

# FOCUS



Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community

The monthly newsletter from Hope Unitarian Church

VOL. 25, NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2019

NOVEMBER'S THEME

# Mercy

## THIS MONTH AT HOPE

### HOPE'S ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Event begins at 6:00 (doors open at 5:30)

Dinner at 7:00

This is a fun evening with good food and fellowship. It's also Hope's most important fundraising event of the year! Be sure and register ([online](#) or at church) or turn in your donation forms by **November 3**.



### HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 23

10:00 a.m.

Please join Hope for our annual Hanging of the Greens! Spiced cider will be provided. Pastries or other snacks are welcomed.



### THANKSGIVING LUNCH

Thursday, Nov. 28

12:00 p.m.

Join our Hope family for Thanksgiving lunch! We'll provide the turkey; you bring the sides and the cheer. It starts at noon on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. You can sign up in the green notebook or call the church at **918-481-0999**.



## 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

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## CHANGE AND TRANSITION

By Rev. Greg Stewart

I saw a cartoon on the Internet. The headline read, “Hundreds Hospitalized After New Hymn Introduced at Church.” That’s too much change! Pictured was a line of emergency response vehicles at the ready. Chaos everywhere. Life would never be the same. Or would it?

It’s important to distinguish “change” from “transition.”

Changes happen in an instant: a decision is made, or a letter of resignation is submitted, or plane tickets are purchased, or someone asks you to marry them, and change is effected. Even with advance notice of the changes, its impact is often not felt until the change actually takes place. Then it’s done, period.

Transition is the time necessary to adjust to the change(s). Once the change has been made and there’s no turning back, how shall we then live? Over time and with the help of others we begin to lean into the change, perhaps find its efficacy, and become more comfortable with it. While change happens in an instant, transition is not time-specific. We each experience transition in our own time.

Interim ministry embraces both change and transition. Some changes have already taken place before the interim arrives on the scene. Others occur once the interim is in place. Some transitions are smooth as silk; many are not. The point is to be ready for the real changes that take place once your new settled minister arrives. How do we (corporately) deal with change and transition?

During the interim period, we’ll surely find out. But don’t expect ambulances in the church parking lot anytime soon. By faith, together, and perhaps with hands held, we’ll move forward in a world of our own making and make it better through acts of love and deeds of justice. After all, this is the work of the church.

The joy continues,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg".

### 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.

**NOTE:** The “Who Are We?” Workshop originally scheduled for November 10 has been postponed. Watch for an announcement when it is rescheduled!

### CONTACT US

#### Pastoral Care

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

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#### Board

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#### Church Administration/ Office

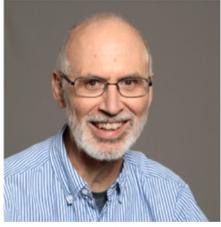
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#### Building/Office Hours:

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

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



## MUSIC NEWS

By Dr. Joseph Rivers

The theme this month is “Mercy,” as opposed to “judgment,” in the sense of “condemnation.” Hope Unitarian Church is a place of mercy in a world very much in need of it. The ultimate victory of mercy and love is reflected in Jason Shelton’s beautiful anthem, “Love Has Already Won,” which the choir

will sing in November. As we approach the coming Thanksgiving holiday with thankfulness and fellowship we will hear special music not only from the choir, but also from other Hope instrumentalists and vocalists, such as violinists Rachel Hay, Julia Harris, and Elizabeth Obal, and vocalist Larry Sharp. The choir also continues to prepare and look forward to the “Sing Noel!” service on December 8. Our “Sing Noel” service theme this year, “Peace and Justice,” will herald a very special winter holiday season at Hope.

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

### November Birthdays

Ken Jones	4th
Nancy Sahler	17th
Steve Witt	25th
Linda Tracy	29th

## BOARD NEWS

By Christy Levine, VP of Programs

At the October meeting, our Hope Board of Trustees voted on our Auction donation! We cannot share details yet, but a party is involved.

