

# FOCUS

The monthly newsletter from Hope Unitarian Church



Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community

VOL. 26, NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2020



## This Month

This month The Hope Series continues with sermons from **Rev. Greg**. On Nov. 1 we set our clocks back an hour, and Social Hour moves to its new time slot (8:45). Going forward, it will be every Sunday instead of every other Sunday. Adult Forum on Nov. 8 (the Sunday after the election) will feature part three of Beyond the Partisan Divide. On Nov. 29, we will begin an exciting new program for Adult Forum: Spirituality Workshops. To find out more and sign up, see **Programs News** on [p. 3](#).

In [events](#) this month, **Women of Hope** and **Threads of Hope** are both meeting on Zoom, and for Thanksgiving we have two special social hours: **Thanksgiving Eve Social Hour** and **Thanksgiving Day Coffee Hour**. The **Black Writers Reading Group** meets at a new day and time.

Look for the **calendar** (in the middle or at the back, depending on how you're reading this)—it has all the Zoom links for the month, and on the back, a special Thanksgiving recipe from the Care Team.

*We wish everyone in our Hope community a wonderful Thanksgiving!*

## SUNDAY MORNINGS ON ZOOM

SOCIAL HOUR: 8:45

ADULT FORUM: 10:00

SERVICE: 11:00

See [p. 7](#) for Zoom links, Meeting IDs, and Passcodes

Services are also streamed live to our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch)

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**All in-person services and programs are cancelled until further notice.**

While we are closed, we're having virtual programming online! Our offerings include inspiring music from **Joseph** and **Chris**; thoughtful sermons from **Rev. Greg**; lively Zoom-based Adult Forum programs; and CYRE activities from **Tennille** and **Paige**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Hope's building remains closed and staff continue to work from home. Groups of fewer than 10 people may reserve the back patio to meet, but must observe social distancing. **They may not enter the church building.**



## HOME IN NORTH TULSA

You may have already heard: the Stewart family now lives in North Tulsa. We purchased a 648 square foot home (we're huge fans of the tiny house movement and lowering our carbon footprint) on a corner lot with a huge backyard. This is where we'll retire. Yes, we like Tulsa this much!

Why North Tulsa? It's our family's response to the racial tension that is exploding across the USA. You see, we believe in the concept of *re-neighboring*, developed by the Rev. Robert Lupton 24 years ago in Atlanta. Rev. Bob asked citizens to consider moving back to the neighborhoods they had abandoned during white flight. A few responded at first, but more and more came when they witnessed what was happening and how it spiritually fed those early adopters.

Wait just a minute, you say. Did these folk envision themselves as the great white hope? Were they promoters of gentrification? Nobody from the neighborhood asked them to return in the first place. It's just more misplaced liberal guilt, right?

Not at all. First they learned from their new neighbors. Then they partnered with them around common community concerns, with current residents always taking the lead. They opened their homes and their hearts to those in need. They made mistakes along the way. They humbled themselves and prayed. When Rev. Bob retired recently, the movement lived on and continues vibrantly to this day. Simply put, they made religion a verb and asked, seriously and sincerely, "What would Jesus do?"

You don't have to embrace orthodoxy to live your religion. Unitarian Universalists have historically been at the forefront of radical hospitality and extravagant welcome. Putting our lives on the line is how we pray. Advocating on behalf of others is our communion. It's about doing, rather than being. It's who we are.

Back in North Tulsa, we're going to open up our fenced backyard to our neighbors as a community garden. We'll raise chickens and give away eggs. We'll join the local neighborhood association and work for justice. We'll introduce ourselves to area ministers, movers, and shakers. We'll act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our neighbors. But first, and this is important, we'll learn from those we seek to serve.

Some retirement, huh? Exactly! May it be so.

The joy continues,

### Interact with the Interim Minister

*Rev. Greg is Here for You!*

**Office Hours (virtual or by appointment):** Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Sacred Day Off:** Monday

**On Call:** For pastoral emergencies, 24/7

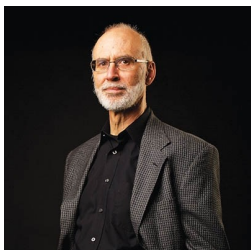
**Appointments:** Call Rev. Greg at (918)800-8403 to schedule

**Social Times (on Zoom):**

Tuesday Coffee Hour, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Thursday Cocktail Hour, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

