



Happy New Year! Now What?

A clean slate. A new year. Looking ahead. Getting a balcony view. Now that Hope Unitarian Church enters its 51st year, we can leave behind the 50th anniversary reviews and celebrations to look forward. The board is planning to revisit Hope's mission and vision, a much-needed, church-wide exploration of our values and direction. This process can be an energizer for the congregation, helping refocus energies while sloughing off projects or

systems that no longer serve our goals.

Taking stock of the changing world, evolving community, and state of our religious tradition will also help us look to the future. For example, some churches use a strategic planning tool with the acronym SWOT—strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Strengths and weakness are named, internal traits while opportunities and threats focus on the external environment.

At Hope Church, for example, the start of our SWOT analysis might be:

- ◇ **Strength:** Hope is located in a growing, vibrant end of town. Many families live in South Tulsa. Hope has an exquisite wooded campus with possibilities for expanding programming.
- ◇ **Weakness:** Hope is not well connected with its neighbors. A small percentage of the church population is young families. The church has an aging building in need of repairs.
- ◇ **Opportunities:** Tulsa has two other Unitarian Universalist churches for local collaboration and amplifying our outreach. We have several progressive south Tulsa churches.
- ◇ **Threats:** Church attendance around the country is dwindling, no matter the religious tradition.

I look forward to naming these together and getting a clear-eyed view of our fertile future.

With joy,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org

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Sunday Services

January

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Peace in Every Step

January 6

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Peace is not a place where we arrive, but a process of navigating tensions, disagreements, and daily living. Peace is not just something in the sphere of diplomats, military leaders, or politicians but of each situation in which we find ourselves. Join us to learn how peace is to be found in every step.

Stone Soup

January 13

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

This annual Hope Church tradition focuses on the folk tale Stone Soup. Made famous by children's authors and Pete Seeger's musical version, we revisit the universal tale of community. And of course, we share in pots of soup after our service.

Creative Tension

January 23

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Martin Luther King, Jr. used the term "creative tension" to describe necessary resistance in the face of evil. King's nonviolent campaigns and teachings emphasize love in action. Using direct action when an opponent is unwilling to enter into, or remain in, discussions/negotiations. These actions impose a "creative tension" into the conflict, supplying moral pressure in resolving the injustice. Where are today's creative tensions?

Bearing Witness:

The Holocaust and More

January 30

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

As a term in psychology, *bearing witness* means sharing our experiences with others. It is a valuable way to process an experience, to obtain empathy and support, to lighten our emotional load via sharing it with the witness, and to obtain catharsis. Most people bear witness daily, and not only in reaction to traumatic events. We bear witness to one another through our writing, through art, and by verbally simply sharing with others. On Holocaust Memorial Day we bear witness together to the spectrum of human behaviors.

January Monthly Theme: *Peace*

"The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*



I love this poem. It makes me feel peaceful. I admire its naming the inner turmoil we all experience. I believe his claim that the world in its endless bounty can offers us infinite ways to reclaim peace, what he calls "grace."

Peace is not simply the cessation of fighting or even conflict. It begins with an understanding of ourselves grasping for love, fame, money, things and more. Our inner peace leads to outward peaceful words and actions. I side with Albert Einstein "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order—in short, of government."

We will explore the theme of peace together this month in worship, religious education classes and small group discussions we call InReach. Join us.

Cathey

About Monthly Themes

Our monthly themes express Hope Unitarian 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. Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas.

Minister's Office Hours

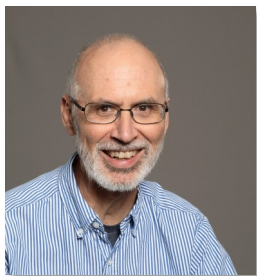
Make an appointment with the Rev. Cathey Edwards during the following times:

Tuesday afternoons 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday afternoons 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Friday mornings 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

You can schedule a time to meet with **Rev. Cathey** by contacting **Molly Brower**, molly@hopeuu.org or with **Rev. Cathey** directly at cathey@hopeuu.org. You can also call the church office at **918.481.0999**.



Music Notes

Our special Sing Noel service last month was a very positive uplift for all of us and I would like to thank the Hope Singers, our pianist Chris Powell, our guest musicians, and the A/V personnel for their commitment

and dedication to making beautiful music at Hope aligned with our UU values. The theme of "Peace" for this first month of 2019 flows naturally from the theme of coming "home" that we explored musically in our Sing Noel service in December, and this theme will be reflected in our music for January. The choir begins rehearsing again right after the New Year, beginning Wednesday, January 2, 2019, from 7 to 9 p.m. If you are interested in singing in the choir, we would love for you to join us as we lift up our voices to create beautiful music and to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit of life.

