



# *Tidings of Hope*



## *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.*

## The Reverends Reflection

### Lent

Lent is right around the corner beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our worship series is called, “Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith”. It’s based on the devotional book, **Good Enough** by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from.

So, what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, *regardless*, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.



## Star Gifts 2022



For the last few years on Epiphany, I handed out Star Gifts or Star Words. Last year your Star Gift was mailed to you because we were in the middle of the pandemic and **only** meeting remotely. This year, because there was so much chaos around closing the sanctuary in a moment's notice, I planned to forgo the tradition. However, much to my delight the star words were missed! So, even though we are near the end of Epiphany—here is your Star Gift! They are in the back of the sanctuary, and you are welcome to take one. Or if you prefer, we can mail it to you.

Prayerfully pick your star. Don't read the word before you pick one, but let the Holy Spirit guide you to the one you are meant to have. I will do the same if you want me to mail it to you.

I invite you pray and meditate on your star gift all year and see how God is revealed through that gift. Any insight from last year's word? Several of you have told me how meaningful they were to you. Has your faith grown or deepened? Have you had any insight? Any "Aha!" Moments?

Send me an email or give me a call. I would love to hear about it!

## Lenten Study



Join the Lenten Study with the authors of 2 great books about Jesus.  
***Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*** by Diana Butler Bass  
***The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Jesus: Lord, Liar, Lunatic . . . Or Awesome?*** By Tripp Fuller

Each week, for the 6 weeks of Lent, we will hear a mini-lecture and then engage in conversation and question and answer sessions. If you want to join live, the weekly streaming session will take place on Thursdays at 5pm ET starting 3/3/22. But you can watch it whenever you want.

It's donation based so just give what you can. Sign up by going to [www.JesusDeconstructed.com](http://www.JesusDeconstructed.com)



Hope UCC shows support with Space Coast Pride at Brevard County School Board meeting.

## HELPING HANDS - A Worthy Mission

By Ann Coburn



I recently had occasion to reach out for help. Reaching out has always been difficult for me as I feel I should do things myself and not “bother” others; however, age and health circumstances forced me to abandon that attitude and work on accepting help graciously. In doing this I discovered a jewel – a Mission formed within our church by a member of our congregation.

Julie Becker started this mission, calling it “Helping Hands”. She recognized that we have many elderly members in our congregation, and others who have limited ability to do certain tasks; we also have members who are blessed with the ability to do these same tasks – so why not match them up?

I have to confess that I had let my garage become a hoarder’s paradise. I did leave room for a car, but the rest was filled with what I had cleaned out of the house and piled in the garage. At the end of December the annual termite inspection discovered that in the garage there were termites in a heavy work bench and in an old dresser used for storing bits and pieces of hardware. Massey sent over a technician to treat the termites, but before he arrived there was a path to be cleared around the work bench and dresser, and things to be cleared off the top of them. This is where Helping Hands came in. I reached out to Julie, who came over on her next day off. That lady is a dynamo! On her own, she cleared out the area and the tops of the dresser and workbench. The technician sprayed some chemical in/on them, but advised me to get them out of the garage and down to the curb for pick up.

I told Julie about his advice, and she again came, by herself, and got to work. Not just a dynamo, she is a tornado! She got that garage cleaned up, got the work bench and dresser to the curb, where the scavengers could get to work, leaving just a bare dresser for Waste Management to pick up in a few days. She put everything in its appropriate place in the garage, which now looks as it should.

So: if you are able-bodied and would like to help your fellow human, please join Helping Hands by contacting Julie Becker. Conversely, if you need help in getting something done, contact Julie.

I am so thankful for this mission. There is talk about expanding it to help the community around Hope Church.

I got an added bonus out of this: Julie brought me soup that she and her wife had made, Delicious!

***Thank You!!!***  
***Hope United Church of Christ***



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Honor Certificate**

*In grateful recognition of your support  
for emergency response and sustainable development  
around the world through Church World Service.*

**Hope United Church of Christ**

Rockledge, FL

January 2022

*Building a world with enough for all.*



**Thank You!!!**  
**Hope United Church of Christ**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF CENTRAL BREVARD**  
(Chapel in the Woods)

**(321)632-0992**

Mailing  
P.O. Box 237164  
Cocoa, FL 32923-7164

Location  
1261 N. Range Road  
Cocoa, Florida

February 16, 2022

Hope United Church of Christ

Dear Friends:

This is to gratefully acknowledge your donation of \$395 made during calendar year 2021 for the Cocoa High School Fresh Market. Your donation is helping us feed the hundreds of students who come to school hungry at Cocoa High.

