



**From the Minister**

**Look Back, Look Forward  
Hope Unitarian Church 1968-2018**



*Janus* is the ancient Roman God of both endings and beginnings. *Sankofa* is the Akan tribe of Ghana's mythical bird facing forward while looking back. The pair of ancient Chinese door gods *Shenshu* and *Yulu* oversees the coming and going of people and spirits. Every culture and civilization has a way to honor and acknowledge how the past informs both the present and future.

This New Year is an auspicious one for Hope Unitarian Church. We honor and celebrate what 2017 meant to all when we set our intentions with our annual Burning Bowl ritual on New Year's Eve Sunday.

This year—2018— also marks a milestone in the church's history. The church was founded in 1968. Our charter was signed by fifty-three adventurous and brave souls on December 8th. The framed original hangs at the back of our sanctuary. 2018 represents fifty thriving years of Hope Church.

We will celebrate the progress of this community throughout the year in big and small ways. We will look back to our city and our Unitarian Universalist Association before our church existed. Seeds of our values and importance reside in these older eras. We will explore 1968, a dramatic year in our nation's history, then every decade leading up to our present day.

One culmination of honoring Hope's 50<sup>th</sup> will be a series of events: dinners, worship and celebrations the weekend of October 5-7. Mark your calendars now. I have started calling 2018 the Year of the Party.

We will not simply be looking back but also imaging our future. What will Hope be like in five years or another fifty? How will south Tulsa change? What needs will our community have? What theological innovations will meet our evolving self-understandings? This will be a year to reexamine our values and goals as a whole church community.

I look forward to working together to shape how Hope tells its own creation story. This crafting of our history is our way of strengthening our bonds in order to make changes in the world. Nothing less will do.

With joy,



*Volume 24*

*No. 1*

*January  
2018*

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## Sunday Services

### Sunday Worship 11am - Sanctuary

**Sunday, January 7**  
"Stone Soup"

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Where is hope found in the classic retelling of the Stone Soup story? Here's a hint, hope is more easily found in the input and support of a village or community.

**Sunday, January 14**  
"Building Beloved Communities"

The Rev. Cathey Edwards  
& Yadene Hailu

Martin Luther King nominated Buddhist Monk Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay) for a Nobel Peace Prize. The two men shared a vision for a beloved community. Now 90, Thay's work gives us hints into how MLK might be working in the world today.

**Sunday, January 21**

"Once Upon a Time:  
Prehistory of Hope Hill"

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

As a kick off to celebrating Hope's 50th Anniversary, we will look from time to time at various period of time. We begin with the hill and tell its story geologically and as a place where First Nation people gathered

**Sunday, January 28**

"Hope: Mine, Yours & Ours"

Yadene Hailu

A strong, successful, and sustainable community is one where individual and group aspirations are clear and overlap. Like a Venn Diagram, the pigment is most potent and concentrated in the space where similarities are unified. Let's consider and center our shared hopes for this church community in the spirit of the New Year.



This month's theme is also our church namesake. Hope Unitarian Church is both named after this spiritual practice as well as named for Hope Holway, one of our founding members. It is appropriate we look at hope the first month we celebrate our church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sometimes the notion of hope feels impossible or even silly. How can anyone have hope after learning dreadful news or when the world around seems to be falling apart?

Hope is a basic ingredient of optimism supporting a tendency to dwell on the best possibilities. It is a frequent companion of enthusiasm. It, too, is energizing. The greeting "Be of good cheer" puts it well.

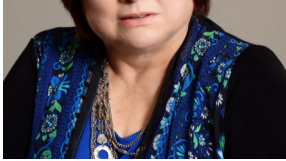
But a more common — and very telling expression — is "Hope for the best, but expect the worst." The more likely outcome, it implies, is the worst. When we are without hope, we easily fall victim to such negativism. When the light of hope is absent, we are overcome by gloom and doom, despair and defeatism.

