

February 2023

FOCUS

The Monthly Newsletter of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma



It's February, and love is in the air! Or maybe that's just the delicious fragrance of the chocolate from Women of Hope's annual Chocolate Auction. Hang around after the Sunday service on February 5th to bid on the goodies!

If spice is more your thing, we've got that covered, too. The Chili Cook Off returns on Friday, February 24th at 6 PM! Sign up to contribute a batch of your own awesome chili or to bring fixin's like shredded cheese, sour cream, crackers, or bread. Hang around after the meal for a game of Bingo. It'll be a great evening for the whole family!

We're not neglecting spiritual nourishment, either. If you're interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism (UU) and/or becoming a member of Hope's congregation, Rev. Justin will be holding a Roots class the morning of Saturday, February 18th. All are welcome, even those who've previously been through the program! Email RevJustin@hopeuu.org to reserve a spot, or just let him know the next time you see him.

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February's Theme:
Love

Sunday Service via Zoom:
www.hopeuu.org/SundayService



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

What does it mean to be a people of love?

Unitarian Universalism references love frequently. So does our local church and so do I. Love is a value that, as human beings, we need, but the problem is we will never deserve love, because that assumes love is given as payment. The problem is love cannot be calculated on a balance sheet. But love does have a cost, which means I will never be refunded the love I have given, because once given it cannot be withdrawn. I suppose we can stop loving someone, but we can never take away the love that we gave them. Of course, the decision not to love also has a cost.

We are never free of the cost whether we love or not. We cannot hoard love. Keeping it to ourselves does not net more love, in fact holding onto it too tightly causes it to wither. But there is a lot of confusion about love. We forget that love requires a level of mutuality and consent, which means it is hard to love others if at first, we are unable to love ourselves. Because then, we confuse being needed with being loved, or being used with being loved. Love has no quid pro quo. Love can have no expectation; we love others as they are and we love ourselves as we are, or it is not love.

Love is a decision. We choose to love ourselves, we choose to love each other, and we choose to love people who will refuse to love us back. We can do this because the actions of love are not always the same. Love is not expressed one way, nor should it be. Our relationships are different; that means our love is different.

I think one of the most important things we do in loving others is to help them learn to love themselves. Someone raised without love cannot understand it unless we show it to them. It is important to love those who cannot love themselves, for how else will they learn? How will they know their actions matter, their life matters? Love saves lives, including our own. So let's see how many lives we can save.



Meet Your Staff

Hope is sorry to see Amy Cottingham step down as Pianist and Music Director, but we are delighted to welcome Christy Stalcup as her replacement! Christy was recommended for the position by both Amy and by Dr. Joseph Rivers, Hope's Director of Music through 2021.

Christy grew up in northern Virginia and began accompanying her church and school choirs in middle school. She studied music education at Virginia Tech. She has performed in choirs and with singers at the Kennedy Center, the White House, the Lotus Club, several community and professional theatres, various schools, churches, and temples on the east coast before moving to Tulsa in 2008.

Christy has become very involved in the Tulsa music scene. She has performed at the Brady Theatre, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Lynn Riggs Theatre, Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, and nearly every other Tulsa area theatre. She has been staff accompanist for Tulsa Public Schools, Bartlesville Public Schools, Heritage United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church of Owasso. Now she serves as accompanist for Owasso Public Schools. Christy loves musical theatre and accompanies/music directs for Theatre Tulsa, American Theatre Company, Theatre Pops, Tulsa Project Theatre, the Orbit Initiative, various high school and university drama departments, et al. Christy collaborates with many local area musicians and teaches freelance and with Overture Musical Theatre Training.

Welcome aboard, Christy!

Burning Bowl Service

On Sunday, January 1st, we came together to say "goodbye" to 2022 in our annual Burning Bowl ceremony led by James Donovan. *Photos courtesy of Robert Billings.*

“Out of the Flames”

Rev. Sara Eileen LaWall

Out of the flames of fear
We rise with courage of our deepest
convictions
to stand for justice, inclusion and peace
Out of the flames of scrutiny
We rise to proclaim our faith



With hope to heal a fractured and hurting
world
Out of the flames of doubt
We rise to embrace the mystery, wonder
and awe
of all there is and all that is yet to be

Out of the flames of hate
We rise with the force of love
Love that celebrates our shared humanity
Out of the flames we rise





February 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 Meeting: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 7th
- Finance Committee: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 14th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28th

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 www.hopeuu.org/calendar for the most current schedule of events.

- Sundays: Children and Youth Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10:00 AM, Sunday Service: 11:00 AM
- Thursday, February 2nd, 6:00 PM: Women of Hope. Social time starts at 6:00 PM and the potluck dinner is at 6:30.

