

Tidings of Hope

*Happy
Thanksgiving*



*HOPE
United Church of Christ*



Tidings of Hope published monthly by: **Hope United Church of Christ**
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Submissions for publication may be sent to the Church Office at the above addresses, either electronically or by paper.

A Stewardship Letter

Why Church?

By Rev. Rachel Bauman, St. John's UCC, Wisconsin Conference

Recently I was asked “why church?” by someone who had grown up without organized religion and wanted to understand why someone would invest their time, talent, and treasure within a faith community. My reflexive answer, borrowed from St. Augustine, was “because our hearts are restless until they rest in God.” Raising an eyebrow my friend replied, “Even if that was self-evidently true, it still does not answer the question. Clearly it is possible to encounter the Divine Presence outside of church.”

In struggling to explain, I found myself using the needs-based language I've learned through the practice of Non-Violent Communication (NVC). NVC posits that all behavior is an attempt to meet universal human needs. Explicitly naming the needs we are seeking to meet through our actions creates greater understanding between us. So, here is an (abbreviated) list of the needs I told my friend are met for me through participation in Christian community.

Shared Reality: As a community we believe different things, but we share an understanding that there is ‘Something More’ that gives life meaning beyond our individual identities and experiences. We share a commitment to following in the way of Jesus. **Self-Expression & Contribution:** Church was where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured and where I was encouraged to claim and use my voice.

Effectiveness: Through church I am part of a collective body that has the power, through our actions and advocacy, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice a little quicker and more effectively than my individual efforts alone.

Challenge: Church challenges me to align my behavior with my values and beliefs, holding me lovingly accountable to being my most authentic self.

The list goes on: **compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection** . . . There is no community that will meet all my needs all the time. But during this season of stewardship as I reflect on what value the church has in my life, I am grateful for how many of my needs are met consistently through my engagement with the United Church of Christ. And, equally important, how investing my time, talent, and treasure in this community of faith provides the opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of others.

The Reverends Reflection

Like Rev. Bauman, I am also frequently asked, “Why church?”. The question comes most often from my LGBTQ friends who have been so wounded by the church. The pain may have been inflicted in their childhood or when they came out or even as an adult seeking spiritual guidance navigating the complexities of being gay in a world that rejects who they are. Instead of receiving support, the church has brought more rejection. I understand their reluctance and skepticism to associate with an institution which criticizes and judges instead of loves. Sadly, the judgement is not limited to the LGBTQ community. I have heard many stories in my career about how the church has failed to embody the love Jesus preaches. It breaks my heart when I hear about the pain and damage the church has caused. That’s why I am so grateful for the United Church of Christ and specifically for Hope UCC.

We understand the role of the church is to stand for justice, to spread love and to be the body of Christ in the world. We follow Jesus and Jesus mission is to bring the kin-dom of God near. In the kin-dom of God, no one feels abandoned. Everyone is respected, accepted, celebrated and loved. In the kin-dom of God there is enough food, enough health, enough wealth and enough love for everyone. And we work diligently to bring God’s kin-dom into reality.

I appreciate the needs-based language Rev. Bauman used to express her commitment to the church; *Shared Reality, effectiveness, challenge, compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection . . .*

All those qualities she described are why I am connected to a church but there is more. Church not only meets my needs and the needs of the congregation but it’s also important what we do in the world. We come to church because we find friendship and inspiration and we take care of each other but more importantly, we care for the world. Our ministries and witness touch lives of people we may never meet. At Hope UCC, everything we do is to further Jesus’ mission of filling the world with the love of God.

This far-reaching love is why I come to church. This mission is why I give. This ministry is why I pledge. Join me, won’t you?!

Rev. Karen

My heart is overflowing with gratitude and delight after receiving your gifts of love for Pastor Appreciation Sunday! I don't know how you all managed to keep it a secret, but I was surprised and overwhelmed by your kindness and love. I feel like I am the luckiest pastor in the world to be serving at Hope UCC!

Thank you for being wonderful, compassionate, kind and generous!

With much appreciation and joy,
Rev. Karen



Shop With Scrip

“Tis the Season” to start thinking about gifts for the holidays. Hope United Church of Christ is once again selling physical gift cards that you can use for gift-giving while donating to the church! We buy the gift cards through the Scrip program and for each card purchased, a portion of the proceeds is donated directly to our church. This one purchase is a gift for you (less time at the mall!), a gift for a loved one (everyone loves gift cards!) AND a gift for Hope UCC! It's a win-win- win!

