



From the Minister

Beginning Yet Again

"Beginning" I begin my life over / It's easy / You take a deep breath / close your eyes / open them / and there it is.

The first lines of this poem by Greg Kuzma captures my intention for this upcoming, sixth year of my ministry with Hope Unitarian Church.

When I was hired by the church back in August 2013, the tone and needs of the congregation were different than today. The church called me in 2015. Fast forward five years later where our world, nation, city, church, and each us are changed.

Within the Zen Buddhist tradition is an abiding practice to adopt a beginner's mind. Beginner's mind means dropping expectations and preconceived ideas to see with an open mind and fresh eyes, just like a beginner. When looking at everything as if it's brand new, we ask more questions. We bring curiosity and wonder to the conversation.

As your minister, I will be asking more questions. Why do we do this, this way? Who is missing from this gathering? Who needs to be informed? Who needs to be heard? What do we share? What separates us? Where are we going? Why? I will be asking myself these same questions. Am I setting the best priorities? What are my goals for the next church year? Is this the best meeting to attend? How can we make full use of our natural setting? How can I be more inclusive? What unseen assumptions still drive this moment?

With a new Board of Trustees and the approaching start of the next church year, Hope as an institution also begins anew. We welcome our new administrator Jenn Link. She will help us see the church system through beginner's eyes. We use the month of August to look afresh at our Unitarian Universalist tradition all month anticipating an increase number of guests who are church shopping.

Together we can all use beginners mind to ask questions. Are we interested in getting to know our part of town better—our neighbors, along with south Tulsa institutions and representatives. Who are they and how can we partner together more fully? Which local issues demand the strong voice of Hope Church?

Beginnings are rather arbitrary events, for all are preceded by other events. We choose our beginnings. Today, it all begins again.

With joy at a new start,



Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org



Volume 24

No. 7

July 2018

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Sunday Services—July

Sunday Worship 11am - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 8

“The Roots of Wisdom: Genetic Memory, Genocide and Stolen Children”

The Rev. Gary McAlpin

Many times in our fast food culture, we expect to “buy” these sorts of things or learn them from gurus paid at a New Age spa, yet for many people true wisdom comes from our DNA, hardships and survival .

Wisdom comes, sometimes despite who we are or what we do or where we have chosen to be.

Sunday, July 15

“Unbreak My Heart”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

The 1990’s are a complicated time at Hope unitarian Church, one of great highs and a few lows. In the middle of the 1990’s a group leaves Hope to start a fourth congregation in Tulsa. We explore that breaking up is hard to do. “Unbreak My Heart” is one of the chart-topping songs from the decade by Mariah Carey. And still the church stands and thrives today as a story of perseverance.

Sunday, July 22

“A Time to Every Purpose”

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Ecclesiastes, one of a series of ancient wisdom texts in the Hebrew Bible, gives voice to the contradictions of life. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die.;" What is wisdom and is it only found through the passage of time?

Sunday, July 29

“This Machine Kills Fascists: Woody Guthrie Sunday”

The Rev. Mark Christian & Fenton Rood

Two Unitarians, one minister, the other lay leader, both musicians, bring the wisdom of Woody Guthrie to Sanctuary. A music-filled service, Woody’s fierce support of morals, equality, fairness and democracy—values we sorely need today—will fill our sanctuary to the rafters. Come listen and sing along.

July’s Monthly Theme: *Wisdom*

I deeply value how our religious tradition opens itself to wisdom in all forms. We do not cling to the ideas of a single sacred book or text.



Specifically, we hold as strong values and moral guides a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn

from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote: 1) Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life; 2) Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love; 3) Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life; 4) Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves; 5) Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit; 6) Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Join us this month as we explore what is *wisdom* and where does it come from? *We are still discovering together.*

About 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.