Hope is a lens for seeing the world and imagining unseen possibilities. It requires constant readjustment. It is in the reframing of what seems terrible or impossible that hope is a valid, useful tool. Hope must coexist with humility by acknowledging we cannot see fully into the future nor know exactly how life, even something that seems certain, will unfold. With hope, we can both live and die wisely.

We will explore hope in all its complicated attributes during the whole month of January.

#### About Our Monthly Themes

Our monthly themes express Hope Church's openness to theological exploration. They are not an endorsement of any particular creed or belief. Instead, they provide a monthly opportunity to examine in common a religious doctrine or idea.



Keri Vandiver, Ann Lee, Lee Ann Toile

Childcare is available during all church events, committee meetings and Board meetings. If you need childcare during a church activity, please email [childcare@hopeuu.org](mailto:childcare@hopeuu.org) at least 2 business days before the event.

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

**Sundays 10:00 am—12:00 pm**

Religious education is focused on the theme of the month as well as curriculum designed to help Hope's young ones discover answers to life's big questions. The curriculum includes chapel, religious education about Unitarian Universalism and other faiths, art, nature and outdoor experiences. Parents are always welcome to join their children in our religious exploration.

"I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hopes always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death."

— Robert Fulghum, UU Minister & Author

As Unitarian Universalists, we give ourselves the gift of rethinking what we have been taught, to go beyond how the previous generations interpreted social norms and even the sacred. Some of us only accept the reality of their experience and the now. Some embrace ideas not yet fully understood. Some are in-between.

Why, when we do not adhere to the same thoughts and ideas about the divine and many other things, for that matter, do we stick together? The Hope congregation has stuck together for fifty years. Few relationships last that long and still here we are. We come and go, some by choice, some by death, and some by circuitous life journey that appears to have no reason. Our founders imagined a free church in south Tulsa; experience building a new congregation was minimal among them. Their hope was a flourishing congregation. Their dream was more powerful than their knowledge or experience.

Many of our founders live on in our hearts now, long gone to the Mighty Cloud of Witnesses. A few remain with us, still working on their dream. I see them, supporting the church in obvious and quiet ways. I love your tenacity and generosity. Those gone before us are remembered in images, stories and laughter. Thank you, whether you are living among us or in our hearts. May you all know that you are beloved among us?

Because of these beloved, we have the opportunity to participate in the dream. My dream is our young ones will continue to have a community who loves them as there are; knowing there is hope after mistakes are made and redemption is available; knowing that they are free to experience their unique spiritual journey and still be welcome here.

This year, we celebrate the living and the dead and the ties of love that bind us together. We celebrate the founders, today's stalwart members & friends, those who meander, our children, who give us vitality and hope for the future, and the next fifty years.

## Forthcoming CRE Events

**24 Hours of Hope—Beginning at noon on Sunday, January 14**

Lunch followed by a multigenerational, poster making, marching song singing event in preparation for MLK parade.

Susan Spooner



The theme of "Hope" for this first month of 2018 beautifully flows from the messages of light and hope that we explored musically in our *Sing Noel* service in December, and will also be reflected in our music for January.

The winter solstice that just took place, which signaled the gradual increase of light, will gain strength in the coming month.

The choir also begins rehearsing again on Wednesday, January 3, from 7 to 9pm. If you are interested in singing in the choir, we would love for you to join us in making music at Hope!

**Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music  
[joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org](mailto:joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org)

## Breakfast on the Hill

### Cooks Needed!

#### First Sundays in the month

If you or your committee/group would like to prepare and serve the breakfasts in **April, May, and/or June**, please contact **James Donovan**  
[tulsaus@yahoo.com](mailto:tulsaus@yahoo.com)

## Brown Bag Lunch

The Brown Bag discussion group meets for lunch and discussion every Thursdays at 11:00 am  
First Thursdays we meet with **Rev. Cathey Edwards**  
**Thursday, January 4, at 11:00am-1:00pm**

