A soft-focus background image of a hand holding a small pink flower with green leaves. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers slightly spread, holding the flower gently. The overall tone is light and ethereal, with a pale pink and cream color palette.

FOCUS
MAY 2025

IMAGINATION

MAY AT HOPE

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting, happening Sunday, May 18th immediately following the service. This is our opportunity to come together, reflect on where we've been, and shape where we're headed. We'll review the budget, elect leaders, and discuss matters that guide the future of our community. Your presence and voice are essential as we make decisions that affect all of us at Hope. Whether you're a longtime member or newly engaged, this is a moment to show up, connect, and take part in our shared vision.

We also invite you to enjoy the many other events happening throughout May. On Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 PM, the Women of Hope will gather for conversation and community—an evening of warmth and connection. Then on Sunday, May 11th, we celebrate one of our most beloved traditions: the Mother's Day Flower Communion during the 11:00 AM service. Bring a flower, take a flower, and join us in honoring the nurturing love that sustains us all.

Looking ahead, we welcome your presence and participation at the Programs Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 6:00 PM, where ideas bloom into action. And for a lighter evening of fun and fellowship, don't miss Game Night on Thursday, May 15th at 6:00 PM. Whether it's for business or joy—or both—we hope you'll join us throughout the month. Each gathering is a chance to be part of something larger than ourselves: this vibrant, growing, caring community we call Hope.



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF IMAGINATION

As I sit at my desk to write this month's article, I can't get out of my head the success that was our Easter Services both this year and last. The words to Day by Day keep going through my mind as I sit to reflect on imagination, I must wonder what it like is to write a musical. Actually, the theme is The Practice of Imagination. Adding this modifier The Practice changes the approach to the word. It defines the word imagination not as something that simply happens out of nowhere but is something that we work on day by day.

I can't imagine the practice of sitting down to write a musical or even a play. I can't imagine the feeling of bringing something forth that was here to before not, actually I can. I do it every week when I sit to write an article or a sermon. In fact, when I think about it I practice imagination regularly, and create something that was once not.

I don't think it is just me. A few years ago, I preached a sermon about the imagination it takes to write up a church budget, in the years that have followed I might even expand that to writing by laws, procedures, or protocols. I think imagination is present in all careers, from computer programmers to construction workers imagination is core. Anytime we have to figure out how to do something we are touching our imagination, even if it is just finding a new path.

But then what is the practice of imagination? The practice then is the conscious decision to engage our imagination at a time when we might not. The moment we choose to reflect on a new way or a way around. Making imagination a practice takes it from the background and brings it to the foreground. It involves invoking it.

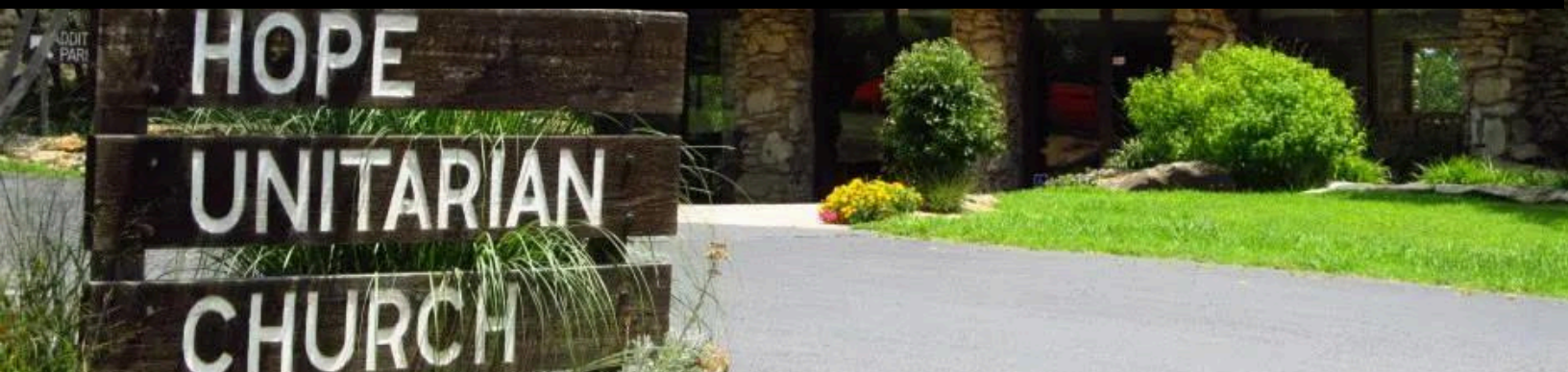
So I end this article simply, choose to invoke your imagination and try something new, see what it feels like.



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.



