



Tidings of Hope



HOPE

United Church of Christ *August 2022*



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The Reverend's Reflection



This summer we have been exploring the ancient tradition of Creation Spirituality during worship. The ideas of creation spirituality are not new. They have been echoed by mystics for centuries. Some familiar forebearers are Irenaeus, Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Meister Eckhart and contemporary writer and theologian, Matthew Fox. Fox's 1983 book, Original Blessing has revitalized Creation Spirituality communities all over the world.

Creation Spirituality is based on the idea that everything is from God and the divine infuses all things. At its core is the theological concept of Panentheism which literally translated means, "all God." It's not that everything IS God (Pantheism) but that the divine permeates all creation.

When we see the world through the lens of Creation Spirituality we are compelled to care for the earth and for each other for we are all connected. The 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart, said, "Apprehend God in all things, for **God is in all things**. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature - even a caterpillar - I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature." Next Sunday we will stare at caterpillars instead of listening to a sermon. I'm just kidding but his point is clear. God is alive in every part of creation, and it is our responsibility, our call to protect and nurture it all.

"If we take seriously the idea of divinity expressed all around us - and within us - there is an intersectionality between the environmentalist with all other activists working toward equality, inclusiveness, and liberation."

(Rev. Dr. Sid Hall at allcreation.org)

I pray that by exploring Creation Spirituality we will be transformed with new hope and life to follow Jesus' call to bring God's dream of a just world into reality. God is alive in you!

May we always remember that we belong to this beautiful Earth,
that it will bear our sorrows and share our joys.

May we be deeply rooted in our truth so that we may grow tall and
strong as the trees, offering shelter to all who need it.

May we be open to receiving our gifts and share them with others
as freely as the rain falls, and be ever thankful.

May we be radiant and natural and fragrant as flowers that flourish,
nurtured by love.

May we always be drawn to where the air is good and fresh and
life-giving so that we may be en-spirited and breathe freely.

May our passion for tenderness and love be kindled and burn with
the ferocity of a campfire and the merriment of kindred souls.

May each of us dare to sing our song of praise as the birds sing theirs,
so that our songs may rise up together wherever we are.

Felicity Collins



Moderator's Moment

Welcome to the dog days of summer! I hope everyone had a great July in celebration of the 4th and of perhaps many family vacations. Hope's Council took a well-deserved break as did each Committee also during the month of July. The Prayer Bead making class got off to a great start on July 17th, after a slight delay due to Covid. Oh, that pesky Covid and how it creeps up on us unexpectedly.

As your Moderator, I look ahead to some of our busiest months in the life of the Church and wonder, "how did this all happen so fast?" These next five months will fly by us, I'm sure. So, I want to mention a few things that we all have to be thinking about and planning for.

Last year we asked Committee members to extend for one year in order to maintain stability within our Council and governing of the church. We will return to our usual nominating routine for our 2023 Committee members. We will need to replace more Committee members than we ever have in the past, in order to maintain the 6 members per Committee our by-laws require. The Nominating Committee will have quite a difficult task ahead of them. I'm asking if you will carefully consider the possibility of volunteering to serve on a Committee or speaking with someone at Hope that you know well and discussing with them if they might think about volunteering. Please think about our various Committees and if you might fit well with a Committee. We also will need to replace the Moderator, Asst. Moderator and Clerk positions. Our Treasurer, Jean Hawkes' position is of indefinite length, however, she is asking for an official Assistant Treasurer position be added to help her and to begin to possibly learn the Treasurer's tasks.

The Nominating Committee is established by the Council in October, so they will begin asking people to serve. Accepting a position on a Committee is a wonderful opportunity to learn so much more about Hope UCC, a way serve our church, and most importantly to be in service to God.

Next, as we look forward into the 2023 church year here at Hope UCC. We want to think ahead to what is God's purpose for Hope UCC here in our neighborhood, how can we serve others, how can we make a difference. As your Moderator I have come to realize, by attending various church webinars, that church will never be the same as it was pre-pandemic. We can not go back, but only move forward.