This year we are watching short TEDx talks and discussing them. We will meet in the sanctuary to view the talk by a cultural historian "Tiffany Watt Smith: The History of Human Emotions." The presentation is about how "the words we use to describe our emotions affect how we feel and they've often changed (sometimes very dramatically) in response to new cultural expectations and ideas. Take nostalgia, for instance: first defined in 1688 as an illness and considered deadly, today it's seen as a much less serious affliction. In this fascinating talk about the history of emotions, learn more about how the language we use to describe how we feel continues to evolve --

## Sundays, 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary

### January 7

#### Generosity Sunday

We welcome a guest speaker from the Tulsa Boys' Home, our generosity plate recipient for January.

### January 14

#### Cohousing

**Suzy Sharp** will be presenting on Cohousing

### January 21

#### 50th Anniversary Kick-off

#### The Geology of Hope Hill

We begin with pre-history and acknowledge this beautiful hill existed long before the church. Hope member and geologist **Steve Witt** will discuss the formation of our unique lookout.

### January 28

#### Hope Super Bowl Forum

A panel of church members will preview the Super Bowl. There will be many entertaining surprises along the way.

Please contact **Chris Anrig**, Adult Religious Education Chair, at [cmanrig@hotmail.com](mailto:cmanrig@hotmail.com) for additional information.

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the designated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church out in our community.

**In December we raised:**  
**\$1,266 for Veteran's Home Repair Project**  
**(Meals on Wheels)**  
**And from our Christmas Eve Service:**  
**\$324.00 for Youth Services of Tulsa**

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
November	UUA Disaster Relief	\$2,094
October	Alzheimer's Association	\$1,186.78
September	Street Cats	\$905.00

## Generosity Recipient—January Tulsa Boys' Home



The mission of Tulsa Boys' Home is to provide the highest quality residential care for young boys needing placement outside their home, for the purpose of developing well-adjusted, responsible adults and strengthening the family.

Each day, Tulsa Boys' Home delivers residential services to 64 boys and their families (when there is a family). 40 of the residents are placed by the child welfare division of the Department of Human Services, and the other twenty-four are privately placed by parents or legal guardians in our Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

Since 1918, they have helped nearly 13,000 boys, many of whom have learned to lead happy, productive, and successful lives. Most credit TBH for breaking the cycle of poverty, abuse, neglect, and drug addiction that often had pervaded their home life from one generation to the next. Therefore, the work of healing and instilling new found hope is multiplied many times over

clients at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** the third Saturday of every month.

Thanks to the following people who helped in **December**

- Shopper: **Keith Hamilton**
- Friday cooking: **Mary Newman**
- Meal prep, cooking, with Team Leader, **David Tracy: Eddie Humphreys, Rich Jackson, Joey Dewiel, Lana Larkin, Michael and Eden Simpson.**
- **Anita Ward, Mary Baird, Michael, Annie, Kiri and Eden Simpson** for sorting and bagging the home baked cookies we gave to the clients at the Day Center.
- Serving at the Day Center with team leader, **Anita Ward: Debby Baker, Janet Nobles, Amy Jones, Holly Dunlap, Tara Edwards, Lynn Rivers, Fred Pottorf.**

*The cookies were much appreciated.  
Thank you Hope Bakers*

**Next Feed the Homeless date is:**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018**  
**Volunteers Needed!**

2:30 pm at Hope to help cook and prepare food.  
 5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless to help serve the meal.

*You can also sign up for the months ahead. Sign up sheet is in the folder on Administrator's desk.*

## Cereal Sunday

**Sunday, January 14**

Please bring cereal for the homeless. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** every month when we prepare their meal. The





## Star Tree

The Star Tree gifts were delivered several days before Christmas by **Lynn Walters, Mary Newman** and **Deborah Whittaker**. Thank you to everyone for your amazing generosity and support for the Star Tree.

Special thanks to **Lynn Walters** for coordinating with Lindsey House and also shopping, wrapping and helping with delivery. Much appreciation to **Jean Coffey** and **Joan Scheulen**, who also did much of the shopping, wrapping and sorting.

