

Tidings of Hope



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.

The Reverend's Reflection

“The children are well, yes, all the children are well.”

In the prologue of her book, Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome; America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing, Dr. Joy Degruy quotes from a speech by the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Framingham, MA.

“Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes in Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Maasai. It is perhaps surprising then to learn the traditional greeting that passed between Maasai warriors. *“Kasserian ingera,”* one would always say to another. It means, “And how are the children?”

It is still the traditional greeting among the Maasai, acknowledging the high value that the Maasai always place on children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would give the traditional answer, “All the children are well.” Meaning that peace and safety prevail, the priorities of protecting the young and the powerless are in place, that Maasai society has not forgotten its reason for being, its proper functions and responsibilities. “All the children are well,” means that life is good. It means that the daily struggles of existence, even among a poor people, do not preclude proper caring for its young.

I wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our own children's welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this same daily question: “And how are the children?” I wonder if we heard that question and passed it along to each other a dozen times a day, if it would begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in this country...I wonder if we could truly say without any hesitation, “The children are well, yes, all the children are well.”

Do we value our children's wellbeing in our society? I think all is not well for our children in this country. Not only is child poverty high in our wealthy, developed country, but it does not appear that we make decisions for the benefit of children. A simple safety concept like trying to stop an extremely contagious and deadly viral infection by wearing masks which would protect the most vulnerable among us, is disregarded and turned into a political debate. In the meantime, Covid infections among children are at an all-time high and increasing every day.

The Reverend's Reflection (cont'd)

And how are the children?

Children should not be hungry or neglected. Any sensible human being would agree with this statement and yet we ignore the children in foster care and cut funding for programs that feed children.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." What are we leaving to our children? We continue to ignore the threat of global warming and climate change which threatens our very existence. What kind of a world will our children inherit?

And how are the children?

These are all big problems, and I am not suggesting that our little church can solve them. But we can focus our awareness, prayers and actions on children and the vulnerable. In other words, we can follow Jesus and work for the common good over individual gain. As the children thrive, so will the kin-dom of God!

May we always remember, "*Kasserian Ingera?*"





HOPE Book Club **Reading List 2021—2022**

September	<u>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</u> - Isabel Wilkerson
October	<u>The Kindest Lie</u> - Nancy Johnson
November	<u>The Henna Artist</u> - Alka Joshi
January	<u>Leave the World Behind</u> - Alam Rumaan
February	<u>Stepping Forward: A Positive, Practical Path to Transform Our Communities And Our Lives</u> - Richard Harwood
March	<u>The Undocumented Americans: A Homecoming</u> Karla C. Villacencio
April	<u>One Night Two Souls Went Walking</u> - Ellen Cooney
May	<u>You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism</u> - Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar

UCC Florida Conference and Celebrate Florida

Please use these links for the United Church of Christ Florida Conference and the Conference “Celebrate Florida” Newsletter

UCC Florida Conference - <https://www.uccfla.org>

Celebrate Florida Newsletter - <http://www.uccfla.org/celebrateflorida>

Yard Sale to On-line Sales

Greetings to everyone!

We of the yard sale workers and myself as the main organizer have had to make a tough decision as how to go forward to continue to generate extra funds for our church.

First, we asked for someone, anyone to step forward to take charge of the yard sale to move forward into the coming years. And we didn't get any response.

Second, after much brain storming and work with online sales during the COVID virus months, Melanie has photographed and listed a hundred or more items on all the local online sale sites with much success. She has achieved a 100% satisfaction rate!! We are now moving into online sales.

Third, and now, we are asking you, our donation base, to donate to the church items for us to sell. You have always given unconditionally to myself, Melanie, and Julie (G & D, bake sale) and Mark (pickups & moving, grilling) your items for us to sell.

Fourth, we would love to accept your donated items to sell. Please let us know if you need pickup or can bring into church. The only two things we ask is you let us know when you have brought in items and to give us permission to donate to one of the thrift stores items we can't sell.

