



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ* *June 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 Reverend's Reflection

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. (John 17:20,21a)

In Uvalde, Texas on Tuesday, an 18-year-old shot his grandmother and then drove to an elementary school with an assault rifle and murdered 19 children and 2 teachers. I can hardly process the words as I type them: A mass murder in an elementary school. How can this happen, AGAIN?! There are no words to express the depth of our shock, grief and horror of this tragedy... as the headline in the local paper illustrates.

Uvalde Leader-News

MAY 24, 2022

As Christians, as followers of Christ, as human beings, how do we respond to such violence? Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and the entire community of Uvalde. The phrase "thoughts and prayers" has been widely criticized and the criticism is justified if the words are empty platitudes. However, as disciples, "Thoughts and Prayers" should be a call to action.

We can pray with action.

We can pray and write letters to lawmakers

We can pray and make phone calls to officials

We can pray and protest

We can pray and vote

Other countries have made changes. In the aftermath of the Christchurch Mosque massacre in 2019, when a gunman murdered 51 people, New Zealand enacted stricter rules on gun sales and ownership, which saw a ban on nearly all semi-automatic weapons and assault rifles as well as magazines and parts. The new gun law was passed by New Zealand's parliament near-unanimously, with only a single dissenting vote. The Prime Minister said that the public and politicians "saw something that wasn't right, and we acted on it." People voluntarily handed in their guns. And there has not been another mass shooting since.

In Jesus' Farewell discourse, he prayed for his friends, and he prayed for his followers in the future. He prayed for us. Jesus prayed for unity. If we all prayed for oneness, for unity perhaps we could fill the world with love, not bullets.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:25,26)

Jesus calls us to live in harmony, in *oneness* with God, creation, and each other. Jesus calls us to embody God's love. May we be a reflection of Jesus' prayer. May we live in unity and in love. Amen!



Prayer Team

We are a powerful praying community. Our prayer team is a wonderful group of committed people that join in to pray when the need arises. I fondly call them prayer warriors. I am available by phone, text or email if you would like our team to pray for you, friends, neighbors, family, and our world. My phone number is 321-394-6287 and my email is tonia-bandit@aol.com. If you are asking for prayers for others we do ask you to get their permission first as we do use last names also.

We can always use more prayer warriors so if you would like to be a part of this ministry just let me know using the contact information included in this article.

Blessings,
Tonia Patterson

Hope UCC – Pastoral Relations Committee Behavioral Covenant Overview

One of the responsibilities of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is to maintain and promote a healthy, harmonious relationship between the pastor and the congregation. We recognize how important it is for a congregation to have honest, direct communication with each other and with the pastor. PRC thought it would be appropriate to publish our Hope UCC Behavioral Covenant again.

PRC and the Church Council recognize that in most instances congregants treat each other with respect and kindness. We have an expectation that all of us will observe the boundaries of appropriate behavior and look to resolve conflict with grace and fairness. It is the intent that the Hope UCC Behavioral Covenant will provide a tool for us to communicate with shared values and to help work through those times when a challenging decision needs to be made by promoting the values we hold for the common good of our church community.

HOPE UCC BEHAVIORAL COVENANT

Be fully present, extending and presuming welcome to and from others.

Listen generously and suspend judgment about another's story.
Hold stories with care and respect.

Keep confidentiality.

Author your own story and share your own gifts.

Wonder. Ponder. Welcome discomfort. Love the questions and be receptive to them.

Be mindful and respectful of time.

Practice hospitality and inclusion, especially when diverse cultures meet.
Appreciate the many ways of hearing God together.

Believe that it is possible to emerge from our time together refreshed, surprised, and less burdened than when we came.



We are reaching a milestone. The 3-year capital campaign, “Raise the Roof” is closing in 2 months.

In July 2018, we decided to “borrow” \$90,000 to replace the roof, purchase an electronic sign for the front of the church, and replace damaged gutters. We borrowed this amount from our investment fund.

We began the capital campaign in mid-2019 and we took in pledges for a 3-year period. Total pledges were \$85,995.00. We officially began getting contributions from the pledges in August 2019.

To update you on the campaign, we have repaid \$60,000 and have received an additional \$2,970 towards the next \$10,000 payment. We have only 2 months to go on our campaign pledges to reach our goal with \$23,025 remaining. We have 12 incomplete pledges.

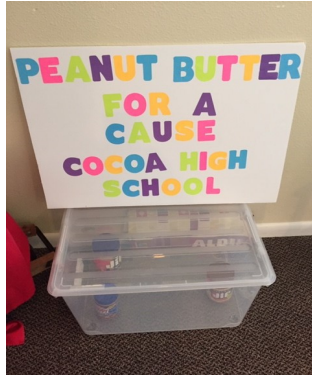
If you made a pledge to the capital campaign back in July 2019, remember that you have only 2 months left to complete your pledge. If you never made a pledge to the campaign, it is never too late. We invite anyone who did not pledge in 2019 to join us in repaying/replacing the funds used for repairing and updating the church facility. If you made a pledge and are unsure whether a portion is outstanding, please contact Sandy at the office at 321-636-0250.



