



Change!??!

How do you manage change? How do you instinctively respond to it? Does it make you angry? Scared? Tired? Excited? Energized? Do you catastrophize, imagining the worst possible future? Or do you dream about all the possibilities a change brings? Maybe a bit of both. I'm all over the map when it comes to responding to change.

I ask because I recently announced my leave-taking as Hope's Minister before August 1st. You can see the letter from me and our Board of Trustees President

Cate Potter on the front page of our website, www.hopeuu.org.

We're all in this transition together. I am still Hope's minister and will be for more than half a year. In that time, my intent is to leave well. By that I mean letting you know that I adore each of you and Hope Church. I will make myself more available for listening to your joys and concerns. It is never too late to get to know one another. I will be making sure church systems and loose ends are in a healthy place to hand off.

Church is a marathon, not a sprint. Like in a relay, I will crouch in readiness to hand off this amazing ministry. This congregation is fun, wise, compassionate, and wonderful. I have complete faith in you and your leadership to move this church to your next phase.

Change is one of the great certainties of life. Each great spiritual and religious tradition speaks directly to life's inevitable ebb and flow. The Hindu tradition divides life into four stages: the Student, the Householder, the Forest Dweller, and the World Renouncer.¹ I'm not ready to renounce the world, but am interested in slowing down, reducing hurry in my life.

One description of the Forest Dweller reads, "sixty marks the transition between two ashrama, or life stages—that of the 'householder,' the stage of power and responsibility to the family, and the stage of the 'forest dweller,' in which your principal task is to start to detach yourself from life and prepare for death."² No, I'm not dying. Or yes: I'm dying, just as we all are.

The time of the forest dweller "is the time for self-realization. This retreat from the world may be literal—into a forest—or it may not be. This is a time of scaling down but not of complete austerity and abnegation."³

In the months to come I look forward to feeling how precious our time together truly is. I look forward to deeper conversations and opportunities to say what needs to be said. And of course, I look forward to celebrations and rituals to mark our being together and making this world a better place together.

With joy,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards
cathey@hopeuu.org

¹ *The Laws of Manu*, Manu-smriti.

² Phyllis Rose, "The Forest Dweller and the Beggar." http://members.authorsguild.net/phyllisrose/the_forest_dweller_and_the_beggar_112879.htm

³ Rose, "The Forest Dweller and the Beggar."

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Sunday Services

February

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Grace Changes Everything

February 3

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

What does Grace mean in a Unitarian Universalist community, especially one that rejects the notion of a God who bestows Grace? What can Grace mean within a liberal religious community where reason and science temper our understanding of that which we call Holy? What can Grace mean in the shadow of fear and destruction? Is it not present when we sense that there is a space or a place where we are accepted and belong? Join us as we explore together Grace and where the world is not broken.

A Minister's Guide to Being Positive and Purposeful in a Modern World

February 10

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

At last fall's auction, Hope member Rick Eagleton made the winning bid for a sermon topic of his choosing. Indeed, the modern world is a wild ride these days. I will look at all the means we have as a community and as individuals to be positive and purposeful. One hint lies in this month's theme of grace. It is a mightier tool than we normally give credit.

To Be Human

February 17

Yadenee Hailu

The Grace in Crocuses

February 24

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Spring is such a tease in Oklahoma. The crocuses will have poked out their sleepy heads from the cold ground. The daffodils will also be knocking at spring's door. Does grace always require an element of surprise like the bulbs waiting to reveal their beauty? We'll look at the linear or non-linear aspects of unexpected kindness, mercy and charity.



February's Theme
GRACE

Is grace amazing, as the well-worn hymn claims? Is grace a string of green lights as you rush to an appointment? Is grace a frame of mind, gratitude for whatever life throws at us? Are you even comfortable using the term *grace*?

In *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*, author Anne Lamott writes eloquently about grace and its capacity to move us from one frame of mind to a completely new one. She writes, "Sometimes grace works like water wings when you feel you are sinking. I do not understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are and does not leave us where it found us."