We thank you all for trusting us with your "stuff".

Karen, Melanie.

321 639-5053 or 321 749-2714 or 321 480-8434. If no answer please leave a message.

Hurricane Season

As the hurricane season begins, the Trustee Committee would like to know if there are any church members who would want assistance in preparing for an imminent hurricane or would need transportation to a shelter.

Also, if any member would like to volunteer to transport a member or help storm-proof their home, please contact Karen Lehr (crischona@aol.com).

Sharing Our Best

From the Growth and Development Committee

What an exciting month we had in July!

Church doors re-opened for in person worship July 4, and what makes it even more special is that we can see our friends and families on Zoom at the same time thanks to our technology gurus.

In addition to our wheelbarrow ministry food collection for the Central Brevard Sharing Center, we continue hosting a community food drive through drop off one Saturday per month. In July we collected over 300 non-perishable food items and \$85.00 for the CBSC. The next food drop off will be Saturday, August 21 from 9-11 in front of the church.

We are no longer collecting plastic lids as the Brevard County Zoo is no longer accepting them for the Florida Institute of Technology. The county wide collection was very successful. Our church donated over 20 pounds of plastic lids and bottle tops.

Our ladies' lunch met in person for the first time since February of 2020. Eighteen women met at Divots Restaurant in Viera where we bid farewell to Dyanne Edds who will be moving to St. Pete in August. Dyanne has been an active church member serving on several committees for Hope UCC as well as Church Women United, the UCC Women's Conference, and the Florida UCC Conference where she served on the board for several years. While she will be living on another coast, we keep her near and dear to our hearts and wish her well in her new community.



Dyanne holding a gift from the Care Team- a bracelet with a starfish containing sand from Cape Canaveral, her Brevard home.

Our next Ladies' lunch is scheduled to meet Friday, August 27 at noon. The location is to be determined and contingent upon our church Covid Task Force guidelines.

Wrapping up the month of July, Christian Education Chairman Tonia Patterson and Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley blessed the school supply collection for our teachers and students on Sunday, July 25th.



We wish our teachers and students a very smooth and successful school year.

Finally, we continue to ask for donations for our give away baskets which will be displayed at Space Coast Pride in downtown Melbourne on Saturday, July 25. The baskets are located on a table in the church narthex, and the following themes are beach basket, movie night basket, book basket, spa basket, and pet basket. Gift card donations are also welcomed.

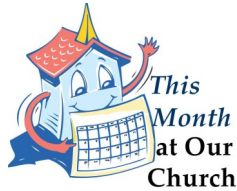


“Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.”
(Words from the poem written by Joseph Parry)



We bid farewell to our long-time Hope UCC member and friend who is moving to Georgia, where she will be close to her daughter.

Please send correspondence to Dorothy “Dot” Lee at the following address: 2775 Haynes Club Circle, Grayson, GA 30017



- 8/1 - Communion Worship
- 8/8 - Worship
- 8/15 - Worship
- 8/22 - Worship
- 8/29 - Worship

Worship services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
874-1336-0966

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
August 21 from 9-11 a.m.

Ladies Lunch
Saturday, August 27 at noon
Location to be decided

Ongoing Gatherings via Zoom

Happy Seekers
Fridays at 10:00 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 974 3773 0735

Coffee Hour
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am
Zoom Mtg No. 425 599 559

Theology on Tap
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250



- 8/10 - Rev. Eileen Norrington's Birthday
- 8/14 - Norman Elam Sr's Birthday
- 8/17 - Marcia (Bean) Smith's Birthday
- 8/18 - Rev. William & Elaine Flynn's Anniversary
- 8/20 - Paul & Betty Capaldo's Anniversary
- 8/20 - Norman Elam Jr's Birthday
- 8/23 - Devaughn Montague's Birthday
- 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



Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center

In July, we collected 201 food items and \$40 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on August 21st from 9 am to 11 am.