



Tidings of Hope



HOPE

United Church of Christ November 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



November brings fond childhood memories of jumping in piles of leaves and Thanksgiving with family. Growing up in Ohio, I remember crisp autumn weather and cozy warm sweaters. This year the autumn breezes harken more than the coming of winter; it's also election season with political division, violence and hate swirling around us. How do we stay grounded in the strength of the love of God and follow in the way of Jesus and the peace he proclaims with all that vitriol in the air?

In the life of the church, November is a whirlwind of activity for stewardship pledging, budget, nominating and Hanging of the Greens. The last Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent...which means Christmas is right around the corner. This year our worship series for Advent and Christmas is called, *Reflecting the Sacred*. In a world full of stress and division, we need to be reminded of the sacred being reflected in everything.

This year as we climb into the attic to retrieve the shiny Advent and Christmas decorations, may the sparkle remind us of our call to reflect the sacred each and every day (even when the atmosphere is full of animosity). We stand firm in God's hope, peace, justice and love.



The Reverend's Reflection (continued)

Advent is the time when we prepare ourselves inside and out for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.



Care Team

The Care Team is aware that many in our congregation live alone. We are considering beginning a Sunshine Call program, if there is sufficient interest. This program would be for those who would like a telephone call at a prearranged time, to make sure everything is okay. We are also looking for those who would be willing to call someone on a daily, or periodic basis.

If you would be interested in receiving a call, making a call, or getting more information about the Sunshine Call program, please contact a member of the Care Team or call Jean Hawkes at 321-243-5287.

The Moderator's Moment

As I come up on the final months of my three-year service as the Moderator of Hope United Church of Christ, I'm recalling the many joys and challenges. The Covid pandemic and I began our reign at just about the same time. But my expectations for Hope UCC evidently were quite different than Covid's ideas. Hopes of new ideas and events remained new ideas but events went by the wayside. Suddenly we were engulfed in setting up Zoom worship, everyone staying isolated in their homes rather than in and out of our church building, and helping the pastor learn how to lead worship in a way she and every other pastor never imagined. But look how far we have come. I want to thank Miss Covid for pushing our limits to the extreme and forcing us to step out in faith. In May of 2020 our newly developed Covid Task Force protected our church family by making whatever hard decisions were necessary to keep us all safe. They advised us on sanctuary closings and openings, advised hand sanitizers, masks, social distancing, all in accordance with CDC recommendations. Thank you to the Task Force for keeping us all safe. Thank you to each Committee that had to look at special events and at doing everything differently in church. Who could have imagined the ages old process of Communion having to be re-thought and done "safely.?" Who would have imagined a service with no coffee and refreshments following worship? How could we possibly have Council meetings without being gathered in the multi-Purpose room?

But, with the help of prayer we learned how to stay connected via Zoom with new weekly meetings and chat groups. We learned how to have outdoor events, how to gently move people from expecting "refreshments" after in-person services, and most importantly how to stay connected. Some folks actually expressed they felt more intimate relationships via Zoom because we were face-to-face often. We learned how to hold important Congregational Meetings and actually VOTE online – hardly missing a beat. We suddenly had a Tech Team that turned our traditional worship services into an interactive Zoom service with videos and beautiful photo displays. We quickly became the star of the UCCFL with our technology.

I have loved watching how we all have grown during the past three years. For myself, I know I have gained confidence in my leadership abilities, but even more importantly I have gained and grown in my faith.

The Moderator's Moment (continued)

When things seemed impossible from a Moderator's standpoint, I said a little (well, it really was a BIG) prayer, reached out to my God for peace and discernment. My call was always answered.

