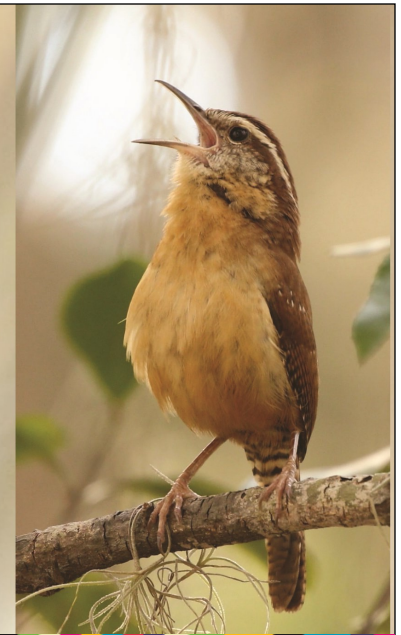


May 2023

FOCUS

The Monthly Newsletter of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Hope really comes alive in the spring—not just in the natural realm, with blooming flowers, serenading birds, and other forms of wildlife, but with events for one and all.

If you're new to Hope Church and/or to Unitarian Universalism ("UU") in general, Rev. Justin's [New UU \("Roots"\) class](#) is just the ticket to get you up to speed! Mother's Day at Hope will be celebrated with a special Flower Communion service, a tradition that started a century ago at a Unitarian Church in Prague. And all Hope members are encouraged to attend the [annual congregational meeting](#) on Sunday, May 21st after the service. This will be your opportunity to review and discuss the church budget and the slate of officers for the church year that begins in July.

Come and join in the fun and the discussions!

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May's Theme: *Creativity*



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: Creativity is not just for Artists Anymore!!!

Creativity flows from a well we call inspiration. The Hebrew Bible begins saying, *When God began to create*. Though this isn't the translation we often read, it does, from its very beginning, connect divinity with creation. The opportunity to leave part of ourselves in this world is central to being both human and divine. If our mind thinks and our heart feels then our soul creates. Creativity is built into our DNA, though often defined in a very limited space.

Human beings often relegate the idea of creativity to artists, musicians, and other artisans. Creative people paint, sculp, write music, and plays, but creativity is limited to this realm. Humanity thrives on creativity that we often don't even acknowledge. It was creativity that led Homosapien out of Africa, it was creativity that helped our ancestors discover fire, it was creativity that helped them form communities. Creativity is an important tool in the toolbox of innovation.

Creativity causes us to ask questions, to learn, to dream. Without it we cannot even begin to understand the world around us. And without it we cannot visualize the world we will build in the future. This past month, it occurs to me that running a pledge campaign, administering a church, and creating a budget all require creativity.

Creativity is not just expressed on a canvas with oil paints, it is also expressed anytime we must consider a new approach to life, the universe, and everything. Creativity takes place with every surgeon who has to *think of their feet*, every lawyer considering the best defense of their client, and even every tax preparer that navigates the tax code.

I would bet that if you are a human being, you are creative, and many of you are even more creative than you give yourself credit for. So this month when you get the chance reflect on how you utilize your creativity in your everyday life.



Religious Education Corner

By Tennille Wilson, Hope's Director of Religious Education

My own creativity journey has been interdisciplinary. I am fascinated by how working on many things at once provides small realizations to seemingly unrelated subjects. I grew up in a strict college prep school environment until high school. After beginning college it took me two and half years to gain the courage to enroll in an art class. I was so afraid to attempt something that I had no experience in at the collegiate level. I quickly realized that math, music, and creative writing had given me the structure I needed to understand composition.

My real creative breakthrough happened when I ventured into sculpture after studying life drawing. I still had the mentality that I needed to approach creativity from an engineering perspective; however, I began working in 3D and soon realized that while illustration and graphic design were not for me, I could make sculptures using both my hands with ease.

All of our teachers in CYRE are artists of some kind. We all use different media that require a special set of skills. The many projects that you see the kids making all relate to the theme that we have as a church for the month. In CYRE, we utilize Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. The intelligences are classified as: Verbal, Logical, Visual, Kinesthetic, Musical, Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Naturalist, Existential.

