A landscape photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, there is a rocky, grassy slope. In the background, there are several mountain peaks under a blue sky with some clouds. The text "FOCUS" and "JULY 2025" is overlaid on the top part of the image.

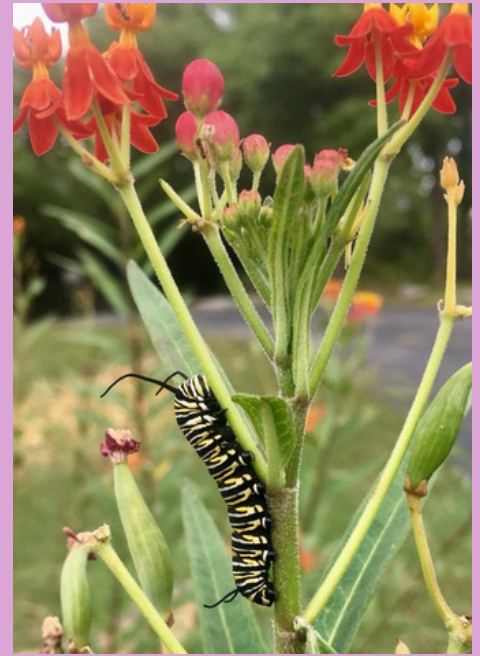
FOCUS
JULY 2025

REFLECTION

JULY AT HOPE

There's a special kind of joy that comes from working side by side to care for the place we all cherish. On Saturday, July 12, we invite you to be part of Gardens and Grounds Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to noon. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just willing to lend a hand, your help will make a real difference. We'll be weeding, trimming, and sprucing up the outdoor spaces that greet us every Sunday and offer peace throughout the week. This is more than a workday—it's a chance to connect, enjoy the summer morning, and invest in the beauty of our church home.

The rest of the month is full of ways to gather, give back, and have fun. Women of Hope will meet Thursday, July 3 at 6:00 p.m. for conversation and community. On Thursday, July 17, bring your competitive spirit—or just a love of laughter—to Game Night at 6:00 p.m. Then on Friday, July 19, volunteers will gather to help Feed the Homeless, one of our most meaningful ongoing service efforts. Finally, mark your calendar for Hope Happy Hour on Wednesday, July 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., a relaxed and welcoming social event that's perfect for winding down your day with good company. There's something for everyone this July—come be part of it.



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

LOVE AT THE CENTER

I don't know if I am prepared for the topic of this article. Love is such an expansive idea, and in modern UU theology, we have placed love at the center. If Unitarian Universalism is a car, we have made love the driver. But as I said, I am not sure if I am prepared for the topic of this article. There is a lot about love that I do not yet understand; there is a lot I don't know.

But these articles are supposed to be about what I know, right? They are supposed to be about topics I feel I am supposed to be a master of. I wonder often if love is just too big to master.

It is hard because there are many allegories that one can use to describe love, but love can only be understood when we see it. Maybe that is the wrong way to say it—love, though hard to explain, is something we know when we take part in it, when we feel it. But don't misunderstand: love is more than a feeling. Love is a decision we make every day and every moment, a commitment that when we look at the world, we will look at the world in relationship to others. It is an inoculation against isolation, a commitment to community, and becomes a driving force for everything we do.

- Love is the decision that we will live not just for ourselves, but for others as well.

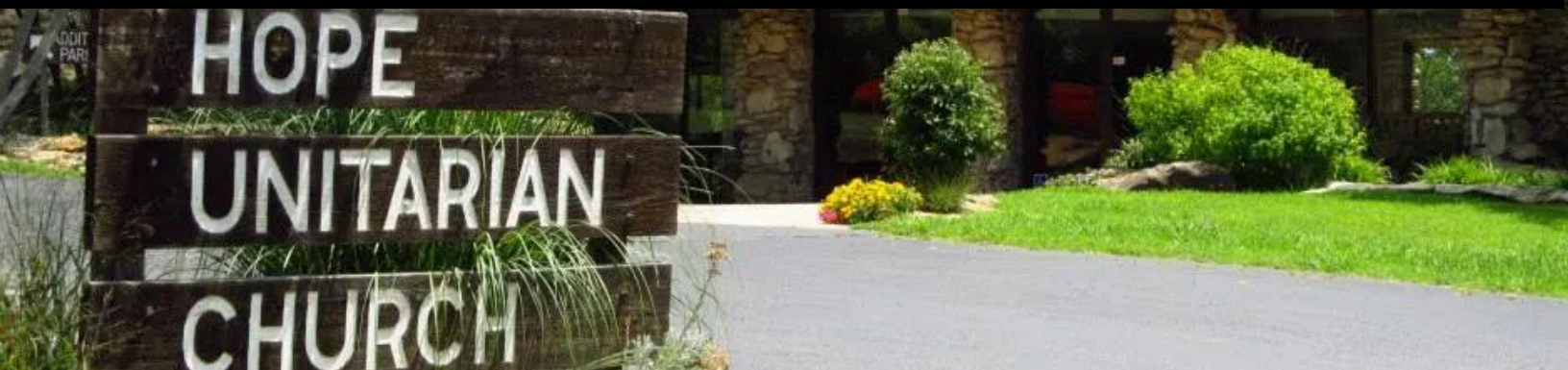
As I come to the end of this article, I still don't know if I am prepared for the topic. But what I know is that if we choose to place love at the center of our theology, we choose a difficult path—a path that will expect us to decide, moment after moment, who we are and what we are called to do.



