

### Focus Is Back!

As you've probably already figured out, Focus— Hope's monthly newsletter—has returned! (Hope's weekly newsletter—Highlights—will continue to be emailed on Thursday afternoons as usual.)

Each month's issue of Focus will be emailed to subscribers on the last Friday of the previous month. For example, the December 2022 issue will be emailed to subscribers on Friday, November 25th.

If you manage an event that you'd like to have listed in Focus, please email <a href="https://hopeuu@hopeuu.org">hopeuu@hopeuu.org</a> with a description of your event, its location, the date it occurs, and the start and end times. The deadline for submissions is the next-to-last Friday of the previous month, so the deadline for the December issue will be November 18th.

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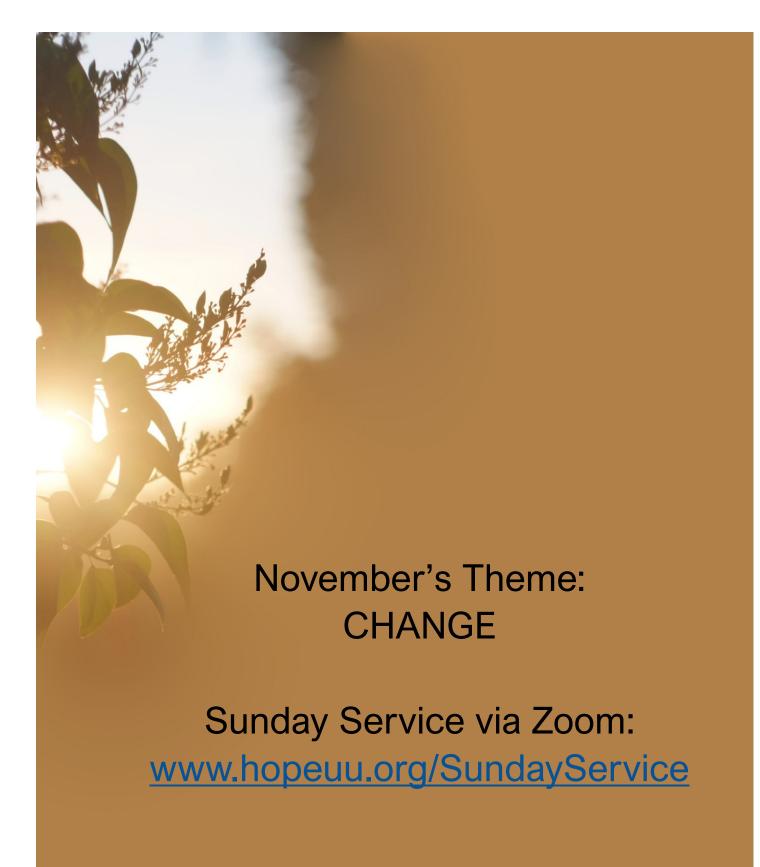
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Rev. Justin would love to meet with you to provide pastoral care or just to get to know you!

His usual office hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 AM through 3 PM. Please email him at revjustin@hopeuu.org to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom.

If your need is urgent, call him at 918-481-0999, x2.

### Reflections from the Minister

The world is going to sleep around me as a cool breeze begins to bite into my skin. It has been a long time since I've really felt cold. Oh, I've been chilly on a brisk morning, and I've had to pull my coat out of the closet but for the most part, I spent Christmas time in shorts. The autumn winds are a reminder that life, even drifting to sleep, is in the midst of change.

In the coming weeks I will have to adapt to Oklahoma's climate, walking into the closet befuddled wondering what to wear. My clothes are not meant for this climate, it is a change, and like many changes will be uncomfortable, but that isn't bad.

This is the time when Mom would open a large cedar chest, full of winter clothes, bedding, and foot pajamas. It was time for heavy coats dug from the back of the closet, in preparation for the coming frost and subzero temperatures. Every year, clothes changed, as the world went to sleep, but though uncomfortable, that change is an opportunity for more joy.

It is now the time for decorating the house in orange, yellow, and browns, in preparation for the red and green that will come faster than we know. As the clocks change and the sun spends less time in the sky our thoughts turn to twinkling lights, holiday trees, and warm fires, because change though uncomfortable, is good.

This month we will explore the theme of change on Sundays in service and religious education. I look forward to talking about the internal and external changes in life and adapting to an everevolving world. We will always be surrounded by change, but that isn't bad, because new change can mean new joy, and that is something for which we can always be excited.



