


A photograph of vibrant pink flowers, likely crapeholers, with green leaves, set against a dark grey background.

August 2023

## FOCUS

The Monthly Newsletter of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma

A horizontal bar composed of many small, colorful squares in various colors including red, yellow, blue, green, and purple.

If the heat of summer and your rising electric bill are getting to you, you're probably looking forward to the cooler days of fall. But until then, come join us on Hope Hill, where there's always plenty of shade and plenty to do.

The BIG news for the month is that [the road up Hope Hill is scheduled to be resurfaced the week of August 21st!](#) Access to church buildings may be limited that week, and of course weather and other factors beyond our control could cause the schedule to change, but we hope that the new road will be worth the inconvenience.

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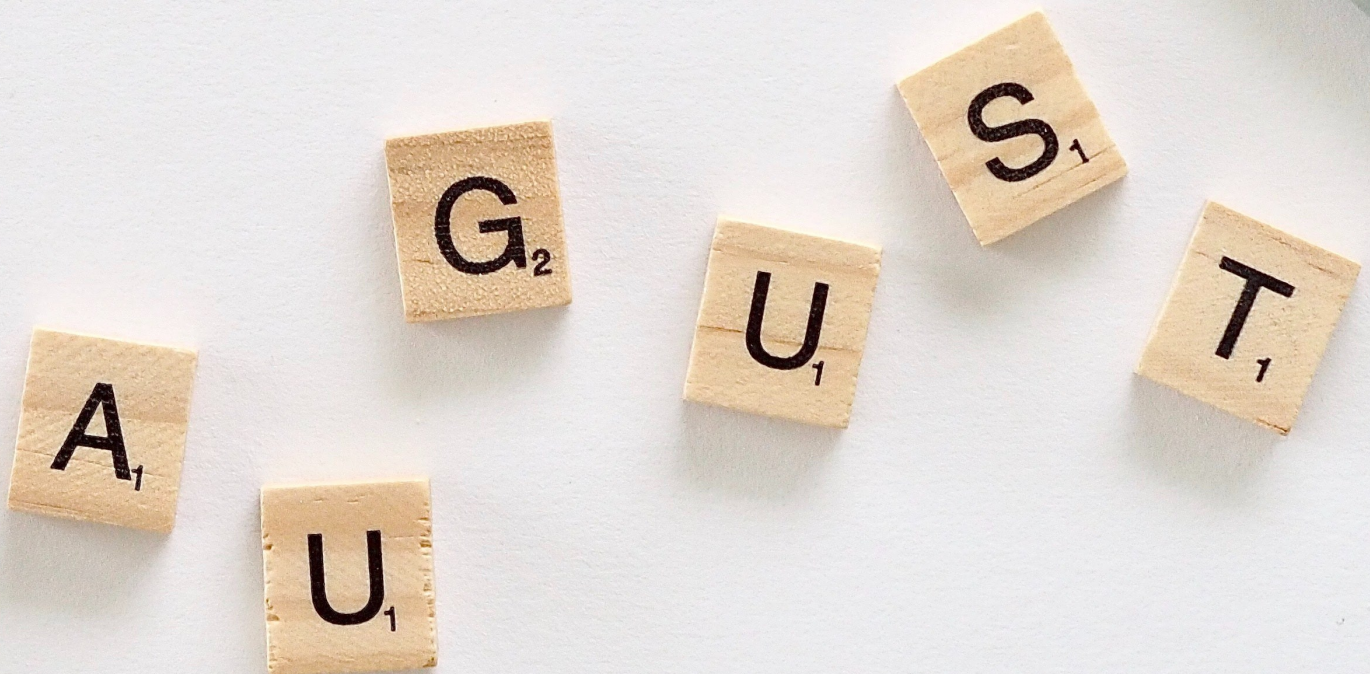
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**Sunday Service via Zoom:**  
**[www.hopeuu.org/SundayService](http://www.hopeuu.org/SundayService)**





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](mailto: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

Due to a very chaotic July, I don't have an article to offer you for the month of August, save my thanks. On Behalf of Alicia and I, I'd like to thank you all for your support during this difficult time, both following the death of my mother-in-law, and my recent hospitalization. I consider it an honor to serve a group of such loving and caring individuals, thank you all for your support.