COFFEE BUNKER

MAY GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

The Coffee Bunker in Tulsa is more than just a gathering place—it's a community built on the unwavering commitment to help veterans transition back into civilian life. Founded in memory of Cpl. Daniel Y. Ligon, a Marine who served two deployments in Fallujah before losing his battle with PTSD, the Bunker stands as a refuge for those who have sacrificed so much. It provides veterans and their families with a welcoming space to find camaraderie, resources, and a sense of belonging. Whether someone is looking for employment assistance, educational guidance, or simply a place to connect with others who understand their experiences, the Coffee Bunker is there to serve as a steadfast ally. At the heart of the Coffee Bunker is the belief that no veteran should feel alone in their journey home. The transition from military to civilian life can be overwhelming, and for many, the hidden wounds of war linger long after their service ends.

The Bunker seeks to bridge that gap, offering not only practical assistance but also a deep sense of community. Veterans from active duty, the National Guard, and the Reserves can find support here, whether through advocacy efforts, service opportunities, or simply sharing a cup of coffee with someone who understands.

This mission is made possible through the generosity of individuals, faith communities, businesses, and volunteers who recognize the importance of standing with our veterans. Since its founding in 2010, the Coffee Bunker has grown into a vital resource in Tulsa, ensuring that no veteran has to navigate their transition alone. It is a powerful response to the silent battles many service members face, striving to turn stories of struggle into ones of hope and renewal. By supporting the Coffee Bunker, we honor not only Daniel's memory but the countless others who have served—and continue to serve—our country.



DONATE

VOLUNTEER





Imagination Through the Eyes of a Child by Nia Darrington-Stokes

To a child, the world is not limited by what is—it's alive with what could be. A cardboard box isn't just a box; it's a spaceship blasting off to distant galaxies, a race car speeding toward the finish line, or a secret hideout nestled in a magical forest. A blanket draped over chairs becomes a mighty fortress, and a stick transforms into a powerful sword. Children don't see things for what they are—they see them for what they can be.

Unlike adults, whose imaginations are often shaped and restrained by experience, children dream without limits. Their world is rich with wonder, curiosity, and magic. They don't ask whether something is possible—they imagine it into being. This freedom to dream boldly is what makes childhood so vibrant and full of discovery.

Imaginative play is more than just fun—it's essential to healthy development. Through play, children learn to solve problems, process emotions, and understand the world around them. When they act out stories, they develop empathy and communication skills. When they build worlds from their imagination, they gain confidence and nurture creativity. This kind of play isn't just preparing them for the future—it's shaping it.

At CYRE, we honor and cultivate this powerful force. We create spaces where imagination thrives—through storytelling and reading, engaging in the arts, and exploring new experiences together. Our community-building activities, like sharing our "high, low, buffalo" during circle time, invite children to reflect, express themselves, and make meaningful connections. We follow their lead in conversations, encouraging them to explore their thoughts in ways that connect with our monthly themes and beyond.

We believe curiosity is important. By nurturing a child's innate sense of wonder, we empower them to dream boldly, think creatively, and engage deeply with the world around them.

Imagination is not just child's play—it's a vital resource for growth, innovation, and connection. When we embrace imagination, we don't just encourage children to dream—we help build the future they imagine.





MAY 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, May 20th.
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 27th.

● 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, May 1st, 6:00 PM

Mother's Day Flower Communion : Sunday, May 11th, 11:00 AM

Programs Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 13th, 6:00 PM

Game Night: Thursday, May 15th, 6:00 PM

Feed the Homeless: May 17th

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, May 18th, 12:15 PM after Service

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 May 11th.

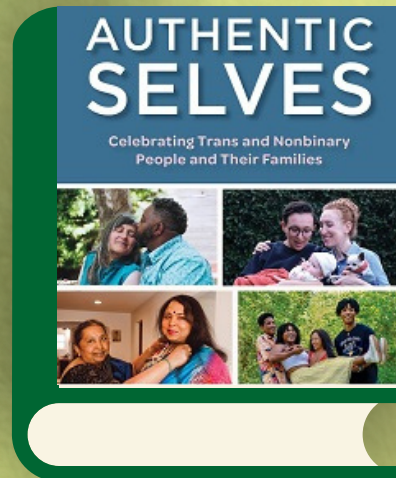


MAY EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays

Jane Eagleton - 2
Lynn Walters - 9
Rick Paschal - 9
Jarrett Dunn - 11
Trenton Self - 11
Gail Hawk - 14
Nolan Reece - 18
Graham Carlile - 27



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

May Adult Forums

- May 4th - Generosity Recipient - Coffee Bunker
- May 11th : The Source of the Nile with Jim Sleezer
- May 18th : Congregational Meeting Preview with David Tracy
- May 25th : Coffee & Conversation





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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hopeuu@hopeuu.org

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2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Tracy, President

Vanessa Self, President Elect

James Donovan, Past-President

Jeff Dossett, Vice President of Finance and Planning

Mary Baird, Vice President of Programs

Christy Chesnut Levine, Secretary

Cynthia Heifner, Treasurer

Rick Eagleton, Trustee

Carol Young, Trustee

