

October 2023

FOCUS

The Monthly Newsletter of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Fall is finally here, and we would love to welcome in the season by having you join us for Breakfast on the Hill on Sunday, October 8th at 9:45 AM.

Our Trunk or Treat this year will be happening this year on October 29th at 3:00 PM. Make sure to stop by and bring your family, your friends, and your best costume as we celebrate Halloween with tasty treats and togetherness.

Welcome home to Hope!

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October's Theme: *Heritage*

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



Reflections from the Minister

The Gift of Heritage



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.

Heritage is truly a gift.

Our Heritage can bring us comfort during difficult times. I think back to my grandmother's table, covered in food, everyone smiling and laughing, I imagine the coolness of Sunday afternoons in West Virginia. The breeze that blew naturally through her house kissing the skin, peacefully and dreamily. Grandma would sit and tell me about life when she was a child, she talked about family long gone like they were still here, and I could hear in her voice the gentle pathway back to what felt like a simpler time. But heritage is not like hindsight, heritage is not 20/20.

I can reflect on the strength of my grandmother, the power in my grandfather's work ethic. I can listen to others talk about the good ole days and I even notice that I speak of those days when life was simpler, and everything was better than it is now. The world feels chaotic and divided, with storm clouds forecast for the coming days, months, and years.

It is easy to idealize The Good Ole Days, my parents do it, my grandparents did it, and I suspect the generations before them did. I can look back at my loving grandparents who would sacrifice anything they could for me, not to prove their love but because of it. I can remember those Sunday afternoons as and forget the struggles that went along with them. I can idealize my grandparents to the point of deification, but that would mean that I would have to idealize their prejudice as well, as wonderful as they were, they were strongly rooted in prejudice. Heritage is a starting point, an acorn that grows into a mighty oak. It is easy to wish we could recreate some idealized past while forgetting that the job of the acorn is to change, no one asks the oak to return to its previous state. In fact, it cannot.

Heritage is a double-edged sword, especially when it is used as an excuse to marginalize others. It is easy to idealize our heritage while forgetting the troubled nature and prejudice of past generations. Our heritage like an acorn is the beginning of change, not a goal to recreate. A reminder during difficult times that we are part of a lineage of survivors, and during the good a reminder of the adaptability of the human spirit. Heritage may shape who we are but can be very dangerous when used as a model for the future.

Heritage is truly a gift, but when idealized, it can also be a curse.



Board of Trustees News

*This month's contribution is from James Donovan,
President of Hope's Board of Trustees.*

Thanks to Rick Eagleton, VP-Programs, for taking the lead on the improvements to our road and parking lots! Thanks to all of you who made generous donations to pay for the improvements. Thanks, especially, to George Krumme for being so generous with Hope over the years.

Thanks, also, to our dear friend, Julia Harris, who has paid off the church's roof repair loan! Yes, you read that correctly! Julia, we appreciate your love of Hope and all that you do for our community.

The Board of Trustees is working toward achieving the goals that we've set for the church year and we appreciate all of you who are helping us along the way.

Finally, I'd personally like to thank our Past President, Rebecca Jones, for all that she does for Hope. In addition to serving on the board as past president, she's chairing the auction, nominating, and stewardship committees! Rebecca, all of your hard work does not go unnoticed.

James Donovan
boardpresident@hopeuu.org



Our UU Educational Heritage

By Tennille Wilson, Hope's Director of Religious Education

Religious education within the Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition has a long history, dating back to the early days of Unitarianism and Universalism in the United States. Unitarianism and Universalism were two separate religious traditions that merged in 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Before this merger, both Unitarians and Universalists had their own religious education programs. The Unitarian religious education tradition can be traced back to the early 19th century, with figures like William Ellery Channing and James Freeman pioneering educational efforts within Unitarian congregations. Universalists also had their own educational initiatives throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The formalization and development of UU religious education as it is known today largely occurred during the 20th century, with the merging of resources and philosophies from both traditions after the formation of the UUA in 1961. This merger brought together the educational practices and materials of both Unitarian and Universalist traditions into what is now the UU religious education program. So, while religious education has deep historical roots within both Unitarianism and Universalism, the modern UU religious education program, as it exists within the UUA, began to take its current form in the mid-20th century and was solidified after the merger of the two traditions in 1961.

Notable Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious educators and leaders have played significant roles in shaping the religious education within UU communities. Some notable figures include: 1.) Sophia Lyon Fahs: Sophia Lyon Fahs was a pioneering religious educator in the UU tradition. She developed innovative religious education materials for children, emphasizing experiential learning and exploration. 2.) John Haynes Holmes: A prominent UU minister and social activist, John Haynes Holmes was involved in educational reform and contributed to the development of UU religious education programs. 3.) Angus MacLean: Angus MacLean was a UU minister known for his contributions to religious education, particularly in the area of curriculum development. He authored several influential UU religious education resources. 4.) Charles Gaines: Charles Gaines was a UU religious educator and author who made significant contributions to curriculum development for UU children and youth. 5.) Denny Davidoff: Denny Davidoff served as the Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association and played a key role in shaping the direction of UU religious education during her time in leadership. These individuals have had a lasting impact on the educational aspects of the Unitarian Universalist faith and have helped to create a rich tradition of religious education within UU congregations.