We will explore more deeply what grace might mean and if it plays a role in your life and well-being. Join us as we explore the theme of grace together in worship, in children's classes, in our InReach small-group discussions. (Contact **Annie Simpson** for details on how to join an InReach group.)

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

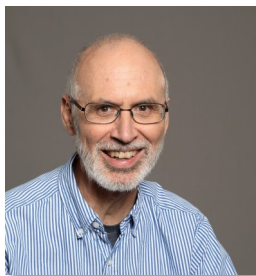
Make an appointment with the Rev. Cathey Edwards during the following times:

Tuesday afternoons 3:30pm–5:00pm

Thursday afternoons 1:00pm–2:00 pm

Friday mornings 9:00am–10:00am

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

The February monthly theme is “Grace.” The meaning of this word includes that of a “free gift.” When I think of all the gifts in our lives that are free, and indeed miraculously free, I think of the gift of music. It is

something that is available to all of us, and it is hard to imagine that any of us is not touched by some song, musical style, or instrumental composition. Music helps to carry us through the inevitable seasons and transitions of life. Flowing from the gift of music is the gift of song and of singing. Experiencing and sharing this gift are what motivates Hope’s choir and our congregational singing together on Sundays. We thus look forward to joyously sharing and celebrating “grace” in this way as we explore together this month’s theme.

Joseph Rivers, PhD

Director of Music

joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Children & Youth Programs (CYP)



Susan Spooner, Director,

susan@hopeuu.org

Need childcare for a church event? Please email your request to child-care@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.

Care Team Corner

Hope’s Care Team is here for you!

We have a new email address that you may use to contact us:

careteam@hopeuu.org. You may

also call the church at

918.481.0999 to get in touch with us.



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.

The first Sunday of every month Adult Forum features our Generosity recipient for the month. On **February 3**, we’ll have a speaker from the Reed Community Foundation.

On **February 10**, please join us for **Brainstorming Within & Among**, led by Hope’s Board of Trustees

Hope Unitarian Church invites your wisdom for this energizing Adult Forum. In small groups facilitated by a board member, we seek your input for updating the church’s mission, vision and core values. These conversations will be one way to share what Hope means to you, who we are and where we want to go.

To see other topics in February, 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/>.

UUA General Assembly 2019

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be **June 19–23** in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.



The Power of We

This year’s theme is about collective power, “The Power of We,” as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle, and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the power of “we.”

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga/travel.

Living out LOVE

WITHIN • AMONG • BEYOND

Pledge Drive

March 9th through April 7th

Stewardship Dinner

Saturday, March 9

6:00 p.m.

It's time for the annual Pledge Drive!

This year's pledge drive will kick off with a special evening that is sure to be fun for all. Dinner will be prepared by our very own Rick Eagleton and his team of talented cooks. You won't want to miss this meal with gyros, hummus, tabouli, and other delightful Mediterranean dishes. This is a meal planned for all. Included will be vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free dishes so that all can come and enjoy themselves.

After dinner, you can show off your knowledge of insignificant and useless facts as we play a rousing game of trivia. Our hard-working trivia team has been busy developing just the right questions, and the questions will arrive at the church that evening under heavy guard and hermetically sealed in a mayonnaise jar. The challenge is on!

There is no cost for this delightful, entertaining and very important church event, but we do ask that you make a reservation. We will begin taking reservations on **Sunday, February 10th** and take reservations through **Sunday, March 3rd**. As always, childcare will be available.

Our Pledge drive for the next church year will run **March 9th through April 7th**—although in the words of a certain esteemed past Board President whose initials are JN, it's never over! We thank all who support Hope Unitarian Church. Several exciting speakers are lined up for you during the pledge drive period.

March 10th – KICK OFF SUNDAY – Rick Eagleton, VP Finance and Planning and the Rev. Cathey Edwards

March 24th – COMMITMENT SUNDAY – Rev. Chuck Freeman, Founding Minister, Free Souls Congregation, Round Rock, Texas

April 7th – PLEDGE DRIVE WRAP-UP – Rev. Diana Davies, Minister, First Unitarian Church, Oklahoma City

Many of you know Rev. Chuck Freeman. If you have been to The Point, you have heard him speak and probably attended one of the workshops that he teaches, usually in conjunction with Rev. Gerald Davis. He has a rich background in social justice work and is a captivating speaker who you will not want to miss.