**The Board Reports** 

This month's contribution is from Rebecca Jones, President of Hope's Board of Trustees.

"This is how we've always done it." As a 24-year member of the church, I'm full of institutional knowledge, but I'm also an Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, the planet that governs change. So, as a member of this church, and, currently, a member of the church's board, I prefer to add on to that sentence: "This is how we've always done it, but what's your idea for doing it better?"

For me, change means thinking outside the box, or even throwing away the box altogether. Do we have to have the same old events, or can we dream up something new? Do we have to live in this old building as it is, or can we think of ways to make it work for us better in the 21st century? Must our service always include the same elements and follow the same order, or can we shake things up a bit?

There is comfort in the familiar, and there's no need to change everything all at once. Making changes only for the sake of change is no better than staying in the same old rut, but, what can we tweak just a little? It may mean making mistakes and having to pull back from a new idea, but even if that happens, we are better for having tried a new way of thinking, a new way of doing things.

I believe we all need to look at what we can do differently to keep this church vibrant, awake, and growing, even if there is a little discomfort along the way. What are your ideas?



## **Religious Education Corner**

By Tennille Wilson, Hope's Director of Religious Education

I actively search for ways to help children learn through more than stories. This summer I found several succulents on sale for a dollar. They were leggy and needed to be rescued. I admit that I have a problem with rescuing too many plants on the verge of death. Of course, I did rescue them and thought to myself that there is surely a lesson in this for the children. Almost all the leaves fell off on the drive home, so I researched propagating succulents. The first try was not a success, but I continued and have succeeded. For the theme of Change, I will bring in the fifty or so succulent babies and tell the kids about their journey through change. I planted the leaves in large round clear glass vases, so that the kids can observe the change happening. The plants will live on the table in the chapel under the sky light. The kids will help take care of the plants. Later next year we will transfer to pots for each of the kids to care for on Sunday mornings.

We all know that everything evolves, yet accepting change is hard and even painful. Nothing that changes stays the same. This is a fact that is difficult to embrace. I hope by actively teaching the kids about change in nature, they will be less frightened and overwhelmed concerning the changes in their lives and what is happening all around them. Do you have anything that has nurtured your spirit through your faith journey? Please contact me to share with the children at tennille@hopeuu.org



### Meet Your Staff

#### What did you want to be when you grew up?

I never had a dream job. However, I definitely imagined myself as an Indian Princess (apologies to the Cherokee Nation, of which I'm a part), and later an orphan huddling into my super cool jean jacket against the cold wind.

#### Star Sign/other horological sign you identify with?

I'm a Leo, which is a fire sign, and found out I was also a Fire Rabbit in the Chinese Zodiac! I love it when things line up like that.

#### Favorite food/drink or Dream meal?

I just had the best chocolate meringue pie from a local breakfast place. I have always found breakfast foods to be the most comforting. A French Omelet, perfectly crisp bacon, biscuits with chocolate gravy. The newest item on my breakfast menu would be a mango smoothie.

#### If you had an unlimited budget, what would you put in your house?

A big library with a sliding ladder like in Beauty and the Beast! I'd need at least two ladders so I could race with my nephew or friends.

#### What clothing item have you kept the longest?

I have an inherited flannel work shirt from my grandfather that I've mended and still wear. Possibly the oldest piece I bought myself is a flowy peasant shirt with very worn velvet ribbon. I keep meaning to make another like it, so I can wear it "again"!

#### Best tree/bit of nature in your life?

I feel you can never go wrong with the trees you climbed as a kid. My maternal grandmother had an oak tree I loved getting up into throughout my childhood. I also vividly remember my great-grandmother's gumball tree on the rarer visits to her house.

I grew up in nature, since we were out in the country on ten acres, a good third of it wooded. The cedar trees in the side and back yards are special in my mind, and I loved wading in the stream out back with my cousins.

I hadn't realized how unique it is to have woods you can explore until I took a class on how to navigate a hike without a trail and found it extremely familiar, and much less frustrating than trail hiking!

Rev. Justin asked staff members to share some interesting, fun, or just plain silly facts about themselves. Here's what Elizabeth Obal, Hope's Accountant, had to say!





### **November Events**

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

All Hope members are welcome to attend the following meetings, which are held at the church unless otherwise indicated:

- Leadership Council: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 1st
- Finance Committee: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 8th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 22nd

### **Birthdays**

Our warmest wishes to all Hope members and friends who have birthdays this month!

Ken Jones - November 4th Evelyn Saylor - November 12 Nancy Sahler - November 17th Steve Witt - November 25th Linda Tracy - November 29th

#### **Church Events**

All are welcome to attend the events listed below. (This is not a complete list of events taking place at the church this month; other events may be private or limited to members of specific church groups.) Dates and times listed below may change! Please check the church's online calendar at <a href="https://www.hopeuu.org/calendar">www.hopeuu.org/calendar</a> for the most current schedule of events.

- Sundays: Children's Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10 AM, Sunday Service: 11 AM
- Wednesdays, 7:15-9 PM: Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, November 3rd, 6 PM: Women of Hope



Hope's Auction Returns November 12th!

Join us at the church at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 12th for delicious food, great entertainment, sign-up parties, a gift card pull, and of course, the auction itself! <u>Check the auction website</u> often to get a preview of the items up for bid! <u>Tickets are available online</u>, or can be purchased in person on Sunday mornings. Questions? Contact us at <u>auction@hopeuu.org</u>



### **Cereal Days**

Breakfast cereal (no Cheerios, please!) for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless can be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, November 13th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, November 18th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 19th.



### Log Cabin Rentals

The following support groups currently rent the Log Cabin on a weekly or monthly basis:

- Sundays, 3:30-4:30 PM.: <u>Gamblers Anonymous</u> (GA)
- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM: <u>SouthSide Recovery/</u> Narcotics Anonymous (SSR/NA)
- Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-noon: Al-Anon
- Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 p.m.: <u>Codependents</u> <u>Anonymous</u> (CoDA)
- Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 PM: <u>Secular Organizations</u> for <u>Sobriety</u> (SOS)
- 3rd Saturday of each month, 4:00-6:00 PM: <u>Victims' Voices</u> (victim impact panel)

For more information about a group, please click their name on the list above to visit their website.

### **Generosity Recipients**

November's Generosity recipient is:

# Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services

Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services serves the needs of applicants who qualify for donated care based on their physical and financial challenges. Over 350 volunteer dentists agree to provide dental services to qualifying clients free of charge in the comfort of their own offices where great care is taken to preserve patient dignity and privacy, while EODDS pays for patient's discounted laboratory costs. Services provided include exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, root canals, extractions, crowns, bridges, partials, and dentures. Complete restorative dental care is provided to as many patients annually as possible.

Previous Generosity recipients and the amounts they received from Hope:

- October: Roy Clark Elementary School
- **September**: <u>Tulsa Dream Center</u>; Hope raised \$1,502.00 for them.
- August: MacArthur Elementary School. Hope collected \$1,437.26 for the school, as well as several boxes of books!
- July: Hope sent \$1,382.00 to <u>Emergency Infant</u> Services.



### **Hope's Minister**

### Rev. Justin M. McCreary

Rev. Justin's usual office hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 AM through 3 PM. Please email him in advance at <a href="revjustin@hopeuu.org">revjustin@hopeuu.org</a> to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom. If your need is urgent, call him at 918-481-0999, x2.

### **Hope's Staff**

- Tennille Wilson, Director of Religious Education
- Amy Cottingham, Music Director and Pianist
- Kimberly Burdick, Church Administrator
- Eve Bjornsgaard, Worship Tech Coordinator
- Elizabeth Obal, Church Accountant

#### 2022-2023 Board of Trustees

- Rebecca Jones, President
- James Donovan, President-Elect
- Richard Eagleton, Vice President, Finance & Planning
- Christy Levine, Vice President, Programs
- Gail Hawk, Secretary
- [TBD], Treasurer
- Anita Ward and Jean Coffey, Trustees

#### Visit us:

8432 South Sheridan Road Tulsa, OK 74133

#### Sundays

Children's Church: 9:45 AM Adult Forum: 10:00 a.m. Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m.

#### Weekdays

The church office is closed on Mondays. We respond to calls and emails 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Please contact the church office in advance if you wish to visit the church in person on a day other than Sunday.

#### Mail us:

P.O. Box 35284 Tulsa, OK 74153-0284

#### Call us:

918-481-0999

#### Email us:

hopeuu@hopeuu.org

### Visit our website:

www.hopeuu.org

### Visit our Facebook page:

facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch





