



Tidings of Hope

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.

Amen.



January 2024

Tidings of Hope published monthly by: **Hope United Church of Christ**

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

Thoughts from Reverend Karen Curtis Weakley



Merry Epiphany!

I know that's not a common thing to say but maybe we should! Epiphany is an underrated church season. Epiphany is when we seek God's revelation through Jesus. The wise men followed the light of a star to lead them to baby Jesus in the manger. Let's all be wise ones searching for Jesus! And how about if we too follow a star to deepen our faith....

Hope UCC has a tradition of picking a Star Word or a Star Gift on Epiphany Sunday. Let me remind you what a Star Gift is. The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper. I believe that the Holy Spirit gives you the perfect word as a guide and message for the new year. I encourage you to place your star word someplace where you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word. What message is God revealing to you through this word?

Here are a few ideas of how to use your star word for daily prayer:

Look up the definition of your word, even if it is a word you know well. You may even look into the etymology of the word and how its meaning has changed throughout history. If you drew a non-English word, do as much research as you can into the meaning of the word in its original culture.

What does this word remind you of? Does it recall any memories or experiences? How might God be speaking to you through this word?

See if you can find your word—or a synonym—in the Bible. What scripture passages can you find? How is the word used in these passages? Are there other scripture passages that remind you of your word?

Write or speak aloud a prayer using your word. (This is a fun challenge for children using the star words.)

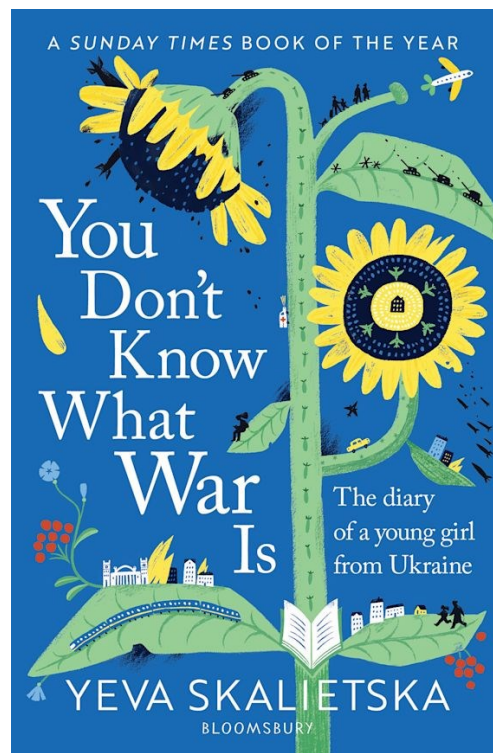
The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. May your star word also lead you to Jesus and to feel closer to God and enrich your faith.

May 2023 be a year filled with faith, fun and love!

Book Club

For the month of January, the Hope Book Club will discuss the book read in December, You Don't Know What War Is by Yeva Skalietsky and the January selection, Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo.

The December reading is a memoir, in diary form, of 12-year-old Yeva, a Ukrainian girl who lives with her grandmother in Kharkiv. She studied English at school and has written this record of how her family escaped the bombings. Yeva's diary entries begin on her birthday, 10 days before the war starts. Yeva describes how she and her grandmother seek safety across Ukraine and beyond. She describes her fear and panic as she hears explosions and sees missiles and tanks. Yeva doesn't witness any violence toward people, but she mentions casualties and a person who was killed by a bomb. The book includes a few black-and-white photos, including one of a bombed-out apartment building and others showing the destruction of Yeva's bedroom and kitchen in the apartment where she lived with her grandmother, neighborhood kids playing in a basement shelter, and happy photos of her before the war and after she finds refuge and a new school in Ireland. This is a short book and an easy read.

