



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ* *November 2023*

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



Gratitude, Forgiveness, and Joy Refelctions from Reverend Karen

My wife had an emergency visit to the dentist because her teeth seemed to be crumbling. The dentist informed her that she is grinding her teeth at night so hard that it's causing them to break down. The dentist also told her that lately he has seen an increase in patients with the same problem. Grinding teeth seems to be a growing epidemic. Are we all so stressed that our anxiety is even expressed while we sleep? Wars, insurrection, antisemitism, racism, hate crimes, Christian Nationalism, mass shootings, earthquakes, hurricanes, and fires...our world is not as it should be. No wonder we are stressed, angry and fearful!

At various times in my life when I have been struggling, I have kept a gratitude journal. Each night before I went to sleep, I would write down 3 things I am grateful for. Sometimes I would do it first thing in the morning after a sleepless night of worry. When I take time to express gratitude, my outlook is uplifted. Sometimes it doesn't happen right away. Sometimes, when I am extremely sad, angry, or full of despair, all I can find to be grateful for is the assurance that the sun will come up in the morning—even if it's cloudy, the sun is still there. And that's enough. Eventually I can make a list of what I am thankful for and gradually my mood thaws like ice melting in the sunlight.

I have long recognized a connection between focusing on gratitude and feeling joy. What I am discovering anew is how learning forgiveness is also connected to gratitude and joy. I read this in the Daily Word (November/December 2023 p.24):

As long as I am holding on to thoughts that someone or something wronged me, I am in a prison of my own making. Instead of focusing on the way things should be or could have been, I focus instead upon the gifts and blessings that are mine in this moment. I let go of the heaviness of resentments, judgments, betrayals, and beliefs I've been carrying for too long. Forgiveness is a gift to myself—it's the key to my liberation. I rejoice in the glory and healing power of God's love within me. I surrender my troubled heart to the Christ within and soar on wings of love.

*Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37*his season of giving thanks, may our troubled hearts (and teeth!) be full of gratitude, forgiveness, and love!

Growth & Development

November is here, cooler weather and holidays are getting close. Our G&D team is very excited to share the success of our Hope fall festival. The church grounds were filled, participants were strolling through the vendor booths, kids of all ages were playing games and everyone was enjoying the music. Michele Wood was our emcee and she entertained everyone for hours, singing songs from multiple eras and performing special requests. It was an old fashion family day for our community members. Hopefully this can become a simple community family tradition for years to come.

Thanks to everyone's contribution, this was an extremely successful event, better turnout than I ever expected! So successful that there are already conversations on what's next and when are we going to do it again!



Book Club November 2023

During November, the Hope Book Club will be reading and discussing *Dusk, Night, Dawn - On Revival and Courage* by Anne Lamott. In her latest

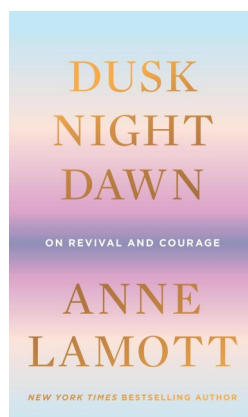
semi-autobiographical book, Anne Lamott writes an inspiring guide to restoring hope and joy in our lives. She approaches the questions:

“How can we cope as bad news piles up around us? Where do we start to get our world and joy

and hope and our faith in life itself back...with our sore feet, hearing loss, stiff fingers, poor digestion, stunned minds, broken hearts?”

Each section represents a different phase of life and the challenges that come with it. In the Dusk section, Lamott reflects on the inevitability of aging and the importance of accepting our flaws. The Night section deals with the darkness that we all experience at some point in our lives and how we can find hope in those moments. Finally, the Dawn section is about finding the courage to move forward and embrace life despite its difficulties.

Our discussion of *Dusk, Night, Dawn* will be held on zoom on Tuesday, November 28th at 1:30. Please join us. The zoom meeting ID is 845 6868 2100.





