

# *Tidings of Hope*



## *HOPE* *United Church of Christ* *October 2021*



*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.*

## The Reverends Reflection



October is the month for colored leaves, carved pumpkins and trick or treaters. In Florida it's the possibility of turning off the air conditioner and enjoying cool(er) breezes. We can enjoy being outside without the oppressive humidity weighing us down.

THIS is the weather that reminds us why we moved to Florida in the first place!

At church the month of October begins with World Communion Sunday which reminds us of our connection to Christians all over the world. We may speak different languages, wear different clothes and sing different songs but we are united in the body of Christ.

October in the church is stewardship season. During worship throughout the month and into November we will hear stories from each other about how important Hope UCC is to us and how the church has made a difference in our lives and in the world. From our blessings springs generosity. At the end of the Stewardship drive (11/21/21), we fill out our pledge cards with our intentions and commitments for the next year.

On the second Sunday of October (10/10/21) we will hear the story of the rich man who wants to inherit eternal life...until Jesus tells him that he must sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. "Come follow me!" Jesus says. I propose that on this Sunday we follow Jesus by emptying our attics of our possessions. Let's bring in our donations to the Christmas Village Sale and set them at the front of the church at the altar, to acknowledge our commitment to follow Jesus.

October 17<sup>th</sup> will be a day of rejoicing! We are welcoming new members during worship. After worship, we will dedicate our new Peace Pole at the front garden. We will continue our celebration with a cookout including food to enjoy together (socially distanced, of course) or to take home to-go. Be sure to place your orders (watch your email for the order form) and give them to Paul Capaldo.

May your October be full of fresh air, beauty, generosity and joy!

## **Moderator's Moment**

Fall has now come to Florida. The breeze is a bit cooler and the days are growing shorter. Oh, but here at Hope UCC it seems days are getting busier and busier. It is true that God only gives us what we can handle but some days it feels like I just want to say "Really??" With the busier days however, comes lots of interesting activities to participate in. If you have ever pondered "where could I fit in at Hope, what can I do." The answers are here. Some of Hope's activities are designed to benefit our congregation, some to benefit our community/neighborhood, and with everything we do our faith grows.

the United Church of Christ offers a variety of webinars to all of us. Please go to [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) to check out what is offered. They also have a wonderful resource section where you can purchase books, clothing, banners, jewelry - all relevant to UCC.

Hope UCC is taking in donated furniture and other large items and selling them on the FaceBook Marketplace site. We have raised \$800+ at this point. Items are photographed, listed and negotiated through to a final sale. People meet Karen and Melanie at the church to purchase and pickup up items. If you have something you would like to donate, call Karen Lehr to discuss or if you need pickup from your home, schedule a time with Karen.

We have a new Peace Pole in the front of the church. On October 17th we will have a dedication of the Peace Pole, new members will be installed and a celebratory cookout of hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers and sides will take place. Seating for the luncheon will be socially distanced, both inside and outside, masks required. A take-out option is also available. You must "order" your meals ahead of time, so please just watch your email for "sign-up coupon" or if you are in the church - coupons are available in the Narthex.

October 24th we are having a Special Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship services on Zoom and in-person. We are asking the congregation to consider making an exception to the By-Laws, whereby those Committee members whose term expires on 12/31/2021 extend their service for one year. The purpose of this request is so that stability and consistency can be maintained during this time of uncertainty due to Covid pandemic

## **Moderator's Moment (cont'd)**

Come for your trick or treat candy bag on October 29th, 4-6pm. Neighborhood cars full of kids are invited to our Drive-Thru Trick or Treat event. We have lots of bags of candy to give out. Please consider donating a can of non-perishable food (for the Sharing Center) in exchange for a bag of candy. BOO!

The 2022 Budget is being worked on at this time. The Budget Committee is working very hard to create and bring forth a balanced realistic budget for 2022. With results from the current Stewardship campaign, the Budget Committee will be able to create the 2022 budget. Please submit your pledge cards as soon as possible.

The Nominating Committee is gathering to recommend people to serve on various committees. Committee membership is VERY important to the life of the church. We need people who are willing to attend committee meetings and actively work on committee projects. Please consider where you might like to serve, where you think you could be a participant and help. No particular skills are needed, just enthusiasm to serve Hope UCC. There's a job just for YOU. All you have to do is say, "how can I help."

Time, Talents and Tithes are SO important to the life of this church, the church is SO important to your life. You are SO important to Hope UCC. We are together!!



## ***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>

## Sharing Our Best From the Growth and Development Committee

On September 11, Hope UCC collected 215 items from the congregation and through our community drive through/drop off collection for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. We also received \$135.00 for the CBSC.

Our next drive through/drop off collection for non-perishable food items (no glass containers, please) will be Saturday, October 9, and do not forget the peanut butter for the Cocoa High School Fresh Market.



Hope UCC is collecting bags of wrapped Halloween candy which will be sorted to make individual treat bags for distribution to our congregation and community at a drive through Trick or Treat event the last weekend in October. Time and exact date are to be announced. We ask that in return for treats, participants bring a non-perishable food item to donate for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.



Wear your costumes, and join the fun!



## Sharing Our Best (cont'd)

Shop early for Christmas at the Hope UCC Christmas Village sale on Saturday, November 6 from 8-2. We will have bargains galore. We continue to take gently used or new donations for the sale through the month of October. Please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Lehr.



