



Focus
March 2025

Trust



CHILI COOKOFF, PLEDGE DRIVE KICK-OFF!

Hope Unitarian Church invites you to join us on Sunday, March 9th, at 12:00 PM for our annual Chili Cookoff and Pledge Drive Kickoff! This beloved tradition brings our community together for an afternoon of delicious food, friendly competition, and an opportunity to reflect on the importance of stewardship in sustaining our church. Whether you're entering your best chili recipe or simply coming to enjoy the flavors and fellowship, your participation helps set the stage for another year of growth and generosity.

Over the past year, our collective contributions have made a meaningful impact, from supporting our vibrant music program and special performances to maintaining and improving our sacred space. Volunteers have enhanced our church grounds, tackled essential repairs, and ensured that Hope UU remains a welcoming and sustainable place for all. As we look ahead, financial sustainability remains crucial to keeping our church thriving as a place of spiritual growth, justice, and connection.

We invite you to reflect on what Hope UU means to you and how you can support our mission in the coming year. Every pledge, no matter the amount, strengthens our ability to nurture community, inspire change, and provide a sanctuary of hope and belonging. Join us for an afternoon of warmth, both from the chili and from the generosity of our beloved community!



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

MEMORIES OF TRUST

One of my earliest memories is leaving a parade when I was a small child and being unable to continue walking. At that age I had a lot of stomach problems tied to my anxiety and I was an anxious little child. My father picked me up and carried me to the car. I don't remember the car, I don't remember the parade, in fact I remember very little except being picked up by my dad.

I hadn't thought about that in years until I went to visit my father the other day, seeing him laid up in a hospital bed. I racked my brain trying to remember more information, trying to remember where we were when we were or even how old I was, but I can't. All I remember is that moment of being picked up by my dad and feeling safe.

It's funny the way the brain works, how we are tied to emotions and how important those emotions are in recall, and how moments of trust burn themselves into our souls. Wouldn't it be nice to feel that way again. To feel the safety and comfort of a father's hand. Sadly, as we get older, we learn that trust is not always so freely earned. Over the years the natural enmity between father and son would rise. I learned from Freud that it is the desire of all sons to kill their father, I assume he meant figuratively, to step away from that child who needs to be held to becoming the person who can when the time is right hold and shield others who are in need.

I learned what it was like to feel safe from my father, and in that learning came to understand as I grew older that I too could give this gift to others.



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.



DVIS

MARCH GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) has been a vital resource in Tulsa since 1976, beginning as a simple crisis hotline for abuse victims and growing into a comprehensive agency addressing family violence. Over the years, DVIS has expanded its services to include emergency shelters, counseling for survivors and offenders, legal advocacy, and community outreach. With the opening of its first shelter in 1981, DVIS quickly recognized the growing need for safe housing, leading to the development of larger facilities, including the 90+ bed shelter and transitional housing that opened in 2015. The organization has continuously evolved to better support survivors, including offering pet-friendly shelters and services for male survivors—innovations that set DVIS apart in its mission to provide safety and healing for all. Through partnerships with law enforcement, legal services, and medical professionals, DVIS has become a national model for intervention and prevention. The establishment of the Ann Patterson Dooley Family Safety Center in 2006

brought together multiple agencies under one roof, making it easier for survivors to access legal aid, protective orders, and forensic medical services.

In 2017, the completion of the Moran Family Counseling Center further expanded DVIS's reach, offering outpatient counseling and administrative support. The organization's commitment to equity and inclusion ensures that all survivors—regardless of background, gender identity, or ability—receive compassionate and effective care. Guided by a philosophy that all people deserve to live free from violence and oppression, DVIS continues to advocate for systemic change while providing critical services to individuals and families affected by domestic and sexual violence. By fostering collaboration and education within the community, the organization works to break cycles of abuse and create a future where every relationship is built on safety, dignity, and respect. Our church is honored to support DVIS as this month's generosity recipient, standing in solidarity with their mission to help survivors regain control of their lives and move forward with hope.

[DONATE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)





Trust by Nia Darrington-Stokes

Trust is the unseen force holding relationships, organizations, and societies together. It is essential to continually nurture relationships over time through honesty, consistency, and dependability, yet it can be fractured instantly by deception or betrayal. Whether in personal relationships, workplaces, or social institutions, trust shapes the depth of our connections and the resilience of our communities. When trust is strong, communication flourishes, collaboration thrives, and unity prevails. When lacking, misunderstandings grow, cooperation erodes, and divisions deepen. At its core, trust is a belief in the integrity and reliability of others. It provides a sense of security in our relationships, confidence in our choices, and faith in the systems that guide our lives. Understanding trust's vital role can strengthen our connections, foster accountability, and build communities grounded in respect and mutual support.

