

November 2017

Hope United Church of Christ

November Newsletter



2555 Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955
321-636-0250

www.hopeucc.com
Email: hopeuccfl@att.net

Sundays at Hope

9:00 am

All Sunday School

10:00 am

Worship Service

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Celestine Slater-
Brooks

Organist

Susan Santi

Office Administrator

Katie Guilford

Treasurers

Doug Sphar

Mary Sphar

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing"-- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Friends of God in Christ,

Hope UCC is at a place of transition with my ending ministry among you. The most important thing I believe that must be communicated to you at this time is that it is not your fault. There are many factors that brought us to this point, which I can share with you. I am available to sit and talk with you during office hours on Wednesdays 4-5 or Thursdays from 1-3.

It is my prayer that we will be able to savor the time we have left together by enjoying the Congregational Picnic, the Thanksgiving potluck, the Advent and Christmas Season, the New Year, and of course WORSHIP. Every one of you belong to this Church community. You are needed as we transition together. We must lift up and encourage one another in the faith, the love, and the hope we have found in this community. The greatest gift you can give to one another is your presence.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, let us offer thanks and gratitude to God for all God has done through us and among us this year. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Celeste



Nov. Sundays

Communion

11/5, 10:00 am

Stewardship Meeting

11/5, 11:30 am

Logo Sunday

11/12

Communion

11/19, 10:00 am

Christian Ed.

11/19, 11:30 am

Thanksgiving Potluck

10/15, 11:30 am

Christmas Fund

11/26, 10:00 am

Our Fall Yard Sale was held on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 27 & 28th. It was the grandest ever. Karen Lehr chaired it again for the fifth year and it has gotten bigger each year. Many volunteers contributed items and food, but especially their time for 2 weeks setting up... too many to mention. Thanks everyone. Our sale has netted \$4,604.52 for Hope UCC. We owe a special thanks to Karen who is retiring as chair of this big fundraiser but she is standing by to help her successor next Spring.

Council Clips

October 2017

Council: The Council announces the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon to be held on Sunday, November 19th after the worship service. The Council will provide the turkey, ham and beverages. There will be a sign-up sheet for folks to sign up to bring side dishes and desserts.

The Treasurer reported that the total income for September was \$470 over budget in spite of missing a Sunday due to Hurricane Irma. Expenses exceeded income by \$2,118 in September. The total income year-to-date is \$5,395 over budget and year-to-date income exceeded expenses by \$9,722.

Stewardship: The Time, Talent and Skills Surveys will be given to the Nominating Committee to help identify individuals for open spots on committees.

Trustees: Trustees would like to remind people who want to use the Social Hall or Sanctuary that they must fill out a request form that is found in the binder on the shelf over the secretary's computer. This applies to members and non-members. By doing so, double-booking can be avoided.

Trustees have changed the sign on what was the Men's Restroom to a Family Restroom sign. There is now a lock on the door to provide additional privacy if needed.

Hygiene Products Drive

We've all seen on the news the devastation in Puerto Rico, the Florida Keys, and other hurricane-afflicted regions. As conditions worsen, many families are forced to flee their homes and relocate to safer areas. Brevard Public Schools has already received 80 student refugees as a result of this exodus. That number is expected to rise exponentially over the next few weeks.

As these children try to adjust to their new environment, they are faced with numerous challenges. Many have had to leave behind the majority of their belongings. Their families are struggling with unforeseen financial burdens as they work to rebuild their lives. Meanwhile, the children are faced with the anxiety and uncertainty of trying to fit into a new school and a new community.



Nov. Birthdays

Agnes Schieber
11/6

Ann Coburn
11/7

Melanie Goff
11/9

Lee Keillor
11/9

Ray Rood
11/22

Barbara Cain
11/24

Richard Sale
11/27

Nov. Anniversaries

Ray & Sally Rood
11/1

Pastor Celeste's
Ordination
11/10

Do You Know???

This person has chaired our Yard Sale twice a year for 5 years

Karen Lehr

The Supply Zone is planning to provide backpacks filled with school supplies and other necessities directly to these students.