Children and Youth Programs

Susan Spooner, Director, susan@hopeuu.org

CYP Committee Members: Laura Reiman (Chair), Paula Haight, Kerri Vandiver, Ann Lee, Laura Ezell

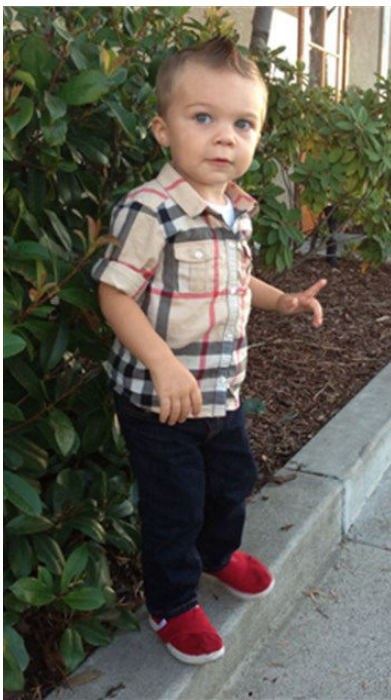
Children & Youth Religious Education on Sundays

Community Building begins at 10:00.

Children's Chapel, at 11:00, focuses on **Wisdom** our theme this month.
Loving childcare is provided for infants through children three years old.

Most Sundays, children & youth will be involved in outdoor activities.

Please dress your child so they will be comfortable outdoors.



Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!

It's July and the wild creatures are in full force on Hope Hill. We try to get the children outside when they attend religious education or event childcare. Fortunately, our beautiful grounds are blessed with many indigenous creatures; unfortunately, that includes biting insects like mosquitos, ticks, scorpions and chiggers.

The playground and some of the trails have been sprayed, but with the rain and the multitude of bugs that inhabit the Hill with us, you are strongly encouraged to take these precautions for your children:

Dress the child in long pants, socks and sneakers, as in this picture.

Spray the entire child with bug spray either at home or before you leave them at church.

Bug spray is kept in the cabinet above the sink on the left. Look for the sign and help yourself.

Upon arriving at home, check the child for ticks, which may be crawling or already attached. The shorter time a tick is attached, the less chance for illness resulting from the tick.

If you find a bite, treat it as soon as possible. These few steps, taken any time your child is outdoors, will make you and your child more comfortable in the great outdoors!

Need childcare for a church event? Please email your request to childcare@hope.org, **Drew Maher** is our Childcare Coordinator.

Parenting Contemplation

***"In this life, we have to make many choices. Some are very important choices. Some are not. Many of our choices are between good and evil. The choices we make, however, determine to a large extent our happiness or our unhappiness, because we have to live with the consequences of our choices."* James Faust**

For additional information about our programming, please contact Susan Spooner at susan@hopeuu.org.

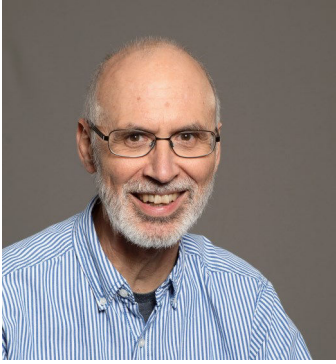


~Send a Friend Request to Join~

Parent Page—Hope Unitarian Church: "It Takes a Village"

Youth Page—The Youth of Hope Unitarian Church

Music Notes



During July we will have the opportunity to hear from several guest musicians.

At varied times during the month, we will be hosting one of several accomplished Tulsa classical musicians- violinist Hannah Murray, cellist Krassi Figg,

and flutist Dana Higbee. Each one of them is a member of either the Tulsa Symphony or Signature Symphony and are involved in teaching for the bART Center for Music and/or *Harmony Project Tulsa*. They will be accompanied by the marvelously talented pianist, Ann Raphael.

Creating further variety this month will be a performance by singer-songwriter and guitarist Tim Moberly, presently based in Springfield, MO, and then later in the month, Mark Christiansen will be our guest for a presentation of music with lyrics by Woody Guthrie. Although the choir will continue on break, July will certainly be a month filled with many delicious musical treats as we continue the count down to Hope's 50th anniversary celebration in October.

Joseph Rivers

Director of Music

joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Jul 1

Speaker from Los Pecesitos, a YWCA swimming lesson program for Hispanic /Latino children to address racial disparities in the drowning rates of children.

July 8

Report to the congregation from those who attended the General Assembly on what they learned there.

July 15

Ongoing series on the history of Hope Church, this time examining the '90s.

July 22

Mary Newman will be speaking about immigration issues.

July 29

Presentation on Intersecting Theologies: Judaism and Queer Theology. There will be a showing of three short video talks by Rabbis Benay Lappe, Jacob Staub, and Sharon Kleinbaum.

