, ensuring that democracy thrives at both the local and national levels.

[Donate](#)  
[Volunteer](#)  
[Register](#)





**CYRE SURVEY -  
YOUR INPUT IS  
INVALUABLE! CLICK [HERE](#)**



## September News from CYRE at Hope!

Hello Amazing Supporters of CYRE at Hope!

As we transition into fall, there's much to share and plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. This September, we're focusing on reclaiming and refreshing our physical space, and we need your help!

**Workday: Saturday, September 28th 10 am**

Join us for a deep cleaning and organizing day! We're aiming to tackle both the Cabin, the Playground, and Downstairs areas. Much progress has already been made, so we have a head start! But we still need hands-on help to finish the job. Donuts and other surprises for everyone who participates! Older kids and teens willing to work are also welcome!

Here's how you can get involved:

1. **\*\*RSVP\*\***:

2. **\*\*Volunteer Captains Needed\*\***: We're looking for a captain for each area (Cabin, Playground, and Downstairs) to act as the point person on the day of the event. Please email or text Vanessa, CYRE Committee Chair if you CAN help: [vshome@live.com](mailto:vshome@live.com) or 970-759-4913

We need a variety of skill sets—whether it's organizing, cleaning, or some handy-person tasks with basic tools. If you have a toolbox or a truck, even better! Let's work together to ensure our space is clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone, including our new homeschool co-op group renting downstairs.

### CYRE Program Updates

As we gear up for a new season, it's also time to focus on the long-term success of our CYRE program. This includes re-engaging in the task of hiring staff and recommitting ourselves to providing a strong, safe, and happy religious education experience for our children and youth.

We are currently in the process of hiring a Director of Religious Education and teachers. Job postings will open in September, so please watch for those and share them with friends or community members who might be a great fit!

### New Initiatives: CYRE Walk and Talks

In October, Vanessa, CYRE Committee Chair, will be starting a monthly "Walk and Talk" to foster ongoing communication and leadership development. If a walk isn't accessible for you, we can connect over coffee, video calls, texts, or emails. Let's keep the conversation going to ensure we're all on the same page and moving forward together. Save the Date: 10/26 10 a.m. at HUNTER PARK.







# invitation

by Elizabeth Obal

Invitation is, on the surface, a strange theme. It's not hope or love. What's the value in it, besides padding out the schedule? To find the answer, I had to consider it in the context of the year. As both church members and part of the larger culture, we're coming back to church, school, and perhaps work, from summer vacations. Coming back can be an easy choice—a return to familiar environs. If it's a new place, however, people prefer an invitation. I don't think I would have returned to Hope so regularly when I first started, except for invitations to walk the trails, light the chalice, or join the choir.

Even if it's for something familiar that we were intending to do anyway, invitations are a welcome and welcoming positive energy. Invitation has many aspects, in my mind. It speaks of preparation. If you're invited to a party, then that party is planned and scheduled. People have worked to make something appealing to others. It speaks of both confidence and vulnerability. It shows that the planner wants others to attend their event and is at least a little confident of a yes. It also has, inherently, the chance of rejection, hard and soft. Will someone rip up the invitation in front of you, saying no immediately, or will they forget to come later, even if they were interested? But if the answer is yes, invitations mean we can join together! Humans are social beings. The presence of others matters in our lives. Like ants, together we create a super-organism that does more than any one person could do, and we find meaning from the feedback others give us. Are we doing the right thing? Are we all working together? Despite our culture's emphasis on self-reliance, we are individuals inside a larger system.

Politics and politeness are also part of invitations. You might invite people to certain events to avoid offense: family members to weddings, for instance. Sometimes we send invitations with no expectation of a yes. Inviting a famous scientist to your birthday party or graduation, even though they may never get it or come, is making a tangible wish. In more casual situations, it's only polite to wait for an invite—an indication of interest in spending more time together. Invitations are inclusive, allowing others to join us. We are not holding ourselves apart when we invite others in. In fact, we give up some control of our experience when we ask others to come in and be a part of it. While this is scary at times, I think it's worthwhile.

In the end, I feel invitations are acceptance, pre-made into words or cards. From something as aggravating as "You're pre-approved!" to a more tentative "Will you come to my party?" They cover the space between people and make it into energy that pulls us together. So, won't you join us as we explore what invitation means this month?





# MESSAGE FROM THE CARE TEAM

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



Champions of volunteerism in our church community we honor this month are Claudia and Larry Vandiver. They have provided a great deal of support to our members. Claudia has served on the Board of Trustees and the Finance committee several times during her membership. She has been involved with many Pledge drives over the years. As a Master Gardener, she has provided many of us with gardening tips.

Claudia has served as a Key Person for quite some time. Larry has spent some time as A/V support over the years and provided Movie Night projection as well. Most recently he has taken on leadership as a representative for Hope in the Tulsa ACTION organization. His days of moving chairs around for events in the sanctuary are behind him but, memorable. Claudia and Larry are a joy to work with and we are grateful for their contributions to Hope.







# SEPTEMBER 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, September 17th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 24th

## ● 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](http://www.hopeuu.org/calendar) for the most current schedule of events.

- Women of Hope: Thursday, September 5th, 6:00 PM.
- Activities Fair: Sunday, September 8th, 9:45 AM
- Breakfast on the Hill: Sunday, September 8th, 10:00 AM
- Game Night: 6:00 PM, September 19th.
- Feed the Homeless: September 21st, 5:00 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](http://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 September 8th.





# SEPTEMBER EVENTS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Angela Hart - 2

Nancy Henry - 7

Jakob Levine - 10

Laura Prather Reiman -11

David Lynn - 13

Kim Rauh - 13

Robert Billings - 15

Morgen Fields - 18

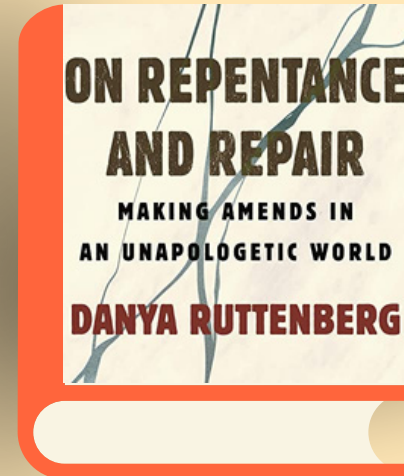
Jacob Hart - 18

Angelica Anrig - 20

Bruce Luria - 23

Leon Scott - 26

Rachel Hay -28



### 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.

### September Adult Forum Topics

Sept 1: A representative from our September Generosity Recipient, League of Women Voters, will be speaking

Sept 8: Breakfast on the Hill & Program Fair

Sept 15: Creating Inclusive Communities: Understanding a Variety of Roles for Allies of Children and Adults with Special Needs with Vanessa Self

Sept 22: Hope's Mission & Vision Part 3 with David Tracy

Sept 29: The Annual Presentation of the Hope Foundation







# Ice Cream Social







# 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](mailto: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](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org)

[www.hopeuu.org](http://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