As a DRE, I aim to create an environment where children interact with trustworthy people. This environment is imperative for children to develop a strong sense of trust; they need an environment that nurtures security, consistency, and emotional safety. The foundation of a child's ability to trust begins at home, in school, and within their broader community. To cultivate a trustworthy atmosphere for children, caregivers, educators, and communities must focus on the following: Providing Emotional Security, Modeling Honesty and Integrity, Maintaining Consistency and Reliability, Encouraging Open Communication, Setting Healthy Boundaries, Offering Unconditional Support, and Teaching Conflict Resolution with Compassion.

In conclusion trust is not static; it is a living, evolving force that requires care and attention. Trust fosters deeper connections and a sense of belonging in our relationships, workplaces, and communities. A trustworthy environment provides the foundation for emotional security, self-confidence, and healthy relationships for children. By practicing honesty, reliability, and empathy, we create a world where trust thrives, strengthening individuals and entire communities for generations to come.





MARCH 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, March 18th.
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25th.

● 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.

HERstory Hour: Saturday, March 1st, 1:30 PM

Women of Hope: Thursday, March 6th, 6:00 PM

Chili Cookoff and Pledge Drive Kickoff: Sunday, March 9th, 12:00 PM (After Service)

Feed the Homeless: Saturday, March 15th, 5:00 PM

Game Night: Thursday, March 20th, 6:00 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, 3:00-4:00 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 March 9th.

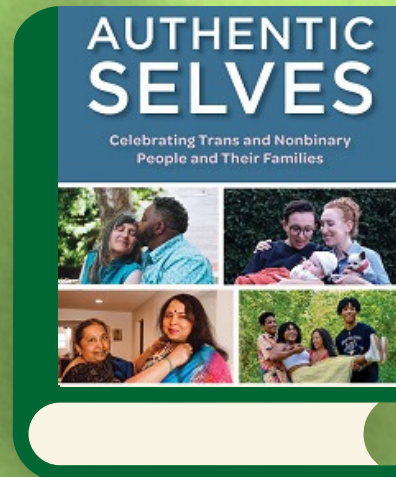


MARCH EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

March Birthdays

Warren Cox - 1
Lora Marschall - 5
Marge Carrison - 7
Siannan Dunn - 7
Jackie Bonner - 8
Judy Sims - 10
Shaden Prather - 15
Angela Reece - 15
Christy Levine - 16
Lavon Boeck - 18
Guy Sims - 18
Diane Dudley - 19
Norma Eagleton - 19



UU Common Read 2024-2025

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families" edited by Peggie Gillespie

March Adult Forums

March 2: Generosity Recipient, Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS)
March 9: Pledge Drive Kickoff with Jeff Dossett & Vanessa Self
March 16: Tattoos with Gary McAlpin
March 23: Mission & Vision, Part 4 with David Tracy
March 30: To Be Determined



HOPE BANNED & CHALLENGED BOOK CLUB

Hope Banned & Challenged Book Club where we explore and discuss literature that has faced censorship and controversy.

Together, we delve into the themes, societal impacts, and reasons behind the challenges to these important works. You are welcome to join the discussions even if you haven't read the books.

Step 1: Purchase the book from a bookseller or borrow it from a library.

Step 2: Read and think about the book.

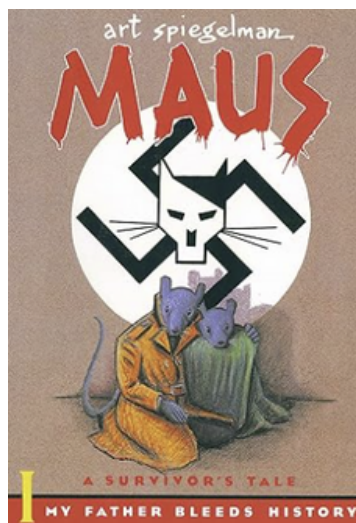
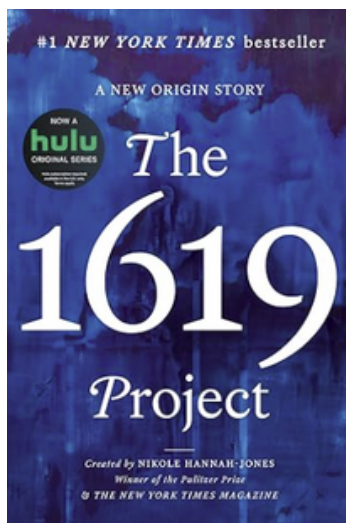
Step 3: Discuss the book at Hope on a Sunday morning at 10am.

Upcoming Book Discussions

April 13, 2025: Maus by Art Spiegelman

June 8, 2025: Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

For more information, contact James Donovan at tulsaus@yahoo.com





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

Nia Darrington-Stokes

Director of Religious Education

Morgen Fields

Church Administrator

Rachel Hay

Interim Lead Teacher

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

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2024-2025 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

Rick Eagleton, Trustee

Carol Young, Trustee