Joseph Rivers, PhD

Director of Music

joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Roots Class

A Path to
Membership

Meets Thursdays,
Jan. 10-31

6:30-8:00 pm

NOTE: Last month's Focus said the time was 7 to 8:30; that was incorrect.

Class sizes limited to 10. Register now!

An informal adult religious education class that introduces the ideas, people and history of Unitarian Universalism and Hope Unitarian Church. It's a step further into this community dedicated to religious freedom and seeking. Classes take place in the Minister's Study.

To register, you may email or call the church office or sign up in the folder on the Administrator's desk.

Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Learning is the work of a lifetime. On Sunday mornings you are invited to attend our regular adult forum that meets in the sanctuary and covers a wide range of topics.

To see what our topics are in January, please see each week's *Highlights* newsletter, which comes out on Fridays. If you don't already subscribe to *Highlights*, you can sign up at <http://hopeuu.org/blog/newsletter/>.



MLK Day Parade

Monday, January 21

Hope is participating in the 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade in two ways this year. We have registered as a church to walk in the parade, carrying the Hope banner; we are also gathering volunteers to help out at the parade. Volunteers will need to go to one of two training sessions: Jan. 12th from 10 to 11 a.m. at OSU-Tulsa, or Jan. 16th from 6 to 7 p.m. at Boston Avenue Methodist Church. You can sign up [here](#) to volunteer. If you do plan to volunteer, please let us know.

More details about walking in the parade will be announced in January. If you have any questions, contact **James Donovan** or **Anita Ward**.

Living out LOVE

WITHIN • AMONG • BEYOND

Save the Date

What: Annual Hope Stewardship Dinner & Trivia Night

When: Saturday March 9, 2019

Where: Hope Church

Join the Stewardship Committee in kicking off the annual stewardship drive with a Hope Trivia Night. Sharpen your pencils and start your studying now, because there will be no cheat sheets, Googling, or bribery of the stewardship committee. Categories will include: Hope history, UU history, general trivia and trivia about our very own members.

Care Team Corner

Thank you to all who offered your services at the Committee Fair. We have offers for transportation, visits, and meals. As our members need your support, we will contact you to provide your gift. It takes a village, and we appreciate our church community for your works of loving-kindness.

Deborah Whittaker, Care Team Chair



Children & Youth Programs (CYP)



Susan Spooner, Director, susan@hopeuu.org

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

A Typical Sunday

9:45 am Community Building for all ages

11:10 am Children's Chapel focuses on this month's theme.

Loving childcare is provided for infants through children three years old.

Most Sundays include outdoor activities. Please make sure your child is wearing sturdy shoes and clothing, so they enjoy being with nature.



Would you like to participate in developing programs for Hope's children and youth? Whether you have children (or grandchildren) in the program or not, we are interested in your ideas! The CYP committee is starting up again, and we need people to participate. If you'd like to be part of this important mission, please contact **Susan Spooner** for more information.

OWL (Our Whole Lives)

Parents and youth make note that Hope will start a middle school (6-9th grade) OWL program condensed into 10 fun and engaging sessions led by our intern minister **Yadene Hailu**, with co-facilitator **Drew Maher** and help from **Susan Spooner**. Middle school OWL will regularly meet on Sunday mornings from 10-11 am in the cabin. There will be two half-day sessions on Saturdays too. The required parent meeting will be in late January. More details soon!

To find out more about the OWL program in general, visit <https://www.uua.org/re/owl>.



Outreach

Generosity

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.

The Outreach Committee would welcome suggestions from church members of not-for-profit groups for Hope Church's Generosity recipients. Contact **Mary Newman** or **Anita Ward** to offer suggestions. Thank you for being the generous church that you are!

January Generosity Recipient

Clarehouse

Our January Generosity recipient is **Clarehouse**. Clarehouse provides a loving home, quality end-of-life care, and access to hospice services to people in need. Join our Adult Forum on Sunday, January 6 at 10 a.m. to learn about this loving home that provides care for individuals in their last month of life and helps families begin the grief journey. Kelley Scott, the founder and executive director of Clarehouse, will be our speaker.

