



FOCUS  
AUGUST 2025

RETROSPECT



# AUGUST AT HOPE

As summer winds down, August at Hope brings a full calendar of opportunities to connect and build community. One of the most meaningful events this month is our Women's Equality Day celebration on Sunday, August 24. At the 10 AM Adult Forum, we'll welcome Kate Neary from the City of Tulsa Women's Commission, followed by a special service honoring the fight for women's rights and the work still ahead.

August 26th marks the anniversary of the codification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote in 1920—after decades of organizing that began with the 1848 women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY. We'll also reflect on the Equal Rights Amendment, passed by Congress in 1972 but never fully ratified. Though 35 states approved it within the original deadline, it fell just short of the required 38 before the final extension expired in 1982. This history reminds us that equality requires not just intention, but persistence.

Join us as we celebrate the women who paved the way, honor the unfinished work of justice, and recommit to building a future where every voice is valued.

Beyond that, August is packed with chances to gather in both structured and casual ways. One special offering this month is a collaborative event between our Banned and Challenged Book Club and our ongoing movie night series. On Sunday, August 10th at 5 PM, we'll be screening *The Outsiders*, a story that resonates with themes of belonging, conflict, and identity—and one that has long found itself on banned book lists. We'll follow the film with a brief discussion for those who want to explore its legacy and continued relevance. It's a perfect opportunity to engage with culture and conscience in a relaxed, thoughtful setting.

Women of Hope meets August 7th at 6 PM for conversation and support. Game Night returns on Thursday, August 21st at 6:30 PM with friendly competition and laughter. Our monthly Hope Happy Hour is Thursday, July 24th from 5:30–7:00 PM, and Breakfast on the Hill rounds out the month on Sunday, August 31st at 10 AM. Whether you come for the snacks or the stories, we hope to see you at one—or all—of these events.



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## MEETING THE MOMENT: A REFLECTION ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

This year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly was held in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme was Meet the Moment. Since coming home, I have reflected on what it means to "meet the moment." There is no doubt in my mind that they are referring to this moment, where progressive values are under attack.

One of the answers to that question came with this year's Annual Ware Lecture. The speaker was award-winning journalist and trans advocate Imara Jones.

Jones took us through the history of the current movement against trans people in the United States. She tied the anti-trans movement to the rise of Christian Nationalism. She said during her lecture:

"There is no way to save democracy without standing up for trans rights. It literally is an impossibility. Because everywhere around the world where we see authoritarian movements right now, anti-trans politics are the drum major. You show me anti-trans politics and its sister anti-gender politics, and you can see an authoritarian regime which has already taken hold or is already on its way."

She reminded us that the trans issue can actually unify the right with parts of the left, specifically referencing Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists—feminists who draw the line at trans inclusion. The trans issue, when weaponized, can actually unify opposing sides, and that is partially how we got here today.

She reminded us of our principles: that we believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect. As a progressive faith that values justice and equity, it is important that we find ways to stand up for our trans and non-binary people. Her lecture helped me better understand how the timeline of the anti-trans movement is intertwined with the rise of Christian Nationalism.

- The Ware Lecture, along with the rest of GA, makes me ask the question: What does it mean for us to meet the moment when it comes to Christian Nationalism? What does it mean to meet the moment when we see attacks on immigrants, trans and non-binary people? What does it mean to meet the moment when progressive values are under attack?

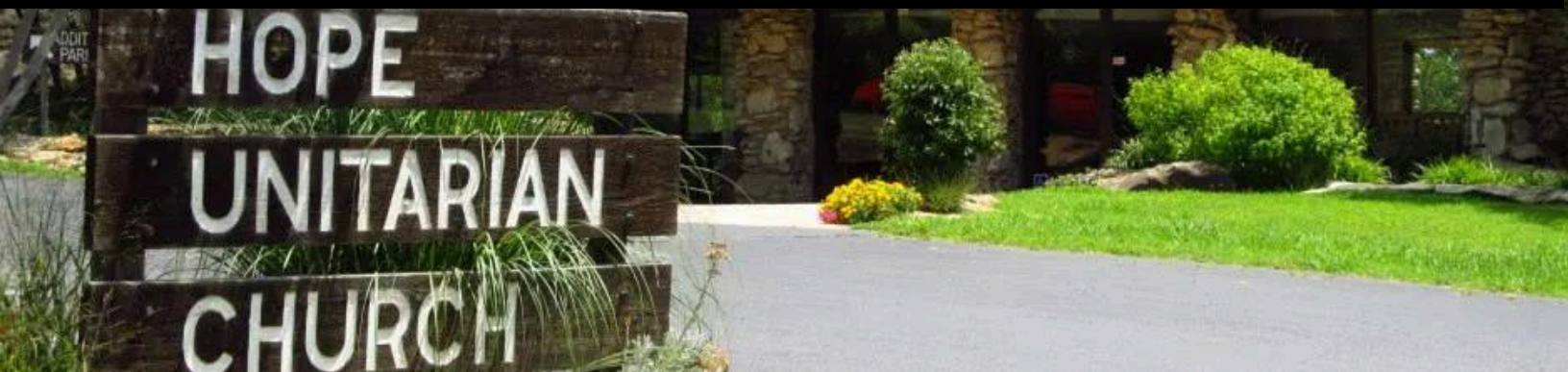
The fact is, I'm not always sure. But it reminds me that we are called to be steadfast, and to keep our eyes open for the opportunities to let our progressive values shine.



