

November 2023

FOCUS

The Monthly Newsletter of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Hope Auction 2023

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 5:00pm

Online Auction begins at noon, Sunday, November 5, and ends at 10:00am, Saturday, November 11

Auction Website: [Hope 2023 Auction](https://hope2023auction.org)

Look forward to these events on Saturday evening, November 11th:

- Musical entertainment by Mike Cameron and friends
- Silent auction of select items
- Gift card pull
- Dinner by RG Kitchens
- Sign-up parties
- And of course, the Live Auction!

Deadline to purchase tickets: noon, Sunday November 5.

Deadline to make donations of items for the auction:

Midnight, Wednesday, November 1. This can be done online or by submitting a donation form by Sunday, October 29.

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Still have questions? Contact the auction committee: auction@hopeuu.org

HOPE UNITARIAN

November's Theme: ***Generosity***

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



Reflections from the Minister

On Giving and Receiving

by Rev. Justin McCreary



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.

This month we will be exploring the theme of Generosity in services and in Religious Education.

At Hope Unitarian Church we mention generosity a lot. Each Sunday we donate to a generosity recipient, a local organization, that we gift our plate and our members come together to prepare food for the homeless shelter. We thrive off the generosity of our members and friends, and members of Hope also give with their hands. Whether it is taking meals to members and friends following life changing events, an extra donation when needed, or simply helping cleaning up after a Sunday lunch, Hope is full of generous people. It is a pleasure to Minister to a congregation that is so willing to give its time, talent, and treasure, not just to the local community but to the community at large through the hope that is Unitarian Universalism.

But generosity is more than just giving, generosity is rooted in a mutual understanding of love connected to community, which means generosity is also about receiving. Brene Brown said, "Until we can receive with an open heart, we're never really giving with an open heart." Generosity works best when we've been on both and continue to live on sides of it. If we give away everything we have, but are unable to receive the gifts of generosity, the support of a friend, a financial blessing, a meal when we are hungry or hurting, we can never truly understand the truth that generosity is rooted in mutuality. When we give gifts but refuse to accept them, our generosity can become rooted, not in love but pride.

Understand this is not a quid pro quo, what is given must be freely given. In the words of Brene Brown, "In our culture we've come to equate success with not needing anyone. Many of us are willing to extend a helping hand, but we're very reluctant to reach out for help when we need it ourselves. It's as if we've divided the world into "those who offer help" and "those who need help." The truth is that we are both."

So this month as we explore the theme of Generosity, don't just look for the places we can give, but also consider the places we can receive.



The Board Reports

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

The Board of Trustees has decided upon their donation to the 2023 Auction.

Have you?

We would like to remind everyone that not only is the auction a lot of fun, it's also the most important fundraiser of the year, after the pledge drive.

While you're browsing and bidding on the online silent auction, and, on the night of the auction, enjoying music, a delicious dinner, buying gift cards, bidding on the select silent auction items, and bidding during the live auction, keep in mind that you're not looking for a bargain, you're looking for a fun (and sometimes even exciting!) way to financially support the church. The items have a wide price range, so we hope everyone is able to participate at some level.

See the article with more information about the auction in this issue.

Rebecca Jones

Past President

Stewardship Committee Chair



Nurturing Generosity in Unitarian Universalist Families

By Tennille Wilson, Hope's Director of Religious Education

Raising Compassionate Children: Unitarian Universalism, with its inclusive and diverse principles, provides an ideal foundation for teaching children the value of generosity. In a world that often emphasizes materialism, it's crucial for UU families to instill in their children the principles of generosity, kindness, and empathy. This article explores the importance of generosity in the UU context and offers practical ways to cultivate these values in our children.

Generosity as a UU Principle: Unitarian Universalism is guided by seven principles, and the first two are particularly relevant to the concept of generosity: 1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person. 2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Teaching generosity aligns with these principles, as it affirms the worth of all individuals and promotes compassionate relationships within our diverse community.

Practical Ways to Teach Generosity: 1. Open Conversations: Engage in open, age-appropriate conversations about generosity. Discuss why it's important and how it connects to UU principles. Encourage questions and critical thinking. 2. Volunteering Together: Participate as a family in volunteering activities that align with UU values, such as social justice initiatives, environmental stewardship, or helping those in need. Children learn the importance of giving back by seeing their parents' commitment. 3. Share Stories: Share stories and examples of generosity from various cultures and religions. Explore the teachings of other faith traditions to highlight common values. 4. Practice Gratitude: Cultivate an attitude of gratitude by keeping a family gratitude journal. Encourage children to reflect on the good things in their lives and discuss how they can share their blessings with others. 5. Give with Purpose: Allow children to take an active role in selecting charitable organizations or causes to support. Discuss why these causes are meaningful and how their contributions make a difference. 6. Inclusivity and Acceptance: Emphasize the value of accepting and respecting people from all walks of life. Teach children that generosity extends to treating others with kindness, even when they have different beliefs or backgrounds. 7. Support Ethical Consumption: Teach children about responsible and ethical consumer choices. Explain how their decisions can impact the environment and the well-being of others.