Many other people stepped in and assisted, whenever they could. The Outreach Committee is very appreciative of all the support and help we received.



## Donation Drive for HOMELESS VETS

The Veteran's Administration funds a program to assist homeless veterans in locating, obtaining and maintaining housing. Many of these Vets live in tents because they cannot tolerate the loud noises of a homeless shelter. This program does not provide funds for gloves, hats, scarves, blankets or coats. The Outreach Committee is having a donation drive through the month of January for these items.

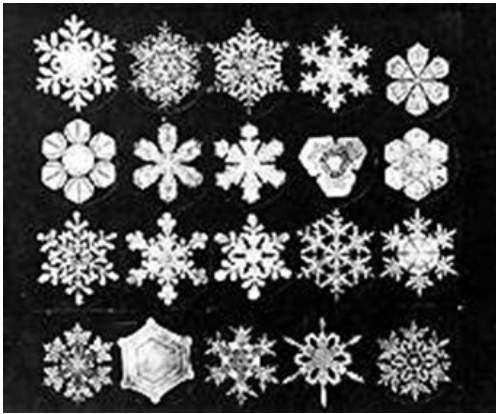
Please bring in **your new or gently used gloves, hats, scarves, blankets or men's coats** and leave in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall. If you prefer to make a cash donation, leave your cash or check in the small basket on the table. Please write "Veterans' donation" in memo line of any checks. The Community Service Council of Tulsa administers this program called BRRX4VETS which stands for "Barrier Removal and Residential Exchange for Veterans". More information can be obtained at [csctulsa.org/brrx4vets/](http://csctulsa.org/brrx4vets/)

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## Welcome New Hope Members!



**Martha Pizarro**



I like the suspended, waiting feeling of winter days in Oklahoma after the hubbub of Christmas is over and the earth is cold and resting. I do not much like the collective effect of the various frozen stuff that falls from the sky and coats road ways but I love the beauty and image of snowflakes.

I have a glass mobile I put out every Christmas that has etchings based on original photos done long ago by "Snowflake Bentley". I have looked through his book (reprinted in 1962) many times. It is like visiting an art gallery to me. The exquisite symmetry and variation created from only angled water molecules and dust falling together through the temperature differentials of a

frozen sky fascinated me long ago and still does. The techniques of modern chemistry and physics have refined the study of snowflakes many times over, but cannot detract from what he accomplished with a primitive camera standing in a Vermont snow brushing an individual snowflake into position with a feather.

From a website dedicated to his memory and art: [www.snowflakebentley.com](http://www.snowflakebentley.com).

A self-educated farmer, Wilson A. Bentley (1865-1931) attracted world attention with his pioneering work in the area of photomicrography, most notably his extensive work with snow crystals (commonly known as snowflakes). By adapting a microscope to a bellows camera, and years of trial and error, he became the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885.

He would go on to capture more than 5000 snowflakes during his lifetime, not finding any two alike. In 1931 his book "Snow Crystals", containing more than 2400 snow crystal images, was published by McGraw-Hill but has long been out of print. A soft cover copy, identical in all respects, can be obtained today from Dover Publications, Inc. On December 23, 1931, Bentley died at the family farmhouse in Jericho. Because of his wonderful work with snow crystals, he became affectionately known as "Snowflake" Bentley.

So our late December one-day snow was a Camelot snow to me. Every branch and twig was coated in fluff but not heavy enough to break. They glittered in the late afternoon sunlight making every late-hanging leaf into a jewel. It didn't stick on the roads and it was mostly gone by morning. The birds flocked to the feeder - cardinals, juncos, downys, bluejays and a jillion sparrows coming in waves, with the doves and squirrels patrolling the ground for fallen offerings and leaving their overlapping footprint patterns in the snow. I only put out sunflower seed so the specialized gourmets have to fend elsewhere – to my neighbor who offers thistle and suet and peanuts and more (and gets gangs of starlings).