Growth and Development has agreed to host a drive to collect hygiene products starting Sunday, November 5th and continuing through November 26th. A bin will be in the narthex for any items you would like to donate. Thank you!

Getting to Know You

Simone LeDay and Denise King are planning their wedding for June, 2018. They are expecting many members of their family to attend. This will be a huge undertaking involving travel from around the United States as they have diverse backgrounds.



Cathrine Simone LeDay was born in Monterey, California while Denise King was born in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Simone's father was a Sergeant 1st class in the Army. Her mom was from France. Simone had 12 brothers and sisters, but 2 have passed. She now has 39 nieces and nephews. Her only sibling who lives nearby is her "baby sister" who lives in Jacksonville. Her son, John Paul, who was adopted when he was only 2 weeks old, has a daughter Aleigha.

Denise's father was also in the military. He was in the Air Force in the Korean War, then worked as a civilian with the space industry. When the Apollo blew up in the 70s, he was laid off and decided to work as a carpenter in Mims and eventually in Melbourne. He died just 2 years ago. Denise's mom died in 1999. Denise has a twin sister who lives in Eustis, FL. She also had a brother who passed in May. She has 1 niece and 1 nephew. Her daughter, Courtney, has two children, Jade and Emilie. She also has a son, Joseph.

Most of their families will travel here for the wedding.

Simone's family, following her father's service in the Army, travelled to France, Germany, Texas, and California. Simone graduated from West Moore High School in Daly City, CA. She also



Wheelbarrow Ministry

Jan - Canned Fruit

Feb - Cereal

Mar - Pasta

Apr - Spaghetti
Sauce

May - Instant Mashed
Potatoes

Jun - Dried Beans

Jul - Peanut Butter

Aug - Jelly & Jam

Sep - Canned Meats

Oct - Shampoo,
Shaving Cream,
Deodorant,
Disposable Razors

Nov - Cranberry
Sauce

Dec - Rice

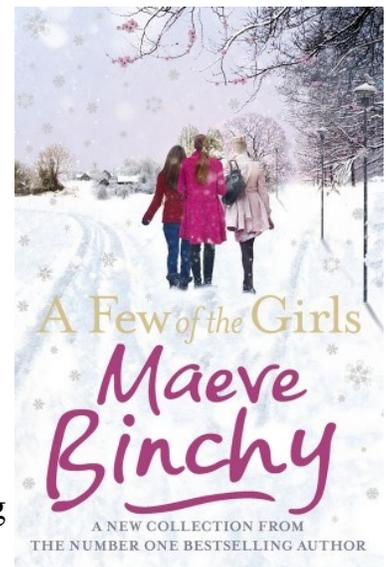
We've received 254 units of shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, and disposable razors. Please visit the Sharing Center website at www.sharingcenter.org for more information about the Sharing Center.

studied learning and education, then criminology and justice, and then attended business college. She moved to Oklahoma and was a unit supply specialist for 2 years in the Army. Simone has been a recovering addict for 10 years and she is proud of that accomplishment. She also worked in Publix in Orlando and Merritt Island. During that time she has been a meat cutter, worked in customer service, and as office staff. She has retired on disability.

Denise grew up in Mims and graduated from Astronaut High School. She studied business administration and worked in bookkeeping at the Miracle City Mall. For a while she was a stay-at-home mom. She now works for Health First in Rockledge. Simone and Denise enjoy going on cruises and camping. Denise especially enjoys saltwater fishing and being outdoors. Simone enjoys riding her motorcycle and practicing music on the keyboard and guitar. Both sing in the choir when possible, but Simone is usually busy running the a/v system. In addition, they have 2 cats about 4 years old, and 2 dogs, 7 and 8 years old.

Amazingly, Simone says Hope UCC is her first church. They are both active at Hope and they have made themselves integral to our worship and fellowship. Welcome.

In December, **Hope's Book Club** will read and discuss Maeve Binchy's, *A Few of the Girls*. Her work is filled with wisdom and common sense and also a sharp, often witty voice that is insightful and reaches out to readers around the world and of all ages. She shows us that times may have changed, but people often remain the same: they fall in love, sometimes unsuitably; they have hopes and dreams; they have deep, long-standing friends whose secrets are shared; they go on holidays and celebrate new jobs . . .