Susan Vincent will be collecting orders through November 7th. So hurry and get your orders in! You will receive your cards near the end of November. There is a wide variety of companies that participate. There are order forms in the Narthex or just email you order to Susan at snv1@cfl.rr.com . Order forms and money can be dropped off in person on Sundays or put into mail slot in office door. Make checks payable to Hope UCC. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com to look at the retail options or see the list attached.

Note: This order is for physical gift cards only. More to come on eCard options next year.

Happy giving!

Stewardship Committee

Sharing Our Best From the Growth and Development Committee

On October 9, Hope UCC collected 257 items from the congregation and through our community drive through/drop off collection for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. We also received \$120.00 for the CBSC.

Our next drive through/drop off collection for non-perishable food items (no glass containers, please) will be Saturday, November 13 from 9-11, and do not forget the peanut butter for the Cocoa High School Fresh Market.



Shop early for Christmas at the Hope UCC Christmas Village sale on Saturday, November 6 from 8-2. We will have bargains galore. We continue to take gently used or new donations for the sale.

Please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Lehr.



On Saturday, December 18 from 9-1, Hope is having a take out food sale event including baked goods, New England Corn Chowder, and grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken. The location is the church social hall.

Trustees

I am so blessed to be a part of the Trustee's at this time of our church life, because we are hard at work!

Reworked ladies room in Narthex and are currently working on the men's room. A lot of the work is being done by **Julie Becker, Diana Short, Mark Johnson, Eddie and Angie Hamilton**. Please be careful when using the men's room until it is finished! Thank you all!

This past year we had a huge celebration for Ethel Osterwise, one of Hope's most cherished members! Her family gifted her and she in turn gifted Hope. The dedication ceremony of the Peace Pole was held on October 17th.



Hope is joining an international group whose focus is to spread world peace! We have an eight foot, four-sided pole with eight languages: English, Spanish, German, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), and Portuguese, all saying "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Please see the article on the following page which gives more information about this group. I believe this beautiful, wonderful, thought-provoking symbol of peace will be with Hope for many years!

FPL has completed moving the new transformer plus replacing the underground cables. We have now entered the current century on FPL supplying power to our church grounds! It will be less susceptible to power outages, fewer lost service and connection during storms (this has been an on-going problem for many years) and less work for them. But, they have yet to restore our grounds to their past beauty. So, stay tuned for more updates as I am still working with them to restore grounds.

Karen Lehr, Trustees

Join The World Wide Network of Peace Makers

The power of the Message, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*, lies in its capacity to bring people of various cultures, faith traditions and political ideals together as one united global heart and mind. *May Peace Prevail On Earth*, allows us to sincerely focus on our mutual desire to serve, create and manifest true peace on earth while transcending our differences and celebrating our common humanity.

The **May Peace Prevail On Earth** movement is a grassroots global movement to inspire, and re-awaken the inherit consciousness of love, peace and harmony which exists in everyone of us. It is a movement to bring inner peace of mind and to foster peace in the world at large.

The power of **May Peace Prevail On Earth** lies in its capacity to bring people of various cultures, faith traditions and political ideals together as one united global heart and mind. The Message allows us to sincerely focus on our mutual desire to serve, create and manifest true peace on earth while transcending our differences and celebrating our common humanity.

May Peace Prevail On Earth Supports

UN Sustainable Development Goals



Thought forms create an energetic field strong enough to empower the course of planetary destiny.

The Power of Words

Words carry vibrations strong enough to inspire, heal and transform the human heart as well as the Kingdom of plants, animals and all creation.

The Power of May Peace Prevail On Earth

May Peace Prevail On Earth is an all inclusive message and prayer.

It is a meeting place of the heart bringing together people of all faiths, backgrounds and culture to embrace the Oneness of our planetary family.

Our Mission is Simple

To spread the Universal Peace Message and Prayer, May Peace Prevail On Earth, far and wide to embrace the lands and people of this Earth

A note about Offering Envelopes....

As you may know, last year's budget was a 'bare bones' budget. As a consequence, one of the items cut was the purchase of new pledge envelopes for 2022. It was decided to use envelope boxes which had not been used (gone unclaimed) the previous year.

Currently, we have only 25 boxes which we have placed in the narthex. What the Stewardship Committee is hoping is the people will carefully consider if they truly need to use the envelopes to submit their weekly or monthly pledge contribution.

If you donate with a check, a pledge envelope is not necessary because your donation can be easily recorded by your name. Only persons who donate in cash truly need envelopes in order to record your donation. You may use any envelope, as long as your name is on it. You can even use leftover envelopes from last year.

Unfortunately, once the envelope boxes are gone, there are no more. Since many people have been donating electronically, we hope the savings far outweigh any inconvenience.