**Class Offered:** Black Writers Book Group, second Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom



## Music News

*By Dr. Joseph Rivers, Music Director*

This year is the 250th commemoration of the birth of Beethoven (Dec. 16). I remember well the Beethoven Bicentennial in 1970: special performances took place all over the country, and commemorative volumes were published that celebrated his life and work. During this semiquincentennial year (and only six years away from the U.S.'s 250th anniversary), the world has changed markedly and there is much flux and uncertainty. Ironically, the pandemic is shuttering most live concerts that would showcase Beethoven's work. There is also justifiable sentiment for more musical inclusiveness of style and composers in today's live concerts and recorded music. Still, it may be instructive to reflect that Beethoven also composed during an age of great revolutionary change. The social and political optimism that emerged with the ideals of enlightenment and the ascendancy of Napoleon turned sour when the French dictator revealed himself to be a demagogue devoted to destructive conquest and self-glory. As a result, the noble classes met with financial ruin, and the noble patronage system that supported such composers as Haydn, Mozart, and the younger Beethoven was wiped out. Beethoven composed his Fifth Piano Concerto while burying his face under pillows to shield his ears from the explosions of cannon fire from Napoleon's army as it bombarded Vienna. Perhaps Beethoven is not so irrelevant after all. The world did change, though not altogether for the better, but the triumph of the human spirit and creativity embodied in Beethoven's work can still serve as a beacon of light amidst times of darkness and disruption.

## Programs News

**Social hour is now every Sunday from 8:45-9:45 am**, drop in anytime. Come join us! It's a great way to start your morning!

Spirituality workshops are still available. Please check out the website.

<https://UUA.org/re/tapestry/adults>

Scroll down to Spirituality workshops. Spirit of Life and Spirit in Practice. There are 19 workshops. They are already prepared and you just pick the activities you are comfortable with and format to Zoom. You will get all the help you need!

Thank you to those who have already volunteered!! I am very excited about the Spirituality workshops! We could all use a boost right now!

Call, text, or email with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

[sbottowitt@cox.net](mailto:sbottowitt@cox.net)

918-812-3450

I ♥ Hope!

**Barb Witt**

VP Programs

**Holidaze**  
\* Celebrating in the time \*  
\* of COVID-19 \*

## Care Team Corner *By Deborah Whittaker*

**Dear Church Family,**

In November, Clarehouse continues the Community Conversation Series, providing resources and information about how to stay safe during holiday

celebrations, manage holiday-related stress and anxiety, and keep traditions strong without being physically present...all while being flexible and offering grace. On Thursday, Nov. 12, you can join in at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom for Holidaze.

Registration is required. To register or download the flyer, visit <https://www.clarehouse.org/education/community-education/community-conversation-series/>.

## CONTACT US

### Pastoral Care

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

Care Team:

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

### Religious Education

Tennille Wilson:

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

Paige Clark:

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

Childcare:

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

### Music

Dr. Joseph Rivers:

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

### Outreach

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

### Board

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

### Church Administration/ Office

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

(918)481-0999

### Technology Assistance

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

(918)361-8444

### Building/Office Hours:

The building is currently CLOSED. If you have a church-related reason to get into the building, please contact the church office.

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



## November's Generosity Recipient

by Anita Mills

Our Generosity Recipient for November will be [Restore Hope](#), a Tulsa organization dedicated to restore families in financial crisis to economic and spiritual vitality. The three principle ways in which they live out this mission are: hunger reduction, homeless prevention, and emotional and spiritual nurture. The programs are designed to achieve a dual purpose of equipping families to help themselves restore their economic and spiritual vitality and to mobilize congregations to serve families in economic crisis. Restore Hope Ministries was incorporated in 1978 by Tulsa area United Methodist congregations to meet the growing need for emergency assistance for families in crisis.

Restore Hope is top-rated by Charity Navigator and Guidestar. According to their FYE Annual Report (June 30, 2019), 85 cents of every dollar given to Restore Hope went to program expenses to help families in need. That translated to \$1.2 million out of \$1.5 million in income. They reported that in that period they prevented 1149 neighbors from losing their homes. That was at a 99.47% success rate – far above the U.S. average of 70%. Restore Hope utilized 973 volunteers (6704 hours) to accomplish this in their last fiscal year.

So how has Restore Hope met the increased needs of Tulsa families during this Pandemic?

**Tune in to the Adult Forum at 10 a.m. on Nov. 1 and hear Executive Director Jeff Jaynes bring us up to date on their programs, challenges, and successes.**

To donate online to our Generosity recipient, go to [www.hopeuu.org/Generosity](http://www.hopeuu.org/Generosity)

You can also mail a check to

**Hope Unitarian Church  
8432 S. Sheridan Road  
Tulsa, OK 74133**

Please write "Generosity" in the memo line.