A Few of the Girls is a collection of the very best of her short story writing, stories that were written over the decades—some published in magazines, others for friends as gifts, many for charity benefits. The stories are all filled with the warmth and humor that have always been an essential part of Maeve Binchy's appeal. This is

November at a Glance

Choir Practice
11/1, 5:00 pm

Pastoral Relations
11/2, 10:00 am

Happy Seekers
11/3, 10:30 am

Trustee Committee
11/7, 7:00 pm

Choir Practice
11/8, 5:00 pm

Happy Seekers
11/10, 10:30 am

Church Picnic
11/11, 10-2pm

Care Team
11/14, 5:30 pm

Church Council
11/14, 6:30 pm

Choir Practice
11/15, 5:00 pm

Growth & Development
11/16, 10:00 am

Happy Seekers
11/17, 10:30 am

Tidings Deadline
11/20

Choir Practice
11/22, 5:00 pm

Happy Seekers
11/24, 10:30 am

Budget Committee
11/28, 10:00 am

a great book to pick up for short periods of reading between other activities. Please come to our discussion and share your favorite selection. The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 5th at 1:30.

UCC Fall Gathering

I was honored to serve as a delegate to the Florida Conference of the UCC Fall Gathering held in Daytona Beach October 13-14. It was a couple of firsts for me: attending a statewide conference, and also serving as a delegate. The conference was well-attended and jam-packed with opportunities for learning and for meeting others who share the same interests and callings.

The keynote speaker was Molly Baskette, author of several books and senior pastor of First Church Berkeley, CA. She is a compelling speaker, and brought the wisdom shared in two of her books, *Real Good Church* and *Standing Naked Before God*. She has been often asked about the perception that the church is dying, and how to rectify that. She encouraged us to take another look at what we mean by a dying church, acknowledging that many churches are in danger of closing the doors of their physical structure because they do not meet current needs. She says that nevertheless, contemporary society is thirsty for spiritual growth. She pointed out that the Millennial generation wants to participate in actions for social change, and wants to see results from their efforts. They aren't interested in sitting in a building.

A key questions she posed was, "what are things the church can give us that secular society cannot?" "Participatory transcendence" is the answer that stuck in my mind. She urged us to "call people to a hero's journey."

Much of the conference focused on issues of justice. I attended two related workshops, the first titled, "Social Justice: Tactics and Techniques for a Post-Modern Church," led by Rev. Andy Bachman, Minister for Education, Outreach and Justice at UCC Gainesville. He emphasized that youth ministries often lead into social justice work, and that self-created interpretations of life and reality compete with societal-historical narratives, and that the most compelling story wins. We in the church must become great story-tellers, addressing the questions WHY, HOW, and WHAT. For UCC, the WHY is "all

Choir Practice
11/29, 5:00 pm

THANKS AGAIN

Two months ago our church bulletin contained a note of thanks from the needy family you helped in Mims, by providing groceries for their family. Here is an update from them: The family is now down to its core of single father and four children, as the nieces and nephews have been able to return to their parents. Mike, the father, has obtained scholarships to a Christian school in Titusville for two of his daughters, while his son continues in public school. My little charge, who is 16 months old, attends daycare. I wish the law permitted me to share a picture of her with you; she is so cute! The last time I was at their home, I noticed that the cabinets were still well-stocked – thanks to the generosity of this congregation, and every time I visit the family Mike iterates his gratitude for what you did. It helped the family at a time when they really needed, it. God bless you all!

Ann Coburn

are welcome, and all people are children of God." The HOW is answered by BE THE CHURCH. The WHAT is up to each church to discern what justice issues are most pertinent in its setting, and what the church feels passionate about.

Rev. Bachman also pointed out the difference between justice and compassion. Compassion may lead to giving Christmas gifts to local schoolchildren, but justice looks to root causes of why the children stay in poverty. Justice seeks to put power into the hands of the people it desires to help, rather than keeping the power and feeling benevolent. In this example, the church would give the money to the parents to buy gifts for the children, empowering the family.