Beyond the levity, we discussed where Hope is, as a community with a mission, where we want to go, and how to get there. You know: life questions. Our annual goals seek to address some of these questions. We reviewed processes, accountability, and deadlines for meeting the goals that were announced in September’s *Focus*. Of note, and toward these goals, **Ken Jones**, Chair of Nominating Committee, attended as a guest and presented ideas to the Board of how to continue bringing new voices into leadership roles, including one-on-one mentorship. **Tennille Wilson**, Director of Religious Education, also attended and updated the Board on the status of Children’s and Youth Religious Education (CYRE). Tennille’s ambition regarding the health of the program is evident in not only the physical updating and reorganization of our beloved CRE space but also in her careful planning of religious education activities. Our first Multigenerational Religious Education Program was a wonderful start to Hope’s learning and worshipping as a whole community. Our children need to have their questions and ideas

### NEW POLICY

You might have noticed some new decals and signs on our entrance doors. 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.



nurtured, which is not always easy to come by as a child in our greater community. Let’s share our search for truth and meaning with our children and youth. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that you’d like to share with the Board of Trustees, please contact any Board member. My email is [chrstlvn@gmail.com](mailto:chrstlvn@gmail.com).

### 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.

## NOVEMBER'S GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

[Therapeutics Service Dogs of Oklahoma](#), based in Tulsa but serving the entire state, trains and places two types of service dogs: Mobility Assistance Service Dogs for individuals (both veterans and civilians) with physical disabilities that limit their mobility, and Psychiatric Service Dogs for military veterans diagnosed with PTSD. Despite the cost for training and care of Therapeutic dogs, they are placed with individuals in need at no charge and provides training support to the client and service dog for the life of the partnership. To cover the expenses Therapeutics relies completely on support from individuals, groups, businesses, foundations and corporations as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Please come to the Adult Forum on Sunday, November 3rd, at 10 a.m. to hear Alex Mitchell from Therapeutics tell you all about this worthy organization.

*Submitted by Jean Coffey*

## OUTREACH NEWS

*By Mary Newman*

### Hope's Star Tree, Supporting Lindsey House

On Friday, November 22nd, members of the Outreach Committee will decorate a small tree in the Fellowship Hall with stars and other ornaments. This is Hope's Star Tree. Each ornament represents a gift for a member of the 12 families we have adopted from Lindsey House. Lindsey House provides long-term shelter and supportive services to 12 women caring for children as they transition from homelessness. This will be Hope's fourth year adopting Lindsey House at Christmas.

This is how you can help:

- \* Choose an ornament from the tree
- \* Purchase a gift (All gift items should be new) by Sunday, December 15th
- \* Wrap it, attach the ornament to the gift securely, bring it back to Hope, and place in the box provided.

If you prefer to make a cash donation, an Outreach member can shop for any stars left after the deadline date. There will be envelopes on the tree for cash donations. Please write checks to Hope with "Star Tree" in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us make this a happy Christmas for the 12 families and 23 children presently living at Lindsey House.

### Hope Bakers

In December we will serve our monthly meal at the Day Center on December 21st. With this meal we will give everyone a bag of homemade cookies. Please help by baking cookies and bringing them to the



church by that date, or bake them now and put them in our freezer. Just be sure to mark them as *Feed the Homeless* so they aren't mixed up with our Sunday cookies.

### Fair Trade

Equal Exchange is a Fair Trade organization that buys directly from small-scale farmer cooperatives, owned and run by the farmers themselves. Farmer partners are paid above market prices for their crops. This helps them support their families and invest in their communities, while farming in a sustainable way that protects the environment.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project is a collaboration between Equal Exchange and the UUSC to involve more Unitarians in supporting small farmers around the world. For each pound of fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea and food purchased through the UUSC Coffee Project, 20 cents per pound goes to the UUSC's small farmer fund.