We serve our children the best when we incorporate ongoing experiences for each type of intelligence. Please contact me at tennille@hopeuu.org to set up a meeting about how you can share your gifts with our children.



Meet Your Staff

Creativity and technology have been intertwined for centuries, but with the rapid advancement of technology in recent years, the relationship between the two has become even more significant. In this article, I outline the impact of technology on creativity and how it has changed the way we approach creative endeavors.

Firstly, it's essential to understand that creativity is not just limited to the arts. Creativity is a vital component of problem-solving, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Technology has transformed the way we approach these areas, allowing us to harness our creativity to develop innovative solutions to complex problems.

One significant impact of technology on creativity is the democratization of creativity. With the rise of digital tools and platforms, anyone with an internet connection can create and share their work with a global audience. This has led to an explosion of creativity, with people from all walks of life contributing to the cultural landscape. From social media to digital marketplaces, technology has made it easier than ever to showcase and monetize creative work.

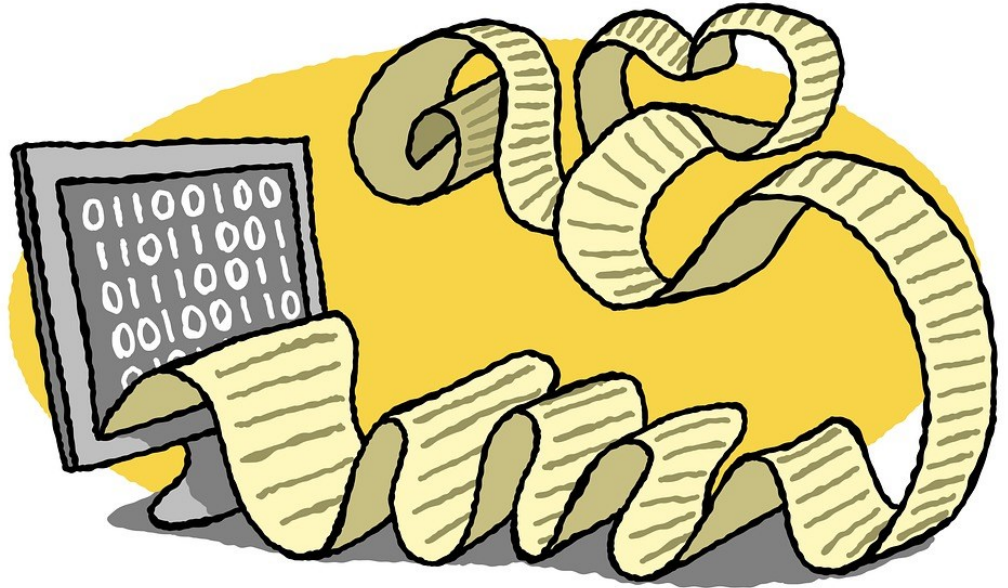
Furthermore, technology has enabled new forms of creativity that were previously impossible. For example, virtual and augmented reality have opened up new possibilities for immersive storytelling, gaming, and art. These technologies allow creators to break free from the constraints of the physical world and explore new realms of imagination.

Additionally, technology has revolutionized the creative process. With tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning, creators can now automate many of the tedious

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tasks that were once required to bring their ideas to life. For example, AI-powered design tools can help generate ideas, create layouts, and even suggest color schemes. This allows creators to focus on the more important aspects of their work, such as storytelling or ideation.



However, there are also concerns about the impact of technology on creativity. Some argue that technology has made creativity too accessible, leading to a flood of mediocre work that dilutes the quality of the creative landscape. Others worry that the reliance on technology may stifle original thinking, as creators become too dependent on algorithmic suggestions and lose touch with their intuition.

In conclusion, the relationship between creativity and technology is complex and multifaceted. Technology has both expanded the possibilities for creativity and posed new challenges for creators. As technology continues to evolve, it will be important for creators to balance the advantages of technology with the need for originality and authenticity in their work.

Yours in Technology and Creativity,

Eve Bjornsgaard

(This essay was created with the assistance of AI.)