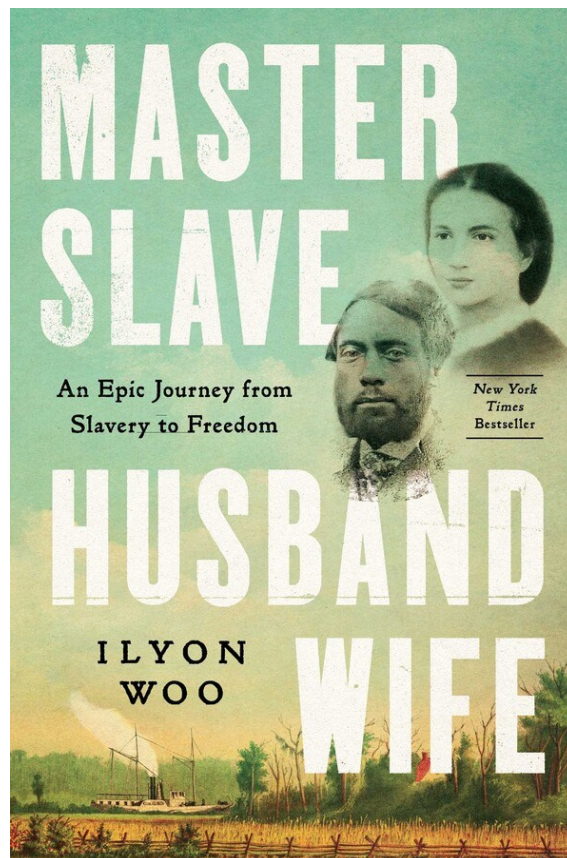


Book Club

The January reading is an account of an amazing enslaved couple who fled from Macon, GA in December, 1848. The wife, Ellen, who passed for White, disguised herself as a wealthy disabled man, with her husband, William accompanying her as “his” slave. They not only made a brilliant plan, but carried it off perfectly. No hiding, or fleeing at night, they rode openly on public transportation to Philadelphia, then Boston. They joined the abolitionist lecture circuit and, because of their public speaking, were forced to flee from the United States in 1850.

Every part of this book has been authenticated and shows a true love story along with a challenge, even today, to our belief in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Book Club will meet on zoom on January 23rd at 1:30 to discuss these two books. We would like to hear from other readers if a better time would be appropriate for you. Our zoom meeting ID is 845 6868 2100.



Growth & Development

Wow, December was a busy month, and now we are all focusing on plans for 2024.

Before we get into describing all of our upcoming plans, I wanted to first list our 2024 G&D official members. The official G&D committee consists of 6 members - Julie Becker, Ann Coburn, Michelle Fuller, Jonah Garcia, Marie Griffin and Denise Valdez-King. Please feel free to reach out to any one of us to provide feedback and suggestions. We also have unofficial members. All the congregation team members that help at every event, we could not pull off any of these activities without them! The goal of the G&D team is to provide an opportunity for more people to learn about our church and to hear our Pastor's message. Our approach, is to host additional community outreach programs that provides an opportunity for our community to learn about our church and meet some our members. So, here is what we have planned for 2024.

The Growth & Development team plans on continuing our ongoing Food Drives, Blood Drives, Game Nights, Festivals, Pride Parade, Cook-outs and monthly breakfasts, but in 2024 we are looking to do more of everything.

Let's start with Festivals, the plan is to host both a Spring and Fall Festival in 2024. We also are looking to start hosting a community market each month starting in February. The Community Market and Hope & Heart to be open the same day and hours on the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10:00 – 2:00. The Market and the festivals are both community outreach programs and fund-raising events. The plan for the monthly Community Market is to reach out to local vendors, rent out table space within our social hall and possibly outside and also have our cook-out open for food and refreshments.

On Sunday, January 14, the G&D team will be hosting breakfast after service. Please join us for breakfast casserole (egg-a-bake), biscuits & gravy and sausage.

Our first 2024 Game Night event is scheduled for Friday, January 26. Plan is to serve Chili at 6:00 PM and be ready to move around and meet new friends because we are playing Bunco.

Happy New Year!

Deacons Committee

Merry Epiphany and Happy New Year! Good tidings we bring!

We welcome two new deacons to our committee: Janice Steinmiller who has served on our committee in the past and one of our newest members Providencia (Pep) Alvarez. We offer thanks and gratitude to Rebecca Carroll who has served on the Deacons committee for several years. While she will no longer formally serve on the committee, we know she is always willing to help, and she's a fabulous liturgist.

Thanks to your generosity, Hope UCC has received \$540.00 in donations for the Church World Service Blankets during Advent. That means 54 people will receive the gift of warmth and security, a gift many of us take for granted. Last year, we received \$475.00 in donations.

We also learned that our technology grant is indeed a grant and not a matching grant, so we do not have to return, raise, or match funds, and we have just received the check for \$2,500.00 to put into designated funds for the technology/AV equipment.

On Sunday, January 21, after worship, we ask anyone who wishes to be a Sunday greeter to join us in the choir room in the back of the sanctuary to learn about this ministry of extravagant welcome and hospitality. You can also order logo shirts on that day.