Star Tree

Thank you for helping us support Lindsey House, a nonprofit agency that provides long term shelter and supportive services to single women caring for children, as they transition from homelessness.



We were able to fulfill all the gifts on the wish list of the 12 mothers and their 19 children. The gifts were delivered on Wednesday, December 19th. The generosity and willingness of Hope Church in supporting the Star Tree is always overwhelming.

Thank you also to the Outreach Committee members who shopped, wrapped and sorted. A special thanks to **Lynn Walters** for coordinating with Lindsey House.

The stars for the tree were cut out by the children and youth in RE. This was a big help and much appreciated. Thank you!

Feed the Homeless

Volunteers from Hope prepare and serve a meal for clients at the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** the third Saturday of every month. In December, we served 120 plates to 106 people (some came back for seconds!). We also provided a bag of home-made cookies to each person. Thanks to everyone who baked cookies, and to our December helpers:



Kim Rauh, Janet Nobles, & James Donovan

Shopping: Keith Hamilton

Cookie servers: Mary Newman, Ryan Saylor (and Evelyn and William), Annie Simpson (and Eden), Mary Gardner, Janet Nobles, Anita Ward, Mary Baird, Lynn Walters, Gail Hawk, and Carmen Kinsey

Friday Cooking: Mary Newman

Cooking: Linda Tracy, Lana Larkin, Coe McGinley, Rich Jason, Eddie Humphreys, and Rick Eagleton

Serving: Anita Ward, Judy and Guy Sims, Eve Bjornsgaard, James Donovan, Kim Rauh, Lenny Hope, Janet Nobles, and Ryan, Evelyn, and William Saylor

Musicians: Julia Harris, Katharine Dillsaver, Joan Bjornsgaard, and Rosie Gorrell

**The next Feed the Homeless date is
Saturday, January 19**

Volunteers Needed!

We still need a few more people to cook at Hope at 2:30, and to help serve at 5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. You can sign up in the binder on the Administrator's desk or call the church at **918.481.0999**.



Cereal Sunday—Sunday, January 13

Please bring a box or two of cereal (preferably not Cheerios) for the homeless. There's a cereal basket in Fellowship Hall. This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** on the third Saturday in the month when we serve their meal.

Hope's January Events

Need childcare? Email childcare@hopeuu.org at least 48 hours in advance to secure a spot.

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, Jan. 6

1st Sundays

Threads of Hope

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

Bring a sack lunch and join us with your projects! For more information, contact **Deborah Whittaker**.

Brown Bag Lunch

Thursdays, 11:30 am–1:00 pm

The Brown Bag discussion group meets for lunch every Thursday from 11:30 am–1:00 pm. Topics are wide-ranging, from current events, humor, history, and literature to more. All ages are welcome. Join us on your lunch hour. **Rev. Cathey** leads the group the first Thursday of the month. Together the group explores “**This I Believe**” essays by Hope members, famous people, and the average citizen. They will read, listen, discuss and even write or revise their own statements.

Women of Hope

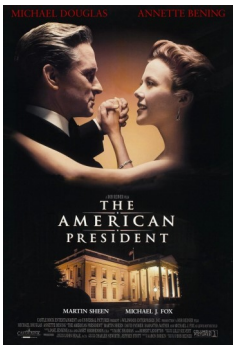
Thursday, Jan. 3, 6:00 p.m.

Trekking the Inca Trail (and other Peruvian highlights)

In September, **Claudia Vandiver**, her daughter **Kerri**, and eight other women hiked a 24-mile section of the Inca Trail to reach Machu Picchu. While in Peru, they also had the opportunity to visit other amazing places, including the Moray Agricultural Laboratory, the Salt Pans of Moras, and the incredibly beautiful Rainbow Mountain. Claudia will share highlights from her experience and lessons of ancient Inca culture.

Movie Night

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:00 pm



Our January movie is **The American President**. It is a 1995 American romantic comedy-drama directed by Rob Reiner and written by Aaron Sorkin. The film stars Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Michael J. Fox, and Richard Dreyfuss. In the film, President Andrew Shepherd (Douglas) is a widower who pursues a relationship with environ-

mental lobbyist Sydney Ellen Wade (Bening)—who has just moved to Washington, DC—while at the same time attempting to win the passage of a crime control bill.