September 27, 2023

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www.sharingcenter.org

E.I.N. 59-1839108



On behalf of the Sharing Center of Central Brevard, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your recent donation of goods. Your generosity enables us to continue providing vital services to our community through our programs such as the Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, Shower Service, Basic Needs Client Services, Pathfinder Program, and our Children's Weekend Feeding Program.

As you may know, the Sharing Center is serving more people than ever before, with about 200 new clients on a monthly basis. As we recognize rapidly increasing needs, we hold ourselves to the highest standards to ensure we steward each and every gift entrusted to us. Your donation will help us continue to provide essential services, giving hope and practical resources to our neighbors in need here in Central Brevard.

We are honored to have you as a partner in **our mission to provide emergency assistance and guidance to those in the community struggling to obtain life's most basic needs**. Your support makes a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you again for your generous giving. We could not do this important work without you.

Sincerely,

David M. Brubaker
President/CEO

**Our Wheelbarrow Ministry was able to provide 110 items to the Sharing Center in the month of October.
Don't forget your donation when you come to worship!**

Dear Members and Friends of Hope,

Our congregation changes lives. The mission and ministry of our congregation engages our hearts- it's why we belong, why we volunteer, and why we give.

All of our outreach activities are planned and prepared by the leadership and staff who are deeply committed to becoming who it is God called us to be. The ministry and mission of our church takes place because of the spiritual and financial gifts our members and friends choose to share. These things are the resources that fuel our mission and yes, it does take money to provide these spiritual things.

Your decision to give a gift is the response to an invitation- a choice- but as a follower of Jesus, it really isn't an option! Based on what we received, we are encouraged to give: out of thanksgiving for what God has done and as a sign of faithfulness and commitment to be a part of the good things that God is continuing to do in our world. We have the gift of Jesus and we are invited to respond to what God has given us with our own generosity.

In the coming weeks, you will hear stories about how we as a congregation are responding to God's invitation to bring our gifts. Each of us will be challenged to take an even bolder step to invest our whole life into becoming the church God is urging us to become. We want to invite you to join us in this challenge to increase your financial gift in the coming year. It is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of our mission.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to our congregation. We ask that you return the pledge card by Sunday November 19th, Commitment Sunday. Pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary during the next 4 worship services. There will be a designated time on Sunday November 19, 2023 to bring the pledge cards forward to be blessed and to have our intentions consecrated. As always, these cards represent our best intentions based on what we know at the present time. They can, at any time, be adjusted, should your circumstances change.

These last few Sundays have been enriching and our worship together has been inspiring. Now the invitation is before us. How will we respond and allow God to use us and our resources to change lives?

See you Sunday!

The Stewardship Committee

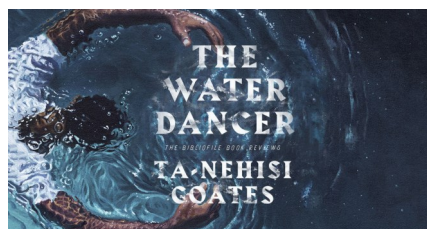
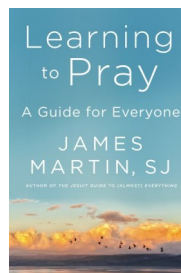
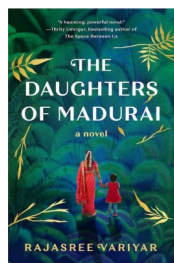
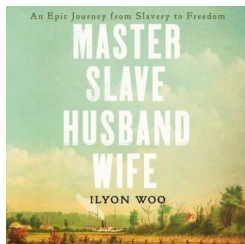


<p>For CHURCH RECORDS Envelope # _____ <small>(for office use)</small></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____ . <small>(date and year)</small></p> <p>I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church officer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Because of YOU our church changes lives.</p>	<p>For YOUR RECORDS</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ beginning _____ <small>(date and year)</small></p> <p>Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month</p> <p>Annual Total \$ _____</p>
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HOPE Book Club Reading List 2023 - 2024

