

# FOCUS



Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community

The monthly newsletter from Hope Unitarian Church

VOL. 25, NO. 10 | OCTOBER 2019



## THIS MONTH AT HOPE

### RiZe Up



Once again we welcome singer/songwriter **Roy Zimmerman** to Hope, on October 8 at 7 p.m. for his show **RiZe Up**.

Tickets are \$22, or pay what you can.

forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice.

Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin, and tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby."

Here are some of his songs:

["Thoughts and Prayers"](#)

["Defenders of Marriage"](#)

["The Don"](#)

["My Vote, My Voice, My Right"](#)

Here's how Roy describes his show:

"In the current national nightmare, we need to laugh. And we need to hope. Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. RiZe Up is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, a funny and

### Death Café, Oct. 25

Please join us at Hope Church on **Friday, October 25th at 7pm** for our second Death Café. What's a Death Café, you might ask? A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a small discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. As part of an international movement, your death café is hosted by the Hope Care Team. If you'd like to bring something, we suggest a cake or sweets.



### SUNDAY MORNINGS

ADULT FORUM: 10:00

SERVICE: 11:00

*Childcare & Religious Education available from 9:45 until after the service*

#### Breakfast on the Hill

9:00 a.m. the first Sunday of **most** months

#### Walking Meditation

9:00 a.m. the last Sunday of every month

#### Newcomer Orientation

After the service the first Sunday of every month in the Minister's Study

#### Invitation to Membership

After the service the third Sunday of every month

## IN THIS ISSUE

Interim Minister's Mailbox [p. 2](#)

Music [p. 3](#)

Board News [p. 3](#)

Birthdays [p. 3](#)

Outreach [p. 4](#)

Calendar [p. 6](#)

Events [p. 7](#)

Sundays [p. 9](#)



## THE FIVE TASKS OF INTERIM MINISTRY

By Rev. Greg Stewart

What in the world will we be doing together in the next two years?

The primary task of the interim minister is to hold up a mirror to the congregation and ask, "Is this who you are?" and "Is this who you want to be?"

This is more than a simple survey. This is sacred work that goes beyond personal preferences. This is hard work that lifts up the best and worst in our identity and interactions as a progressive religious community. Where do we start?

**Heritage:** the past is the foundation of the present. What are the stories we tell that have shaped and formed Hope Unitarian Church?

**Leadership:** the present is the foundation of the future. How do we promote the emergence of new leaders and the recommitment of seasoned leaders?

**Mission:** our mission acts as a filter for congregational decisions. What are the congregations' mission and vision, its sense of purpose and direction?

**Connections:** our connections help us embody our mission. What are the relationships the congregation builds outside of itself?

**Future:** this is where the congregation turns its energy toward proactive decision-making. Who are we? Who are our neighbors? What are we called to do?

The interim time is often exciting. If it's done right, it will also be unsettling. The time has come, the future is now, and we're all in this together. Take a look in the mirror and tell me what you see.

The joy continues,

### WHEN MINISTERS DEPART

Are you grieving about a former minister's departure at Hope? Are you angry or sad about their leave-taking? Or by something they may have said to you, or how you were treated by them? Or do you simply miss them? If you would like to explore your feelings in this regard, please attend a meeting led by Rev. Greg, **Sunday, October 13 at 12:15 p.m.** in the Minister's Study. This event is a part of the Interim ministry program at Hope. All are welcome.

### LET'S MEET UP!

I'd like to get to know you better. Consider making an individual appointment with me. Invite me to your committee meeting. Meet offsite for breakfast, for lunch, or for a walk in the park. Stop by the church during my office hours:

**Tuesday through Thursday  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

I'm eager to see you!

### NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Starting in October, Rev. Greg will begin offering a Newcomer Orientation on the first Sunday of each month. Visitors who are new to Hope will be invited to join him in the Minister's Study right after the service to watch a short film about Unitarian Universalism and ask questions. On the third Sunday, we'll offer an Invitation to Membership to those who wish to join the church.