The Outreach Fair Trade Cart in the Fellowship Hall has a new order of coffee and delicious chocolate bars from Equal Exchange.

### MacArthur Elementary School

In September Outreach purchased and delivered snacks to MacArthur Elementary School, our partner in education. The snacks are given to children who stay for after school activities.

See the [Reading Partners Report](#) for more information about helping out at MacArthur.



## FEED THE HOMELESS

In October our FTH crew served 125 plates. **Mary and Joe Newman** did the Friday shopping, and **Maggie Scott** did the pre-cooking. Cooks were **Brandy Morgan, Eddie Humphreys, Rich Jackson, Mary Baird, Coe McGinley,** and **Christy Levine**, led by **Linda Tracy**. Servers included **Barbara DeLozier, Kiri Simpson, Michael Simpson, Mary Baird, Janet Nobles,** and **Christy Levine**. Thanks to all of you for doing this important work!

### A Special Thanks

The Feed the Homeless Team would like to offer a big thank you to **Keith Hamilton** for the many years he did the shopping for the monthly meal we serve at the Day Center for the Homeless. We appreciate you so much!

*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. You can sign up in the green notebook at the church.*

## ACTION NOTES

By Anita Mills



ACTION teams are moving forward with “action” plans:

There will be a large planning meeting for the 2020 Accountability Session for county-level positions (e.g., sheriff) up for re-election. Set your calendar for Saturday, November 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Greenwood Cultural Center. The planning meeting will have breakouts on how county government works, criminal justice reform issues, and immigration issues at the county jail.

If you want to learn about Oklahoma’s

open meeting and open records laws, there will be a seminar for the public on November 14 at OSU-Tulsa (700 N. Greenwood Avenue). More information to come.

Student Loan Debt Team is planning next steps for various presentations and work on a student loan borrower’s bill of rights. Some congregations are asking for congregants on a particular Sunday to write on a slip of paper (added to the collection basket) the dollar amount of their student loans. The totals are surprising everyone—one congregation added up to \$1.6 million!

Immigration Action Team is holding house meetings in their congregations. Stay tuned!

## COMING UP

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

Hanging of the Greens, Nov. 23 ([read more](#))

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service (at Trinity Presbyterian), Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Lunch, Nov. 28 ([read more](#))

Sing Noel! Dec. 8



readingpartners

## READING PARTNERS REPORT

By Elke Goodman

MacArthur is still in need of 20 more volunteers for Reading Partners. There are currently 33 children participating and almost 30 children on the waiting list. This is a commitment of a minimum of once a week for 45 minutes (during school hours). Reading Partners trains volunteers to work one-on-one with

students struggling with reading. The volunteers follow a structured, researched-based curriculum. For more information go to [readingpartners.org/take-action](http://readingpartners.org/take-action).

Please contact Elke Goodman at 918-605-3640/[gollie918@gmail.com](mailto:gollie918@gmail.com) if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering at MacArthur with Reading Partners, Bike Club, assisting a teacher, or in some other way.

MacArthur might not be conveniently located for some people, but there are dozens of Tulsa Public Elementary Schools needing Reading Partners volunteers. They have about 1000 weekly volunteers serving 900 students. Their goal is to serve 1,700 students this year and estimate that would take about 2000 volunteers.

## READY FOR 100

The Ready for 100 (RF100) Campaign is a nationwide effort to get cities, counties, and states to enact laws and pursue policies so that all electricity used within their borders will come from clean, renewable sources by 2035, and all energy used within their borders will come from clean, renewable sources by 2050.

You might have talked to **Rich Jackson**, **Mary Newman**, or **Anita Ward** about RF100, or you might have heard Gary Allison speak about it in Adult Forum at Hope. Are you ready to hear more? Please consider attending this free seminar on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at All Souls. There will be a chili supper at 6. The seminar will begin at 6:30 with speakers Gary Allison, Edith Newton Wilson, and Nancy Moran. It will conclude with a Q&A and collaborative workshop. It should be a great way to get involved.

