



Focus
February 2025

Inclusion



FEBRUARY AT HOPE

February at Hope Unitarian Church is filled with opportunities for connection, generosity, and service. The month begins with Women of Hope on Thursday, February 6th, at 6:00 PM, offering a space for women in our community to gather for conversation and support. Just a few days later, on Sunday, February 9th, at 12:00 PM, our beloved Chocolate Auction returns—a sweet and spirited event where delicious homemade treats are up for bid, with all proceeds supporting our church's mission and programs.

Mid-month, we turn our focus outward with Feed the Homeless on Saturday, February 15th, at 5:00 PM, a chance to serve those in need with nourishing meals and compassionate presence. Then, on Thursday, February 20th, at 6:00 PM, we come together for Game Night, an evening of laughter and friendly competition for all ages. Whether through fellowship, fundraising, service, or play, these events reflect the heart of our community, and everyone is encouraged to join in.



IN THIS ISSUE

REFLECTIONS FROM
THE MINISTER

GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

RE CORNER

FEBRUARY EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

ABOUT HOPE CHURCH



REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

REFLECTING ON INCLUSION

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

These words by Emma Lazarus appear on the Statue of Liberty. The poem is called "The New Colossus." Historically, the Statue of Liberty, standing in New York Harbor, functioned as a clarion call to all who sought entrance into the United States of America. This poem highlights our monthly Soul Matters theme: Inclusion.

Inclusion is a central theme in Unitarian Universalism. Our faith stands at the forefront of change and growth into a new beloved community, whose design stretches back prior to the founding of the country but also evolves with every new generation. This community is not static but dynamic, as the name implies: Beloved.

In this community, we know that we cannot judge a book by its cover, and we cannot make assumptions about character based on what we see. This community includes everyone. But inclusion isn't easy because we get very comfortable with ourselves and people like us, and this comfort can cause frustration when we learn that inclusion is also diverse. Our values help us create space for this diversity and inclusion through equity—equity making the assumption that all people have different needs.

These three things—Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity—help us better understand the ever-changing needs of a beloved community. We have the opportunity to build that community here. Some may feel as though "The New Colossus" has gone out of fashion in modern America, but in Unitarian Universalism, we must resist the urge to limit this call. We must remember that diversity makes us better, and we can't have diversity without inclusion.



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 9
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!



Clarehouse

JANUARY GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

In our community, there is a sanctuary of peace and compassion called Clarehouse. It offers a warm and loving environment for those navigating the final chapter of life, ensuring that no one faces these moments alone. Clarehouse provides a home-like space where terminally ill individuals receive round-the-clock practical care, with their hospice agency overseeing medical management. Families are welcomed into a serene setting, allowing them to focus on their loved ones while compassionate staff and volunteers handle the daily responsibilities. This extraordinary model has served over 6,200 individuals in its more than two decades of operation, creating a legacy of dignity and kindness at life's end.

Clarehouse embodies a vision of community-centered care, where every person has the support they need in their final days. They reject the idea that dying must be filled with suffering or isolation. Instead, they create a space where comfort, connection, and compassion thrive.

Guests and families are embraced as part of the Clarehouse family, surrounded by kindness and understanding during what is often the most challenging time of their lives. Their commitment to fostering meaningful connections and providing comfort reflects the belief that dignity and peace are fundamental to the human experience.

As a pioneering example of Social Model Hospice care, Clarehouse stands out for its innovative approach. It bridges the gap for those unable to die at home by partnering with local hospices and healthcare providers. Services are provided entirely free of charge, made possible by the generosity of donors who believe in this vital mission. By blending hospitality, education, and a network of dedicated volunteers, Clarehouse not only changes the lives of those it serves but also inspires others across the country to embrace this transformative model of care. In doing so, Clarehouse ensures that love, respect, and humanity remain at the heart of every moment.

[DONATE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

Clarehouse[®]
Living. Loving. Sharing.





Inclusion by Nia Darrington-Stokes

This month's theme is Inclusion. According to Merriam-Webster, Inclusion is the act of including or the state of being included.

Inclusion is a fundamental principle that promotes equity, respect, and dignity for all individuals, regardless of their background, abilities, or beliefs. In religious education, inclusion has a unique and powerful significance. Religious traditions and teachings often emphasize values such as compassion, justice, and the inherent worth of every individual, providing a robust foundation for inclusive practices.

As the new DRE and religious educator, I am committed to embracing and celebrating diversity while creating transformative spaces that reflect the unity of humanity.

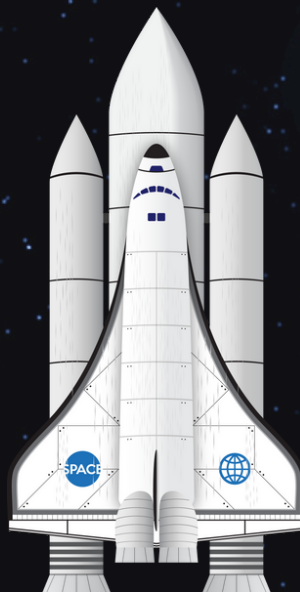
It is a privilege to walk beside each of you as we create environments where others feel included!