### CONTACT US

#### Pastoral Care

Rev. Greg: [greg@hopeuu.org](mailto:greg@hopeuu.org)

Care Team:

[careteam@hopeuu.org](mailto:careteam@hopeuu.org)

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Tennille Wilson:

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Childcare:

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#### Music

Dr. Joseph Rivers:

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#### Outreach

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#### Board

[boardpresident@hopeuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@hopeuu.org)

#### Church Administration/ Office

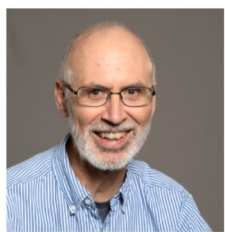
[hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org)

918-481-0999

#### Building/Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9  
a.m. to 3 p.m.

[www.hopeuu.org](http://www.hopeuu.org)



## MUSIC NEWS

By Dr. Joseph Rivers

The choir will continue to sing music old and new and provide service music to the church during the month of October, during which our monthly theme will be "Identity." As this theme is developed during the month through words and music, the choir will also sing Victor C. Johnson's stirring anthem

"Rise," which is about being true and sure of our values and living them out courageously in our modern world. We also expect to continue to hear stirring piano service and solo music from our pianist, **Chris Powell**, as well as beautiful singing from our esteemed friend **Larry Sharp**.

In October, the choir will also begin rehearsals for the "Sing Noel!" service, which will take place on **Sunday, December 8**. We would like to invite all of you interested singers to rehearse and sing with us, even if you cannot commit to singing in the choir for the entire year. During October and much of November we will rehearse every Wednesday evening from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., and Sing Noel singers can join us at 7:15 p.m. In addition, if you are an instrumentalist wanting to participate, especially playing handbells, please let us know so we can plan to incorporate your talents into this signature annual event.

Joseph Rivers, Ph.D.

Director of Music

[joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org](mailto:joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org)

## BOARD NEWS

By James Donovan, President of the Board of Trustees

At our September meeting, the Hope Board of Trustees voted to prohibit firearms in the church buildings and on church grounds. Of course, this prohibition will not apply to law enforcement personnel. We will soon have notices on all church entrances that announce this policy.

One of the board's goals for the 2019-2020 church year is to charge the congregation to narrow its social justice focus by concentrating on one or more of the three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) that were affirmed at the UUA's General Assembly in June. At our October 13, we will present those three AIWs and discuss what actions our congregation can take to support them.

Hope's new Right Relations Team, chaired by Michael Simpson, will begin reviewing the church's healthy relations, sexual harassment, and conflict resolution policies. They will also develop new policies regarding how we all interact with each other.

The Board of Trustees is also working toward improving our facilities and grounds. Big decisions need to be made and we'll be reporting them to you over the next few months. We are also reviewing our hiring and other personnel policies.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that you'd like to share with the Board of Trustees, please contact me at [boardpresident@hopeuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@hopeuu.org).



## October Birthdays

Brad Adams	1st
Elva Knoles	3rd
Lynn Rivers	12th
Larry Sharp	15th
Paula Haight	16th
Jim Sleezer	16th
Joan Scheulen	17th
Jean Coffey	17th
Ada Galli	17th
Mindy Paschal	17th
Amber Zavaleta	21st
Shirley Adams	22nd
Marcia Schaefer	23rd
Leslie Walker	24th
Carol Cox	28th
Ursula Monroe	29th

## Are you receiving our email communications?

If you aren't receiving *Highlights*, *Focus*, or churchwide announcements by email, you might be missing out!

You can sign up for any of these on our website here:

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

You can also call the church at **918.481.0999** or email us at [hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org) to be added to any of our email lists.

