



***HOPE***  
***United Church of Christ***  
***January 2022***



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

## The Reverends Reflection



### **When do you take your Christmas decorations down?**

This week on my morning walk I saw discarded Christmas trees lining the curbs. I also saw people up on ladders taking down the lights that illuminated the roof line. Not at my house. The Christmas season (or Advent and Christmas as we church folk say) is so busy, I barely had time to enjoy our lights. Some traditions demand that the decorations come down before Epiphany or you will have bad luck all year. To avoid the misfortune, you must leave them up until the following Epiphany! Other traditions leave the decorations up until Candlemas on February 2nd. That's more my speed. Candlemas (also spelled Candlemass) is an ancient Christian feast day that commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the temple. It is the 40th day of Christmas and symbolizes the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season. It is based on the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22-40. On this feast day, people would bring their candles into the church to be blessed by the priest and then they would burn them all year long in their homes to symbolize the presence of Christ, The Light of the World.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word, epiphaneia for appearance or manifestation. It's the Christian Church holiday commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi ("*The Three Wise Men*", and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. Although the church has celebrated Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> for hundreds of years, today the date is infamous for another reason. Last year on January 6<sup>th</sup> a violent mob descended on The Capital manifesting death and destruction instead of the light, love and peace of Christ.

Epiphany reveals the divine nature of Jesus and the expanse of his ministry of light, love, peace, and justice throughout the world. Regardless of when you take your Christmas decorations down, may the light and love of Christmas and Epiphany shine bright through Candlemas, Lent, Easter and all year long!

## The Reverends Reflection (continued)



### **10 facts about the Feast of the Epiphany**

1. The three kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honor of Christ and the three kings' visit.
3. Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de Reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three kings' horses.
5. According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.
6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.
7. In Venice, a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 70s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.
8. In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany at the Vltava River.
9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats.
10. The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.

Merry Epiphany!

## Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive: February 19, 2022

The Growth & Development Committee has set the first of four blood drives at Hope UCC for 2022 with the OneBlood organization in Rockledge.

The first date is for Saturday **February 19, 2022** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The Big Red Bus will be parked in the circle in front of the church. The remaining blood drive dates are: May 28, September 17 and November 12.

Everyone who is eligible is urged to participate! Oneblood staff will determine if you are eligible when you check in. There will even be a “thank you” gift for those donating blood!!

Some basic guidelines to donate: You must be 16 yrs old (with parental permission) or older; you must weigh at least 110 lbs. There are a few instances where a person may not donate and you can find those on the website: [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org)

Covid-19 Information:

Oneblood has updated the safety precautions and ALL donors are required to wear a mask. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided for you.

All blood centers are regulated by the FDA and must follow strict guidelines on how they operate. OneBlood meets all FDA guidelines and all team members follow strict safety protocols including:

- All OneBlood phlebotomists wear medical gloves that are changed for each donation.
- All donor-touched areas and equipment are disinfected after every donation. This includes, donor beds, registration tablets, blood-pressure cuff and hemoglobin sensors.
- A sterile collection set is used for every donation.
- Every donor receives a mini-physical that includes a temperature check to ensure donors are healthy and well on the day of donation.
- Only people who are healthy are eligible to donate blood.

Social Distancing at Blood Drive - OneBlood has implemented social distancing safety protocols: Mobile Locations: Only four donors will be permitted on the Big Red Bus at any one time.

Please be aware that Oneblood does NOT test for COVID-19. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.



## **Blood Drive—continued**

There is no cost to the church but we are asked to have at least 10 donors committed to donate prior to the blood drive. You may **choose a time-slot** which are at 15-minute intervals, ex. 9:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., etc. You may register a time slot with [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org) or email Betty Capaldo at [bcapaldo31@gmail.com](mailto:bcapaldo31@gmail.com) or text Betty at 401-323-7041 with your desired donation time. Walk-in donors are also welcome.  
Thank you!

## **Sharing Our Best** **From the Growth and Development Committee**

December was a glorious month of giving for the community of Hope United Church of Christ.

Our Advent giving included the Christmas Fund, Church World Service Blanket Sunday, the Central Brevard Sharing Center food collection drive through donation collection, the Cocoa High School Fresh Market peanut butter donations, and the time and talent of so many people who were involved in our Christmas Bazaar which blessed our community and our church.



This year, our beautiful sanctuary has been decorated as the inn where Jesus was born in a stable, and Housing the Holy has been a blessed theme throughout the season.



Our next food drive through drop off is Saturday, January 8, from 9-11. Please donate non-perishable food items—no glass containers, please. We thank everyone for their generous support—God is good!

