



# *Tidings of Hope*



## *February 2024*

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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

## Valentines, Ashes, Lint, and Balloons

This year Valentines Day begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. I realize that most people are much more familiar with the celebration of Valentine's Day than with Lent or Ash Wednesday. So, what is Lent? Just for fun, I googled Lent and found this interesting definition:

Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, devoted to fasting and penitence. Not to be confused with, *lent meaning borrow as in "I lent a book" Or Lint fabric with a raised nap; fluff, minute shreds of yarn (as in the stuff in the dryer trap?!)* Lint and Lent...Have those 2 things really ever been confused?

Wikipedia describes Lent as "the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry."

Many Christians give something up for the 40 days of Lent to remind them of Jesus' sacrifices and to make room in their lives for spiritual pursuits. I know people who give up chocolate or soft drinks or beef during Lent. I have a friend who fasts one day a week throughout the 6 weeks of Lent. All of those are wonderful disciplines but when we look at the scriptures, there is so much more. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.

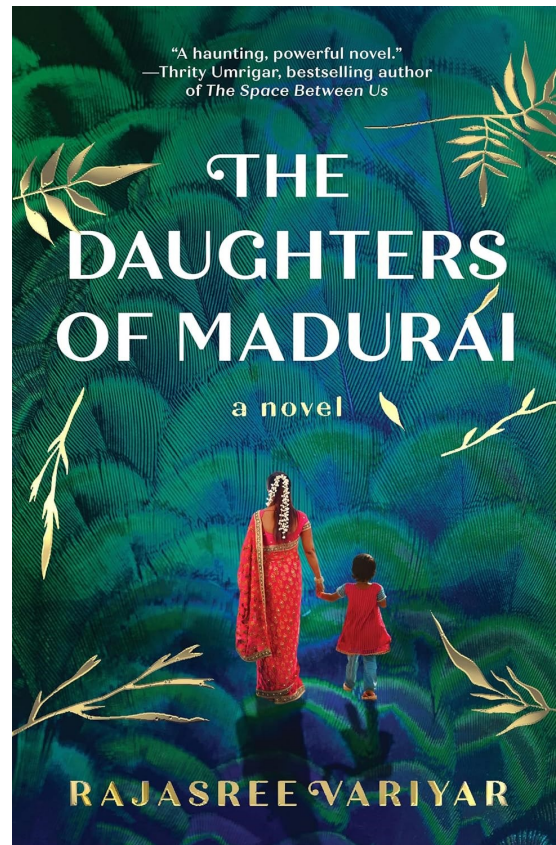
The worship series for Lent is called, **What r u up 2?** Throughout the season of Lent, we will focus on what we are up to in Jesus' name. How are we following Jesus by lifting up the dream of God of abundant life for everyone? Where do we lift up the healing love of Christ in the world? Each week we will send up healing affirmations into the world. This Lent will be uplifting!

Ash Wednesday—Store Up  
Week 1—Come Up  
Week 2—Take Up  
Week 3—Raise Up  
Week 4—Light Up  
Week 5—Lift Up  
Week 6—Sit Up  
Holy Week—Up Ended  
Easter Sunday—Look Up

We will be decorating the sanctuary with things that encourage us to look up...balloons, paper lanterns, and clouds. You can sponsor a paper lantern or balloon in honor or in memory of someone by donating \$5 (or any amount!) to off-set expenses. We will display the names. Let's get up to something good!

## Book Club

The Daughters of Madurai For February, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss *The Daughters of Madurai* by Rajasree Variyar. This book is a heartrending family story and a page-turning mystery about the secrets we must keep to protect those we love. It explores the harrowing issue of female infanticide, but it's also a universal story about the bond between mothers and daughters, the strength of women, and the power of love in overcoming all obstacles. This book is about a courageous woman who manages to rise above her horrific fate as a young woman in rural India in the 1990s. Here, girls are a burden and a curse, and it's common practice for newborn daughters to be killed. This gently-told yet tragic story moves between Janani's life in Madurai in 1992, and the present, in which her child tries to piece together the past her mother never talks about. This beautifully written story is awash with sensory experiences of Madurai – the sounds, smells and colors – and encompasses abject cruelty, the caste system, forbidden love and acceptance. We hope you will join us in reading this story and discussing your response to this exposure of the lives of women in India. We will meet on zoom on Tuesday, February 27th at 1:30. The meeting ID is 845 6868 2100.



## Growth & Development

**Community market** plans have started. It's official, we are going to host a monthly community market. The Community Market and Hope & Heart to be open the same day and hours; the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10:00 – 2:00. The grand opening will be on March 9. The plan is to reach out to local vendors, and rent out table space within our social hall, and possibly, eventually outside. We also plan to have our Hope Cook-Out open for burgers, hot dogs and refreshments. Donations raised by the community market will be applied to future events including Hope Festivals and participation in Space Coast Pride. Some of the funds raised will go to our Hope congregation Shephard's Fund. A volunteer signup sheet will be placed in the Narthex. Please help us make this endeavor successful!

**G&D Breakfast** was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Biscuits & Gravy, French Toast Sticks and Egg-A-Bake was served. It was great turn out and we raised \$71.00 toward future events. Our next breakfast will be held on February 11! We plan to delight you with Ham & Cheese Slab Pies, in addition to other stick-to-your-ribs munchies.

In **Game Night** news, on January 26, we played Bunco and served Chili (Turkey, Beef, Vegetarian, and Michigan White), and lots of other delightful accompaniments. It was a perfect combination, as that night was cold for Florida and the chili was hot! We had over 30 participants, raised \$51.00 in donations for future G&D events and \$13.00 for our Hope Shepherds Fund. Our next game night will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The game nor dinner has not been decided yet. What do you think about a Baked Potato Bar? What games do you want to play? Please reach out to any of our G&D members with suggestions. All ideas are welcome! Come join us and bring some friends!

The G&D team consists of both official and unofficial members! You can help with one game night or any other project without committing to becoming a committee member. Bring your skills and enthusiasm to make our events more fun!

Thanks,  
G&D Committee (Julie Becker, Ann Coburn, Michelle Fuller, Jonah Garcia, Marie Griffin and Denise Valdez-King)



## Girl Scout Cookie News

Our church is providing a service to our local Girl Scout Troops. Our church social hall will be a Cookie Cupboard! The local troops will be coming Monday through Wednesday to pick up their cookie orders. They began using our Social Hall on January 29<sup>th</sup> and will be using it through February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have an order form in the Narthex if anyone wishes to order cookies. Just fill out the form and place your money in the envelope provided. Your cookies will be delivered the following Sunday. This is a great opportunity to witness to the community. Each troop will be donating a box of cookies to the church so we will be able to enjoy them at refreshment time at church on a future date. If you have any questions, contact our moderator. Tonia Patterson 321-394-6287 text or call. [toniabandit@aol.com](mailto:toniabandit@aol.com) email.



# girl scouts cookie nutrition

2022 Cookie Lineup | more at [cheatdaydesign.com](http://cheatdaydesign.com)

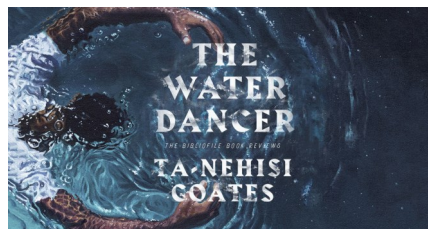
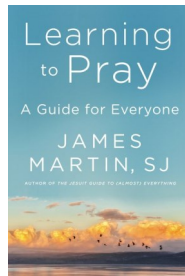
 <p><b>Adventurefuls™</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 130 Calories   6g Fat   17g Carbs 11g Sugar   &lt;1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Caramel Chocolate Chip</b> Serving Size: 3 Cookies 170 Calories   8g Fat   23g Carbs 12g Sugar   2g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Caramel deLites®/Samoas®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 140 Calories   6g Fat   19g Carbs 12g Sugar   &lt;1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Do-si-dos®/PB Sandwich</b> Serving Size: 3 Cookies 160 Calories   7g Fat   22g Carbs 11g Sugar   3g Protein</p>
 <p><b>Girl Scout S'mores®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 150 Calories   7g Fat   21g Carbs 10g Sugar   2g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Lemonades®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 150 Calories   7g Fat   20g Carbs 9g Sugar   1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Lemon-Ups®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 140 Calories   6g Fat   20g Carbs 7g Sugar   1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>PB Patties®/Tagalongs®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 140 Calories   8g Fat   13g Carbs 8g Sugar   3g Protein</p>
 <p><b>Shortbread®/Trefoils®</b> Serving Size: 5 Cookies 160 Calories   7g Fat   21g Carbs 7g Sugar   2g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Thin Mints®</b> Serving Size: 4 Cookies 160 Calories   7g Fat   22g Carbs 10g Sugar   1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Toast-Yay!™</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 140 Calories   6g Fat   21g Carbs 10g Sugar   1g Protein</p>	 <p><b>Toffee-tastic®</b> Serving Size: 2 Cookies 140 Calories   7g Fat   19g Carbs 7g Sugar   &lt;1g Protein</p>

Certain cookies have two names because they're produced by two different bakers. Nutrition may vary slightly depending on the specific source.



## **HOPE Book Club Reading List 2024**

- 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

2/1	Theology on Tap
2/4	Communion Worship
2/6	Trustees Mtg.
2/8	Theology on Tap
2/9	Thrift Store
2/10	Thrift Store
2/10	Community Market
2/11	Worship Service
2/11	Souper Bowl Sunday
2/12	Justice & Witness
2/13	Council Mtg.
2/14	Ash Wednesday
2/15	Theology on Tap
2/16	Thrift Store
2/17	Thrift Store
2/18	Worship Service
2/18	Greeters Mtg.
2/19	Tech Team Mtg.
2/22	Deacons Mtg.
2/23	Game Night
2/24	Women on the Move
2/25	Worship Service
2/27	Growth & Development Mtg
2/29	Theology on Tap



2/2	Eddie Hamilton
2/5	Denise Valdez-King
2/6	Dawn Kaschafsky
2/13	Angie Hamilton
2/18	Christi Scheirer
2/21	Jeannie Roberts
2/22	Heaven Elam
2/23	Beth Kaschafsky
2/27	Joyce Gordon

Don't forget your donation to the  
Wheelbarrow Ministry when you come  
to worship!