## OCTOBER'S GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

October's Generosity recipient is [New Sanctuary Network | Tulsa](#). New Sanctuary Network | Tulsa is an anti-deportation organization founded in 2016. They are migrant and asylum defenders shining a bright light on the darkness of ICE detention at the US/ Mexico border and in Tulsa County, where the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) contracts with ICE to deputize local law enforcement to serve as ICE agents and to warehouse detainees. Our work consists of advocacy, direct action and solidarity in gestures of radical welcome.

They meet every Friday from 12:00 to 12:15 at the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center to protest the violence of deportation and hold a vigil for the lives lost in this corrupted system. You are welcome to join the vigil any Friday.

## OUTREACH NEWS

By Mary Newman



### GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM

The Thursday, Nov. 7 Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM)-sponsored Ready for 100 Tulsa faith organizations seminar initiated by the Hope Outreach Committee is coming soon.

The purpose of the seminar is to seek faith organizations' support for a 2020 request to the Tulsa City Council and mayor to join over 100 other cities nationwide in committing to:

- All electricity used within their borders will come from renewable sources by 2035.
- All energy used within their borders will come from renewable sources by 2050.

It's open to the public, and a chili supper will precede the three informative presentations. Your attendance will be welcome. Please RSVP to [rf100tmm@tulsaconnect.com](mailto:rf100tmm@tulsaconnect.com) if you plan to attend.

- Rich Jackson

### FEED THE HOMELESS

In September our Feed the Homeless crew was busy! **Mary and Joe Newman** did the Friday shopping, and **Maggie Scott** did the pre-cooking. Cooks were **Brandy and Steve Morgan, Eddie Humphreys, Rich Jackson**, and **Joan Scheulen**, led by **Maggie Scott**. **Mary Baird** led the team of servers, including **Matt Baird, Cynthia Heifner**, and the Dunn family: **Jarrett, Lisa, Siannan**, and **Chris**. Thanks to all of you for doing this important work!

Our Feed the Homeless program is on the third Saturday of every month. Cooks meet at Hope at 2:30 to prepare the meal; servers meet at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless at 5:00 to serve. If you'd like to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen or call the church at 918.481.0999.

### CARE TEAM CORNER



#### Care Team Spotlight Family & Children's Services

Most of us have heard about Family & Children's Services (it was founded in 1921!), but do you know about the many services they offer? Surprisingly, this organization isn't just for families or children as the name suggests—anyone can benefit from their programs. Family & Children's Services offers mental health counseling, group counseling, substance abuse assistance, crisis services, jail diversion programs, and trauma services for adults and kids. If you are ever in a crisis situation—if you're feeling emotionally overwhelmed or suicidal—you can call their COPES line 24 hours a day at 918.744.4800.

To learn more, visit their website at <https://www.fcsok.org/>, or to make an appointment call 918.587.9471.





## HOPE'S ANNUAL AUCTION

November 9, 2019

Mark your calendar! Hope's 2019 Auction is **November 9th**. This is a fun evening with good food and fellowship, but most important, it is Hope's most important fundraising event of the year. Your reservation fee buys you dinner, drinks and a bid card.

Your donations and participation make the

Auction successful, so put your imagination and your creativity to work. Here are the different categories:

**Live Auction** – These are the “big-ticket” items. Past offerings that have been popular were dinners and parties, vacation homes, basket weaving and other unique classes. Do you like to cook, entertain? Have access to something else that you believe would be popular?

**Sign-up Parties** – These are events and parties that are typically more casual and reasonably affordable. You, as the host, set the price and the number of participants, with these being sold on a first-come, first serve basis. This is the third year for these obviously popular events that have in past years included more dinners and parties, a dive bar tour, painting classes and others.

**Gift Card Pull** – For a \$20 fee, you can pull a gift card worth that much or more. Past years' offerings have been gift cards from restaurants, home improvement stores, and others ranging from a value of \$20 to \$50. These cards have gone quickly.

**Silent Auction** – These are the smaller items and frequently include jewelry, handcrafts, housewares, etc. We ask that these be new or gently used items that are unique and will be attractive to our participants.