Rev. Diana Davies has been at First Unitarian since May 2018. She has served as an international education consultant to Meadville Lombard and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees there. She is trained in trauma-informed yoga and has taught yoga to incarcerated men and women.

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!

February Generosity Recipient

Our February Generosity recipient is the **Reed Community Foundation** (www.reedcf.org). Their mission is to provide an environment in which children and youth develop life skills, a strong work ethic, self-discipline, an enlarged spiritual life, and respect for others. Through structure and discipline, the foundation provides a safe space where they offer positive reinforcement and demonstrate healthy relationships.

Keith Reed (Coach Reed) founded The Reed Community Foundation in 2006. He is recognized in the community as an expert in dealing with children with behavioral issues. Coach Reed will be speaking at the Adult Forum on **February 3rd**. Twenty children, ages 8–12 and three board members from the foundation will accompany Coach Reed to Hope on February 3rd. Please help us in welcoming them as our guests for breakfast, and then to the Adult Forum.

**The next Feed the Homeless date is
Saturday, February 16**

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 white binder on the Administrator's desk or call the church at **918.481.0999**.

Feed the Homeless Program

Our monthly meal for the Day Center for the Homeless was not prepared or served in January due to the concerns about the weather. Instead, the Day Center

served pizza to their clients. Outreach is reimbursing them for this.

Keith Hamilton shopped on Friday, January 18th and delivered milk, cereal, and donations to the Day Center to ensure that they would have plenty for breakfast over the weekend. Thank you, Keith!

Green Sanctuary Team

The Outreach Committee's Green Sanctuary Team's current priorities are:



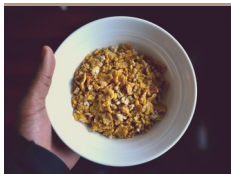
1. Solar energy is a must-do target this year. We have a new governor and the Ready for 100 team cannot hope to get a commitment from city officials to be 100% renewable electric energy by 2035 unless the three state solar dis-incentive laws are revised or voided. The dis-incentive laws require that solar panels can only be leased to a utility company, selling extra customer-generated electricity to a utility company is limited to 30 days, and the utility companies can charge customers generating their own wind or solar electricity a fee.

We have furnished Sierra Club Executive Director & lobbyist Johnson Grimm-Bridgwater potential jobs estimates that will be helpful in his contacts with the legislature and the governor.

2. Participation as a member of the Ready for 100 Group developing a Tulsa bid to be the second city in Oklahoma to commit to the national goals of being 100% renewable electric energy by 2035, and 100% of all energy being from renewable wind and solar sources by 2050 will be a priority throughout 2019. Anita Mills and Rich Jackson will serve as Hope GST members of one of the RF 100's six operational teams.

Breakfast on the Hill

Breakfast on the Hill is Sunday, February 3, at 9 a.m. The hosts will be **James Donovan, Robert Billings, Joe Perrault**, and others. We will have guests from our February Generosity recipient, the Reed Community Foundation, including some of the children who participate in its program.



Cereal Sunday—Sunday, February 10

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 February Events

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



The Annual Chili Cook Off

Saturday, Feb. 2, 6:00 p.m.

The annual CHILI COOK OFF is

February 2! Come for line dancing instruction, fierce cooking competitors, and hilarious honors. Will you take the honors for spiciest, best overall, or the coveted SEXIEST CHILI?

We need people to bring: yummy crock pots of chili, cornbread, Fritos, shredded cheddar, sour cream, dancing shoes, competitive spirit, and excellent dance floor moves.

Breakfast on the Hill

Sunday, Feb. 3
1st Sundays

We will have guests from our February Generosity recipient, the Reed Community Foundation, including some of the children who participate in its program. See [p. 5](#) for more details.



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

Bring a sack lunch and join us with your projects! If you need some inspiration, see [this story in the Tulsa World](#)

about a Tulsa woman who crochets scarves for the homeless. The article includes the pattern, but **Deborah Whittaker** has printed out copies too. For more information, contact **Deborah**.