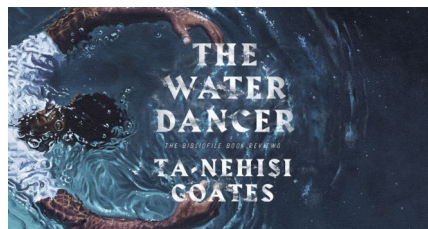
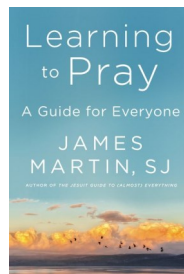
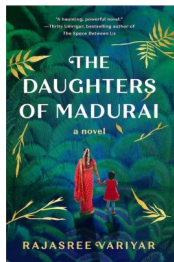
Please look for other opportunities to serve on Sunday. We have a bulletin board in the narthex with new sign-up sheets offering opportunities to be a Sunday liturgist, usher, greeter, and volunteer to host refreshments. Blessings and Peace!





HOPE Book Club Reading List 2024

- 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

- 1/2 Trustees 7PM
- 1/4 Christian Ed. 7PM
- 1/7 Communion Service 10AM
- 1/8 Justice & Witness 7PM
- 1/9 Council 6:45PM
- 1/10 Care Team 10:30AM
- 1/12 Thrift Store 10 AM
- 1/13 Thrift Store 10 AM
- 1/13 Community Market 10 AM
- 1/14 Worship Service 10AM
- 1/14 **Congregational Mtg. 11AM**
- 1/18 Stewardship Mtg. 7PM
- 1/19 Thrift Store 10 AM
- 1/20 Thrift Store 10AM
- 1/21 Worship Service
- 1/23 Book Club 1:30PM
- 1/23 Growth & Dev. 7PM
- 1/24 Theology on Tap 6:30PM
- 1/25 Deacons Mtg. 7PM
- 1/26 Game Night 6PM
- 1/27 Ladies Lunch 12PM
- 1/28 Worship Service



- 1/6 Charlie Pierron
- 1/12 Sam Kaschafsky
- 1/24 Janice Warrington
- 1/26 David Cadmus Sr.



- 1/1 Ron & Abby Holmes

Our Wheelbarrow Ministry was able to provide 70 items to the Sharing Center in the month of December. Don't forget your donation when you come to worship!

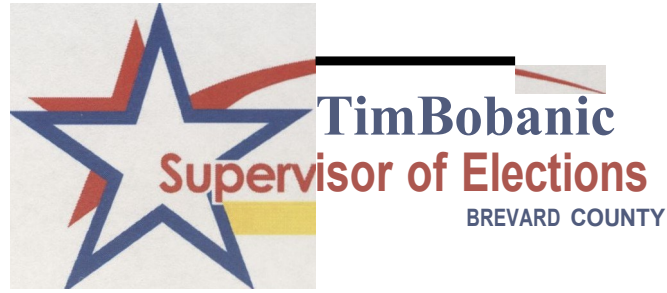
General revenue needed each month: \$9,864.25
Total received in December, \$15, 957.69

CWS-Blanket Fund \$540.00

Ongoing Events at Hope

Coffee Hour

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am



November 17, 2023

Mr. Paul Capaldo
Trustee
4680 Manchester Drive
Rockledge, FL 32955

Precinct(s): 224 - Hope United Church of Christ

Dear Mr. Capaldo:

Conducting elections requires a team effort to keep the multitude of moving parts working in unison. One of the essential functions in making elections look seamless is the strong partnership with our polling locations throughout Brevard.

We are grateful for the coordination and cooperation you and your team provide to help make the voting experience for Brevard's voters so pleasant. There are so many things we must consider when selecting polling locations and we genuinely appreciate the good working relationship we have with your facility.

On behalf of myself and my entire team, we thank you for being an essential role in Brevard's elections. We look forward to a continued partnership for years to come. If I can ever be of service, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Bobanic", written over a light-colored background.