## Outreach News

### Monthly Meal for the Day Center

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our monthly meals for the Day Center in October!

**Anita Ward** did the shopping, and **Maggie Scott** did the pre-cooking. **Elaine Dodson** and her family did the cooking on Saturday, and **Anita Ward and Janet Nobles** delivered the food to the Day Center.

Thanks to all those who brought cereal and donations! Our donation basket was overflowing again this month.



### Hope and the Star Tree!

Get ready for our new virtual Star Tree! Watch for information in late November on how to select a gift to purchase from Hope's Virtual Star Tree. We have chosen the residents of Lindsey House again this year. Covid may slow us down, but Hope's members and friends have the giving spirit.



### Cereal Days Donations

We used to have Cereal Sunday on the Sunday before Feed the Homeless each month. Now we have Cereal Days, when you can bring your donations of cereal and other items for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. Drop off a box of cereal (no Cheerios, please) or any of the items on the Day Center's Needs List (<https://tulsadaycenter.org/give-help/>). As the weather gets colder, there is a greater need for warm clothes, including socks, jeans, etc.

You may bring donations on **Friday, Nov. 20** from 10 to noon or **Saturday, Nov. 21** from 2:30 to 4:00.

This has been a great success for the last two months. Thank you to everyone who has stopped by to drop off your donations!



## Garden and Grounds

by Julia Harris

The church building is closed, but the Hill is open. Take Dogwood trail, the Rock Trail, and then enjoy the new extension which can take you all the way down to the road. A walking stick will be handy. Thanks to Nancy Hamill and Gail Hawk who have worked on thinning

invasive species of trees and greenbriar from the woods and to all our Garden and Watering teams who have made the Hill beautiful this growing season.

## NEW Hours for the Nature Trails

Starting in November, the back parking lot and the nature trails are closed to the public **from dusk until dawn**. Members may still reserve the patio for groups of 10 and fewer, even after dusk. It's getting chilly, but a good thing about masks is that they keep your face warmer!



## Children and Youth

By Tennille Wilson and Paige Clark

The Youth have been meeting virtually each Sunday since Homecoming Sunday. They've joined forces with the All Souls Unitarian youth group, and have met in person outside with social distancing measures in place. Starting Nov. 1, the youth groups of Hope and All Souls will begin meeting virtually on the first three Sundays of each month with different programming for each week of the month. On the first week, the youth will participate in a bible course aimed at contextualizing and historicizing some popular passages. The second week of the month is an anti-racism study group, where participants will be discussing Tiffany Jewell's book *This Book is Anti-Racist*, which was written and illustrated for youth. On the third Sunday of the month they will study world religions, and the fourth Sunday of the month is reserved for fellowship and art.

Please contact **Paige** at [youth@hopeuu.org](mailto:youth@hopeuu.org) if you would like to register youth for programming.

After the holidays, **Tennille** will be launching a virtual book group for parents and others. The first book on the list is Brené Brown's *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*. Contact Tennille ([tennille@hopeuu.org](mailto:tennille@hopeuu.org)) for more information!

## November Birthdays

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

## 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.

## 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/>





# November Events

## Women of Hope

Thursday, Nov. 5

7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Let's create some laughter together! Come up with your three funniest jokes and we'll share them with each other. The laughter will release some much needed 'feel good' endorphins. The odds are we won't know the results of the election in the first 48 hours. So let's enjoy some humor before some of us go into serious celebration or crying in our beer! And if you weren't able to attend last month, feel free to wear a hat!

Hope to see you there!

Zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 913  
8568 9368

Passcode: 576764



## Black Writers Reading Group

Tuesday, Nov. 17

5:30 p.m. on Zoom

Rev. Greg's Black Writers Reading Group continues in November with *The Making of Black Lives Matter: A Brief History of An Idea*, by Christopher J. Lebron.

This new group is off to a great start, and you can still join! Note that the time and day have changed (it's now on Tuesdays at 5:30). Contact **Molly** ([molly@hopeuu.org](mailto:molly@hopeuu.org)) if you'd like to be involved.



## Threads of Hope

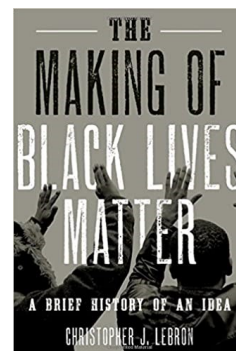
Tuesday, Nov. 10

11:30 a.m. on Zoom

Hope you've all had a chance to enjoy the fall foliage! Perhaps you're using some of those colors for your projects.