Sharing Our Best

May flew by on butterflies' wings and spring is quickly turning into summer.

We continue to hold out community food collections on the second Saturday of each month from 9-11 to assist the Central Brevard Sharing Center. On May 8, we collected 160 items and \$20.00 for the CBSC along with jars of peanut butter for the Cocoa High Fresh Market.



Keep up the good work, and remember we are “your neighborhood church!” We have had several new visitors, many returning, and we are running low on welcome bags, which is a good thing. We are always making more. We also look forward to welcoming new members, so contact our office if you wish to join our membership, and please let our office know you wish to be included in our Thursday e-mails, so you can fully experience all the gifts Hope has to offer.



The Big Red Bus was here May 28 from 9-1. Six people participated—two from the community, and 4 from Hope UCC. Five successfully donated, offering the gift of life to 15 people. Thank you!

The ladies' lunch on May 27, at Baci on Barnes Blvd. in Rockledge hosted the women of our church. Ten women attended. Guests are always welcomed, so please invite your friends. Our theme was based on mint and God's gracious gifts. It is a fun time with a door prize and favors included. We typically host our ladies' lunches on the 4th Friday or Saturday of each month, so stay tuned for the next opportunity if you were unable to join us in May. We will be meeting on July 23rd. and the location will be announced.



Sharing Our Best (continued)

Our deacons are always looking for folks to share the good news, so if you have a love of scripture and want to share it, sign up to be a lector in the narthex.

Another exciting opportunity to join in fellowship is on the horizon after Sunday, June 5. The people of Hope are hosting a Pentecost party cookout after worship. Thanks to all who offered donations of food, condiments, buns, and all the fixings...and hats of to Julie Becker who will be our head chef.

If you cannot stay long and want to take a to go box home, please let us know so we can be prepared. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers are on the menu.

God is good...all the time.

Justice and Witness

June is Pride Month. Every year during the month of June, the LGBTQ+ community celebrates in a number of different ways. Across the globe, various events are held in this special month as a way of recognizing the influence LGBTQ+ people have had around the world.

I am so proud to be a part of a church that welcomes people with this welcoming statement. "Whoever you are. Wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here!" You can be who you are and whose you are at Hope church!

I'm also proud to be part of a church that is an ONA church. ONA stands for Open and Affirming. This is a designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which makes a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to all persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Our church voted to be an ONA congregation in 2011. We have also adopted a mission statement that we use to open our monthly council meetings. "Holding hands in prayer to love and support one another, in peace, embracing diversity, and new ideas while sharing God's love in our community and beyond."

I hope you join me in being proud that we are such a welcoming community.
Happy Pride Month

Tonia Patterson

Congratulations Hope Readers!

In the last year the Hope Book Club has met virtually to discuss the chosen books on our reading list. We use the FL UCC Women's Reading for Renewal reading list to choose most of our reading selections. This year eight readers read 47 books, and five people were qualified readers meaning that they read at least six books, with at least one being a mission study book.

May 24th we met to choose our books for the next year. We hope to increase our number of books read and the number of people reading. This increases our exposure to topics and authors we might not otherwise pick up. We enjoy the camaraderie of spending time with each other and having frank discussions about the topics. We have again agreed to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM virtually. We meet monthly September through November, and January through May.

Happy Reading!



HOPE Book Club Reading List 2022 - 2023

September	<u>The Daughters of Yalta: the Churchills,, Roosevelts and Harrimans</u> - Catherine Grace Katz
October	<u>The Ministry for the Future</u> - Kim Stanley Robinson
November	<u>Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship</u> - Catherine Raven
January	<u>All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake</u> - Tiya Miles
February	<u>The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing the World</u> - Janice Kaplan
March	<u>Joan Is Okay</u> - Weike Wang
April	<u>The Taking of Jemima Boone</u> - Matthew Pearl
May	<u>Taste: My Life Through Food</u> - Stanley Tucci



- 6/5 - Communion Worship
- 6/12 - Sunday Worship
- 6/19 - Sunday Worship
- 6/26 - Sunday Worship

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
321 636 0250

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
June 11th - 9 am to 11 am

Ongoing Events at Hope

Happy Seekers

Fridays at 10:00 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 875 1767 3994

Coffee Hour

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 425 599 5598



- 6/4 - Patti Champion's Birthday
- 6/5 - Mark Johnson's Birthday
- 6/5 - Diane Schnellhammer's Birthday
- 6/8 - Michael Elam's' Birthday
- 6/9 - Lizzet Ruiz' Birthday
- 6/9 - Matt Brown's Birthday
- 6/18 - Rev. William Flynn's Birthday
- 6/19 - Barbara Smith's Birthday
- 6/20 - Pat & Bob Munchbach's Anniversary
- 6/20 - Julie Becker's Birthday
- 6/20 - Kari Scheirer's Birthday
- 6/25 - Karen Lehr's Birthday
- 6/26 - Christian Cathcart's Birthday
- 6/27 - Shelle and Michael Waller's Anniversary

Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center

In May we collected 160 items and \$20 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.



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