



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ* *August 2023*

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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



It's no secret that the church has been changing. Attendance is not what it was back in 1976 or even 1990. Our Sunday School rooms have been repurposed and Sunday morning soccer games compete with Sunday morning worship. Some experts refer to this time of change as an *Awakening*, or a spiritual revolution, or maybe another reformation or a secularization of society. Some just say the church as we know it is irrelevant and is dying. Fortunately, our faith teaches us that after death comes new life and Hope United Church of Christ is full of new life! We are looking forward to a vibrant future. But how do we get there?

Neal Watkins, Minister for Congregational Life from the Florida Conference is guiding us to discern what our future could look like. In the first visioning session (July 30th), we focused on who we are as a congregation and what we do well. We went over the survey results and discovered that we are all very different but share a love of Hope UCC and the community it creates. The survey showed that everyone agrees, Hope UCC is about caring, acceptance, justice and love. We also talked about the elephant in the room and realized that “bringing in more young people” is not the answer to a sustainable future. The era of “If we build it, they will come” has ended for the church. Bright shiny buildings and youth activity rooms no longer hold the key to success or a guarantee of a prosperous future.

Neal reminded us that it's important to know **who** we are, **what** we do, **how** we do it and **why** we do what we do. He posed important questions for discussion. Such as: What challenges in the world/community is Hope UCC uniquely positioned to speak/serve towards? There were stimulating discussions at each table about the opportunities and challenges Hope UCC faces. We discussed who benefitted the most from what Hope UCC offers.

The next session on **August 20th** will focus on the questions, “*Who is my neighbor?*” and “*What is Beloved Community?*” and ultimately, “*Why do we do what we do?*”. We are working to clarify our purpose and our mission.

I don't know what the future looks like, but I know Hope UCC will be a part of it! God is calling Hope UCC to vital work in the world. We follow Jesus into a future that brings hope, peace, justice, and love to all. We can work together to bring God's dream for the world into focus. In God's world everyone has enough, everyone is respected, honored, and loved for who they are, and ALL creation is cared for. The Kin-dom of God is for everyone! Together, we can reveal God's dream of a just world for all! Let's get busy!

Q6 In your own words, what is the mission of Hope UCC

worship open mission God church walk people caring love spread
welcome diversity community justice everyone



Hope 'N Heart Thrift Shop

Hope 'N Heart Update

Hope 'N Heart thrift shop opened in February and has been opened each month on the second and third weekends of each month. To date we have raised over \$8,000 for the church through thrift shop sales and online sales. There have been many volunteers helping to create Hope 'N Heart, from cashiers, people who work behind the scenes for pricing and organizing donations, people who create advertisement for the shop, people who take the church trailer out to pick up or deliver donations, bakers who have contributed baked goods for sale and people who have donated many wonderful items to fill the thrift shop. Two to three Fridays are workdays behind the scenes whereby we gather in the church's social hall and price items, process through all donations to assure the clothing is clean, electronics work, and items are within date for sales. We usually choose several items each month to feature on online sales. During our Friday workdays we usually select what items will be listed as a special sale in Hope 'N Heart, i.e., bag of books for \$1.00 or bag of clothing for \$3.00.

We average 50-75 customers each day we are open and have a good group of "regulars" that look forward to shopping each weekend we are open. We have made good friends through Hope 'N Heart, created close and strong relationships with Hope UCC volunteers as we work together, and we have had thrift shop shoppers join Hope UCC through our outreach to customers.

Hope 'N Heart was developed and begun by several of us dreaming about ways to raise money for Hope UCC. Karen and I created a business plan, presented it to the Council and it was approved to go forward. We have always known that Hope 'N Heart, though always close to our hearts, was not "our" thrift shop, that Hope 'N Heart belongs to Hope United Church of Christ. Karen and I had presented in our business plan that we would manage and get the shop up and running successfully in the first year. The shop is well on its way to being remarkably successful. Because Hope 'N Heart belongs to our church (not Karen and Mell) at the end of 2023, we will be ready to turn the management of Hope 'N Heart over to our congregation.

We are beginning to ask about, talk about and look for more volunteers from our congregation of those people that would like to take on the responsibility of continued success with Hope 'N Heart.

We have between the present time and the end of 2023 to train volunteers in all the ways to continue the shop AND we plan to continue to volunteer our time also. We need a person or a group to step up to the management portion of running the store, recruiting volunteers, pricing, and organization of donations, and working with Hope UCC Treasurer regarding accounting measures. Online sales provide a large part of the financial success of the shop. A volunteer will be needed to manage the online sales which involve photographing items, listing on local sites, being familiar with online sites and selling and meeting customers at church for final sales.

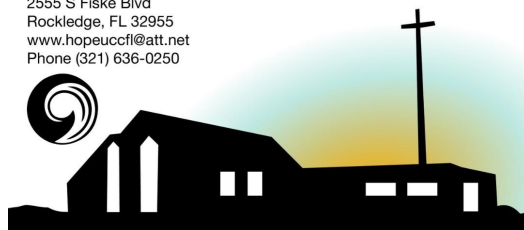
Hope 'N Heart is and will continue to be an important financial part of Hope UCC's yearly budget needs and just as importantly a strong part of our local community in service to shoppers. Please pray for Hope 'N Heart as we move forward to the end of 2023 and the beginning of a fruitful transition from what began as a simple idea and has developed into a positive church and community experience.

Please contact Rev. Karen, Karen Lehr, or Mell if you would like to be a part of this wonderful mission of Hope UCC.



Thrift Shop
Open the 2nd & 3rd
Friday and Saturday of each month
Hours are 10am-2pm

Hope United Church of Christ
2555 S Fiske Blvd
Rockledge, FL 32955
www.hopeuccfl@att.net
Phone (321) 636-0250



Growth and Development

Happy Summer. It has been a busy summer for our Hope G&D committee and friends.

We want to start by introducing new 2023 Growth & Development team members – Michelle Fuller and Marie Griffin.

G&D started the summer by hosting a pancake breakfast on July 9th. It was a huge hit. Our next after church congregation breakfast is on **August 20th** as Neal Watkins will be here. We plan to make our famous pancakes, bacon and sausage.

On Friday, July 28th the G&D team hosted our third Hope Game night event. Each game night so far has had a different theme. On July 28th the theme was “Name that Tune” and Taco night. We want to thank everyone who help pulled this event together, especially Michele Wood. Michele emceed our event, including selecting the Songs, Artist and Lyrics.

Our next game night is scheduled on **August 18th**. The theme will be Trivia. This is sure to be a lot of fun. Come Join us! Doors will open at 6:30! Soup and bread will be provided. Everyone is encouraged to bring a snack to share. A children’s game and coloring table will be available for the children and young at heart.

G&D and Justice & Witness are teaming together to host Pride on **September 23th** at the Space Coast Pride Festival. We will be participating by hosting a booth, plus having a vehicle and walkers in the parade. We are looking for ideas! A sign-up sheet for the booth will be posted soon. Current ideas for pride include prize wheel, give aways, chance gift baskets, selfie photo frame, temporary tattoos and a banned book basket. Watch for the sign-up sheets as we need help manning the booth and would love a big group to march in the parade!

The next Hope blood drive is scheduled for **September 30th** between 9:00 – Noon. Please come out to donate and be a part of saving someone’s life.

Save the Date! On **October 28th** the G&D team will be hosting a Fall Festival. Many ideas are being bounced around, including Food Trucks, Vendor Booths, Unique Crafts, Baked Goods, Carnival Games, Popcorn, Live Music, Photo Booth and Dunking Booth. Please come share your ideas and talents. All ideas Welcome!

The goal of the Growth & Development (G&D) team is easy; help grow the church! The Growth & Development team consists of six official committee members. The truth is that many more church members participate in organizing, planning and executing all of the G&D events. Our team is always looking for ways to reach out to the local community and to spread the word that everyone is Welcome!

Our next meeting will be on Zoom on **August 22nd** at 7:00 PM. The G&D Zoom meeting number is 548 479 6605. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Hurricane Assistance

Hurricane season is here. The Helping Hands group and the Care Team are asking if you might need help in some way due to an approaching hurricane. Do you need transportation to a safe place? Do you need help preparing your residence - closing shutters, placing sandbags, etc? If you anticipate needing help, we would like you to register with the church so that we can be ready to help. Please call the church office at (321) 636-0250 and tell the office what kind of help you might need or contact any member of the Helping Hands group or the Care Team.

Contact Julie Becker for Helping Hands at (631) 512-1034 or Jean Hawkes for Care Team at (321) 243-5287.



HOPE Book Club Reading List 2023 - 2024

Summer	<u>How to Be An Antiracist</u> - Ibram X. Kendi
September	<u>The Book of Lost Names</u> - Kristen Harmel
October	<u>The Fight of Our Lives: My time with Zelensky, Ukraine's Battle for Democracy and what it means for the world</u> Iuliia Mendel
November	<u>Dusk, Night, Dawn</u> - Anne Lamott
December	<u>You Don't Know What War Is: a diary of a young girl from Ukraine</u> - Yeva Skalietska
January	<u>Master Slave Husband Wife: an epic journey from slavery to freedom</u> - Ilyon Woo
February	<u>The Daughters of Madurai</u> - Rajasree Variyar
March	<u>Learning to Pray: a guide for everyone</u> - James Martin
April	<u>While Time Remains: a North Korean defector's search for freedom in America</u> - Yeonmi Park
May	<u>The Water Dancer</u> - Ta-Nehisi Coates



Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services
321 636 0250

- 8/3 - Trustees
- 8/4 - Happy Seekers
- 8/5 - Justice & Witness Meeting
- 8/6 - Communion Worship
- 8/8 - Church Council
- 8/9 - Care Team Meeting
- 8/10 - Christian Ed Meeting
- 8/11 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 8/12 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 8/13 - Worship
- 8/17 - Stewardship Meeting
- 8/18 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 8/19 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 8/20 - Worship
- 8/24 - Deacons Meeting
- 8/25 - Happy Seekers
- 8/27 - Worship
- 8/29 - Growth & Development Mtg



- 8/10 - Rev. Eileen Norrington's Birthday
- 8/10 - Harper Holmes' Birthday
- 8/14 - Norman Elam Sr.'s Birthday
- 8/18 - Rev. William & Elaine Flynn's
Anniversary
- 8/18 - Timothy Sundvall's Birthday
- 8/20 - Betty & Paul Capaldo's
Anniversary
- 8/23 - Liberty Hamilton's Birthday
- 8/26 - Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley's
Birthday
- 8/28 - Ron Holmes' Birthday
- 8/29 - Sean Rogers Birthday
- 8/30 - Gabriela Pinheiro's Birthday
- 8/30 - Petro Pinheiro's Birthday
- 8/31 - John Carroll's Birthday
- 8/31 - Audrey Sundvall's 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

Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250



2023

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