Let's share the appreciation we have for our hand-crafting. We'll gather on **Tuesday, Nov. 10**, at 11:30am.

If you'd like to join us, contact **Deborah Whittaker** ([careteam@hopeuu.org](mailto:careteam@hopeuu.org)) and you'll get the Zoom link the day before.



## Thanksgiving Eve Social Hour

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25

Join your Hope friends the night before Thanksgiving on Zoom just to say hi!

<https://zoom.us/j/95236350397?pwd=MGwwMGJSZExkVVZ5Zk9ERFNmaWlhQT09>  
(Meeting ID: 952 3635 0397; Passcode: 239681)



## Thanksgiving Coffee Hour

9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 26

Take a break from your Thanksgiving preparations and have coffee with friends.

<https://zoom.us/j/91569891603?pwd=UkVtTkI4ejJYb3hyb2JRV1Q5V2tiUT09>  
(Meeting ID: 915 6989 1603; Passcode: 739222)

## Sundays This Month at Hope



### Theme for November: The Hope Series (continued)

#### 11/1 – “Hope is Fleeting”

*Rev. Greg Stewart*

Author Steve Goodier, writing about the human spirit, has observed, “It seems to run on nothing but a morsel of hope. Without it, you have nothing. With it, nothing else matters.” Is it really darkest before the dawn? What if dawn never comes? We’ll consider the experiences of poet Alexander Pope, Brigadier General Robinson “Robbie” Risner, and 349a woman I’ll call Marilyn.

**Adult Forum:** Restore Hope (Generosity Recipient)

#### 11/8 – “Democracy the Day After”

*Rev. Greg Stewart*

**Adult Forum:** Beyond the Partisan Divide, pt. 3

#### 11/15 – “Where in the World is Hope?”

*Rev. Greg Stewart*

All around the world, hope abounds in the everydayness of life. When ordinary people rise above their circumstances and make life better for others, hope is restored. We’ll survey some of the projects and plans that were built on hope.

**Adult Forum:** Rev. Greg

#### 11/22 – “Hope is Yours”

*Rev. Greg Stewart*

It’s one of those old conundrums: we must lose hope in order to find it. What will it take to be the embodiment of hope, of being hope itself? I’ll offer three ways of doing so, regardless of your circumstances or beliefs. This is the final installment of the Hope Series.

**Adult Forum:** Rev. Greg

#### 11/29 – TBA

**Adult Forum:** Spirituality Workshops begin!

## Online Services

The Zoom link for our Sunday services is

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

**NEW Meeting ID: 499751**

Please note that the Meeting ID has changed. The Passcode is no longer required.

Services begin at 11 a.m.

You can visit past services at

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

**Social Hour: Now EVERY Sunday at 8:45!**

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

**Meeting ID: 925 1504 1841**

**Passcode: 739318**

**Adult Forum: 10 a.m.**

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

**Meeting ID: 944 2766 5124**

**Passcode: 174446**

**Children’s Church: 2:30 p.m.**

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

**Meeting ID: 932 9801 6660**

**Passcode: 124851**

### Hello Hope family,

As the new technology assistant, I have been in charge of bringing Rev-erend Greg’s vision of a Zoom live Sunday worship service to life.

After a few hurdles, we are now on our Webinar format. If you are having trouble connecting in, please contact me. My name is **Eve Bjornsgaard**.

My phone number is **(918)361-8444**. My email is [eve@hopeuu.org](mailto:eve@hopeuu.org). Part of my job is to provide assistance with your technology so we can all worship together. My working life over the last 30 years has consisted of customer service, helpdesk, and technical support over the phone. Please contact me, I am glad to help!





8432 S. Sheridan Road  
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*Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—Together in Community*

FOCUS v. 26, no. 11, November 2020 by Hope Unitarian Church  
8432 S. Sheridan Road, Tulsa OK 74133-4137

TO:



Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation.