The other workshop I attended was titled, "Called to Troubled Waters: Faith in the Public Square," led by Sandy Sorensen, Director of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries in the Washington, D.C. office of UCC. She first defined politics as the way we order our lives together, and therefore something impossible to avoid. The goal is therefore to be political but not partisan. Our current realities call the church to be active on a local and national level in working for change. Christians are not to expect to be comfortable, but to challenge the status quo. Look what happened to the prophets! The key in speaking prophetically is to do so from a position of love for the people, not judgement.

Last but not least, I was able to participate in a unanimous vote to make the Florida Conference the first in the nation to become WISE, which stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaging with the many of us impacted by mental illness. The UCC Mental Health Network sees the WISE program as justice work!!!! I feel like two of my loves just got married!

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Hayes





Puerto Rico

Thank you to all those that helped donate items for those in Puerto Rico. We collected toilet paper, wipes, diapers, candles, gloves, masks, water, food and other items that are going to provide some assistance. I delivered the last of the items to Coconuts on the Beach the week of October 9th. A truck is picking up all donations and transporting them to a warehouse on Eau Galle. The items are being load on trucks and then will be transferred to ships in the Miami area and heading out to Puerto Rico. It's so comforting that we as a community are able to come together and help those in need whether here in our Church, the neighborhood, or those across many miles. Lets continue to keep them in our prayers as they continue to work on rebuilding and regaining the stability they need. Again thank you all and God Bless.

Cyndi Leonard

Poinsettias and Blankets

During the month of November there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to buy a poinsettia or donate a CWS blanket in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one for Christmas. A list of the donations will be placed in our Christmas bulletin. Each poinsettia or blanket will be \$15. Poinsettias will be placed on the altar just before Christmas and, if you decide to purchase one, you will be able to take yours home after the Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th.

Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For many years, our church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world. What difference can a blanket make? A blanket can provide warmth to a victim of a flood or fire or serve as bedding to a guest in a homeless shelter or be a gift of welcome to a newly arrived refugee or migrant worker. And last year blankets made a difference in the lives of families living in Colorado'S rugged and rural San Luis Valley. In a remote area of the San Juan Mountains called "the fiats," many homes don't have running water or electricity. During the winter, when temperatures drop to life-threatening lows, many of these families heat their homes using only firewood. Often their firewood runs out before the winter ends. That's where our help comes in. Because of our support of the CWS Blankets Program, Church World Service provides blankets to many organizations and nonprofits, including La Puente, a mission that provides services to the families living in "the fiats." At the beginning of last winter, Robert Lockwood, one of the case managers for the Rural Outreach Initiative, delivered the blankets to these families. The warm, wool CWS Blankets were a welcomed gift. Robert, the caseworker who delivered the blankets said, "... we are grateful for the support of Church World Service as we could not do what we do without your continued generosity and belief in our mission. Thank you ... "

This Christmas our church has an opportunity to provide hope to many families. Watch for the sample blanket on display in the Narthex and pick up an envelope if you want, or place your \$15 payment with the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please see one of the Deacons.

Hope UCC Church Picnic

The Hope UCC Council and Committees invite you to attend the Hope UCC church pot luck picnic.

When? Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.

(Time includes set-up and clean up).

Where? Ballard Park in Melbourne at Pavilion 8

(maps will be provided)

Who? Members and friends of Hope UCC

Why? To celebrate being a family of faith and to have fun

What to bring? Sunscreen, hats, a dish to share, lawn chairs, and outdoor games.

Sign- up sheets will be available on the Greeters' table in the narthex for donations of the following:

Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, ice, paper napkins and plates, disposable drinking cups, and plastic forks, knives, and spoons. We expect 35-60 people.

We also need volunteers to cook hot dogs and hamburgers. (charcoal grills are provided at the pavilion).

If you want to bring and supervise games or activities, that would be a blessing. Please sign up!

(suggestions: bubbles for little kids, bean bag toss, face painting, and relay races).

This is a waterfront park with a boat ramp, tennis courts, playground, and restroom facilities.

If you bring recreational water craft, be sure to have the appropriate number of life vests required by law. Council and committees will not be supplying these items.

If you bring a fishing pole, be sure you have a license, too!