

FOCUS
JUNE 2025



FREEDOM

JUNE AT HOPE

Hope Unitarian Church is excited to host our annual Hope Garage Sale on Friday, June 6th, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday, June 7th, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This community event is a fantastic opportunity to find treasures while supporting our church programs. We are currently seeking volunteers to help set up, organize, and assist on the sale days. Additionally, donations of gently used items are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the church during designated hours. Whether you're looking to declutter or lend a hand, your support makes a difference!

Our third Hope Happy Hour (formerly known as Stammtisch) will be June 26, 2025, from 5:30-7:00. We will meet at The Lodge Eatery and Pub at 121 East Main Street, Jenks, Oklahoma 74037. This is a relaxed, come-and-go as you please event. There is no agenda other than to have fun. Enjoy a beverage of choice, order a snack or a meal, or just enjoy good company. Consider inviting a friend. The good folks of Hope are sure to make them feel welcome. Please email davidtracylaw@gmail.com to reserve your spot(s). This will help us give the restaurant a seating estimate. If you forget to email, come anyway. We'll find room for you.

As part of our Pride Month celebrations, we invite everyone to join us on Sunday, June 29th, for a special morning of community and reflection. Start your day with Breakfast on the Hill at 10:00 AM, where we'll share food and fellowship. Following breakfast, we will gather at 11:00 AM for our annual Pride Service, a time to honor and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community with thoughtful words, music, and support. All are welcome to participate as we affirm love and inclusion in our faith community.



IN THIS ISSUE

MISSION STATEMENT

REFLECTIONS FROM
THE MINISTER

GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

HELP TRAFFICKING
VICTIMS

GET TO KNOW IMANI

RE CORNER

JUNE EVENTS

ABOUT HOPE CHURCH



HOPE UPDATES MISSION STATEMENT

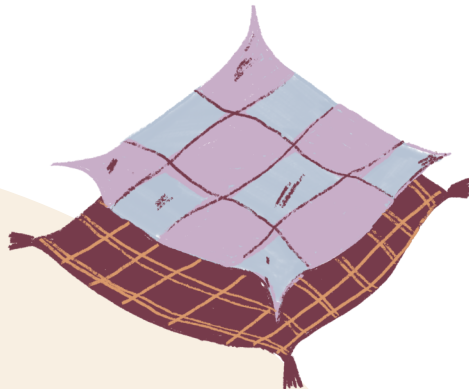
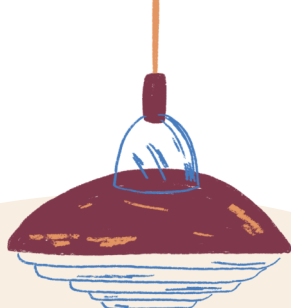
During five adult forums (June 16, '24; June 23, '24; September 22, '24; March 23, '25), members discussed the current state of Hope, then did some visioning, some brainstorming, and some drafting. The result was two proposed updates to the Hope Unitarian Church Mission Statement. Both proposals carried similar themes. The HopeBoard of Trustees molded and merged the statements with the following result. Many hands helped with this update to the Hope Mission Statement. May it serve to guide and inspire us in the years ahead.

The mission of Hope Unitarian Church is to create a welcoming community that celebrates diversity, nurtures spiritual growth, and works for justice and compassion in the world. Guided by Unitarian Universalist values, we commit ourselves to:

- **Welcoming all people with love and acceptance,**
- **Supporting one another in our spiritual journeys,**
- **Engaging in lifelong learning,**
- **Advocating social equity and inclusion,**
- **Caring for the Earth and future generations,**
- **Taking meaningful action for social justice.**

Together, we seek to transform ourselves and the world through community, service, and love.





Hope
UNITARIAN CHURCH

GARAGE SALE

FRI JUNE 6TH 8AM - 5PM

SAT JUNE 7TH 8AM - 1PM



DONATION DROP-OFF TIMES

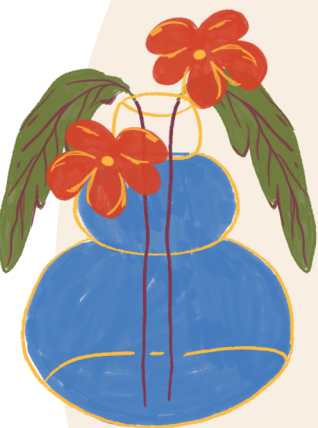
SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST : 1 - 5 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 2ND : 9 AM - 3 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD : 2:30 - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH : 9 AM - 5 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH : 9 AM - 4 PM



REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

THE FREE CHURCH

Unitarian Universalism is part of the Free Church Tradition. This can mean a lot of things, the earliest use of this phrase had to do with whether or not the church was subsidized financially by the government. It may sound funny today but prior to the American revolution there was a church tax in the Colonies. However, today when we say we are a free church we mean something different.