**2020–2021 Board Members and Trustees**

**Lee Ann Cole**, President  
**Anita Mills**, President-Elect  
**David Lynn**, VP of Finance and Planning  
**Barbara Witt**, VP of Programs  
**Judy Sims**, Secretary  
**Elizabeth Obal**, Treasurer  
**James Donovan**, Past President  
Trustees: **Bettina Larsen**, **Brian Tolle**



**Our Staff**

**The Rev. Gregory Stewart**, Interim Minister  
**Tennille Wilson**, Director of Religious Education  
**Paige Clark**, Youth Director  
**Dr. Joseph Rivers**, Director of Music  
**Molly Ives Brower**, Church Administrator  
**Eve Bjornsgaard**, Technology Assistant  
**Chris Powell**, Pianist  
**Susan Michael, Michelle Steyve, Nora Potter**,  
Childcare  
**Rebecca Jones**, Accountant (off-site)



**HOPE UNITARIAN CHURCH**

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# November

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Social Hour, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Service, 11am Children's Church, 2:30pm	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4 Hope Singers, 7pm	5 Cocktail Hour, 4pm  Women of Hope, 7pm	6	7
8 Social Hour, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Service, 11am Children's Church, 2:30pm	9	10 Auction Planning Meeting, 7pm	11 VETERANS DAY  Hope Singers, 7pm	12 Cocktail Hour, 4pm	13	14
15 Social Hour, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Service, 11am Children's Church, 2:30pm	16	17	18 COVID Response Team, 5pm  Hope Singers, 7pm	19 Cocktail Hour, 4pm	20	21
22 Social Hour, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Service, 11am Children's Church, 2:30pm	23	24 Board of Trustees, 7pm	25 Thanksgiving Eve Social Hour, 5:00pm  Hope Singers, 7pm	26 THANKSGIVING  Thanksgiving Coffee Hour, 9am	27	28
29 Social Hour, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Service, 11am Children's Church, 2:30pm	30					

## Zoom Links

**Women of Hope:** [www.hopeuu.org/WomenOfHope](http://www.hopeuu.org/WomenOfHope) (Meeting ID: 913 8568 9368; Passcode: 576764)

**Social Hour:** [www.hopeuu.org/SocialHour](http://www.hopeuu.org/SocialHour) (**NEW Meeting ID: 952 3635 0397; Passcode: 239681**)

**Adult Forum:** [www.hopeuu.org/AdultForum](http://www.hopeuu.org/AdultForum) (Meeting ID: 944 2766 5124; Passcode: 174446)

**Sunday Service:** [www.hopeuu.org/SundayService](http://www.hopeuu.org/SundayService) (**NEW Meeting ID: 499751; no passcode required**)

**Children's Church:** [www.hopeuu.org/ChildrensChurch](http://www.hopeuu.org/ChildrensChurch) (Meeting ID: 932 9801 6660; Passcode: 124851)

**Hope Singers:** [www.hopeuu.org/HopeSingers](http://www.hopeuu.org/HopeSingers) (Meeting ID: 349 768 514; Passcode: 003843)

**Threads of Hope:** Contact Deborah Whittaker, [careteam@hopeuu.org](mailto:careteam@hopeuu.org)

**Cocktail Hour:** [www.hopeuu.org/CocktailHour](http://www.hopeuu.org/CocktailHour) (Meeting ID: 980 3776 9619; Passcode: 307923)

**Black Writers Reading Group:** Contact Molly Brower, [molly@hopeuu.org](mailto:molly@hopeuu.org)

**Board of Trustees:** [www.hopeuu.org/BoardMeeting](http://www.hopeuu.org/BoardMeeting) (Meeting ID: 913 5756 5440; Passcode: 367781)

**COVID Response Team:** [www.hopeuu.org/COVIDResponseTeam](http://www.hopeuu.org/COVIDResponseTeam) (Meeting ID: 920 7967 1865; Passcode: 814780)



# The Best Cranberry Relish Ever!

No, really, like, EVER!

FROM THE CARE TEAM



## You will need:

1 - 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar (go with  
1 cup if you prefer a more tart version)  
1/2 cup cranberry juice  
1/2-3/4 tsp fresh grated ginger  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
16 ounce bag fresh cranberries  
Zest of 1 orange - just the orange part

1. In a large, heavy saucepan, add sugar, juice and cinnamon and grated ginger.
2. Cook, stirring often, until sugar dissolves, syrup is clear and comes to a rolling boil, about 3 minutes.
3. In a colander, rinse and pick over the cranberries to remove any mushy ones.
4. Add cranberries to boiling syrup and continue cooking, uncovered, just until they begin to pop, about 2-5 minutes (set the timer). Be careful not to cook them too long or they will get mushy.
5. Skim the foam off the surface with a metal spoon and discard.
6. Remove from heat, stir in orange zest and cool to room temperature, uncovered.
7. Place in container, cover and store in the fridge for up to 3 months.

## Notes

If you prefer to have it smoother, once you add in the orange zest either use an immersion blender on it or run it through a food mill/sieve to remove any pieces.

