



Tidings of Hope



HOPE

United Church of Christ



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 Reverend's Reflection

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So, the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

John 10:22-30

Good Shepherd Sunday is always the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This year it falls on May 8th. The lectionary texts include Psalm 23 and readings from John 10 with images of Jesus being the Good Shepherd.

This text always makes me curious about the voices we listen to. We listen to the news, but which news outlet? The days of factual, unbiased reporting have disappeared. In Russia propaganda is common and touted as truth but our eyes see the footage of unprovoked violence in Ukraine and understand the difference. We hear our political leaders, but we no longer trust their veracity because deceit and "alternative facts" abound. We hear voices of celebrities, social media and marketing executives who tell us what to buy, who to wear and how to look. Those voices ring hollow in a world of poverty, injustice, and struggle.

Whose voice do we listen to?

Perhaps the people questioning Jesus in this text from the Gospel of John can't hear Jesus' voice because he is not telling them what they want to hear. Jesus preaches about the Kingdom of God over the Kingdom of Rome. He brings good news of freedom, new life, healing, and justice for all people. It's a new reality. Change is not appealing if you are benefiting from the status quo.

The Reverend's Reflection (cont'd)

Whose voice do we listen to?

Sheep do not have the reputation of being particularly smart animals but perhaps we don't give them enough credit. Sheep know the voice of their shepherd and they do follow that voice. Sheep always listen to the voice of their shepherd... unless they are sick.

Sheep are attentive to their herd. They live in relationship. They stick together, they pay attention to each other. If one sheep stray, the entire herd gets very upset and uneasy. How much better would our world be if we were more like sheep and paid that same kind of attention to each other. When one person in our human herd strays, we should be uneasy until they are back in the fold.

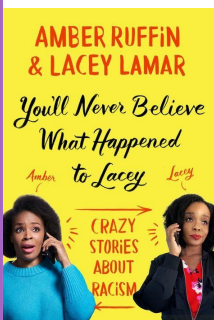
May we be like sheep and know the voice of our shepherd. May we listen and follow.



Book Club May 2022

May holds a very important meeting of the Hope Book Club. We encourage all who enjoy reading to attend on Tuesday, May 24th at 1:30. It is a zoom meeting for all.

In addition to reviewing the May book selection, *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism*, those attending will look over suggested readings for next year and choose monthly selections for September through May. Suggestions by congregational readers for next year are welcome. We usually select several from the Reading for Renewal list prepared by the Florida UCC Woman, and then include 2 or more from outside the conference list. We would love to hear what you have been reading, or plan to read. If you don't have time to attend, you might pass on your suggestions to a member who will be attending. We are also exploring the possibility of joining with a book club from another church.



We think you will enjoy the May book because it is written by Amber Ruffin, a writer and performer on shows like Late Night with Seth Meyers. She has collected incidents that happen to her sister, Lacey Lamar so her sister is listed as a co-author. Her sister's experiences are written with humor but inform the reader of intentional and unintentional ways we express racial

biases. Amber Ruffin lives in New York, where she is no one's First Black Friend and everyone is, as she puts it, "stark raving normal." But Amber's sister Lacey is still living in their home state of Nebraska, and you'll never believe what happened to Lacey.

From racist donut shops to strangers putting their whole hand in her hair, from being mistaken for a prostitute to being mistaken for Harriet Tubman, Lacey is a lightning rod for hilariously ridiculous yet all-too-real anecdotes. Painfully relatable or shockingly eye-opening (depending on how often you have personally been followed by security at department stores), this book tackles modern-day racism with the perfect balance of levity and gravity.

Come join us on Tuesday, May 24th at 1:30. The zoom number will be 845 6868 2100. Remember to bring your reading suggestions for next year.

Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive May 28, 2022

The Growth and Development Committee will be hosting the second of four scheduled blood drives on Saturday May 28, 2022 from 9—11 am. 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.

Some basic guidelines to donate: You must be 16 yrs old (with parental permission) or older; you must weigh at least 110 lbs. There are a few instances where a person may not donate and you can find those on the website: oneblood.org

All blood centers are regulated by the FDA and must follow strict guidelines on how they operate. OneBlood meets all FDA guidelines and all team members follow strict safety protocols including:

- All OneBlood phlebotomists wear medical gloves that are changed for each donation.
- All donor-touched areas and equipment are disinfected after every donation. This includes, donor beds, registration tablets, blood-pressure cuff and hemoglobin sensors.
- A sterile collection set is used for every donation
- Every donor receives a mini-physical that includes a temperature check to ensure donors are healthy and well on the day of donation.
- Only people who are healthy are eligible to donate blood.

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 are at 15-minute intervals, ex. 9:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., etc. You may register a time slot with oneblood.org or email Betty Capaldo at bcapaldo31@gmail.com or text Betty at 401-323-7041 with your desired donation time. Walk-in donors are also welcome.



- 5/1 - Communion Worship
- 5/8 - Sunday Worship
- 5/15 - Sunday Worship
- 5/22 - Sunday Worship
- 5/29 - Sunday Worship

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
321 636 0250

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
May 14 - 9 am to 11 am

Book Club

May 24 - 1:30 pm
Zoom Mtg. No. 854 4236 5460

Ladies Lunch

May 27 - 12 pm
Baci Restaurant on Barnes Blvd.

Blood Drive

May 28th - 9 am to 1 pm

Ongoing Events at Hope

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 5598



- 5/6 - Jonah Garcia's Birthday
- 5/6 - Linda Beane's Birthday
- 5/12 - Janice Ellison's Birthday
- 5/13 - Shelle Waller's Birthday
- 5/14 - Cyndi Leonard's Birthday
- 5/15 - Rebecca & John Carroll's Anniversary
- 5/23 - McKenzie (Cathcart) Martin's Birthday

**Hope UCC Ministry
for the Sharing Center**

In April we collected 147 items and \$130 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

There will be another drive through food drop-off on May 14th from 9 am to 11 am.