Tim Bobanic, MFCEP
Brevard County Supervisor of Elections

Mailing Address

PO Box 410819
Melbourne, FL 32941-0819
Toll Free: (800) 579-4780

Supervisor of Elections - Titusville

400 South Street
Suite IF
Titusville, FL 32780-7610
Telephone: (321) 264-6740
Fax: (321) 264-6741

Supervisor of Elections - Viera

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Suite 105
Viera, FL 32940-6605
Telephone: (321) 633-2124
Fax: (321) 633-2130

Supervisor of Elections - Melbourne

1515 Sarno Road
Building A
Melbourne, FL 32935-5293
Telephone: (321) 255-4455
Fax: (321) 255-4401

Supervisor of Elections - Palm Bay

450 Cogan Drive SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909-6869
Telephone: (321) 952-6328
Fax: (321) 952-6332

(321) 290-VOTE (8683)
VoteBrevard.gov

This 'n That
Shepherd's Fund

We need your help. Hope UCC has a special fund to help church members in financial need called, The Shepherd's Fund. We have assisted people with rent, utilities, gas, food, and other important needs. Requests are confidential between the pastor and a deacon. Our funds have been depleted but the needs continue. Please consider a generous donation to give a helping hand to those who are struggling financially. Our Angel Tree Donations will go towards the Shepherd's Fund. The Angel Tree will stay up through Epiphany (until February 14th) but you can donate to the Shepherd's Fund any time. Just designate, "Shepherd's Fund" on your check made out to Hope UCC.

Let our New Year's resolution be this:

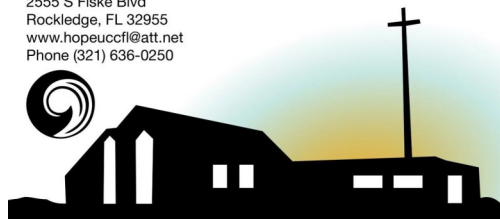
*We will be there for one another as fellow
members of humanity,
in the finest sense of the word.*

*— Göran Persson, former Prime Minister
of Sweden*



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



Hope Church has a lot of ministry going on. We are a praying church and we know the power of prayer. One of our ministries is the Prayer Chain. We have a dedicated group of people who pray for people regularly. If you know someone or you are in need of prayer you just let us know. We do ask that you get permission from the person first and we do share last names if the person approves. It is confidential unless the person says otherwise. At this time I am the administrator of the Prayer Chain. You can contact me with the information and the prayer chain is sent. We have had people say they do feel our prayers and we feel honored to participate in this ministry. We always welcome new members so if you are called to participate please let me know. I fondly call us Prayer Warriors and we love what we do.

My contact information is:

Tonia Patterson

321-394-6287 (Feel free to text or call)
toniabandit@aol.com



*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman, "The Work of Christmas"

Moderators Message

Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to another exciting year with you. I want to thank everyone for your support as we traveled together in 2023. We had our frustrations and growing pains as families do and I believe we became a stronger church family because of them. I'm so proud of this church family and blessed to be a part of it. We accomplished so much last year. A wonderful new Thrift Store was born that we named Hope n' Heart. Not only did we raise funds to help the church but we found a new way to serve our community. We laughed and cried with shoppers and shared our faith with them. We participated in Space Coast Pride, and started Family Game Nights. We had an Easter egg hunt and a fantastic Fall Festival.

All of these efforts helped share the message that we are a soft place to land where you can be who you are and know whose you are. People came to visit us and some even became new members in our family. It takes a lot of time and talent to do all of this and this little church is the church that could! Many hands make the work fun and productive.

Our church leadership officers and committees continue to be dedicated and hard working. We are still searching desperately for a Treasurer. There are still openings on some of our committees. Christian Education, Stewardship, and Justice & Witness all have openings. There are many ways to serve if you can't make a commitment to be on a committee. You can be an usher or greeter. Help with refreshments after church, Lots of fix up and cleanup projects are always available. Sing in the choir or play an instrument. Our Care team is always happy to have new members. Talk to me anytime and I'll point you in the right direction to meet the people to learn how you can serve.

Hope church has supported the Central Brevard Sharing Center for many years. Donations of food and health supplies are always needed. For the next five Sundays we are focusing on soup as the Christian Education committee gets us ready for Souper Bowl Sunday. On Super Bowl Sunday Feb 11th we will also be taking up a cash collection. The cash and food donations all go to the Sharing Center.

Our church also is called the Peanut Butter Church, We donate jars of peanut butter to Cocoa High school. This school has a very high rate of food insecure youth. The peanut butter is given out to students by the social worker at the school.

We also supply items to the Humane Society as we have a lot of people in our church that love and care about animals.

There is a container in the Narthex for these donations.

So as you can see we have many opportunities to serve our community. Thank you in advance for being a servant to those in need.

Blessings

Tonia Patterson

321-394-6287

toniabandit@aol.com