



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ* *May 2023*

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2555 S. Fiske Blvd, Rockledge FL 32955-3901

(321) 636-0250 † www.hopeucc.com † hopeuccfl@att.net † www.ucc.org

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

The Reverends Reflection

Easter People



When we celebrate Easter, we are really standing in the middle of a second 'Big Bang', a tumultuous surge of divine energy as fiery and intense as the very beginning of the universe.

— Rowan Williams, Welsh Anglican bishop, theologian, and poet

Easter isn't over. I know the peeps and chocolate bunnies are all on sale now, but in the church, the Easter season continues until Pentecost. What does it mean to have Easter continue for seven weeks? Does resurrection have an impact on our lives longer than just one Sunday?

In her Sunday Musings, Diana Butler Bass says that the question for these weeks is NOT: What is the resurrection? But rather: Where does resurrection show up in our lives? How do we practice resurrection? These are important questions of faith, both personally and for the church.

Life brings us plenty of pain and suffering. We understand crucifixion. We see illness and brokenness. People we love die. We struggle to make a living. We see violence and even state sanctioned executions. But what happens next? Do we experience the power of resurrection in our lives? Do we recognize the resurrected Christ walking with us on the road, like the disciples at Emmaus? Are we awake and intentional about the presence of hope and new life and do we facilitate that surge of divine energy?

The Reverend's Reflection (continued)

Jesus showed us the kin-dom of God. Jesus showed us that we can live a different way. A life where we take care of each other instead of competing. A life where every person is valued and loved for who they are not by their bank account, skin color, preferred pronoun or who they marry.

Diana Butler Bass says that if we don't really *see* that God is present with us in the most painful situations and unexpected circumstances, we can't *practice* resurrection. The resurrection sings of justice, healing, and love. We are Easter people! May we practice resurrection at Easter and every day!



Informational New Member Gathering

Join us on **May 21st** after worship to learn more about the United Church of Christ and specifically Hope UCC. There will be a light lunch as we explore what it means to join the church. Bring all your questions and ponderings! Afterwards, we hope you will be ready to make a commitment and join the church. On Pentecost, **May 28th** we will celebrate with the Reception of New Members during worship. Please register for the gathering so that we have enough refreshments. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you may call/email the church office (hopeuccfl@att.net), Growth and Development Committee or Rev. Karen (revkcw@att.net).

Stewardship

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee,

We want to thank all of you that helped with the various ways of reaching out a helping hand to Hope, friends, and those surrounding us.

Funds raised for the different collections exceeded what we were hoping to collect.

Lenten Collection: \$88.00

Easter: \$221.00

OGHS: \$1,592.00

Raise Right: \$302.43

As for the budget planning project, we have received feedback that the budget documents were very helpful. I have not received any feedback of savings made by individuals. I can say that for myself, I was able to add a little money to my savings and like the opportunity to be more aware of my finances and spending habits. Any one that would like to share thoughts or feedback, email the church or let one of us on the committee know what you learned or gained from the experience.

We will be sponsoring another Raise Right Gift Card fund raiser at the end of July or beginning of August. More details will be coming closer to the time.

Have a safe month filled with much love and joy as the air warms and flowers bloom.



Christian Education News

On April 8th, Christian Ed. held their first Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We hope that this is just the beginning of a future tradition.

We had a great turn out which included inviting the neighboring communities through our Hope and Heart Thrift Store, word of mouth and the sign out in front of the church. We had 18 children attend, 9 of which came from outside the church family. It was a great success!

We had face painting by Lexi (Cyndi's granddaughter) and her friends Izzy and Nevaeh. Julie Becker and her crew served 38 hot dogs with chips and drinks. We even had a photo booth with our own Chris and her dog Dixie.

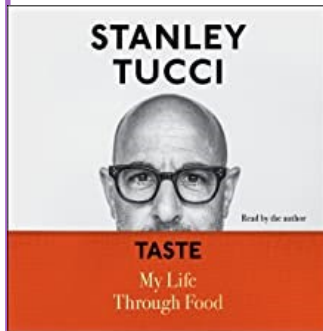
Many thanks to everyone who helped make this Easter Egg Hunt a success including those who donated eggs and candy, those who helped set up and clean up afterwards, those who worked it and cooked food.

Without your love and support to Christian Ed. this would not have been such a great success! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Cotton



Book Club May 2023



In May, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss, Stanley Tucci's Taste: My Life Through Food.

Since this is our last meeting of the church year, we will take time to organize our reading list for '23-'24. If you have any suggestions for the list, please notify the office or a book club participant.

From award-winning actor and food obsessive Stanley Tucci comes an intimate and charming memoir of life in and out of the kitchen. Before Stanley Tucci became a household name with *The Devil Wears Prada* and *The Hunger Games*, he grew up in an Italian American family that spent every night around the table. He shared the magic of those meals in *The Tucci Cookbook* and *The Tucci Table*, and now he goes beyond the recipes and into the stories behind them.

Taste is a reflection on the intersection of food and life, filled with anecdotes about growing up in Westchester, New York, preparing for and filming the foodie films *Big Night* and *Julie & Julia*, falling in love over dinner, and teaming up with his wife to create conversation-starting meals for their children. Each morsel of this gastronomic journey through good times and bad, five-star meals and burnt dishes, is as heartfelt and delicious as the last. Written with Stanley's signature wry humor and nostalgia, *Taste* is a heartwarming read that will be irresistible for anyone who knows the power of a home-cooked meal.

Please join us on Tuesday, May 23rd at 1:30. The zoom meeting number is 845 6868 2100.

Remember to bring suggestions for next year's reading list.





Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services
321 636 0250

- 5/2 - Trustees Meeting
- 5/4 - Growth & Dev. Mtg
- 5/6 - Justice & Witness Meeting
- 5/7 - Communion Worship
- 5/9 - Church Council
- 5/10 - Care Team Meeting
- 5/12 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 5/13 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 5/14 - Worship
- 5/18 - Stewardship Meeting
- 5/19 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 5/20 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 5/21 - Worship
- 5/23 - Book Club
- 5/25 - Deacons Meeting
- 5/26 - Happy Seekers
- 5/28 - Worship
- Pastoral Relations Meeting



- 5/6 - Jonah Garcia's Birthday
- 5/6 - Linda Beane's Birthday
- 5/12 - Janice Ellison's Birthday
- 5/13 - Shelle Waller's Birthday
- 5/14 - Cyndi Leonard's Birthday
- 5/15 - Rebecca and John Carroll's
Anniversary

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
Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250

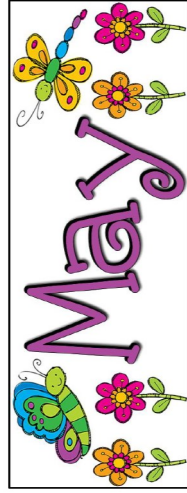


Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center

In April we collected 160 grocery items and 47 toiletries for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.



2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 pm Trustees	3	4 7 pm <i>Christian Ed.</i>	5 10:30 am Happy Seekers	6 10 am Justice & Witness
7 10am Communion Worship	8	9 6:45pm Council	10 10:30 am Care Team	11	12 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store	13 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store
14 10am Worship	15	16	17	18 7 pm Stewardship	19 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store	20 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store
21 10am Worship	22	23 1:30 pm Book Club	24	25 7 pm Deacons	26 10:30am Happy Seekers	27
28 10am Worship 11am PRC	29	30 7 pm Growth & Dev	31			