

FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2024



JUSTICE & EQUITY





February at Hope

As we step into the month of love, Hope Unitarian Church is thrilled to bring you two mouthwatering events that promise to tantalize your taste buds and warm your hearts.

Indulge in the sweetest experience this February with our Chocolate Auction, hosted by the incredible Women of Hope. Following the Sunday service on February 11th, prepare to be enchanted by a delightful assortment of chocolates, lovingly crafted and generously donated by our talented community. Join us for a post-service treat, bid on your favorites, and take home delectable treasures. It's a sweet way to support our community and spread the love.

Also, prepare your recipes for a spicy showdown at our Chili Cookoff on Saturday, February 24th, starting at 6:00 PM. Bring your appetite and your best chili to compete, or simply savor the diverse flavors created by our fellow community members. From mild and savory to boldly spicy, this event promises a night of warmth, camaraderie, and, of course, fantastic chili. Join us for a taste-filled evening and let's spice up our February together!

Mark Your Calendar and Bring Your Appetite!

These events are not just about food; they are about coming together as a community, sharing laughter, and creating memories. Whether you're a chocolate connoisseur or a chili enthusiast, these gatherings are an opportunity to connect, enjoy delicious treats, and support the vibrant spirit of Hope Unitarian Church.

So, save the dates, bring your appetite, and let's make February a month to remember. We look forward to seeing you there!



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

Equality and Equity: A Reflection on Justice

If you've spent much time in Unitarian Universalist circles you've no doubt heard the words justice and equity, in fact these words are central to our core values. Justice and equity appear in the current principles adopted in 1985 and are central to upcoming article II revisions in the UU world. Regardless, justice and equity are part of how we understand active love. A world where love rules, justice and equity are present. However, it is significant that the principles and the values of our faith use the term equity not equality.

During the month of December, I had the opportunity to discuss this with some of our Boy Scouts. Modern scouting requires training in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and that is done through a class called Citizenship and Society. One of the first exercises in the class is to define a set of terms, among those terms, equity, and equality.

Over all their answers were very good. But I noticed something in them that I notice in everyone who is asked for the first time to wrestle with the differences between equality and equity. I remember when I began to wrestle with these differences and unlike these scouts, I didn't begin to ask the questions until much later.

For much of my early life, even into adulthood, I assumed that equity was synonymous with equality. This is not an unfounded assumption since the words overlap and are from the same Latin root (Merriam Webster). In fact, you can find these words in the Commonly Confused section on Merriam Webster's website.

To understand the difference let's consider the gap between the words, sameness, and fairness. An equal distribution means that everyone gets the same amount and equitable distribution means that everyone gets what is fair based on need. Equal distribution sounds good on the surface until we consider not everyone starts in the same place, some people have a built-in head start. Equality can then become a tool used within systems of power as a tool of oppression, which is why we pair justice with equity. That doesn't mean equality isn't important, it just means it isn't cut and dry. When we approach any system, we must be aware of power dynamics and understand not everyone starts in the same place or needs the same things.

Whether it is education or economics, building a truly equitable system creates many challenges. However, if we choose to center ourselves in love and work toward justice we too must wrestle with these differences. The path of equity is hard but worth it.



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.



ANNUAL CHOCOLATE AUCTION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AFTER SERVICE

FELLOWSHIP HALL

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CHOCOLATE RECIPE? BRING IT TO THE CHOCOLATE AUCTION TO
SHARE. IS IT COOKIES, CAKE, TARTS, CANDY, OR PIE? WE'D LOVE TO TASTE IT! AND SO,
WOULD YOUR VALENTINE!

IF BAKING ISN'T YOUR FORTE, TULSA HAS SOME WONDERFUL BAKERIES. AND WE
WANT EVERYONE TO BID ON THE DELICACIES YOU CONTRIBUTE.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION
SUNDAY MORNING AND THEN BID ON YOUR FAVORITES AFTER THE SERVICE.

REMEMBER TO SHARE WITH YOUR VALENTINE!