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! **Rev. Cathey** leads the group the first Thursday of the month. Together the group explores "[This I Believe](#)" essays by Hope members and others. Then we read, listen, discuss, and even write or revise our own statements.

Women of Hope

Thursday, Feb. 7, 6:00 p.m.

February 7 is the next Women of Hope potluck event. We will be playing BINGO, and word has it there are some great prizes for the winners!

Remember, social hour is at 6 p.m., the potluck dinner is at 6:30, and our program starts at 7. Hope to see all you ladies there!

Note: Claudia Vandiver's presentation on her trip to Peru, originally scheduled for January, will be at our March meeting.

Chocolate Auction

The annual Chocolate Auction will be on Sunday, February 10, after the service.

Round up your favorite recipes for all things chocolate and get creative. Cakes, brownies, candies, cookies, chocolate dipped fruits...let your imagination run wild!



Bring your delicious creations between 9:30 and 11:45 to be arranged on the tables for the silent auction.

Movie Night

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 pm

The February movie is *Catch-22*. This 1970 movie is based on a Joseph Heller book that was published in 1961. It stars Alan Arkin, Martin Balsam, and a host of other familiar actors. The movie was directed by Mike Nichols.

A bombardier in World War II tries desperately to escape the insanity of the war. However, sometimes insanity is the only sane way to cope with a crazy situation. *Catch-22* is a parody of a "military mentality," and of a bureaucratic society in general.

Please come and enjoy the movie with us on Feb. 12. We start a little after 7:00 and will have free soft drinks, popcorn, and plenty to talk about.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.

Our restaurant for February is Sisserou's, located in the Brady District at 107 N. Boulder Ave. Their menu has a Caribbean focus with many delicious options. Contact **Lynn Walters** if you can join us for this fun meal and lively conversation. Lynn's information is in the church directory.



Walking Meditation Sunday, Feb. 24 9:00 am

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 February

Ike Walker	6th	Henry Brown	18th
Mary Baird	7th	Joey Dewiel	23rd
Ruth Jackson	7th	Catherine Gregory	23rd
Alice Van Wormer	10th	Seph Newman	26th
Corrie Dorman	12th	Lily Eagleton	28th
Adriana Rivers	12th	Sam Eagleton	28th

Save the Dates

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						2 2pm OWL 6pm Chili Cook Off
3 9am Breakfast on the Hill 10am Adult Forum 10am OWL 11am Service	4	5	6 7pm Choir practice	7 11:30am Brown Bag Lunch 6pm Women of Hope	8	9 6pm Supper Club
10 Cereal Sunday CHOCOLATE SUNDAY 10am Adult Forum 11am Service	11	12 11:30am Threads of Hope 7pm Movie Night	13 7pm Choir practice	14 11:30am Brown Bag Lunch	15 9:30am FTH pre-cook	16 2:30pm Feed the Homeless
17 10am Adult Forum 10am OWL 11am Service	18	19	20 Focus deadline 7pm Choir practice	21 11:30am Brown Bag Lunch	22	23
24 9am Walking Meditation 10am Adult Forum 10am OWL 11am Service	25	26 11:30am Threads of Hope 7pm Board	27 7pm Choir practice	28 11:30am Brown Bag Lunch		

Key Person Schedule

February 4–10

Jim Sleezer
918.853.5114
jim.sleezer@okstate.edu

February 11–17

Sherrill Womeldorff
918.638.7610
marcial234@aol.com

February 18–24

Fred Pottorf
918.407.0924
fpottorf@swbell.net

February 25–March 3

David Lynn
918.250.5265
davidlynn489@gmail.com

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 above volunteer Key Person a few days in advance of the event.

For current events, visit the
Hope Calendar at:

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

or our Events page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/HopeUnitarianChurch/events/>

Focus Submissions

Send all input with **"Focus"** in the subject line. For the March *Focus*, the last day of consideration for submissions is **February 20**. 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.2, February 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, yadenee@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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Office Hours
Mon–Fri 9 am–3pm