### **You Can Make a Difference!**

In these days of emails, tweets and DM's, it is so very special to receive a card in the mail. An actual, physical card, on paper, in an envelope with a stamp is so rare, it feels like a celebration when I get one! At Hope UCC we have a group of people who send cards to members and friends to let them know they are loved and remembered. The cards are filled with love and prayers. These angels are part of the Care Team, and they are recruiting new members.

If you would like to make a difference, please join this important ministry team!

Call or email the church office if you are interested.

[hopeuccfl@att.net](mailto:hopeuccfl@att.net) 321-636-0250

## Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive: November 6, 2021

The Growth & Development Committee has set the Fall blood drive date with the OneBlood organization in Rockledge for Saturday **November 6, 2021** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The Big Red Bus will be parked in the circle in front of the church.

Everyone who is eligible is urged to participate! OneBlood staff will determine if you are eligible when you check in. There are a few instances where a person may not donate and you can find those on the website: [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org) There will even be a “thank you” gift for those donating blood!!

To donate blood, you must be in good health, 16 years of age (16-year-olds need a completed and signed Parental Consent Form) or older, and weigh a minimum of 110 lbs.

### Covid-19 Information:

- **Beginning August 1, 2021 OneBlood is requiring all donors to wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status.**
- During the registration process to donate blood, your OneBlood phlebotomist will ask you if you received a **COVID-19 vaccine**, which vaccine you received, and when you received it. The FDA requires that these questions be asked to determine donor eligibility. If you do not know the answers, you will not be able to donate. To simplify the process, you can also bring your COVID-19 vaccination card and show it to your phlebotomist.

After more than a year of testing all donations for the COVID-19 antibody, on June 29, 2021 OneBlood made the decision to stop COVID-19 antibody testing.

### Pre-donation suggestions:

Drink plenty of water prior to donating.

Eat a light healthy meal. Avoid fatty foods. Donating blood on an empty stomach is not recommended.

Eat iron rich foods a few days leading up to your blood donation. Your iron levels must be at a certain level in order to donate blood. We will check your iron count prior to your blood donation and if it is too low you will not be able to donate blood that day.

There is no cost to the church but we are asked to have at least 10 donors committed to donate prior to the blood drive. You may **choose a time-slot** which is at 15-minute intervals, ex. 9:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., etc. You may register a time slot with [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org) or email Betty Capaldo at [bcapaldo31@gmail.com](mailto:bcapaldo31@gmail.com) or text Betty at 401-323-7041 with your desired donation time. Walk-in donors are also welcome. Thank you!

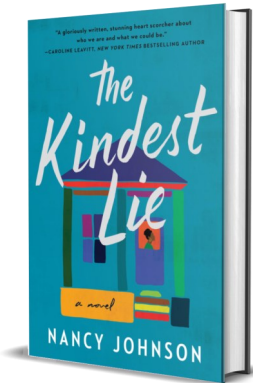
## HOPE Book Club Reading List 2021—2022

September	<u>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</u> - Isabel Wilkerson
<b>October</b>	<b><u><i>The Kindest Lie</i></u> - Nancy Johnson</b>
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





## Book Club October 2021



For the month of October, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss The Kindest Lie, a debut novel by Nancy Johnson. “The Kindest Lie is a deep dive into how we define family, what it means to be a mother, and what it means to grow up Black...beautifully crafted.” —JODI PICOULT

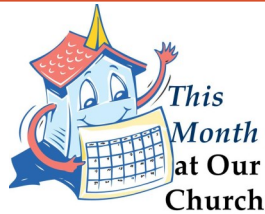
In 2008 the inauguration of President Barack Obama ushers in a new kind of hope. In Chicago, Ruth Tuttle, an Ivy-League educated Black engineer, is married to a kind and successful man. He’s eager to start a family, but Ruth is uncertain. She has never gotten over the baby she gave birth to—and was forced to leave behind—when she was a teenager. She had promised her family she’d never look back, but Ruth knows that to move forward, she must make peace with the past.

Returning home, Ruth discovers the Indiana factory town of her youth is plagued by unemployment, racism, and despair. As she begins digging into the past, she unexpectedly befriends Midnight, a young white boy who is also adrift and looking for connection. Just as Ruth is about to uncover a burning secret her family desperately wants to keep hidden, a traumatic incident strains the town’s already searing racial tensions, sending Ruth and Midnight on a collision course that could upend both their lives.

The Kindest Lie captures the heartbreaking divide between black and white communities and offers both an unflinching view of motherhood in contemporary America and the never-ending quest to achieve the American Dream.

We hope you will join us for this book discussion on Tuesday, October 26th at 1:30 pm. We will be meeting on zoom - Meeting ID: 845 6868 2100.





- 10/3 - Communion Worship
- 10/10 - Worship
- 10/17 - Worship
- 10/24 - Worship
- 10/31 - Worship

Worship services will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom at 10:00 am.  
Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services  
**874-1336-0966**

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



### **Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center**

In September, we collected 215 food items and \$135 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on October 9th from 9 am to 11 am.



- 10/4 - Amanda Smith's Birthday
- 10/5 - Robert Munchbach's Birthday
- 10/8 - Declan Holmes' Birthday
- 10/12 - Norman & Lucretia Elam  
Jrs. Anniversary
- 10/18 - Isaiah Elam's birthday
- 10/20 - Jamie Lees' Birthday
- 10/23 - Della Jensen's Birthday
- 10/29 - Giaus Garcia's Birthday
- 10/29 - Sharon Keefe's Birthday

### **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