Again, I am reaching out to God as I see Hope UCC moving into 2023. My prayers include: I'd like to see more than 32 pledges (as in 2022) for 2023 (how 'bout 35+); I'd like to see pledges that will provide for a healthy 2023 budget creation – a budget which meets our needs for our building and staff and that each Committee has a small budget to do missions with; I'm hoping for an active Facebook page presence on the internet, having our beautiful services available to be viewed on Facebook and/or YouTube; having our wonderful people involved in new post pandemic ideas that serve our church family and surrounding community; I'm praying for strength, energy and enthusiasm for us as we continue our mission to offer an extravagant welcome to ALL persons.

I hope you will join me with lifting your special prayers up and in participating in the life of Hope UCC. I believe in Hope UCC!!! And I'm looking forward to what we will have presented to us in 2023.

It has been my honor and joy to serve Hope UCC for the past three years.

Blessings,
Melanie



New Vision From the Budget Committee

Everyone's budget is tight this year and the church is no different. Over the years, our church has been fiscally very responsible and has remained mortgage free and even set aside a small amount in an investment fund. That fund has helped us meet financial demands in the past. However, over the last decade, our property insurance has risen steadily to become our largest expense, other than salaries. Our insurance premiums have grown from \$16,323 in 2012 to \$25,141 this year. Our rates would have been higher, but we have been adjusting the policy in order to keep the premium lower. Even with these cost-saving adjustments, our premiums have increased by 35% in just ten years.

Recently we received a letter from our insurance provider stating that our premium for 2023 could increase by over 25%. We won't know the actual amount until mid-December. We will do our best to keep the congregation informed as we learn more. But it is clear we face some choices for our future.

Some Churches are "self-insuring" by setting funds aside. Instead of paying the insurance company, the congregation pays a monthly sum into their own account to use in the case of an emergency. Although we would cancel our commercial coverage, we would use our present investment fund to meet any immediate needs and make a firm commitment to put aside a considerable amount each year to increase this fund for future property repairs. There are benefits and risks in this option. All of this means that currently we have a gap between our financial resources and our vision of ministry. The Council, Trustees and the Budget Committee want everyone to be involved in visioning the future of Hope UCC.

How is God calling us forward in these challenging times? Perhaps we need to adjust our vision of what God calls us to do as a church. We could think of new ways to do ministry together. We could look at what we can each do personally to help grow the church.



Be thoughtful. Be prayerful. Be the church.

Yard Sale

Excitement is mounting, crews are working, bakers are baking, Hope's moving crew is moving and grill is heating up!!! It's all coming together for Hope's huge Yard Sale on November 12. Between the hours of 8am to 2pm we will swing open wide our Social Hall doors to greet customers from all over Brevard. We open our hearts too to families in need.

We will feature the traditional yard sale PLUS a bake sale, homemade corn chowder sale and a delicious hamburger or hotdog meal fresh off the grill. AND the Big Red Bus from One Blood will be parked right out front of our church for blood donations.

This is an all-church effort and event. We need your help on Nov 4, 10am-2pm and Nov 9-11 throughout the day helping with table set ups, unpacking, putting out and organizing yard sale items. There's a lot of work to be done yet by a lot of helpers. PLEASE be a part of the "all-church" helpers. We also need help on Nov. 12 - Sale Day.

This is our biggest fund raiser for our church and we NEED it to be financially successful this year. PLEASE come and help make this a success!

Nominating Committee



Your church needs you. We have lots of openings for officers and committees for next year.

Opportunities include;
Moderator, Asst. Moderator, and Co-Treasurer for officers.

Committee opportunities are; Christian Education, Deacons, Trustees, Church Growth & Development, Stewardship, Justice & Witness, and Members At Large.

If you see a place that interests you, please talk to one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Rev Karen Curtis-Weakley, Edward Hamilton. Julie Johnson, Elizabeth Smith, or Tonia Patterson.

Our committee would ask you to prayerfully consider these opportunities to fill one or more of these openings.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sharing Our Best in November 2022

Our food drive on Saturday, October 8 yielded 190 items and \$30.00 for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

We also received several jars of peanut butter and a \$20.00 donation for the Cocoa High Fresh Market Justice and Witness ministry.

The next food drive is Saturday, November 12, and you can drop off donations in the social hall during the bazaar from 8-2.

We decorated and filled 70 Trick or Treat bags for our drive through Trick or Treat hand out event on Oct. 29



Our fall bazaar is fast approaching. It is Saturday, November 12, from 8 -2. We are still accepting items to sell at the bazaar (please, no clothing). We still need helpers to price items, set up, clean up, donate baked items for the bake sale and supplies for the hamburger/hotdog lunches. We will also need volunteers to cashier and help prepare the meals. Of course, New England Corn Chowder is on the menu...thank you, Betty! See the sign-up sheet in the narthex, and contact Julie Johnson, Melanie Goff, and Karen Lehr if you have questions.

The next ladies' lunch is Saturday, November 26 at noon at Baci on Barnes Blvd.

The ladies of Hope UCC had a great time at the October 8, meeting, celebrating with a fall theme. Thank you, Karen and Melanie for the beautiful craft bags and treats of iced lattes and coconut patties.



Sharing Our Best (continued)

Logo shirts have arrived. Please see Julie Johnson before or after worship, or you can arrange a time with her to pick up your shirt. Delivery is also an option.

Would you like to be a greeter? We need monthly volunteers. Please see Julie Johnson if you want to know more. You will see a sign up sheet in the narthex on the greeters' table.



God is good all the time...All the time, God is good!



Book Club November 2022



For November, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss “Fox and I, An Uncommon Friendship” by Catherine Raven.

The following are excerpts from a NY Times review.

Every day at 4:15 p.m. the small red fox trots up to Catherine Raven’s cottage in a remote valley in Montana. And every day, she reads “The Little Prince” to him. So begins “Fox & I,” the smart and tender memoir of an unexpected bond between a biologist and a fox. As a scientist, Raven knows she’s not supposed to assign human characteristics to wild animals. Yet “Fox & I” ultimately sidesteps this fear of being misunderstood, suggesting we belong among animals more deeply than we think. Belonging does not come easily to Raven, who describes her parents as “violent,” wanting her “to disappear.” Raven leaves home at 15, throwing herself into college and seasonal backcountry work for the National Park Service. Eventually, she earns a Ph.D. in biology from Montana State University. After completing her studies, she delays accepting a job in academia to buy land in a glacier-carved Montana valley, 30 miles from the nearest grocery store. Here she meets Fox. The deftness of her observations erases any suggestion that her connection to Fox is invented. There is also a backdrop of brutality. Raven tells of farmers bludgeoning foxes in their fields. “Fox & I” upends the hierarchy that places humans at the top of a pyramid. Raven eventually turns her powers of observation on the human species itself, gently reminding us that our buzzing, starless, plastic lives are simply “not evolutionarily stable.”

Join the Hope Book Club in reading this nonfiction book during November and meeting on zoom to discuss our reactions on Tuesday, November 22 at 1:30. The meeting number is 845 6868 2100.

HOPE Book Club Reading List 2022 - 2023

September	<u>The Daughters of Yalta: the Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans</u> - Catherine Grace Katz
October	<u>All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake</u> - Tiya Miles
<i>November</i>	<i><u>Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship</u> - Catherine Raven</i>
December	Christmas Break
January	<u>The Ministry for the Future</u> - Kim Stanley Robinson
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





- 11/6 - Communion Worship
- 11/13 - Sunday Worship
- 11-20 - Sunday Worship
- 11/27 - Sunday Worship

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
321 636 0250

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
November 12th.



- 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 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

Theology on Tap

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Discussing the book
"Do I Stay Christian"
by Brian McClaren
Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250

Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center



In October we collected 190 items and \$30 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. There will be another drive through food drop-off on November 12th. Donations can be dropped off at the social hall during the Yard Sale.



Fall greetings, Florida UCC members and friends:

Here is the [link to the October/November issue of Celebrate Florida.](#) *(control, click on the link)*