James Luther Adams once said, "I call that church free which enters into covenant with the ground of freedom, that sustaining, judging, transforming power not made with hands." Our hymnal simplifies this statement saying, "I call that church free which enters into covenant with the ultimate source of existence."

Either way you read it Adams is saying freedom is entering into covenant with something greater than ourselves. For some people this is God, for others the Universe, and for others it is just the greater self that is a product of our unity." It does my heart well to know that for Unitarians it is not obedience to this transforming power that we are called to but covenant with that power.

We are called to co-create with it not to be subservient to it. Freedom is the ability to look to God collaboratively and in doing so become part of the transforming power of community. This relationship is not meant to be entered into lightly; it is with responsibility and temperance that we covenant with this ultimate source of existence.

This month we will explore Freedom and all that it means, including the responsibility that comes with being a free church.



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.



HEARTLAND TO BREADBASKET

JUNE GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Heartland to Breadbasket Inc., a Tulsa-based nonprofit led by Mary Dotson, has been a steadfast force for humanitarian aid, providing essential support to communities in crisis, both locally and abroad. Recently, their efforts have been especially impactful in Ukraine, where they have partnered with the Vilny Charity Foundation to send crucial supplies to conflict-affected regions. These supplies include warm clothing, blankets, hygiene products, and medical supplies, making a tangible difference in the lives of both soldiers and civilians caught in the ongoing conflict.

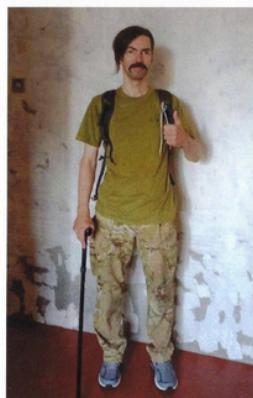
The organization's commitment goes beyond material support. Through their collaboration with local groups and international partners, Heartland to Breadbasket has consistently ensured that donated goods, from handmade quilts to critical medical supplies, reach those who need them most.

In recent weeks, shipments from Tulsa have delivered essential items to hospitals and front-line defenders in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy. The organization also continues to work closely with local volunteers, such as the Quilting Studio and Fabric Mercantile, whose beautiful quilt donations provide comfort and warmth to Ukrainian families.

As our church highlights Heartland to Breadbasket Inc. as our monthly Generosity Recipient, we are reminded of the profound impact that collective compassion and action can have. By supporting this organization, we can join their mission of delivering hope and relief to those facing unimaginable challenges. Whether through donations of supplies or financial contributions, every effort helps Heartland to Breadbasket continue their life-saving work at home and around the world.



Heartland 
to Breadbasket



Heartland to Breadbasket Donations;

% Mary Dotson
2121 S. Yorktown Ave Unit 802, Tulsa, OK, 74114
Inquiries: marydotsonmail@gmail.com



HELP HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Items for Donation to Human Trafficking Program Ascension St. John (can be gently used or new for most items. Please wash or clean all used items): Bring the items to Hope on June 1, 8, & 15.

**** are most needed items but all are so appreciated**

General Items:

- Mini Umbrellas **
- New or Gently Used Backpacks, Duffle Bags, and Suitcases **
- New Stuffed Animals (great for trauma survivors to hug!)
- Coloring books for adults like mandalas, etc
- Gel pens
- Fidgets
- Playing cards or Uno cards

Clothing:

- New Women's Underwear (all sizes)**
- New Women's socks**
- New Sports Bras (all sizes) **

Used Electronics:

These will be donated to 911 phone bank where they are wiped and secured so your data is safe and reprogramed for use by human trafficking survivors, domestic violence survivors, and other crime survivors or recycled for parts.

Donations help keep our landfills free of e-waste.

<https://www.911cellphonebank.org/>

- Used Cell phones, Smartphones, and Blackberry's from all carriers and manufacturers
- Used Laptop computers from all manufacturers
- Used Tablets from all manufacturers
- Used Cameras from all manufacturers
- Used Digital media players i.e. mp3, DVD, and cd players, voice recorders, etc. from all manufacturers
- Used Portable video game systems from all manufacturers
- Used Smartwatches from all manufacturers
- Used Memory storage devices i.e. SD cards, external memory storage devices from all manufacturers
- Used Electronic accessories i.e. chargers, headsets, earphones, rechargeable -batteries from all manufacturers
- Used Pin pad devices
- Used Internal and external hard drives





Get to Know
our new childcare worker

**Imani
Bossett**

My name is Imani Bossett and I am a proud mother of two daughters, a creative at heart, and someone who finds joy in nurturing growth—whether through art, plants, pets, or community. I'm also a dog mom, turtle mom, and a recent plant enthusiast. Exploring farmers markets with my family and learning about food science and nutrition are some of my favorite ways to spend time. Cooking and discovering new flavors is more than a hobby—it's a way I express love and curiosity.