Minister out of office

The **Rev. Cathey Edwards** will be out of the office July 5-July 9 and July 22—July 27th.

Care Team Corner

PFLAG

PFLAG's vision is to create a world where difference is celebrated, and all people are valued inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Our mission of support, education, and advocacy guides our work on this important goal.



If you or someone you know needs support in the LGBTQ community, please visit <https://www.pflag.org/>

Hope Outreach

Generosity Offerings

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the undesignated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church in efforts to expand beyond our community.

**In June we raised: \$978.00
for Iron Gate
Thank you for your generosity!**

Month	Organization	\$ Amount
May	Still She Rises	\$1,132.34
April	Healthy Community Store Initiative	\$1,312.00
March	Tulsa Control Initiative	\$1,117.61
February	Community Health Connection	\$1,477.52

Generosity Recipient—July

Our Generosity recipient for July is Los Pecesitos (Spanish for “the little fishes”). This is a four week swim scholarship program for Hispanic children ages 4-12 years old at the Eastside YWCA Aquatics and Fitness Center.

Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 1-14 years old. Children of color drown at rates two to three times that of their Caucasian peers. This swim program helps in addressing that by offering summer lessons to Hispanic children. Please come and see our Generosity speaker, Lacey Thompson, who directs the programs for Wellness and Health at the YWCA East Side.



Feed the Homeless (FTH) Program

Volunteers from Hope prepare and serve a meal for clients at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** the **third Saturday** of every month. Please sign up at the office desk if you'd like to help.

June Volunteers

Shopping: Keith Hamilton
Cooking: Pam Holt, Ryan Tracy, and Lana Larkin.
Serving: Deby Baker, Judy and Guy Sims, Lana Larkin, Marge Carrison, Joey Dewiel, and Cynthia Hefner.

99 Plates Served, way to go!

**Next Feed the Homeless date is:
Saturday, July 21stth , 2018**

Volunteers Needed for Cooking and Serving.
2:30 pm: meet at Hope to prepare food and cook.
5:00 pm meet at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless to serve meals.
Keep up the great work to all of our volunteers in the Hope Community!

We always need volunteers, so please sign up in the office or call or email to put your name on the list!

Cereal Sunday

Sunday, July 15

Please bring a box or two of cereal for the homeless. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** when we serve meals. The collection basket is located in the Fellowship Hall.



Membership News

New to the Hilltop

We welcome to Hope our newest Staff Member, Jenn Link, as our Administrator! She comes to us from a background in aviation management, enjoys the outdoors, art, and spending time with her family. Feel free to stop by and say hello or give her a ring.



Directories

Our updated membership directory is complete. Pick up a copy at the welcome desk, or save a tree and request the directory in a PDF Format.

Jennifer Link
Church Administrator
jenn@hopeuu.org

Note from the Treasurer:



If you have not completed your pledge for 2017-2018 (year ended June 30. 2018) and can make a payment, please do so in July.

Our books will close July 31, 2018. If you have question, call Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer 918-638-7616.

Stewardship News

Did you know? The average pledge to Hope for this fiscal year is \$1,700. This pledge amount accounts for about half of the funds the church uses for our Outreach program, for things such as Feed the Homeless and Partners in Education. Thank you, Hope community, for your continued generosity!

Got any membership news?

Notify the administrator at jenn@hopeuu.org with your ideas and keep us informed!

Garden and Grounds

Summer is officially here and the heat is coming. I am pleased to say that an earlier comment of mine about the wild roses in our woods being gone was incorrect. The blooms were later than expected and several clusters were pink along the road and the prettiest one was on the east side of the pond.

Essentially invisible again, the blooms are past and I will be looking for them next year. It is daisy, coneflower, zinnia and lantana time – Oklahoma summertime survivors. Sweet potato vine was planted at the Sheridan entrance – not very exciting, but it is showy and will grow abundantly in an area that is difficult to water.



Hope's milkweed patches are thriving, although I have not seen any monarchs yet on the hill or at home. An interesting article in the Tulsa paper June 23rd about declining insect populations monitors them (and wildlife of all sorts).

Find out more information on Biosurvey.ou.edu (research unit at OU), learner.org/north (Journey North citizen scientist project monitoring various wildlife). Internet.edu (long term ecological research network – 28 sites), Audubon.org (birds), bumblebeewatch.org, nest.watch.org (Cornell). Citizen volunteers can contribute greatly to the collective knowledge.