JOIN US FOR THE ***SOUTHWEST UU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE***

Hope members have fond memories of attending the Southwest UU Women's Annual Conference, and 2025 is shaping up to be another incredible event! This year's conference, themed "Sacred Spaces, Sacred Places," will take place March 21-23 at the Houston Hilton NASA in Clear Lake, TX. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with UU women from across the region, hear inspiring speakers, and engage in workshops that explore spiritual connections, social justice, and creative perspectives. The fun begins Friday evening and runs through Sunday morning, with registration including access to workshops, vendors, and lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Early Bird Registration is \$220 if completed by February 21st, 2025, and regular registration is \$250 until March 7, 2025. Rooms in the Hilton SWUW Conference Block are available for a discounted rate of \$139/night. For those arriving early, a tour of NASA Space Center Houston is available Friday, March 21—an exciting way to kick off the weekend! Don't miss this chance to learn, grow, and connect with our beloved community of women. Register now at swuuw.org and reserve your room [here](#).





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, February 18th.
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 25th.

● 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: Thursday, February 6th, 6:00 PM.
Chocolate Auction: Sunday, February 9th, 12:00 PM
Feed the Homeless: Saturday, February 15th, 5:00 PM
Game Night: Thursday, February 20th, 6:00 PM

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, 3:00-4:00 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, or Tuesday thru Friday from 9AM-3PM.

This Month's Cereal Sunday will be on February 9th.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays

Mandie Carlile - 4
Tim Nagengast - 5
Ruth Jackson - 7
Mary Baird - 7
Alice Van Wormer - 10
Carol Young - 11
Corrie Dorman - 12
London Carlile - 14
Gale Luria - 21
Chris Dunn - 22
Jo Ann Howse - 25
Seph Newman - 26
Lily Eagleton - 28
Sam Eagleton - 28



AUTHENTIC SELVES

Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary
People and Their Families



UU Common Read 2024-2025

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families" edited by Peggie Gillespie

February Adult Forums

February 2: Generosity Recipient -
Clarehouse

February 9: The Hope Banned &
Challenged Book Club: The 1619 Project:
A New Origin Story by Nikole Hannah-
Jones

February 16: Hope's Mission & Vision,
Part 4 with David Tracy

February 23: Aliye Shimi, Executive
Director of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry



HOPE BANNED & CHALLENGED BOOK CLUB

Hope Banned & Challenged Book Club where we explore
and discuss literature that has faced censorship and controversy.

Together,

we delve into the themes, societal impacts, and reasons behind the
challenges to these important works. You are welcome to join the
discussions even if you haven't read the books.

Step 1: Purchase the book from a bookseller or borrow it from a
library.

Step 2: Read and think about the book.

Step 3: Discuss the book at Hope on a Sunday morning at 10am.

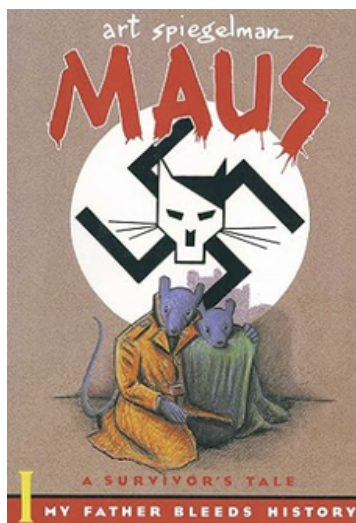
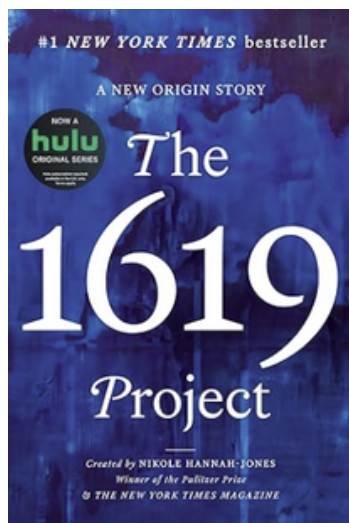
Upcoming Book Discussions

February 9, 2025: The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story by
Nikole Hannah-Jones (Black History Month)

April 13, 2025: Maus by Art Spiegelman

June 8, 2025: Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret
by Judy Blume

For more information, contact James Donovan at
tulsauus@yahoo.com





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

Justin McCreary

Minister

Nia Darrington-Stokes

Director of Religious Education

Morgen Fields

Church Administrator

Rachel Hay

Interim Lead Teacher

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

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