BOARD REPORTS

**Submitted by James Donovan
President of the Hope Board of Trustees**

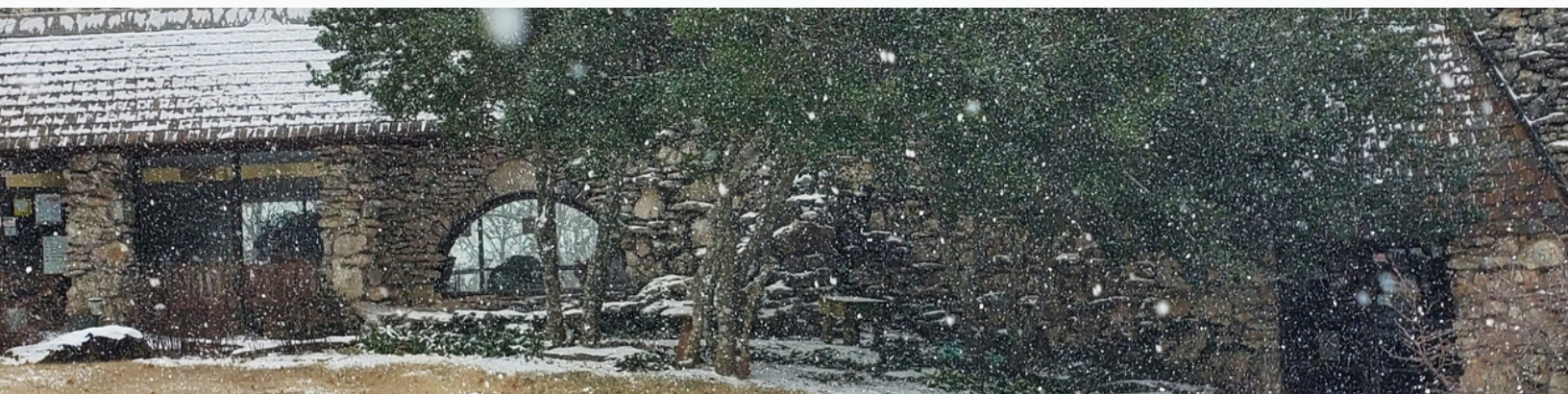
Over the next few months, the Hope Board of Trustees will be working toward meeting the goals we set last summer. We'll also be assisting the Nominating Committee, chaired by Rebecca Jones, in developing & recruiting lay leaders for the congregation.

The Nominating Committee is working to present a slate of officers and trustees to serve on the Board of Trustees for church year 2024-2025.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or if you have any suggestions about people you believe would be a good fit, please contact Rebecca Jones.

The process of creating the budget for the next church year has begun as has the planning of our annual pledge drive. Budget requests need to be submitted to Rick Eagleton, VP-Finance, by January 29th.

If you have any items that need to be approved by the Board of Trustees prior to the annual meeting of the congregation on May 19, please try to get them to us by 5pm on March 20. If you lead a committee or program & have a report that you'd like to be included in the annual meeting reports book, please send it to hopeuu@hopeuu.org by April 17.



Teaching Justice and Equity in Spiritual Expressions

By Tennille Wilson

Collaborative art can be a powerful tool to teach justice and equality to children as it promotes teamwork, empathy, and shared expression. Through collaborative projects, children learn to appreciate diverse perspectives, value each other's contributions, and understand the importance of equality in creating something meaningful together. It fosters a sense of community and highlights the beauty of inclusion, reinforcing principles of justice and equality in a tangible and creative way.

All of the art that the children make on Sundays pertain to the monthly theme or other pertinent cultural lessons. We do at least one collaborative piece a year. Last year we did two collaborative paintings. One of the Trans Flag that we made from a reused canvas and frame that was realized quickly. However, we made a painting of a bunny that we continued to work with for a couple of weeks. Emotions were high. Being considerate of other community members and their ideas became more challenging. The painting is truly a collaboration.



Alzheimer's Association - Oklahoma Chapter

FEBRUARY GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

This month's Generosity Recipient is Oklahoma's local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Serving Tulsa and its surrounding areas, the Alzheimer's Association stands as a resilient force, catering to the diverse needs of those affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Guided by the broader mission of the Alzheimer's Association, the Oklahoma Chapter is on a steadfast journey to eliminate Alzheimer's through research advancement, enhance care and support for the community, and reduce dementia risk by championing brain health. This mission translates into impactful services seamlessly integrated into the fabric of Tulsa.