Several Hope members are planning to be there already, but if you know you haven’t already signed up to go, you can still RSVP by emailing [rf100tmm@tulsaconnect.com](mailto:rf100tmm@tulsaconnect.com). Join us at the seminar to see what YOU can do.



# NOVEMBER EVENTS

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

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

**Garden & Grounds Cleanup Day**, 9 a.m.

It's time for our fall cleanup! Pull out your gardening clothes and grab a shovel, a rake, or a trowel and come on up to help clean up the Hill. CYRE is sponsoring this cleanup, so there will be plenty of youthful energy to go around as we get our beautiful garden and grounds ready for the holiday season and winter. All ages welcome!

**Thursday, Nov. 7**



**Women of Hope**, 6 p.m. (Social Time); 6:30 p.m. (Dinner) 7:00 p.m. (Remembrances) Thanksgiving Dinner with your family and friends and all your favorite dishes is so

nice to look forward to! Instead of a formal program, let's share some of our past Thanksgiving celebrations with each other. A Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving may not have been experienced by many of us. But I imagine we all have an interesting, perhaps unforgettable event in our past. Many occasions may have been somber without our loved ones overseas. Others have made for a lot of laughs, like that exotic, unidentifiable fruit, Jell-O ring Aunt Bessie wanted to try out. Let's share our memorable successes and fiascos as we approach our next Thanksgiving Dinner. Consider sharing a non-traditional dish for potluck on Thursday, November 7. We'll have our social time at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 and remembrances at 7:00.

Bring a couple of dollars to share wine and some feminine hygiene products for the Tulsa Day Center.

—Deborah Whittaker

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

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

**Tuesday, Nov. 12**

**Threads of Hope**, 11:30 a.m. in the Log Cabin

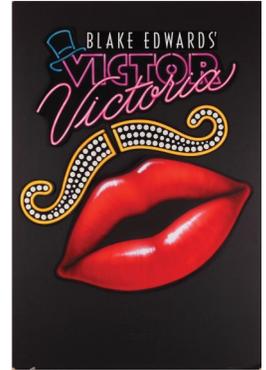
Happy Fall, Ya'!!!

Lion Brands Yarn started the [#HatNotHate anti-bullying campaign](#) last year by crocheting/knitting blue hats for school kids. This year we are going to make some for our children in RE. We hope you'll be able to join in! If you're unable to make it to our sessions, we will have a drop-off spot at the church where you can leave a hat.

No pattern? No problem! Lion Brand has plenty you can download free: <http://www.lionbrand.com/sale/hat-not-hate-patterns>

**Movie Night**, 7 p.m.

Our November movie is the 1982 release *Victor/Victoria*. Victoria Grant (Julie Andrews), a down-and-out British soprano, struggles to find work in the nightclubs of 1930s Paris. While trying to scam a free meal, Grant meets cabaret performer Toddy (Robert Preston), who comes up with an idea that will change everything. Acting as her manager, Toddy bills Grant as a male female impersonator. When the nightclubs eat it up, the duo makes it big—even a Chicago mobster (James Garner) is enamored with Grant. But keeping the truth a secret is no easy task.



As always, the movie will start a little after 7:00, and free soft drinks and pop corn will be available.

**Saturday, Nov. 12**

**Feed the Homeless**, 2:30 p.m. (cooking) 5:00 p.m. (serving)

**Wednesday, Nov. 20**

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

The Hope Lunch Bunch will meet on **Wednesday, November 20**, at 11:30 at **Mondo's Ristorante Italiano** in Brookside. The address is 3410 S Peoria Avenue, Tulsa. Come join us this month for some excellent Italian food. If you plan to join us, please call or email **Lynn Walters**. Her information is in the church directory.