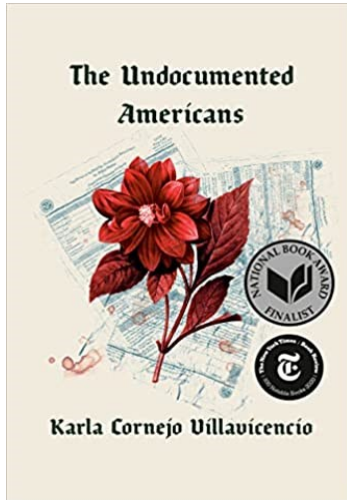
All donations to the Cocoa High School Fresh Market are tax-deductible. Please retain this letter for your tax records.

God bless you!

*Sara Ann*

Sara Ann Conkling  
Social Justice Chair

## Book Club March 2022



In March, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss The Undocumented Americans by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio.

Writer Karla was on DACA when she decided to write about being undocumented for the first time using her own name. It was right after the election of 2016, the day she realized the story she'd tried to steer clear of was the only one she wanted to tell. So she wrote her immigration lawyer's phone number on her hand in Sharpie and embarked on a trip across the country to tell the stories of her fellow undocumented immigrants.

Looking beyond the flashpoints of the border or the activism of the DREAMers, Karla explores the lives of the undocumented. The stories she tells are not deferential or naively inspirational but show the love, magic, heartbreak, insanity, and vulgarity that infuse the day-to-day lives of her subjects.

In New York, she tells about the undocumented workers who were recruited into the federally funded Ground Zero cleanup after 9/11. In Miami, she describes how medicinal herbs and potions are used by those whose undocumented status blocks them from any other healthcare options. In Flint, Michigan, she reveals the demands for state ID in order to receive life-saving clean water. In Connecticut, Cornejo Villavicencio, childless by choice, finds family in two teenage girls whose father is in sanctuary.

And through it all we see the author grappling with the biggest questions of love, duty, family, and survival..

Join with us in reading The Undocumented Americans, and come to the zoom meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd at 1:30. The 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
<i>December</i>	<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
<b>March</b>	<b><u><i>The Undocumented Americans: A Homecoming</i></u> <i>- Karla C. Villacencio</i></b>
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

### **Special Offerings**

In the past, before Covid and our church life changed drastically, we all were sure to pick up our box of envelopes to start out the new church year. Each Sunday most of us chose the envelope for the Sunday, put our checks in the envelope and then into the collection plate as it was passed before us. In today's world of being so conscientious about safety, we no longer handle the envelopes. Many of us now use electronic giving or drop a check off at the office. UCC has always had, and continues to have, four Special Offering Sundays: Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas which will be collected on or near those respective days.

The first Special Offering opportunity is on March 13th as a reminder of the Lenten Season which will begin on March 2nd with Ash Wednesday. This is an opportunity for us to share our commitment and love for Hope UCC as we reflect upon what Lent means to us as individuals and a church community. So, during this Lenten time, consider giving a little extra. These Special Offerings will go directly into Hope's general funds.

The Stewardship Committee will lead us in preparing for each Special Offering during the year.

## In Memory of Norman Ramon Montague



A devoted son and loving father has been taken too soon. The Elam family is asking for prayers as they come to terms with the grief they are experiencing. The Hope family extends our deepest sympathies, love and support during this time.

In addition to prayers, if you would like to send financial support there are several ways to do so. The **Shepherd's Fund** is a tax-deductible donation to the church that can be designated to support the Elam Family (just write your intentions on the check made out to Hope UCC).

Also, a **GoFundMe** page has been created for the community and anyone who would like to donate there for convenience.

Here is the link: <https://gofund.me/f9aef10f>





- 3/6 - Communion Worship
- 3/13 - Worship
- 3/20 - Worship
- 2/22 - Book Club
- 3/27 - Worship

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!

- 3/16 - Elizabeth Smith's Birthday
- 3/22 - Karen Jolly's Birthday
- 3/26 - Denise Cotton's Birthday

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

In February, we collected 418 items and \$145 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on March 12th from 9 am to 11 am.



### **Memorial Service**

You are invited to attend the memorial service honoring the life of

Ethel Marjorie Osterwise  
March 20th  
11:30 a.m.

# LENT

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



**PRAY**



**FAST**



**GIVE**

*We remember that God gave the world  
Jesus, and Jesus gave us his life.*

[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)