Our snow was wet and heavy and the Vanderwolf (flex) pine along Hope road drooped under the weight, but did not break. And every warming snowflake transformed from frozen crystal back into water and melted into the earth to nurture the resting roots and waiting seeds.

**Janet Williamson**

Garden & Grounds Chair

before most events. Please email [emilucare@hopeclub.org](mailto:emilucare@hopeclub.org) to make a reservation.

## Brown Bag Lunch

**Meets every Thursday at 11:30 am in the RE Wing**  
Bring your lunch and join us for lively discussions on current topics. **See Page 4 for more information**  
**Claudia Vandiver** [cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com](mailto:cvgardnr@sbcglobal.com)

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## Threads of Hope

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the log cabin**

Come and find out what we are working on for Hope or bring your own personal projects. We'll begin at 11:30 am, so bring a sack lunch and we'll stay till about 1:30 pm. You're welcome to just drop in anytime.

**Carrie Muzika**

[proenviromom@cox.net](mailto:proenviromom@cox.net)

**Deborah Whittaker**

[debsharmony@yahoo.com](mailto:debsharmony@yahoo.com)

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## Hope Book Club

**1st Monday in the month**

**Next meeting is February 5.** Discussing *My Name Is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok. For questions contact **Chris Anrig** [cmanrig@hotmail.com](mailto:cmanrig@hotmail.com)

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## Women of Hope

**Thursday, January 4**

**Social time 6:00 • Potluck 6:30 • Program 7:00**

Women of Hope meets at Hope on the first Thursday of the month. This month's program will be **Claudia Vandiver** presenting "Hamlin Fistula Foundation: Working to Save Women's Lives." The Fistula Foundation is dedicated to ending the suffering caused by the child-birth injury of obstetric fistula. Founded by Drs. Reginald and Catherine Hamlin, who believed that no woman should have to suffer a life of shame and isolation for trying to bring a child into the world, the foundation now serves women in 31 countries of the world. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck (and a \$2 donation if you would like wine). We are also collecting feminine hygiene products to donate to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

We are also continuing to collect feminine hygiene

Monday to Saturday.  
\$5 per person Children eat free.

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## Stone Soup Sunday Sunday, January 7



Join us after the service for lunch with delicious homemade soups and desserts. If you would like to bring something to share, please contact **Carrie Muzika**, [proenviromom@cox.net](mailto:proenviromom@cox.net)

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## Movie Night

**Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm**

Our January movie is *To Catch a Thief*, a 1955 romantic thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, from a screenplay by John Michael Hayes based on the 1952 novel of the same name by David Dodge.

The film stars Cary Grant as a retired cat burglar who has to save his reformed reputation by catching a new "cat" preying on the wealthy tourists of the French Riviera. Grace Kelly stars opposite him as his romantic interest in her final film with Hitchcock. This is one of Hitchcock's classic thrillers, which has a lot of suspense along with great acting by Cary Grant and Grace Kelly.

Pop corn, soft drinks and discussion will be enjoyed before, during, and after the movie.

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## Hope Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, January 17, at 11:30. am**

Our January location is Napa Flats at 9912 Riverside Pkwy., Tulsa. Join us for a fun, casual lunch. Please call or email **Lynn Walters** if you would like to come: [lfwalters@aol.com](mailto:lfwalters@aol.com) or 918-893-2655.



## **Taking down the Greens**

**Saturday, January, December 6, 10:00 am**

Join us as we take down our Christmas decorations and put them into storage for the year.



## **Walking Meditation through the Seasons**

**January 7, 9:00 am—9:30 am**



**Last Sunday of each month.**

Meet on the deck of Hope Log Cabin

Wear shoes and clothing to match the weather.

For all ages.

Grounding ourselves in our bodies and woods.