From Cornell University (2018). The honeybee has hogged the pollination spotlight for centuries, but native bees are now getting their fair share of buzz: They are two to three times better pollinators than honeybees, are more plentiful than previously thought and not prone to the headline-catching colony collapse disorder that has decimated honeybee populations. Native bees are actually more effective pollinators than the honeybee --two to three times better. The wild, native bees are mostly pollen collectors. They are also more plentiful than once thought. In fact, native bees may have been doing a lot of pollinating work all along but not getting credit for it.

Fact: *Native bees pollinate approx. 90% of our watermelons and sadly, the bee population is declining. What we do in our gardens here on the hill makes a difference to encourage biodiversity, which includes our bee populations.*

All are welcome to visit the Vitex (Chaste Tree) off the patio toward the entrance to Dogwood Trail. Bees love it - honeybees, bumblebees and native bees of all sorts. It is beautiful too – important in a garden. Let's keep our gardens thriving together!

—Janet Williamson
Chair—Garden & Grounds

Hope Events

Childcare available by request at least two business days before most events.

Please email childcare@hopeuu.org to reserve.

Hope Book Club

1st Mondays in the log cabin

Our next meeting will meet August 6th at 6:30 pm.

The book of choice will be the NY Times Bestseller *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.



Threads of Hope

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11:30 am in the Log Cabin

Our group is going to break for the summer months. Enjoy and we'll see you in September.

Brown Bag Lunch

Brown Bag Lunch will resume August 2nd. Thanks!

Breakfast on the Hill

Next Breakfast on the Hill will be Saturday, August 5th at 9:00 am. See you there!

Women of Hope

Summer Salad and Dessert Suppers

Social time 6:00 pm • Potluck 6:30 pm

Women of Hope meets on the first Thursday of the month. During the summer, Women of Hope takes a break from regular programs and has potluck salad and dessert suppers at someone's home.

Thursday, July 5

Join **Lynn Rivers** (a change from previously advertised). Bring a salad or dessert to share.

Wine is available for \$2.00

For further information or for Lynn's address, contact Christy Levine at chrstlvn@gmail.com or the church office.



Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, July 18 at 11:30 am

Hope Lunch Bunch will have lunch this month on July 18 at 11:30 am offsite at a chosen venue.

Please join us at **The Tropical Restaurant** located at 8125 E 49th Street.

Let **Lynn Walters** know if you are coming: 918-893-2655 or lfwalters@aol.com.

Movie Night

Tuesday, July 10 7:00 pm—10:00 pm

Come Sunday (2018), Hope's July movie, is based on events in the life of Carlton Pearson.

In previous years, Carlton was the pastor of the High-



er Dimensions Evangelistic Center, later named Higher Dimensions Family Church, one of the largest churches in Tulsa. During the 1990s, Higher Dimensions grew to an average attendance of over 6,000.

Due to Pearson's stated belief in universal reconciliation, he rapidly began to lose his influence in ministry with the Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops and was eventually declared a heretic by his peers in 2004.

***Possible future guest appearance of Carlton Pearson at Hope, so please join us for popcorn, snacks, and Come Sunday!*

Celebrating 50 Years of Hope in July 2018

We began celebrating Hope's founding in January and throughout the year culminating on the **weekend of October 5-7th**. Mark your calendars.

Important Dates:

July 7 Saturday, 6:00pm

Hot Dog-Ice Cream Social

(All ages)

Have fun doing a Family Art Activity!

Enjoy homemade ice cream and tasty hot dogs.

Bring a side item or an ice cream topping.

All welcome! All ages!

July 15 Sunday, 10:00am

Hope Church in the 1990's Adult Forum

This Sunday we will have a panel discussing church life in the 1990's. It was an exciting yet also difficult time in Hope's history. The church splintered, and we are looking with honesty and for-giveness to that moment.

July 15 Sunday, 11:00am

Unbreak My Heart

The 1990's are a complicated time at Hope Unitarian Church, one of great highs and a few lows. In the middle of the 1990's a group leaves Hope to start a fourth congregation in Tulsa.

We explore that breaking up is hard to do. And still the church stands and thrives. It is a story of perseverance.

July 31 Wednesday, 5:00pm

50th 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!