I feel Divine Inspiration when Creating! This is our theme for the Month of May. Creativity! What do you do to spark that flame within? I like to set the mood in my Studio before starting my Creative Journey. I light candles, burn incense, as well as play music. This helps me maneuver into this Magical realm of Creativity. This becomes a time for me to communicate with not only Spirit, but to deal with some of my Demons as well. I can find solutions to problems while taking seemingly ordinary objects and transforming them into something else. Two paper plates, crepe paper, plastic wrap, and some paint can become a Jellyfish.

What magical things can you create from seemingly normal objects? I encourage you to try your hand at creating something new! Rekindle the Flame within. Restart your magical journey of Creation. Phoenix Rise up from the Flames!

Mr. Lenny

Director of Spiritual Expressions CYRE

Hope kicked off its annual Pledge Drive with a cookout on March 19th!
Photos courtesy of Robert Billings.



Aliye Shimi joined Hope on April 15th to host a Ramadan dinner!
Photos courtesy of Claudia Vandiver.





May Events

Board and Committee Meetings

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

- Finance Committee: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 9th
 - Congregational Meeting: After the service on Sunday, May 21st. See [next page](#) for details.
 - Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 23rd
-

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, May 4th, 6:00 PM: Women of Hope. Social time starts at 6:00 PM and the potluck dinner is at 6:30.
 - Saturday, May 6th, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: New UU ("Roots") class with Rev. Justin; see below.
 - Sunday, May 14th, 11:00 AM: Mother's Day service with Flower Communion. Bring a flower to the service with you, and take a different flower home!
-

New UU ("Roots") Class on May 6th

Rev. Justin will offer a New UU ("Roots") class from 9:00 AM to noon on Saturday, May 6th for those interested in Unitarian Universalism and/or membership in the congregation. All are welcome, whether they've taken the class before or not! To register, please [click this link](#).



Annual Meeting of the Congregation **Sunday, May 21st, 2023, 12:15 PM**

Hope Members, please plan to attend our 53rd Annual Meeting after the May 21st Sunday service. Important business for Church Year 2023-2024 will be conducted, such as approval of the slate of officers and approving the annual operating budget.

Annual Reports will be available by Sunday, May 14th for your review and preparation for the meeting.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.





May Birthdays

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

Rick Paschal - May 9
Lynn Walters - May 9
Jarrett Dunn - May 11
Gail Hawk - May 14
Clint Haight - May 24
Graham Carlile - May 27



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!

Sunday, May 7th, 5:00-6:00 PM: Black Wall Street 100: An American City Grapples With Its Historical Racial Trauma by Hannibal B. Johnson

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=Sk1CeXRpdMZZSEhETHpOQnBlWVNOQT09>

“Caring for You, Caring for Me” Caregiver Series

LIFE Senior Services and Morton Healthcare present “Caring for You, Caring for Me,” an evidence-based program from the Rosalyn Carter Institutes. This workshop consists of five modules dealing with many aspects of caregiving including self-care, collaboration with professionals and family members, problem-solving, and providing the best care possible. Presentations will take place on May 18th, May 25th, May 31st, June 7th, and June 14th from 2:00-3:30 PM at the Legacy Plaza East Tower (5330 E. 31st St. in Tulsa). Call LIFE Senior Services: (918) 664-9000, x1181 to register.

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, May 14th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, May 19th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 20th.



Log Cabin Rentals

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

- Sundays, 2:00-3:00 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

May's Generosity recipient is:



As a social services agency supporting the community since 1994, [South Tulsa Community House](#) has been able to serve individuals and families to strategically reduce hunger, combat poverty, and provide a pathway to empowerment. Through their services and collaborations, they believe that they can help families improve their lives and the lives of those around them. Their food pantry serves thousands of meals to hundreds of households, of which 98% are considered extremely low income (less than 30% of median U.S. family income level). Additional services include computer and internet access, transportation assistance, access to medical services, legal aid, and more.

Previous Generosity recipients:

- **April:** [The Pencil Box](#)
- **March:** [Tulsa SPCA](#)
- **February:** [The Surayya Anne Foundation](#)
- **January:** [Oklahoma People First](#)



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 and Youth: 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.

Call us:

918-481-0999

Mail us:

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

Email us:

hopeuu@hopeuu.org

Visit our website:

www.hopeuu.org

Visit our Facebook page:

facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch

