

Tidings of Hope



HOPE United Church of Christ July 2021



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Submissions for publication may be sent to the Church Office at the above addresses, either electronically or by paper.

The Reverend's Reflection



Happy July!

July is usually full of summer fun and relaxation. It's a tradition at Hope UCC that some of our committees take a break in the month of July and suspend meetings. Our choir usually takes the summer off and Sunday School too. July is a tranquil time to recharge and rest. This July is different.

At Hope United Church of Christ, we are celebrating big! The Fourth of July will be the first time we will gather for worship together in person in the sanctuary! The leadership at Hope has been busy for weeks preparing for this joyous day! And it also just happens to be a federal holiday, Independence Day. I am imagining the whole country celebrating with us! This year July brings excitement and anticipation!

There is even more excitement this July with the commencement of The UCC's General Synod 33 on the 11th through the 18th. Since I am honored to be a Florida Delegate, I will be remarkably busy that week. It was scheduled to be held in Kansas City but due to the pandemic it will be held virtually this year. While I am disappointed to not experience the thrill of a new city, I am relieved to stay in the comfort of my own home. The delegate training was more complex and technical than ever before. I hope I can live up to the faith that the Florida Conference has placed in me. I still think technology is magic!

There are 11 Resolutions for consideration this year. That's not as many as in years past but these resolutions are important and demonstrate who we are as the United Church of Christ. Here they are:

- Resolution: Becoming a Church of Contemplatives in Action.
- A resolution to declare and respond to racism as a public health crisis.
- The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ request to be recognized as a formal group.
- A resolution to advocate and act to change the cash bail bond system to eliminate racial and social injustices inherent in the present system.
- A resolution to ban the practice of conversion therapy.
- A commitment to gender safety and equity in ministry settings.
- A resolution encouraging to end 128 years of war between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom.
- Declaration for a just peace between Palestine and Israel.

The Reverend's Reflection (cont'd)

- "Who will speak for the trees?" A resolution on the rights of nature.
- A resolution on protecting workers at churches and other religious institutions.
- A Resolution to Recognize the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

You can read more about each of the resolutions at ucc.org. In fact, because of the magical technology, you can keep up with all the happenings of General Synod. You can also attend worship! The worship services at General Synod are beautiful, enriching, sometimes challenging and always exciting. You can join through the UCC's face book page, You Tube, or Vimeo. Just go to gensynod.org

The leadership of the UCC is also calling us to be in prayer for the church. There are guided prayers each day at ucc.org. Please pray for the Church, for Hope UCC and for me as I embark on this busy and important work.

The theme for General Synod 33 is "Rooted in Love". These resolutions do convey love for humanity and nature. We are a denomination of justice, equity, peace and love for all. We **are** rooted in love!



HOPE Book Club Reading List 2021—2022

September	<u>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</u> - Isabel Wilkerson
October	<u>The Kindest Lie</u> - Nancy Johnson
November	<u>The Henna Artist</u> - Alka Joshi
January	<u>Leave the World Behind</u> - Alam Rumaan
February	<u>Stepping Forward: A Positive, Practical Path to Transform Our Communities And Our Lives</u> - Richard Harwood
March	<u>The Undocumented Americans: A Homecoming</u> Karla C. Villacencio
April	<u>One Night Two Souls Went Walking</u> - Ellen Cooney
May	<u>You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism</u> - Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar

Welcoming You Back To Hope United Church of Christ **Opening of our Building**

The day has finally come when our church will be opening for worship services held in our beautiful Sanctuary. That day will be July 4, 2021, fifteen months after closing in March 2020. At that time, we thought we would be closed for maybe two weeks! We have been without meeting in person for fifteen months!!! Well, here we are ready to re-open our doors again.

The Covid Task Force for Hope UCC has been hard at work monitoring the Covid situation and making arrangements to have our church safely open. On June 15th the Task Force presented a plan for re-opening to the Hope Council and received approval to go ahead with the opening. The opening will be done with due caution. Following are the directives we all need to follow to assure everyone's safety. We will adhere to these directives, but we can be sure that they may change as necessary for continued safety. The very best part of re-opening will be seeing each other in person, some of us for the first time in many months. It will be a joyous and thankful day on Sunday, July 4th. This will also be a Communion Sunday. Please, expect to follow Deacons' directions on how to proceed with Communion.

A few "rules of the road" for all of us to follow, from our Covid Task Force Team:

When entering or leaving the church, please move quickly through the Narthex. We can not gather in the Narthex, at this time.

Masks will be required upon entering the church and during the worship service for all people.

Congregational singing is only allowed with masks on.

Passing of the Peace will be done by remaining in your pew, hand on heart and greeting those near you.

There will be no bulletins, paper products or hymnals in the pews. Words to hymns will be on the screens.

There will be no nursery. All children must remain seated with their families.

Opening of our Building (cont'd)

The Collection Plate will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary. We may place our envelopes in the plate when entering or leaving the Sanctuary.

Please, one person at a time in the restrooms.

We ask everyone to please, have patience during this time as the Covid Task Force may need to adjust the “rules of the road” as we become more accustomed to having worship services in person and according to CDC guidelines.

The Hope UCC Tech Team is also working extra hard to provide our usual beautiful Zoom worship services as well as combining our live Sanctuary worship services. It is a wonderful gift they have given all of us with the ability to choose whether we remain safe in our homes, or safely attend worship in person.

We hope you will continue to worship with us, in whatever way you desire and are able. The goal is to continue to provide a meaningful, sacred worship experience for everyone. Hoping you will join with us on July 4th.

Blessings.

Hurricane Season

As the hurricane season begins, the Trustee Committee would like to know if there are any church members who would want assistance in preparing for an imminent hurricane or would need transportation to a shelter.

Also, if any member would like to volunteer to transport a member or help storm-proof their home, please contact Karen Lehr (crischona@aol.com).

Sharing Our Best

From the Growth and Development Committee

We thank everyone from Hope UCC and the community for our monthly drop off food donations for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. In May, we collected 274 food items and \$20.00 for peanut butter, and in June, we collected 85 food items, toilet paper, approximately 20 dresses, and \$40.00 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

The collection of plastic lids for the Florida Institute of Technology Indian River Lagoon clean-up project is going well. We have collected and donated over 11 pounds of plastic lids to the Brevard Zoo. The zoo is working with FIT to support this endeavor.

Because Hope UCC is reopening Sunday, July 4, we encourage attendees to place non-perishable food items in the wheelbarrow in the narthex; however, we will be continuing a drop off food drive one Saturday each month to encourage community involvement. The next drop off collection will be Saturday, July 10 from 9-11 a.m. Please refrain from purchasing items in glass jars for these collections.

Peanut butter is still in high demand; however, Cocoa High School Fresh Market will not be accepting it during summer break, so all peanut butter will go to the Central Brevard Sharing Center until schools re-open in August.

The ladies' lunch is scheduled for an in person gathering on Saturday, July 24 at noon at Divot's Restaurant in Viera. Please contact Julie Johnson to RSVP prior to that date. Favors and a door prize are all part of the fun for this gathering.

Space Coast Pride events are scheduled for September 24 and 25 in downtown Melbourne. On Saturday, September 25, Hope UCC will have a table set up under a canopy to share the good news about our congregation and offer free chances to win themed baskets: pets, beach, books, and spa. Anyone wishing to help at our table should contact Julie Johnson.



IT'S SCHOOL SUPPLY TIME



The Christian Education Committee is reaching out once again to help our educators and students prepare for a successful school year. We are going to have wish lists for 3 teachers. They are Denise Cotton, Larney Garcia, and Courtney Bourque (Betty Capaldo's granddaughter). The teachers provide a wish list which we will share. You can purchase items or make monetary donations toward items.

We also have several students ranging from VPK to Seniors. A list of items they need will be shared. A collection box will be available in the Narthex for donated items. The collection takes place during the month of July. Then, the items are separated, packed and will be blessed on Aug. 8th during service. Afterwards, they will be dispersed to the students & teachers.

If you have questions, contact Tonia Patterson or Denise Cotton.

Thank you very much,

Christian Education Committee



UCC Florida Conference and Celebrate Florida

Please use these links for the United Church of Christ Florida Conference and the Conference "Celebrate Florida" Newsletter

UCC Florida Conference - <https://www.uccfla.org>

Celebrate Florida Newsletter - <http://www.uccfla.org/celebrateflorida>



- 7/4 - Communion Worship
- 7/11 - Worship
- 7/18 - Worship
- 7/25 - Worship

Worship Services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom.
Zoom Mtg. No. for Sunday Services
874-1336-0966

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
July 10 from 9-11 a.m.

Ladies Lunch
Saturday, July 24 at noon
Divot's Restaurant in Viera.

Ongoing Gatherings via Zoom

Happy Seekers

Fridays at 10:00 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 974 3773 0735

Coffee Hour

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am
Zoom Mtg No. 425 599 559

Theology on Tap

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250



- 7/1 - Sally Rood's Birthday
- 7/6 - Dorothy Lee's Birthday
- 7/8 - Tonia Patterson's Birthday
- 7/9 - Rev. Eileen & Giles
Norrington's Anniversary
- 7/12 - Diane Schnellhammer &
Gerry Adams Anniversary
- 7/14 - Grace Cwikla's Birthday
- 7/15 - Patricia Peon's Birthday
- 7/31 - Betty Capaldo's Birthday
- 7/31 - Julie Johnson's Birthday
- 7/31 - Shannon Lindow's Birthday

Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center

In June, we collected 85 food items, toilet paper, approximately 20 dresses, and \$40.00 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on July 10th from 9 am to 11 am.