## Book Club January 2022

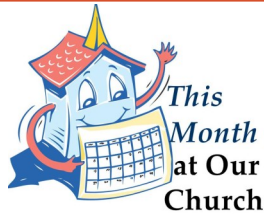


In January, Hope Book Club invites you to read and discuss the very popular book, Leave the World Behind by Rumaan Alam. The story begins with the vacation of Clay, Amanda, and their teenage children Rose and Archie. The family is driving out from New York to a well-appointed Airbnb on Long Island that they have rented for the week, when another couple shows up wanting to stay. But the story mainly focuses on the thoughts and interactions between the characters. In this way, the book highlights their class differences, privilege and contrasting thought processes. It juxtaposes their ordinary actions against the events around them, in a way that will feel familiar to everyone currently living through this pandemic. It offers an atmosphere of suspense throughout the story.

We hope you will enjoy the book and join us on Tuesday, January 18th at 1:30. We will meet on Zoom, Meeting ID: 845 6868 2100.

### 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
December	<i>Christmas Break</i>
<b>January</b>	<b><u>Leave the World Behind</u> - Alam Rumaan</b>
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



- 1/2 - Communion Worship
- 1/9 - Worship
- 1/16 - Worship
- 1/16 - Congregational Meeting
- 1/23 - Worship
- 1/30—Worship

Worship services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom at 10:00 am.  
Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services  
**321 636 0250**

### **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



### **Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!**

- 1/1 - Ron & Abby Holmes' Anniversary
- 1/6 - Charlie Pierron's Birthday
- 1/26 - Dave Cadmus' Birthday
- 1/28 - Maggie Almaguer's Birthday

### **Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center**

In December, we collected 317 items and \$80 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on January 8th from 9 am to 11 am.

### ***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>

## Poinsettias and CWS Blankets

### Church World Service Blankets

<i>Paul &amp; Betty Capaldo</i>	<i>Memory of William and Esther Cameron</i>
<i>Paul &amp; Betty Capaldo</i>	<i>Memory of Armando and Sonia Capaldo</i>
<i>Rev. Karen &amp; Lissa Curtis-Weakley</i>	<i>Memory of Elizabeth A. Watson</i>
<i>Rev. Karen &amp; Lissa Curtis-Weakley</i>	<i>Honor of Bobbie Chapman</i>
<i>Rev. Karen &amp; Lissa Curtis-Weakley</i>	<i>Memory and Honor of Uncle Dave and Aunt Anita Weakley</i>
<i>Rev. Karen &amp; Lissa Curtis-Weakley</i>	<i>Memory and Honor of Dr. Frank and Mrs. Peggy Weakley</i>
<i>Melanie Goff &amp; Karen Lehr</i>	<i>Memory of Their Parents</i>
<i>Jean Hawkes</i>	<i>Honor of Family</i>
<i>Julie &amp; Mark Johnson</i>	<i>Memory of Their Parents</i>
<i>Pat &amp; Bob Munchbach</i>	<i>Memory of Rob E. Munchbach</i>
<i>Pat &amp; Bob Munchbach</i>	<i>Memory of Karen A. Hayes</i>
<i>Ethel Osterwise</i>	<i>Memory of Loved Ones</i>
<i>Tonia Patterson</i>	<i>Memory of Loved Ones in Heaven</i>
<i>Ray &amp; Sally Rood</i>	<i>Memory of Loved Ones</i>
<i>Janet &amp; Rich Rupp</i>	<i>Memory of Judi Byrne</i>
<i>Janet &amp; Rich Rupp</i>	<i>Memory of Muriel &amp; Bill Reutzel</i>
<i>Janet &amp; Rich Rupp</i>	<i>Memory of Dorothy &amp; Harry Rupp</i>
<i>Susan Vincent</i>	<i>Memory of Her Parents</i>
<i>Shelle Waller</i>	<i>Memory of LaVonne Eschenfeldt</i>

### Poinsettias

<i>Julie Becker</i>	<i>Memory of Marianne Becker</i>
<i>Diana Short</i>	<i>Memory of Deborah Kneuer</i>
<i>Rev. Karen &amp; Lissa Curtis-Weakley</i>	<i>Memory of Carol Weakley</i>
<i>Jean Hawkes</i>	<i>Memory of Tom Hawkes</i>
<i>Jean Hawkes</i>	<i>Memory of Martha Chin</i>
<i>Mary Miceli</i>	<i>Memory of Michael Graves</i>
<i>Diane Schnellhammer</i>	<i>Memory of Her mother</i>