The Oklahoma Chapter's trained volunteers lead regular support groups, providing a compassionate space for individuals and families navigating the challenges of Alzheimer's. These groups serve as vital lifelines, fostering understanding and connection in the face of emotional adversity. The Association's education programs, accessible both online and

in-person, offer critical insights into diagnosis, communication strategies, and caregiving techniques, empowering the local community. However, the Oklahoma Chapter's impact extends beyond community engagement. The chapter stands as a vocal advocate for the Alzheimer's community, ensuring that the needs and rights of those facing Alzheimer's are heard and acknowledged.

Their advocacy efforts resonate not only within local circles but reverberate through the chambers of the State Capitol, reinforcing the importance of Alzheimer's care, education, and research at the state level.

As part of the larger Alzheimer's Association, the Oklahoma Chapter contributes to the global push for progress in Alzheimer's research. As a significant nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Alzheimer's Association plays a vital role in accelerating global advancements toward treatment, prevention, and, ultimately, a cure.



Donate
Volunteer

 **ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION**





MESSAGE FROM THE CARE TEAM

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

Alice Vanwormer is our volunteer for February. This lady is one of the longest members of the Hope congregation. She's quite the organizer. Her most recent position has been the V.P. of Programs.

She spearheaded the Breakfast on the Hill for some time prior to the pandemic. She's become the homemade Oatmeal Queen for those events these days. She's often a Greeter on Sunday mornings and has also contributed her wisdom and knowledge of Unitarianism to our members. Thank you, Alice!

BURNING BOWL





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:

- Finance Committee: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, December 19th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 19th

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.

Women of Hope: 6:00 PM, Thursday, February 1st

Chocolate Auction: Sunday, February 11th - after service

Chili Cookoff: 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 24th

Sundays: Children and Youth Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10:00 AM, Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

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.

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 11th; between 10:00 AM and noon on Friday, February 9th; or from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 10th.





FEBRUARY EVENTS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mandie Carlile - February 4th

Ruth Jackson - February 7th

Mary Baird - February 7th

Alive Van Wormer - February 10th

Carol Young - February 11th

Corrie Dorman - February 12th

Adriana Neaco Rivers - February 12th

London Carlile - February 14th

Gale Luria - February 21st

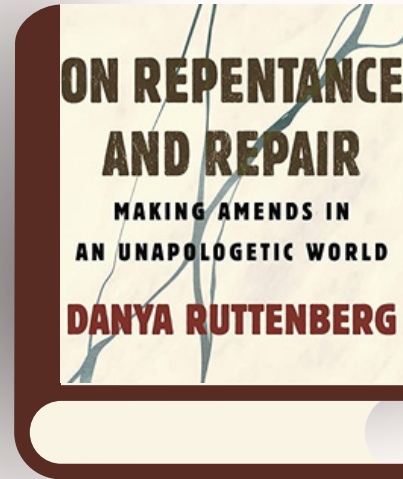
Chris Dunn - February 22nd

Joey Dewiel - February 23rd

Seph Newman - February 26th

Lily Eagleton - February 28th

Sam Eagleton - February 28th



UU Common Read 2024

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World" by Danya Ruttenberg.

February Adult Forum Topics

February 4th: Dr. Garrett from Tulsa's Branch of the Alzheimer's Association will speak at our Adult Forum

February 11th: A special Valentine's Day Forum featuring a panel of Hope couples.

February 18th: UU Tapestry of Faith Workshop - Building the World We Dream About Pt. 2, led by Vanessa Self

February 25th: How to Train Pet Dogs, Therapy Dogs, and Service Dogs with Cathy Sleezer & others





ABOUT HOPE CHURCH

HOPE'S MINISTER

Rev. Justin M. McCreary

Rev. Justin's usual office hours are Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10 AM-3PM.

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. 918-481-0999, x2.

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-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.

HOPE'S STAFF

Eve Bjornsgaard

Worship Tech Coordinator

Morgen Cavanah

Church Administrator

Lenny Hope

Assistant Director of Children and Youth Religious Education

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

Tennille Wilson

Director of Religious Education

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