## The Board Reports

On August 13, the Board of Trustees will present our goals and activities for the church year at the 10am Adult Forum. Please plan to attend!

We are creating a team to review & update Hope's safety & security policies. The Safety & Security Team's first meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, August 15, in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to be a part of this team or have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at [boardpresident@hopeuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@hopeuu.org).

James Donovan  
President, Hope Board of Trustees  
[boardpresident@hopeuu.org](mailto:boardpresident@hopeuu.org)



## Religious Education Corner

*By Tennille Wilson, Hope's Director of Religious Education*

### Christmas in July

Heifer International is a non-profit organization that aims to combat poverty and hunger worldwide. They work by providing livestock and agricultural training to families in need. The organization believes in the concept of "passing on the gift," where families receiving animals commit to passing on the offspring and knowledge to other families in their community. This sustainable approach helps create self-reliance and empowers communities to improve their economic situation and food security. Additionally, Heifer International supports various projects related to women's empowerment, education, and environmental sustainability to uplift communities and promote long-term development.

CYRE is hosting our second annual Christmas in July. The children choose what to buy for individuals in other countries. Last year we bought a sheep, an alpaca, a pig, a flock of chicks, bees, seedlings, and a share of a goat. The people are able to share the goat's milk in community.

I hope to continue this for many years and even found a certificate given to Hope for past donations.

Hope and [Church of the Larger Fellowship](#) co-hosted the Ordination of Steven Leigh Williams on July 2nd. Following the Ordination, Steven is moving to California to serve as the Interim Minister at the [Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#) in Vista, California, and we wish him the very best!

*Photos courtesy of Rev. Cathey Edwards, Christy Levine, and Rebecca Jones..*







## August 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: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, August 15th
- Safety and Security Team: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 15th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 22nd

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### 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](http://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
- Monday, August 7th, 5:30 PM: Assembling kits for Take Control Initiative (the July Generosity recipient).

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### Church Road Resurfacing

The long-awaited resurfacing of the road up Hope Hill has been scheduled for the week of August 21st and is expected to take about 4 days. Access to church buildings may be limited during that week, and the work schedule may change due to weather and other factors beyond our control. Additional details will be provided as they become available.





## August Birthdays

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

Claudia Vandiver - August 2

Elizabeth Obal - August 3

Lacey Carlile - August 4

Anne Steiner - August 5

Lana Larkin - August 6

Joe Newman - August 13

Chris Anrig - August 19

Eve Bjornsgaard - August 28

Leah Anrig - August 29



## August Adult Forum Topics

- **August 6:** The August Generosity Recipient, Boy Scout Troop 970
- **August 13:** The Hope Board of Trustees will present its goals for the church years
- **August 20:** Resistance and Transformation: An Adult Program on Unitarian Universalist Social Justice History led by Vanessa Self
- **August 27:** Steve Heifner will talk about his trip to Okinawa



### 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, August 13th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, August 18th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, August 19th.

### 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](http://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

August's Generosity recipient is:



Boy Scout Troop 970

Boy Scout Troop 970 has moved up and onto Hope Hill. Scouting is about being prepared. Scouting is about developing leadership. Scouting is mentoring. Hope Unitarian Church is accepting the challenge to develop and mentor youths in our local community through Boy Scout Troop 970, and beyond as opportunities present.

Previous Generosity recipients:

- **July:** [Take Control Initiative](#)
- **June:** [BeHeard Movement](#)
- **May:** [South Tulsa Community House](#)
- **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](mailto: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

### 2023-2024 Board of Trustees

- James Donovan, President
- David Tracy, President-Elect
- Rebecca Jones, Past President
- Richard Eagleton, Vice President, Finance & Planning
- Mary Baird, Vice President, Programs
- Gail Hawk, Secretary
- Cynthia Heifner, Treasurer
- Bruce Luria, Trustee
- Vanessa Self, Trustee

### 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. If you wish to visit the church in person, please call ahead to check staff availability. (For security reasons, external doors are kept locked unless an event is in progress.) 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](mailto:hopeuu@hopeuu.org)

### Visit our website:

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

### Visit our Facebook page:

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