- December You Don't Know What War Is: a diary of a young girl from Ukraine - Yeva Skalietska
- January Master Slave Husband Wife: an epic journey from slavery to freedom - Ilyon Woo
- February The Daughters of Madurai - Rajasree Variyar
- March Learning to Pray: a guide for everyone - James Martin
- April While Time Remains: a North Korean defector's search for freedom in America - Yeonmi Park
- May The Water Dancer - Ta-Nehisi Coates





Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services
321 636 0250

- 11/2 Christian Ed Comm. Mtg
- 11/4 Hope Ladies Lunch
- 11/5 Communion Worship
- 11/7 Trustees Meeting
- 11/8 Care Team Meeting
- 11/9 Christian Ed Meeting
- 11/9 Budget Meeting
- 11/10 Thrift Store
- 11/11 Thrift Store
- 11/12 Worship Service
- 11/13 Justice & Witness Meeting
- 11/14 Council Meeting
- 11/16 Stewardship Meeting
- 11/17 Thrift Store
- 11/18 Thrift Store
- 11/19 Worship Service
- 11/19 Potluck Thanksgiving
- 11/23 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
- 11/26 Worship Service
- 11/28 Book Club
- 11/28 Growth & Dev. Meeting
- 11/30 Deacons Comm. Mtg.

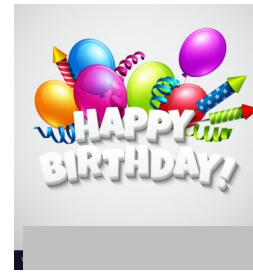
Ongoing Events at Hope

Coffee Hour

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

Theology on Tap

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm on Zoom I.D.
 321 636 0250



- 11/1 Mary Miceli
- 11/7 Ann Coburn
- 11/7 Jeremiah Elam
- 11/9 Melanie Goff
- 11/11 Jack Savoca
- 11/13 Kali Montague
- 11/15 Vonshelle Beneby
- 11/22 Ray Rood
- 11/24 Barbara Cain
- 11/27 Richard Sale
- 11/27 Peggy Hayes



11/1 Ray & Sally Rood

General revenue needed
 each month: \$9,864.25
 Total received in
 October \$11,857.43
 Neighbors in Need dona-
 tions: \$1,382.00. Congrat-
 ulations. We exceeded last
 year's total of \$1,121.00 by
 \$261.00!

This 'n That

Council is hosting a potluck dinner after worship on Nov. 19. Council is providing ham and turkey. We're asking the congregation to sign up for sides and desserts. A sign up sheet will be posted in the narthex on the bulletin board.

Deacons are looking for greeters for November and December. Deacons will offer a class in November for those interested in being greeters.

The Hanging of the Greens is December 2 at 9 am. We need volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



RaiseRightTM
by ShopWithScrip

Orders due by November 12th
Order Forms are located in the Narthex
Contact Cyndi Leonard for more information.



Gift Wrappers needed!

We are looking for people who like to wrap presents! Our Advent worship series is called “The Gift of Being Present.” We will cover the altar area with these wrapped gifts.

If this is something you like to do, we need you! Grab an empty box and do your magic, be creative, and have some fun. We have some empty boxes at church if you need one.

Please let me know if you would like to help with this important project. Our sanctuary will be beautiful



Thanksgiving Potluck

We have a wonderful tradition here at Hope Church. The Sunday before Thanksgiving we gather as a church family and share a meal. It's a loving way to share with some of our friends and members who may not have a place to go on Thanksgiving. So on Sunday November 19th we will continue this tradition. Members of the council will be providing the meat. We will have turkey and ham. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (lobby) so you can sign up to bring in your favorite side dishes and yummy desserts. In keeping with our desire to limit the use of plastics we ask you to please bring your own table setting.

Hope to see you there!

Blessings

Tonia Patterson

Moderator