## **Looking ahead in 2018! —dates for your calendar**

**Sunday, February 11, Chocolate Auction**

**Saturday, March 10, Annual Fellowship Dinner**

**Sunday, March 11, Feed the Homeless Lunch after church**

**Saturday, May 12, Hope's Annual BBQ**

## **Second Sunday of every month—extended childcare**

Starting January 14, childcare will be provided until 1:15 pm to allow committees, groups, etc. to meet.



## Celebrating 50 Years of Hope in January 2018

We begin celebrating Hope's founding in 1968 with activities and events each month. Mark your calendars.

**Jan 9, Tues, 1:00pm**

**Founder's Tea** *(Closed event)*

Those brave men and women who signed Hope Unitarian Church's charter on Dec 8, 1968 are invited to bring mementos and share their stories over refreshments.

**Jan 14, Sun, Noon**

**Gearing up for the MLK Parade Lunch** *(Open to all ages!)*

Join us for a meal, multigenerational poster making, and marching song singing event.

**Jan 15, Mon, 9:30am**

**Marching in MLK Parade** *(Open to all ages!)*

Join us behind Hope's new "50 Years of Hope" banner as we celebrate Tulsa's 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade and its theme "50 Years Later the Dream Still Lives."

**Jan 17, Wed, 5:00pm**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee** *(Open to all)*

Join the Hope members and staff who meet monthly to plan these events and the major public weekend Oct 5-7. We can use your creative ideas and skills.

**Jan 21, Sun, 10:00am**

**The Geology of Hope Hill** *(Open to all)*

We begin with pre-history and acknowledge this beautiful hill existed long before the church. Hope member and geologist **Steve Witt** will discuss the formation of our unique lookout.

**Jan 21, Sun, 11:00am**

**Once Upon a Time: Prehistory of Hope Hill** *(Open to all)*

During our Sunday worship we will begin celebrating this 50<sup>th</sup> year by looking at the various shoulders upon which we stand: Indigenous, theological, historical and geological.



## Members' Birthdays—January

David Barbee	2nd
Keith Hamilton	3rd
Pat McGinley	8th
Lenny Hope	11th
Larry Vandiver	12th
Marlene Hintermeister	15th
Russell Muzika	20th
Jay Stewart	25th
James Donovan	26th
Rebecca Jones	26th
Barbara Witt	26th

when no one is at the church, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key people have keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Each takes a one-week turn

### Jan 1-13

Sherrill Womeldorff  
918-638-7610

### Jan 8-14

Jim Sleezer  
918-853-5114

### Jan 15-21

David Lynn  
918-250-3677

### Jan 22-28

Fred Pottorf  
918-407-0924

### Jan 29-Feb 4

Sherrill Womeldorff  
918-638-7610

### *Policy for function organizers*

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

For Hope's January Calendar  
see Hope's website <http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

### **Focus Deadline**

Submissions for Focus should be sent to [hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org) with "Focus" in the subject line and are normally due **9 am the 4th Wednesday in the month**. Submissions are subject to editing for length and content

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**

***Our Staff***

**The Rev. Cathey Edwards**, Minister, [cathey@hopeuu.org](mailto:cathey@hopeuu.org)  
**Yadene Hailu**, Intern Minister, [yadenee@hopeuu.org](mailto:yadenee@hopeuu.org)  
**Maggie Scott**, Administrator, [maggie@hopeuu.org](mailto:maggie@hopeuu.org)  
**Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music, [joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org](mailto:joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org)  
**Susan Spooner**, Director of Children and Youth Programs, [susan@hopeuu.org](mailto:susan@hopeuu.org)  
**Rebecca Jones**, Accountant (off site), [rebtax@cox.net](mailto:rebtax@cox.net)  
**Chris Powell**, Pianist  
**Susan Michael, Drew Maher, Amy Jones, Nora Potter**, Child Care

***Our 2017/18 Board of Trustees***

**Ken Jones**, President  
**Cate Potter**, President Elect  
**Claudia Vandiver**, VP of Finance  
**James Donovan**, VP of Programs

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**Office Hours**