**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](mailto: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.**







# FOOD ON THE MOVE

## AUGUST GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Founded in 2014 by Tulsa native Taylor Hanson, Food on the Move began as a grassroots effort to address the lack of access to healthy, affordable food in our city. What started as a mobile outreach program has grown into a comprehensive initiative aimed at ending food insecurity by meeting communities where they are and working alongside them to build long-term solutions. From monthly events offering fresh food on a pay-as-you-can basis to partnerships with health providers and local nonprofits, their work is about more than meals—it's about restoring dignity, building connections, and investing in community resilience. Now, Food on the Move is expanding that vision with the construction of Food Home, a permanent campus that will serve as a hub for urban agriculture, education, food distribution, and innovation.

Located in North Tulsa, the new facility will house an indoor hydroponic and aquaponic farm capable of producing thousands of pounds of fresh produce annually. In addition to growing food, the space will also grow opportunity through training programs in agriculture, nutrition, and sustainability.

Future plans for the campus include a community gathering space, health and wellness programming, and eventually a full-service food market designed specifically for underserved neighborhoods. This bold project represents a shift from temporary relief to lasting transformation—focusing on empowering people to shape their own food systems and futures. By supporting Food on the Move this month, we're standing behind a vision of Tulsa where every neighborhood has access to fresh food and every person is part of a healthier, more connected community. As they remind us: "A community without a grocery store is like a house without a kitchen—it isn't a home."

**DONATE**

**VOLUNTEER**







# AUGUST 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, August 19th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 26th

## ● 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](http://www.hopeuu.org/calendar) for the most current schedule of events.

Women of Hope: Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 6 PM

Movie Night - The Outsiders: Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 5 PM

Programs Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 7 PM

Feed the Homeless: Saturday, August 16th

Game Night: Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM

Hope Happy Hour: July 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00 PM

Breakfast on the Hill: Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 10 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](http://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 August 10th



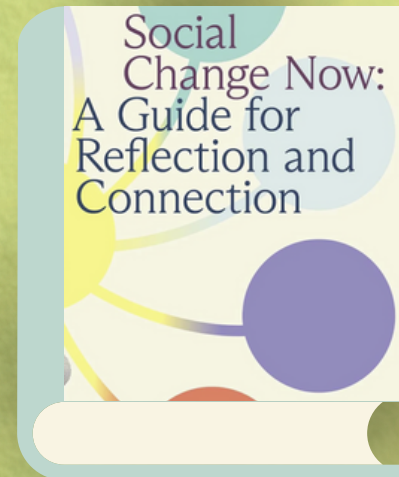


# AUGUST EVENTS

## Happy Birthday!

### August Birthdays

Claudia Vandiver - 2  
Elizabeth Obal - 3  
Lacey Carlile - 4  
Anne Steiner - 5  
Lana Larkin - 6  
Gail Nagengast - 6  
Lonnie Davis - 6  
Clara Dossett - 11  
Joe Newman - 13  
Shelley Geyer - 22  
Janet Everodge - 24  
Tia Creamer - 25



### UU Common Read 2025-2026

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "Social Change Now A Guide for Reflection and Connection" by Deepa Iyer

### August Adult Forums

August 6<sup>th</sup>: Generosity Recipient

August 13<sup>th</sup>: Banned & Challenged Book Club - The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton - Movie at 5PM

August 20<sup>th</sup>: Charlie Dugan

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Women's Equality Day

August 31<sup>st</sup>: 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](mailto: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

### CONTACT US

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[www.hopeuu.org](http://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