Composer Marc Shaiman was nominated for the Original Musical or Comedy Score Oscar for the film, and it was nominated for Golden Globes for Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actor in a Comedy/Musical for Michael Douglas, Best Actress in a Comedy/Musical for Annette Bening, and Best Comedy/Musical. The American Film Institute ranked *The American President* No. 75 on its list of America's Greatest Love Stories.

We will start the movie a little after 7:00 p.m. Please come join us and enjoy the movie, the free popcorn and soft drinks, and the discussions both before and after.

Stone Soup Sunday

January 13

Join us after the service for lunch with delicious homemade soups and desserts. If you would like to bring something to share and/or to help, please contact **Carrie Muzika**. Her information is in the church directory, or you can call the church office at **918.481.0999**.



An Evening with Duane Bidwell

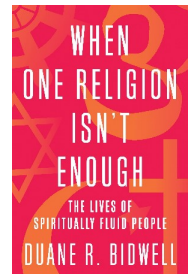
Tuesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.



Hope has teamed up with Booksmart Tulsa, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, and Tulsa Interfaith Alliance to bring Duane Bidwell, author of *When One Religion Isn't Enough: The Lives of Spiritually Fluid People* to Tulsa! Dr. Bidwell will speak at Hope on Janu-

ary 15 at 7:00 p.m.

To find out more about the book or to order it, visit <http://www.beacon.org/When-One-Religion-Isnt-Enough-PI404.aspx>.



Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, January 16, 11:30 a.m.

Our January Lunch Bunch location is Nola's Restaurant, a new place featuring a taste of New Orleans. Come join this fun lunch group in the new year. The restaurant is located on Cherry Street (15th Street) at **1334 E. 15th St.** (just off Peoria). Please contact **Lynn Walters** if you plan to come. Her information is in the church directory, or you can call the church office at **918.481.0999**.

MLK Day Parade

Monday, January 21

See [p. 3](#) for details.



Walking Meditation Sunday, Jan. 27, 9:00 a.m.

Every last Sunday in the month. Meet outside on the deck of Hope's Log Cabin.

Wear shoes and clothing to match the weather. All ages welcome.

Members' Birthdays January

Noel Scott	1st	Marlene Hintermeister	15th
David Barbee	2nd	Russell Muzika	20th
Bettina Larsen	2nd	Jay D. Stewart	25th
Keith Hamilton	3rd	Rebecca Jones	26th
Pat McGinley	8th	Barbara Witt	26th
Lenny Hope	11th	James Donovan	26th
Larry Vandiver	12th	Mary Lou Johnson	29th
John Guthrie	13th		

Welcome to our new members!

Please welcome **Joan Bjornsgaard, Linda Davis, and Jackie Wertis**, who became members of Hope in December.



Joan Bjornsgaard



Linda Davis



Jackie Wertis

For current events, visit the Hope Calendar at:

<http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

Key Person Schedule



Please call or email the church to find out who the key person will be for your event.

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone attending your function can open the building.
2. Find out if the 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 the church a few days before your event to make sure there is a key person available.

Focus changes for 2019

In 2019, the *Focus* will go out on or around the last Wednesday of every month. Hence, the deadline will now be the Wednesday *before* the last Wednesday of every month. That means that in some months, the deadline will fall earlier in the month than it has in the past. Check the church calendar at <http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/> for dates.

You may submit *Focus* articles in any text format: .txt, .rtf, .doc, .docx, etc. (but not in PDF, please). As always, you should send submissions to hopeuu@hopeuu.org and put "FOCUS" in the subject line.

Thanks!

Focus Submissions

Send all input with "**Focus**" in the subject line. For the February *Focus*, the last day of consideration for submissions is **January 23**. Exceptions may be made when more information is needed.

Submissions may be made in the body of an email, or in Word or a similar text format—no PDFs, please. Please remember to keep the content short enough to fit on half a page or less within a newsletter. All content is subject to revision and formatting. Send submissions to hopeuu@hopeuu.org.



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FOCUS v.25,no.1, January 2019 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

Reason - Integrity - Tolerance

Our Staff

The Rev. Cathey Edwards, Minister, cathey@hopeuu.org
Yadene Hailu, Intern Minister, yadene@hopeuu.org
Molly Ives Brower, Administrator, molly@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), rebecca@hopeuu.org
Chris Powell, Pianist
Susan Michael, Drew Maher, Nora Potter, Child Care

Our 2018-2019 Board Members and 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 Paschal, Annie Simpson, Lynn Walters

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