**Saturday, Nov. 23**

**Hanging of the Greens**, 10:00 a.m. ([read more](#))

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**

**Board Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27**

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service**, 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian, 9303 E. 111th St. S., Bixby

**Thursday, Nov. 28**

**Thanksgiving Lunch**, 12:00 p.m. ([read more](#))



# SUNDAYS THIS MONTH AT HOPE

## SUNDAY, NOV. 3

9:00 Breakfast on the Hill

*Sponsored by Janet Nobles, Anita Ward, and Deborah Whittaker*

10:00 Adult Forum: Generosity Recipient—Therapeutics

11:00 Sermon: Forgiveness? Forget It! (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

Perhaps you can tell by the title that I don't agree with many ministers that we should forgive everyone for anything at all times. This is nonsensical and can actually be harmful to the forgiving party. Moreover, I believe that there are degrees of forgiveness that can help us navigate situations in which we have been harmed or hurt. It's not a black and white issue. At the root of forgiveness lies the nature of evil. As we begin the month of November with its theme "Mercy," I want to challenge you not to embrace a "forgive and forget" methodology unless it's truly warranted.

12:15 Newcomer Orientation

## SUNDAY, NOV. 10

### Cereal Sunday

10:00 Adult Forum: Suicide Prevention with Nancy Hamill and the COPEs Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist

11:00 Sermon: Premeditated Mercy (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

Says liberation theologian Jon Sobrino, "The church of mercy must be prepared to lose its

reputation in the world of anti-mercy." Historically, the Church's mission has been one of mercy, and some say mercy is its only mission. What does "mercy" mean in today's culture of rabid accumulation, and why is being merciful sure to get us in trouble?

**NOTE:** The "Who Are We?" workshop has been postponed, and will be announced later.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 17

10:00 Intergenerational Program: Circle of Trees

11:00 Sermon: A Family Portrait in Black and White (*Rev. Greg Stewart*)

This one's personal: I'll tell the story of how one band of social misfits became a "forever family." About my children, I am always quick to point out that Stillman and I didn't save them. Instead they saved us—from a life without meaning or purpose. Another phrase I always say: "Don't try this at home." Come and find out how mercy was our motivator.

12:15 Invitation to Membership



help from the choir). Please join us!

## SUNDAY, NOV. 24

9:00 Walking Meditation

10:00 UU Common Read

Sermon: A Family Thanksgiving Celebration, led by Hope's Youth. Our Youth will conduct the entire service (with some help from the choir). Please join us!

## KEY PERSON SCHEDULE

10/28–11/3: Jim Sleezer

11/4–11/10: TBD

11/11–11/17: David Lynn

11/18–11/24: TBD

11/25–12/1: James Donovan

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/>



## 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 **November 20**.

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, Christy Levine, Deborah Whittaker, Mary Newman, Elke Goodman, Larry Vandiver, Claudia Vandiver, Jean Coffey, Mary Baird, Anita Mills, and Lynn Walters**. Thanks to all of our terrific *Focus* contributors! It wouldn't exist without you.



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

FOCUS v. 25, no. 11, November 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  
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# November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
EVERY SUNDAY: Children's & Youth RE and Adult Forum 10:00; Service 11:00						1	2 9:00 Garden & Grounds Cleanup
3 <b>FALL BACK</b> 9:00 Breakfast on the Hill 12:15 Newcomer Orientation	4 7:00 RE Committee	5	6 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 11:30 Brown Bag Lunch 6:00 Women of Hope	8	9 <b>6:00 AUCTION</b>	
10 Cereal Sunday	11	12 11:30 Threads of Hope 7:00 Movie Night	13 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	15	16 Feed the Homeless	
17 12:15 Invitation to Membership	18	19	20 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	22	23 10:00 Hanging of the Greens	
24 9:00 Walking Meditation	25	26 11:30 Threads of Hope	27 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 <b>12:00 Thanksgiving Lunch</b>	29	30	