I joined the children's program because I felt called to give back and step into a role of guiding the next generation. I've been shaped by the care and influence of many thoughtful adults in my life, and now I'm passionate about being that steady, supportive presence for young people. I believe deeply in the power of a nurturing village—one that helps every child feel seen, heard, and safe to grow into their full selves.

Working with children energizes me. Their honesty, curiosity, and spirit are a constant reminder of what it means to live fully and openly. I'm committed to creating spaces where kids feel loved, empowered, and free to be exactly who they are.



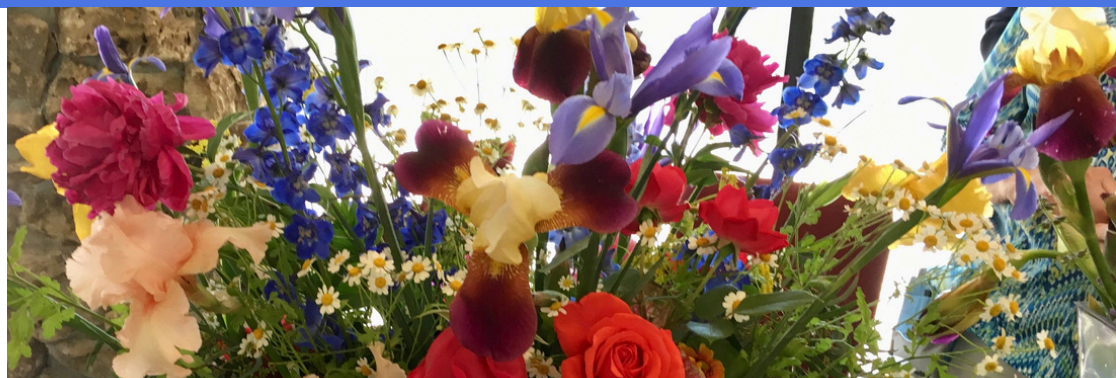
FREEDOM

NIA DARRINGTON-STOKES

Unitarian Universalism has a long tradition of social justice and anti-oppression work. This legacy shapes our ministry with children, emphasizing their right to safety, dignity, and a voice.

Freedom includes recognizing systems that limit the humanity of others and cultivating the courage to speak up and act in love.

As individuals, we each long to be seen as whole, unique beings with our own thoughts, feelings, identities, and spiritual paths. For children, freedom means creating spaces where they can express their true selves—gender identity, interests, and emotions—without fear of shame or punishment. In UU faith development, questions are sacred. Children are encouraged to wonder, challenge assumptions, and explore life's



mysteries without being told what to believe. Our role as adults is not to hand them answers, but to walk with them as they discover their own understanding.