To My Hope Family

I just want to say
Thank you out of all of
the churches I've attended.

I never found a
more loving congregation
starting with such a beautiful
pastor. She is loving inside &
out. My church family has
seen and helped me through
what I thought was my worst.

My path has taken me
down several different roads. But
the one thing I know I could count
on was my church family.

Now living in Ohio again I
still feel the love and prayers.
and for that I want to say

Thank You..

Just because.

I love and miss all of my church
family. You all will forever
remain in my heart.

Take care
Jerry Bates

Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive: November 6, 2021

The Growth & Development Committee has set the Fall blood drive date with the OneBlood organization in Rockledge for Saturday **November 6, 2021** 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.

Everyone who is eligible is urged to participate! OneBlood staff will determine if you are eligible when you check in. There are a few instances where a person may not donate and you can find those on the website: oneblood.org There will even be a “thank you” gift for those donating blood!!

To donate blood, you must be in good health, 16 years of age (16-year-olds need a completed and signed Parental Consent Form) or older, and weigh a minimum of 110 lbs.

Covid-19 Information:

- **Beginning August 1, 2021 OneBlood is requiring all donors to wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status.**
- During the registration process to donate blood, your OneBlood phlebotomist will ask you if you received a **COVID-19 vaccine**, which vaccine you received, and when you received it. The FDA requires that these questions be asked to determine donor eligibility. If you do not know the answers, you will not be able to donate. To simplify the process, you can also bring your COVID-19 vaccination card and show it to your phlebotomist.

After more than a year of testing all donations for the COVID-19 antibody, on June 29, 2021 OneBlood made the decision to stop COVID-19 antibody testing.

Pre-donation suggestions:

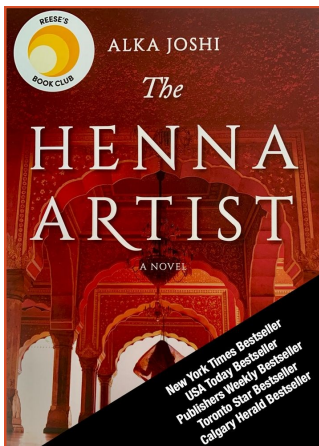
Drink plenty of water prior to donating.

Eat a light healthy meal. Avoid fatty foods. Donating blood on an empty stomach is not recommended.

Eat iron rich foods a few days leading up to your blood donation. Your iron levels must be at a certain level in order to donate blood. We will check your iron count prior to your blood donation and if it is too low you will not be able to donate blood that day.

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 is at 15-minute intervals, ex. 9:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., etc. You may register a time slot with oneblood.org or email Betty Capaldo at bcapaldo31@gmail.com or text Betty at 401-323-7041 with your desired donation time. Walk-in donors are also welcome. Thank you!

Book Club November 2021



In November, the Hope UCC Book Club will read and discuss, The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi. This is a novel about freedom and independence in India, following independence from Britain. In its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, The Henna Artist opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel. Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist - and confidante - to the wealthy

women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own.

In addition to an intriguing storyline, the reader learns about the Indian culture, including the caste system, how to make henna, cultural superstitions and food recipes.

Please join us for the discussion on Tuesday, November 23rd at 1:30. The zoom meeting ID is 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><i>The Henna Artist</i></u> - Alka Joshi
December	<i>Christmas Break</i>
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

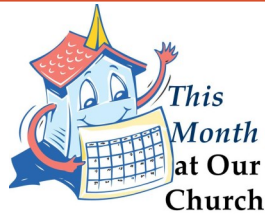


UCC Florida Conference and Celebrate Florida

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>



- 11/7 - Communion Worship
- 11/14 - Worship
- 11/21 - Worship
- 11/28 - Worship

Worship services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom at 10:00 am.
Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
874-1336-0966

Christmas Village Sale
November 6 from 8-2

Blood Drive
November 6 from 9-1



- 11/1 - Mary Miceli's Birthday
- 11/1 - Ray & Sally Rood's Anniversary
- 11/7 - Ann Coburn's Birthday
- 11/9 - Melanie Goff's Birthday
- 11/9 - Lee Keillor's Birthday
- 11/15 - VonShelle Beneby's Birthday
- 11/22 - Ray Rood's Birthday
- 11/24 - Barbara Cain's Birthday
- 11/27—Richard Sale's Birthday
- 11/27—Peggy Hayes' Birthday

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



**Hope UCC Ministry
for the Sharing Center**

In October, we collected 267 food items and \$120 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on November 13th from 9 am to 11 am.