New Office Hours for the Minister

In the spirit of starting anew with the Beginner's Mind, the Rev. Cathey will have set weekly office hours.

Tuesday afternoons 3:30pm-5:00pm

Thursday afternoons 1:00pm-2:00 pm

Friday mornings 9:00am -10:00am.

You can schedule a time them through our administrator Jenn Link at hopeuu@hopeuu.org or through Rev. Cathey at cathey@hopeuu.org.

Burning Bowl Letters

Check your mailboxes for a letter you wrote to yourself during Hope Unitarian Church's annual Burning Bowl Service December 31, 2017.



Each year during Sunday worship at the turn of the New Year we use flash paper to burn and leave behind something from the old year. Next we write a letter to our future selves listing our aspirations for the upcoming year. These are not resolutions but more gentle nudges for the direction we wish our lives to take.

You sealed your letter and we've held on to them until now. We will be addressing them and mailing them out this month, so ***stay tuned!***



Summer 2018 Worship Unplugged

Beginning June 3 through August 26, we'll change worship slightly to simplify and return to our hymnals. The choir takes an extended break.

We give our steadfast worship volunteers a break from creating Sunday's PowerPoint as well as complex audio and video work on Sunday morning.

Worship is no less meaningful. We find value in simplicity. We will use the summer printed Order of Service. We'll have exciting guest musicians and special themed services to accompany.

Dream Act Oklahoma

Donation Drive

Dream Act Oklahoma is a community based organization that



aims to empower the local immigrant community through advocacy and education to ensure justice for all immigrants. This summer they are asking for help in collecting school supplies for families where the breadwinner has been deported by ICE. Families are experiencing significant financial and emotional hardship, as a result of the deportations.

School supplies needed include **backpacks, pencil pouches, #2 pencils, glue sticks, blunt tipped scissors, colored pencils, crayons, washable markers, wide ruled notepaper, binders and tissues.** Cash donations also accepted in the Fellowship Hall area.

All checks may be made out to Dream Act in the *memo line*.

Walking Meditation through the Seasons



Last Sunday of the Month

Next walk:

Sunday, July 29, 9:00 am

Meet outside on the deck of beautiful Hope Log Cabin.

Wear shoes and clothing to match the weather.

All ages invited.

Member July Birthdays



Larry Knowles	2nd
Marva Beair	3rd
Annie Simpson	4th
Elke Johnson	5th
Mary Gardner	7th
Barb Richardson	18th
Susan Barbee	19th
Andy Scott	20th
Wade Ezell	24th
Charlotte Bailey	28th
Gary Van Winkle	31st

Key People

When the church is closed or unattended, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key people hold keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Key duties are on one week rotations.

July 2—July 8

Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

July 9—July 15

Sherrill Womeldorff
918-638-7610

July 16—July 22

Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

July 23—July 29

Sherrill Womeldorff
918-638-7610

July 30—Aug 5th

Fred Pottorf
918-407-0924

Church Function Organizers

Please contact the office to see if the church is open or closed during your event. If the church is open and free, schedule with the Key Person on duty for your event if someone will need to unlock and/or lock up the building.

For Hope's July Calendar
visit Hope's website at <http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

Submissions for the Focus should be sent to 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 in length and content.

The next Focus will be published July 31st. Reach out to jenn@hopeuu.org with your inputs.

Contributors: Focus Deadline is Wednesday, July 24th at 9am.



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FOCUS Issue July 2018 by Hope Unitarian Church,
8432 S. Sheridan Road., Tulsa, OK 74133-4137.

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
Yadene Hailu, Intern Minister, yadene@hopeuu.org
Jenn Link, Administrator, jenn@hopeuu.org
Joseph Rivers, Director of Music, joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org
Susan Spooner, Director of Children and Youth Programs, susan@hopeuu.org
Rebecca Jones, Accountant (off site), rebtax@cox.net
Chris Powell, Pianist
Susan Michael, Drew Maher, Nora Potter, Child Care

Our 2017/18 Board of Trustees

Cate Potter, President
James Donovan President Elect
Rick Eagleton, VP of Finance
Christy Levine, VP of Programs
Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer
Joan Scheulen, Secretary
Ken Jones, Past President
Trustees: Rick Pascal, Annie Simpson, Lynn Walters

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Office Hours

Mon–Fri 9 am—3pm