From Hope's Care Team

Deborah Whittaker

vol-un-teer, a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

This month, we'll recognize the gifts of Anita Ward. You can't have been at Hope very long without meeting Anita while singing in the choir, feeding the homeless, meeting with the Generosity Committee, or watering plants and pulling weeds on the church grounds. She has led the monthly Women of Hope for years and served on the Board of Trustees in almost all positions. Anita 'freely offers' her time and talents with a loving heart. Again, Anita is one of the many Hope members who 'takes part' in keeping our church community alive and well. Thanks, Anita!

As we've come out of the pandemic in "full swing", we'll have more opportunities for everyone to volunteer for upcoming events. Join us!





Meet Your Staff

- **What is your favorite color?** Orange
- **Do you have a favorite song, if so what is it?** “Stronger” by Hanson
- **What was your favorite childhood toy?** My stuffed bear named Jonathan. He still lives in my room to this day.
- **Do you have any hobbies, if so what?** Singing Opera
- **What did you want to be when you grew up?** A lawyer
- **Star Sign/other horological sign you identify with? Could also be a fun fact about your birthday.** Virgo
- **Fun fact/unknown thing about you?** I do not think it is very unknown, but I have seen Hanson in concert 109 times.
- **Favorite food/drink or dream meal?** Dr. Pepper
- **If you had an unlimited budget, what room would you put in your house/mansion?** Performance hall
- **What clothing item have you kept the longest?** My great grandmother’s sable stole
- **Best tree/bit of nature in your life?** I am obsessed with fjords
- **Additional Information...** I have seven pets. 3 dogs, 3 cats, and a pig named SOOIE!



Rev. Justin asked staff members to share some interesting, fun, or just plain silly facts about themselves. Here’s what Hope’s Administrator, Morgen, had to say!



Homecoming Sunday, September 10th, 2023
Photos courtesy of Robert Billings



Injustice Initiative helped to assemble 180 Birth Control Pack-
ages on September 18th. Thank you to all who helped.

Photo courtesy of Anita Ward





October 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, October 17th
 - Safety and Security Team: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 17th
 - Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 24th
-

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, October 5th, 6:00 PM: Women of Hope. Social time starts at 6:30 PM and the potluck dinner is at 6:30.
- Sunday, October 8th: Join us for Breakfast on the Hill! 9:45-10:45 AM.
- Sunday, October 29th, 3:00 PM: Trunk or Treat!



October Birthdays

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

Brad Adams - October 1
Alicia McCreary - October 2
Elva Knoles - October 3
Larry Sharp - October 15
Jim Sleezer - October 16
Jean Coffey - October 17
Joan Scheulen - October 17
Ada Galli - October 17
Mindy Paschal - October 17
Shirley Adams- October 22
Marcia Schaefer - October 23
Peter Marschall - October 30



October Adult Forum Topics

- **October 1st:** Katie Powell from LGBTQ+ Services at Youth Services of Tulsa, our Generosity recipient for October, will be visiting.
- **October 8th:** No adult forum. Replaced by Breakfast on the Hill.
- **October 15th:** Guided Conversation— Sharing Our Stories about the intersection of Education and Mental Health with special updates from the ACTION team
- **October 22nd:** Common Read
- **October 29th:** Creative Intergenerational Halloween Project

UU Common Read 2023

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

This year's common read book is **On Repentance & Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World** by Danya Ruttenberg. We will discuss it at our October 22 Adult Forum. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the church for \$26 each beginning on October 10.



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, October 15th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, October 20th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 21st.



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

October's Generosity recipient is:



[LGBTQ+ Services at Youth Services of Tulsa](#)

Youth looking to better understand their sexual identity, gender identity, and/or self-expression receive support and education while building confidence and leadership skills. Students partner with peers, schools, teachers, and parents to build Gay/Straight Alliances (also known as Gender/Sexuality Alliances) to create a culture of acceptance and reduce bullying. Check out their Coffee House and Youth Empowerment Space (YES).

YST has requested donations of warm winter items such as gloves, coats, hats, and socks to prepare for the colder months ahead.

Previous Generosity recipients:

- **September:** [RG Foods Mobile Grocer](#)
- **August:** Boy Scout Troop 970
- **July:** [Take Control Initiative](#)
- **June:** [BeHeard Movement](#)
- **May:** [South Tulsa Community House](#)



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
- Eve Bjornsgaard, Worship Tech Coordinator
- Elizabeth Obal, Church Accountant
- Morgen Cavanah, Church Administrator

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 Fridays. 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

Visit our website:

www.hopeuu.org

Visit our Facebook page:

facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch