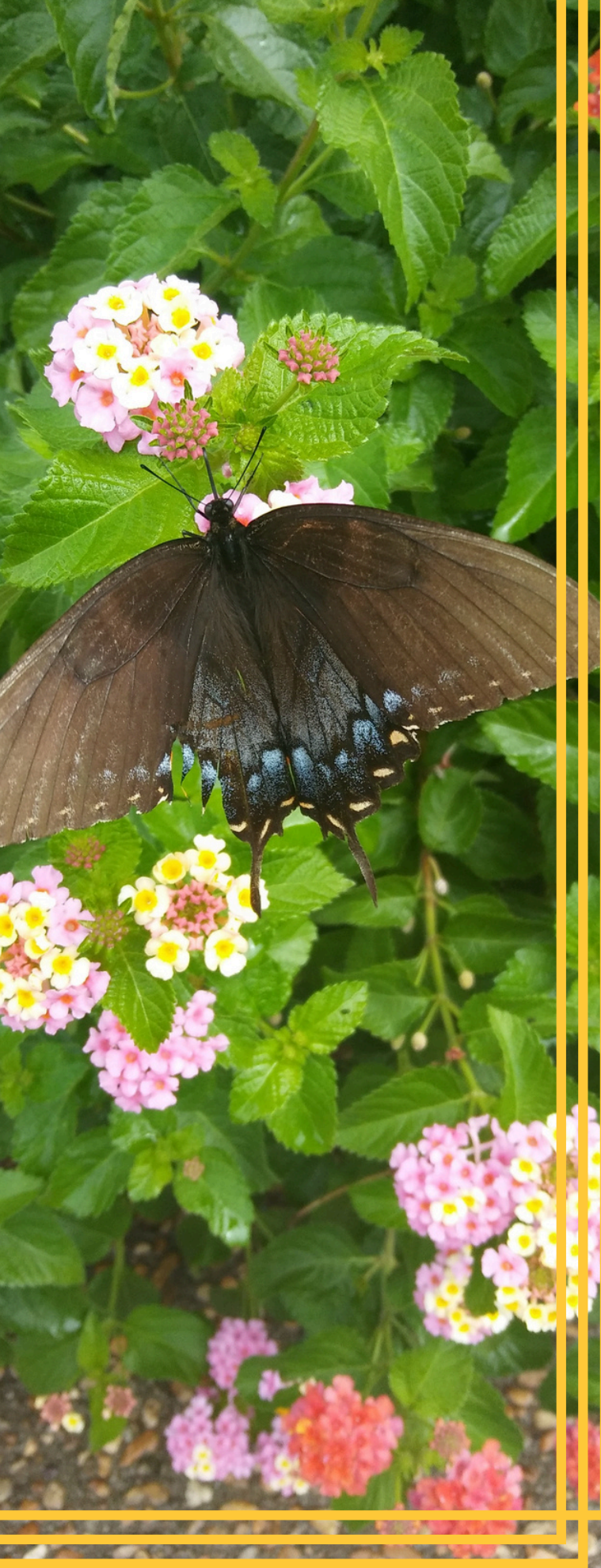
Within UU communities, freedom is not simply individualism without limits. Children learn that their choices affect others and that true freedom comes with responsibility. They are invited to practice empathy, fairness, and mutual care, understanding that their freedom is held in balance with the needs of others.

In our Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) programs, children explore diverse spiritual traditions, finding

connection with wonder, mystery, and meaning in ways that resonate with their hearts. They learn that freedom lives in relationship, not isolation, and that true liberation is found in community.

In conclusion, freedom for Unitarian Universalists is a sacred gift and a shared commitment. When we extend this freedom to children—not as future adults, but as whole beings right now—we affirm their dignity, nurture their spirits, and prepare them to build a more compassionate world. As we walk beside them, we also learn from their wisdom, their questions, and their joyful insistence on being fully themselves.





JUNE 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, June 17th.
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 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.

Hope Garage Sale: Friday, June 6th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, June 7th 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sunday, June 15th: Father's Day

Game Night: Thursday, June 19th 6:00 PM

Feed the Homeless: June 21st

Hope Happy Hour: June 26th 5:30-7:00 PM

Breakfast on the Hill: June 29th, 10:00 AM

Pride Service: Sunday, June 29th, 11:00 AM

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:

- 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 June 15th.

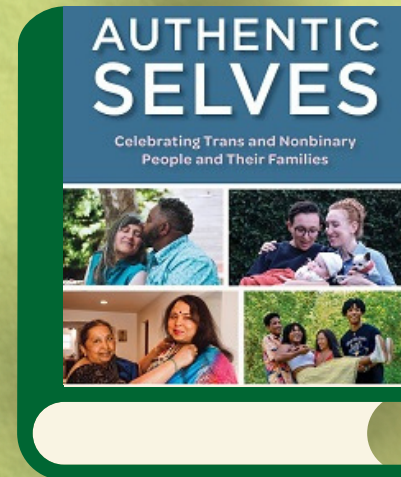


JUNE EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

June Birthdays

Brooklyn Self - 4
Jeff Dossett - 7
Katharine Dillsaver - 8
Lois Jones - 15
Julia Harris - 16
Cathy Sleezer - 16
David Tracy - 17
Vanessa Self - 25
Vivianne Reiman - 30



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

June Adult Forums

June 1st: Generosity Recipient - Hearland to Breadbasket

June 8th: Banned & Challenged Bookclub - Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret

June 15th: Human Trafficking with Rev. Ren Pasco

June 22nd: The Sienna Project with All Souls Members

June 29th: Breakfast on the Hill







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

Imani Bossett

Childcare Worker

Nia Darrington-Stokes

Director of Religious Education

Morgen Fields

Church Administrator

Rachel Hay

Lead Teacher

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

CONTACT US

Hope Unitarian Church

8432 South Sheridan Road

Tulsa, OK 74133

Mailing address:

PO Box 35284 Tulsa, OK 74153-0284

918-481-0999

hopeuu@hopeuu.org

www.hopeuu.org

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