Benefits of Raising Generous Children in a UU Context: 1. Alignment with UU Principles: Fostering generosity in children is a direct embodiment of UU principles, contributing to a more just and compassionate world. 2. Stronger UU Community: Generosity builds strong and interconnected UU communities by fostering empathy and mutual support among members. 3. Lifelong Values: Children raised with a sense of generosity are likely to carry these values into adulthood, becoming compassionate individuals who actively promote social justice and inclusivity. 4. A Better World: The world needs more individuals who embrace UU principles, and raising generous children is a meaningful step toward creating a more equitable and kind global society.

In conclusion Unitarian Universalist families have a unique opportunity to raise children who are not only tolerant of diverse beliefs and backgrounds but also deeply committed to the principles of generosity and compassion. By integrating these values into daily life and spiritual practice, we can nurture the next generation of UU members who will continue to work toward a more just and loving world.

Breakfast on the Hill on October 8th, 2023
Photos courtesy of Morgen Cavanah.





CYRE Vision Quest 2023
Photos courtesy of Tennille Wilson.





Message from the CARE Team

By Deborah Whittaker

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

This month we want to honor Carmen Kinsey. She is a long-time member and volunteer of our church community. Over the years she has provided meals for recuperating members. She has contributed cookies, sandwiches and punch for numerous memorial services and events.

Carmen has assisted in hosting tables for Fellowship dinners and arranging tableware for auctions. She's been on the Care Team many years and offered her heartwarming support, aid and encouragement to members in need. She supplies many of the get-well and sympathy cards for the congregation to sign. Carmen also shares her lovely voice in the Hope Choir and has served on the Board of Trustees. She always has a ready hand to assist with the countless breakfasts, luncheons and dinners that Hope Church hosts for our members and visitors. We're grateful for Carmen and her kind heart.

Thank you Carmen!



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:

- Finance Committee: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, November 21st
 - Safety and Security Team: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 21st
 - Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 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.

- **Hope's Annual Auction**: 5:00 PM, Saturday, November 11th
 - Women of Hope: 6:00 PM, Thursday, November 2nd
 - Dave Sahler Memorial Concert: 3:00 PM Sunday, November 19th
 - Sundays: Children and Youth Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10:00 AM, Sunday Service: 11:00 AM
-



November Birthdays

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

Ken Jones - November 4
Nate Newman - November 5
Alice Perrault - November 5
Evelyn Saylor - November 12
Lydia Reece - November 13
Nancy Sahler - November 17
Steve Witt - November 25
Linda Tracy - November 29



November Adult Forum Topics

- **November 5th:** A representative of Tulsa Girls' Home, our Generosity Recipient for November, will speak.
- **November 12th:** We will discuss safety and security at Hope.
- **November 19th:** Vanessa Self leads "Building the World We Dream About" (part 1), a Unitarian Universalist program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another.
- **November 26th:** We will discuss the holiday season, including upcoming Hope events & caring for our emotional well being.

UU Common Read 2023

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action.

This year's common read book is **On Repentance & Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World** by Danya Ruttenberg.



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



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.hopeuuu.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

November's Generosity recipient is:



Tulsa Girls' Home: (TGH) exists to shelter, empower, restore and support teen girls who have been placed in foster care. Every day we are on a mission to equip and empower each girl through their uniquely-given talents so they can discover their purpose, value, and destiny. We see a generation of girls who have overcome their battles, found their voice, and have risen above any label — so they can live as responsible women who understand their value, potential, and testimony.

Tulsa Girls' Home believes in a powerful relationship healing model — helping each girl find restoration, move forward, and learn how to create a life they have always longed to live. Our program goal is to expand excellence in foster care through transforming statistics into testimonies of success — helping end the foster care crisis.

Previous Generosity recipients:

- **October:** [LGBTQ+ Services at Youth Services of Tulsa](#)
- **September:** [RG Foods Mobile Grocers](#)
- **August:** Boy Scout Troop 970
- **July:** [Take Control Initiative](#)
- **June:** [BeHeard Movement](#)



Hope's Minister

Rev. Justin M. McCreary

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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