Chocolate Auction

Women of Hope will hold their annual **Chocolate Auction** after the service on Sunday, February 5th! The goodies will be laid out on tables and each item will have a bidding sheet. Each table will be called for closing, and the highest bidder gets that item. Proceeds benefit the church.



Image is not representative of actual products available for bid. Hope is not responsible for cravings, sugar rushes, or weight gain.

Chili Cook Off

Join us on Friday, February 24th at 6:00 PM for our annual chili cook off! Bring your blue-ribbon-hopeful chili to battle it out for best overall, and perhaps the most coveted award: the sexiest chili! Sign up for what you can bring on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.



After dinner, we'll play Bingo! This is a family-friendly event, however no childcare will be available. For questions or offers to help, contact Tara at telltara@gmail.com or 918-933-8198.



February Birthdays

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

Mandie Carlile - February 4th
Mary Baird - February 7th
Ruth Jackson - February 7th
Alice Van Wormer - February 10th
Corrie Dorman - February 12th
Adriana Rivers - February 12th
London Carlile - February 14th
Gale Luria - February 21st
Chris Dunn - February 22nd
Joey Dewiel - February 23rd
Kay Stauss - February 25th



Save the Date! The [SouthWest UU Women's Conference](#) will be held March 3rd-5th, 2023 at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Early Bird Registration is available for \$160 through February 17th. The keynote speaker is Rev. Deneen Robinson, and entertainment will be provided by [The Satin Dolls Band](#).

Hope would like to form a group to attend the conference together. Contact Diane Dudley at 918-850-2204 or dudleyok1@gmail.com if you plan to go!

Roots Returns!

Rev. Justin will be offering a Roots class at the church at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 18th for those interested in Unitarian Universalism and/or membership in the congregation. All are welcome, regardless of whether they've taken the class before or not. Please contact Justin to reserve a space; email him at Rev.Justin@hopeuu.org or chat with him after a Sunday service!

Hope Zoom Book Club

Hope's book club meets monthly on Sunday afternoons via Zoom. Those who haven't read the books are welcome to join in the discussion!

The following books are scheduled for upcoming months:

- **Sunday, February 5th, 5:00-6:00 PM:** The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein
- **Sunday, March 5th, 5:00-6:00 PM:** Blunt Instruments: Recognizing Racist Cultural Infrastructure in Memorials, Museums, and Patriotic Practices by Kristin Ann Hass
- **Sunday, April 2nd, 5:00-6:00 PM:** Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism (the 2022-2023 UUA Common Read) by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karen Lin

Check online booksellers (including [inSpirit](#), the [UUA bookstore](#)) or your local library (such as the [Tulsa City-County Library](#)) for books.

The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/97347494203?pwd=Sk1CeXRpdmZZSEhETHpOQnBIWVNOQT09>



Hope Walking Club

Hope's Walking Club meets on the second Sunday of each month at a Tulsa area walking trail. The February walk will take place at 4:00 PM on Sunday, February 12th at Hunter Park (5804 E. 91st St.); meet near the labyrinth. Contact James Donovan (tulsauus@yahoo.com) if you have any questions!

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, February 12th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, February 17th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 18th.

Log Cabin Rentals

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

- Sundays, 3:30-4:30 PM: [Gamblers Anonymous](#) (GA)
- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM: [SouthSide Recovery/ Narcotics Anonymous](#) (SSR/NA)
- Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-noon: [Al-Anon](#)
- Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 PM: [Codependents Anonymous](#) (CoDA)
- Usually the 3rd Saturday of each month, 4:00-6:00 PM: [Victims' Voices](#) (victim impact panel). Check their website or www.hopeuu.org/calendar for specific dates.

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

Generosity Recipients

February's Generosity recipient is:



The [Surayya Anne Foundation](#) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit that operates a transitional housing program and also offers rent, utility bill, and grocery assistance to clients in the Tulsa area. The foundation focuses on Muslim women and children who are homeless, facing chronic or long-term illnesses, facing separation from families and spouses for whatever reason, or returning to society from incarceration, but anyone—regardless of race, religion, or creed—can be considered for their services. It has never been designated as a religious organization: it is a humanitarian organization.

Previous Generosity recipients and the amounts they received from Hope:

- **December:** [Oklahoma People First](#).
- **November:** [Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services](#).
- **October:** [Roy Clark Elementary School](#); they received \$1,403.00 from Hope. The Roy Clark PTA bought nine coats for students using our generous donation!
- **September:** [Tulsa Dream Center](#); Hope raised \$1,502.00 for them.



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 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.

Hope's Staff

- Tennille Wilson, Director of Religious Education
- Christy Stalcup, Music Director
- 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
- Cynthia Heifner, 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

Hope's general office hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Thursdays. The doors may be locked during staff breaks and private meetings; calling ahead to check staff availability is recommended. We respond to email and voicemail messages from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays.

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