The auction offers something for everyone's budget. Please mark your calendar to attend and put your thinking cap on for what you could donate. Ask for donations at your favorite restaurant or business. Often they are glad to do this, and we will recognize them in the program.

Look for donation forms and cheerful folks taking reservations in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. You can also register on our website ([www.hopeuu.org](http://www.hopeuu.org)) or by calling the church.

For questions, contact **Claudia Vandiver** at [auktion@hopeuu.org](mailto:auktion@hopeuu.org) or look her up in the church directory.

## FALL BREAK NATURE CAMP

Oct. 14–18 (5-day camp)

Oct. 17–18 (2-day camp)

Pre-K through 5th grade (campers)

6th through 8th grade (CITs)

This year's theme is *The Wind in the Willows*, inspired by Kenneth Grahame's book and characters. Campers will trek through the forest searching for signs of woodland creatures, recreate Mr. Toad's wild ride using recycled materials, and construct Badger's garden by building raised beds and planting winter vegetables. They'll make boats to float in the pond like Rat and Mole and hear this childhood classic read aloud while enjoying themed snacks created by campers. Camp will end with a woodland forest party.

Camp will end with a woodland forest party.

For more information and to register, visit our website: [naturecamps.hopeuu.org](http://naturecamps.hopeuu.org).



# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  7pm Choir	3  11:30am Brown Bag Lunch  6 pm Women of Hope	4	5
6  9am Breakfast on the Hill 12pm Newcomer Orientation	7  7pm RE Committee	8  11:30am Threads of Hope  7pm RiZe Up	9  7pm Choir	10  11:30am Brown Bag Lunch	11	12  6pm Supper Club
13  Cereal Sunday  12:15 When Ministers Depart	14	15	16  11:30am Lunch Bunch  7pm Choir	17  11:30am Brown Bag Lunch  7:30pm Foundation	18	19  2:30pm Feed the Homeless
20  12pm Invitation to Membership	21	22  11:30am Threads of Hope  7pm Board of Trustees	23  <i>Focus</i> Deadline  7pm Choir	24  11:30am Brown Bag Lunch	25  6:30pm Death Café	26
27  9am Walking Meditation	28	29	30  7pm Choir	31  11:30am Brown Bag Lunch		

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Brown Bag Lunch**, every Thursday at 11:30  
Join us for conversation and fellowship!

## COMING UP

**Roy Zimmerman "RiZe Up"** concert, Oct. 8th ([read more](#))

**Death Café**, Oct. 25th ([read more](#))

**Hope's Annual Auction**, Nov. 9 ([read more](#))

### Supper Club

If you were in Supper Club as of last May and plan to participate, great! If you do not plan to participate, please let **Coe McGinley** know. We have a waiting list of people eager to fill up the tables!

All hosting spots are filled through October. Hosts and hostesses open their homes, plan the meal, fix the entrée, and call their guest list (which Coe gives them). Each guest brings food to complement the entrée. Spirits (red and white wine), soft drinks, and coffee (regular and decaf) are served. Child-care is available at Hope—even if your dinner is in someone's home—by emailing [childcare@hopeuu.org](mailto:childcare@hopeuu.org) at least **SEVEN** days in advance.

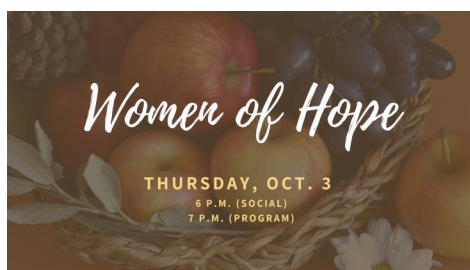
## OCTOBER EVENTS

**Wednesday, Oct. 2**

**Choir Practice**, 7 p.m.

This is the first rehearsal for the "Sing Noel!" service, which will take place on **Sunday, December 8**. We would like to invite all of you interested singers to rehearse and sing with us, even if you cannot commit to singing in the choir for the entire year. During October and much of November we will rehearse every Wednesday evening from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., and Sing Noel singers can join us at 7:15 p.m. In addition, if you are an instrumentalist wanting to participate, especially playing handbells, please let us know so we can plan to incorporate your talents into this signature annual event.

**Thursday, Oct. 3**



**Women of Hope**, 6 p.m.

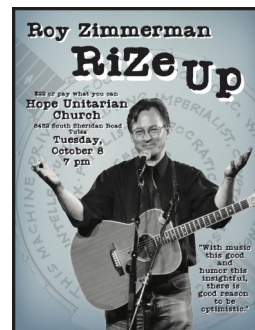
Hope Unitarian Church has been a supporter of The Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless for over 30 years. Our members have prepared a monthly meal and provided clothing and personal items during that time. We have invited Co Edwards, the director of the Tulsa Day Center to share the details of the Center's programs and services.

Please join us on Thursday, October 3 at 6:00 p.m. for social time. Bring a couple of dollars if you would like to share the wine. We will dine at 6:30 p.m. with your delicious potluck offerings. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Don't forget to bring a hygiene product for the ladies at The Day Center.

**Monday, Oct. 7**

**RE Meeting**, 7 p.m.



**Tuesday, Oct. 8**

**Threads of Hope**, 11:30 a.m.

**Roy Zimmerman: RiZe Up**, 7 p.m. ([read more](#))

**Movie Night is postponed until November.**

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

**Supper Club**, 6 p.m.

**Monday, Oct. 14–18**

**Fall Break Nature Camp** ([read more](#))

**Wednesday, Oct. 16**

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 a.m.

The Hope Lunch Bunch will meet this month at **Water's Edge Winery and Bistro**, at 116 S. Main Street in Broken Arrow. If you plan to join us, please call or email **Lynn Walters**. Her information is in the church directory.

**Thursday, Oct. 17**

**Hope Unitarian Church Foundation**, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 19**

**Feed the Homeless** (2:30 p.m. cook; 5:00 serve)

**Tuesday, Oct. 22**

**Threads of Hope**, 11:30 a.m.

**Board Meeting**, 7 p.m.

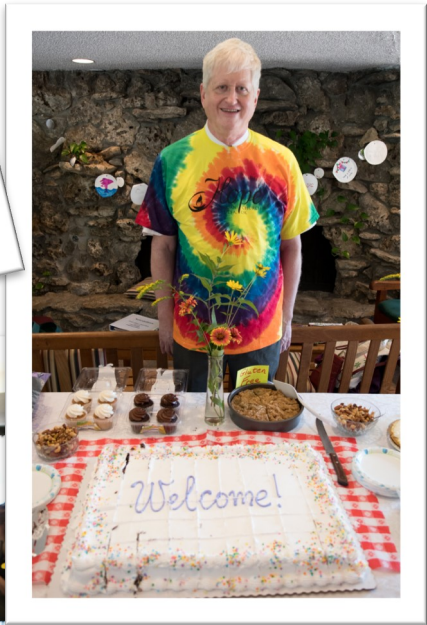
**Wednesday, Oct. 23**

*Focus* deadline

**Friday, Oct. 25**

**Death Café** ([read more](#))





Thanks to Robert Billings for these excellent photos of our Homecoming Sunday!



# SUNDAYS THIS MONTH AT HOPE

## SUNDAY, OCT. 6

9:00 Breakfast on the Hill

*Sponsored by the Membership Committee*

10:00 Adult Forum: Generosity Recipient—  
New Sanctuary Network

11:00 Sermon: Let's Be a Church on Purpose (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

What is our identity? Why do we exist? What is it that we are called to do? While the answers are often simple, their realizations are often complex and confusing. It begins with being a church on purpose. We'll explore what this means and why it should matter to those both inside and outside of our beloved community.

12:00 Newcomer Orientation

## SUNDAY, OCT. 13

### Cereal Sunday

10:00 Adult Forum: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Actions of Immediate Witness for 2019–2020

11:00 Sermon: Religiously Liberal for Life (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

If you were arrested for being a religious liberal, would there be enough evidence to convict you? This sermon understands Unitarian Universalism as a countercultural lifestyle, not a Sunday morning choice. It is

who we are. Given that Hope Unitarian is a religiously liberal oasis in an ultraconservative landscape, how shall we then live?

12:15 When Ministers Depart ([read more](#))

## SUNDAY, OCT. 20

10:00 Adult Forum: Intergenerational Program

11:00 Sermon: What Is the Spirit of This Church?" (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

We say it every Sunday: "Love is the spirit of this church..." That's a tall order, even on a good day. How does what we say square with what we do? Are we truly loving to each other and to those in the wider world? This sermon responds to tough questions like these. The responses may surprise you.

12:00 Invitation to Membership

## SUNDAY, OCT. 27



9:00 Walking Meditation

10:00 UU Common Read

Sermon: To Be Determined

## FOCUS SUBMISSIONS

Send all submissions to [hopeuu@hopeuu.org](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org) with "Focus" in the subject line. The deadline for *Focus* submissions is **the Wednesday before the last Wednesday of the month**. Exceptions may be made for coverage of events that take place after the deadline, but before the end of the month. For the November *Focus*, the deadline is **October 23**.

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.

This month's contributors were **Rev. Greg Stewart, Dr. Joseph Rivers, James Donovan, Deborah Whittaker, Mary Newman, Coe McGinley, Larry Vandiver, Claudia Vandiver, Tara Saylor, Anita Ward, and Lynn Walters**. Thanks to all of our terrific *Focus* contributors! It wouldn't exist without you.

## KEY PERSON SCHEDULE

9/30–10/6: TBD

10/7–10/13: TBD

10/14–10/20: TBD

10/21–10/27: Jim Sleezer

10/28–11/3: TBD

Please call the church to find out who is on key duty for your event.

### Policy for function organizers

- First determine if someone attending your function can open the building.
- Find out if the church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours.
- If no one is available and you need entry, contact a Key Person or the church a few days in advance of the event.

### Are you following us on Facebook?

We post events and other church news there, as well as photos and even an occasional video! We'd love to connect with you.

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



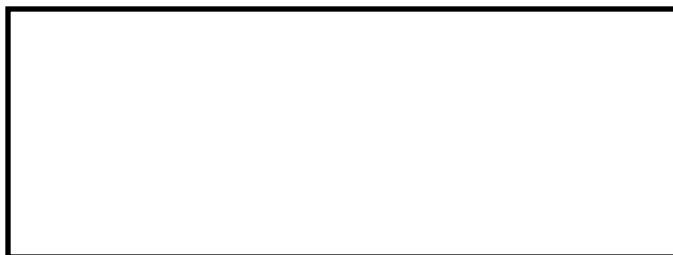


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*Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community*

FOCUS v. 25, no. 10, October 2019 by Hope Unitarian Church  
8432 S. Sheridan Road, Tulsa OK 74133-4137

TO:



Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation.

#### 2019–2020 BOARD MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

**James Donovan**, President  
**Lee Ann Cole**, President-Elect  
**Rick Eagleton**, VP of Finance and Planning  
**Christy Levine**, VP of Programs  
**Anita Wood**, Treasurer  
**Joan Scheulen**, Secretary  
**Cate Potter**, Past President  
Trustees: **Rick Paschal**, **Annie Simpson**,  
**Barbara Witt**, **Brian Tolle**

#### OUR STAFF

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**Dr. Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music,  
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**Molly Ives Brower**, Church Administrator,  
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**Chris Powell**, Pianist  
**Susan Michael**, **Windsor Aniol**, **Michelle Steyve**, **Nora Potter**, Childcare  
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