### Ongoing Events at Hope

#### Coffee Hour

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am

General revenue needed each  
month: \$9,864.25  
Total received in  
January, \$10,515.48

## RaiseRight Fundraiser

RaiseRight is a fundraising program that gives a percentage of funds back to our church. To join is really simple, use a search engine and type RaiseRight. It will show a site that says RaiseRight with Great Lakes Scrip Center directly below. Click and install, then join Hope Church using the following enrollment code **5CLADL9436683**. Once in the site you can purchase E cards to be used instantly. I purchase cards while in the checkout line and use at the register.

This year we want to promote more opportunities for people to participate in this fundraiser. So, below I am providing some companies that use E cards only, and some that use E card or can have a physical gift card sent directly to your home, along with percentage provided. Give it a try. There is a .29 fee applied per order.

### **Physical Card only**

Great Clips- 8%

### **E Cards Only**

Amazon- 1.7%.

Lowe's- 4%.

Winn Dixie-4%

Chewy- 5%

Walgreens -5%

Kohl's- 7%

Cracker Barrel- 8%

Yankee Candle-8%

Chipotle-9%

### **Both physical or E cards**

Target- 2.5%

Gordon Food Service- 4%

Home Depot- 4%

Starbucks- 4.5%

Petsmart- 5%

CVS- 6%

Jiffy Lube- 8%

AMC Theater- 8%

Olive Garden- 8%

Build a Bear- 8%

Texas Roadhouse- 8%

This is just a small sample of what is available. Take a few minutes and browse through the site. You may find your favorite places are listed. Why not help the church while doing your daily task





## Women on the Move



Hello Women of Hope UCC, Our women's' lunch group started many years ago. Originally it was named, Ladies Lunch. We changed the name a couple of years ago to Women On The Move. We meet each month on the 4th Saturday of the month at different local restaurants. Each month the women attending select a different restaurant to join together for lunch. It is essential that we take reservations so we can let the restaurant to expect us. We usually are 10-15 of us. The purpose of Women On The Move is simple - we have lunch and chat. No agenda. We support each other and stay away from negative talk or gossip. I make the reservations each month, send out the emails and reminders. You are welcome to invite a neighbor, friend or relative. Women only, please.

If you think you are not on the Women On The Move mailing list and would like to be on the mailing list, or if you are on it and wish not to be, please email me and let me know at: [Mellgoff@aol.com](mailto:Mellgoff@aol.com).

Melanie

[Mellgoff@aol.com](mailto:Mellgoff@aol.com)

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](mailto:toniabandit@aol.com)



## DEACON'S CORNER

The Deacons Corner In a previous article, deacons highlighted the meaning of the word “deacon.” It comes from the Greek word “diakonos” meaning “servant” or “minister”- “one who is sent by the authority of another.” Here are a few of the duties we perform: We prepare communion elements, assist the pastor with all services, help plan the liturgical calendar, collect and count the offering, organize liturgists, acolytes, greeters, and ushers, coordinate with the tech team, oversee the ethics committee, and we provide refreshments the 4th Sunday of each month. We rely on our congregation to help us with these duties, and we have sign up sheets in the narthex on the bulletin board for those who wish to assist us. If you see a blank, please sign up. We will show you what to do. It is a great opportunity to find out more about the church and meet the congregation. We conducted a greeters informational class on January 21 and will have another on February 18 after worship in the choir room. All are welcome. If you want a logo shirt, we are currently taking orders after worship until Feb. 11. See Julie Johnson for details. On February 11, we encourage you to stay after worship to help prepare the sanctuary for Lent. The theme is “What R U Up 2?” What are you up to in the name of Jesus Christ? We will be decorating with arrows, clouds, hot air balloons, and paper lanterns. The message will focus on positive affirmation. Creativity is welcome! Ash Wednesday service is February 14, at 6:30, in the sanctuary. If you are unable to attend, we will have ashes to go for those who wish to receive them. On February 25, we will have a dessert- walk fundraiser for the Shepherd's Fund in the social hall along with refreshments. It is a takeoff on the old-fashioned cake walk, but we expanded it to include any dessert. We need bakers to help us with this event. Participants will make a \$2.00 donation for each time they enter the walk, and winners will receive a dessert. Speaking of refreshments, we have a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Anyone can provide refreshments. If you wish, add your name to a group that is already providing refreshments and let them know what you are contributing. As you can see, we have many ways to serve.

Send us a picture of where you keep your Star Word and we'll share it in our next edition of Tidings!  
hopeuccfl@att.net