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.



BEHEARD

MOVEMENT

JULY GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

In July, Hope Unitarian Church is proud to support BeHeard Movement as our Generosity Recipient—a Tulsa-based nonprofit that brings dignity, healing, and practical help directly to people experiencing homelessness. What began as a conversation and a camera in the hands of founder Evan Dougoud has grown into a mobile drop-in center offering showers, laundry, haircuts, clean clothing, case management, and job support—meeting people quite literally where they are. The goal is as simple as it is powerful: to end homelessness one person, and one shower, at a time.

BeHeard's story is rooted in listening. It started with Ashley, a young woman living in a tent who told Evan, "I wish people would walk in my shoes for once." That moment launched a storytelling movement—and eventually, a mobile services model that reimagines what outreach can look like. Today, their fleet includes a mobile shower trailer with hot water and privacy, a laundry trailer with charging stations, a barbershop bus, and a clothing trailer where guests get to choose outfits like they would in any retail store.

What many of us take for granted—clean clothes, a haircut, a hot shower—becomes, in their hands, a doorway to confidence and care.

Unlike traditional service models that require clients to come downtown, BeHeard goes to underserved parts of Tulsa, especially East Tulsa, where the walk to the nearest public shower can take up to five hours. Each outreach day also includes a rotating group of partner organizations that offer support with housing, mental health, medical care, and food assistance. It's a coordinated effort that builds trust over time and offers tangible next steps for those ready to take them. On any given day, BeHeard serves 65 to 90 guests, and some who once came in need now return as volunteers, paying it forward.

At its heart, BeHeard is not just about services—it's about seeing people in their fullness, meeting urgent needs while holding space for long-term transformation. They don't pretend to have all the answers, but they show up, they listen, and they walk alongside those who have often been overlooked. Through your generosity this July, we join that walk. Because everyone deserves to be seen. Everyone deserves to be heard.

DONATE

DROP OFF ITEMS

VOLUNTEER





JULY 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, July 15th.
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 22nd.

● 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, July 3rd 6:00 PM

Garden's and Grounds Cleanup Day: Saturday, July 12th 9 AM - 12 PM

Game Night: Thursday, July 17th 6:00 PM

Feed the Homeless: July 19th

Hope Happy Hour: July 24th 5:30-7:00 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:

- 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 July 13th

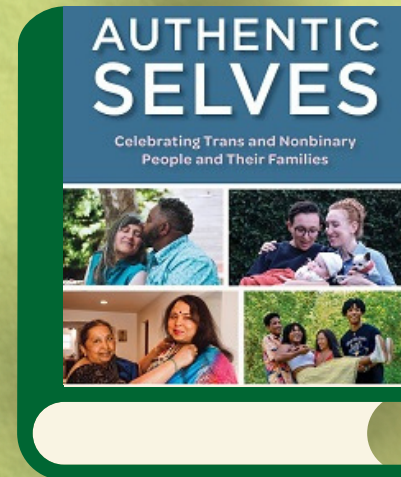


JULY EVENTS

Happy Birthday!

July Birthdays

Larry Knoles - 2
Elke Johnson - 5
Mary Gardner - 7
James Young - 8
Barbara Richardson - 18
Andy Scott - 20
Alyssa Self - 23
Gary Van Winkle - 31



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

July Adult Forums

July 6th : Generosity Recipient, Be Heard

July 13th: Fun Summer Discussion #1

July 20th: Fun Summer Discussion #2

July 27th: Fun Summer Discussion #3





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

Lead Teacher

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

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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