Moderator's Moment (continued)

Our by-laws were established many years ago and need to be reviewed and updated to meet the current life of a church. We will never have only in-person worship again. We must continue to reach out into the world of Internet and social media to reach people and bring our beautiful special worship services to the people. We must look for new ideas for fund raising to maintain and increase our budget needs. We must make a better use of our huge building by offering it to our community for use, rentals, outreach to groups that need a safe space to meet. We must be bold and step out in faith as we try new ideas and meet new people where they are.

I have absolutely loved what soon will be my three years as Hope UCC's Moderator. I look forward to remaining a part of and watching Hope grow and witnessing how we share the love of God with others. There is still so much to do but I have faith that we will grow in what we offer, what we do and how we love each other. Please join me in thinking about how YOU will serve your church in the coming year.



Prayer Bead Class Update

We began our first class on how to create prayer beads and how to use your beads in increasing the benefits of your prayer time. We had 10 folks begin the class on July 10th. We were off to a busy, chaotic, joyful time of selecting our beads from hundreds of beautiful beads and charms donated by Mary, Polly and Tonia. We began our creations with soothing music in the background. Some of us knew just how to begin, some of us had already made our prayer beads, and others needed a little help. Those of us who had previously made prayer beads were on hand to help all who had a little struggle going on. There was lots of good conversation among the sound of "oh no" as we occasionally heard the sound of beads falling. But it was all fun and you can see by the pictures what beautiful prayer beads resulted.

Weeks 2-4 are focused on the "why" of making and using prayer beads in our daily prayer time and on how to pray comfortably in your own style. Prayer beads can be made for yourself or made and given to someone in need of a little extra prayer. Like prayer shawls, beads can comfort people going through so many challenges.

Melanie, Tonia and Rev. Karen are looking forward to offering this class again in the coming months, so if you would like to be a part of becoming a prayer warrior or learning how to become more comfortable with prayer, watch for coming announcements about another class or speak with one of us about putting your name on the list for the next class.

Melanie, Tonia and Rev. Karen



Prayer Bead Class Update



Sharing Our Best

August 2022

2 Corinthians 8:12

For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

Our wheelbarrow ministry shows the willingness of our community to share resources. In July, we collected 386 items of non-perishable food and paper products and \$75.00 for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. Let us see if we can match or double this on Saturday, August 6, when we host the next food drive in front of the church from 9-11 am. We usually host the food collection the second Saturday of the month, but we're moving it up a week in August. Please spread the word!

It's back to school time, so please check out the school supply collection list in the narthex.

We're also collecting items for the Humane Society. The greatest needs include "Yesterdays News" pine bedding, can openers, Fabulosa cleaner, bleach, dry erase markers, cat toys, towels, blankets and sheets, and canned dog food. They use Purina but will accept any. Monetary donations are also welcome. Make checks out to Hope United Church of Christ and write "Humane Society" on the memo line.

Ladies' lunch is back in full swing. We met at Baci's restaurant in Rockledge the fourth Friday in May, and again on the fourth Saturday in July. We are alternating Fridays and Saturdays, so those who work on Friday can join us on Saturday. Our next gathering will be Friday, August 28 at noon. The location is to be determined. Building community is our goal, so bring a friend!

Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley, Melanie Goff and Tonia Patterson are facilitating a prayer bead class using the book *A Bead and a Prayer* by Kristen Vincent after worship. Contact them for more information.



From Growth and Development,
we wish you peace.

Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive

September 17, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the church parking lot

The Growth & Development Committee has set a blood drive date with the OneBlood organization in Rockledge. Everyone who is eligible is urged to participate! There will even be a “thank you” gift for those donating blood!!

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

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 can register at oneblood.org/donate or contact BettyCapaldo (email:bcapaldo31@gmail.com) to sign up for a time slot.

Thank you!

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is here. The Helping Hands group and the Care Team are asking if you might need help in some way due to an approaching hurricane. Do you need transportation to a safe place? Do you need help preparing your residence - closing shutters, placing sandbags, etc? If you anticipate needing help, we would like you to register with the church so that we can be ready to help. Please call the church office at (321) 636-0250 and tell the office what kind of help you might need or contact any member of the Helping Hands group or the Care Team.

Contact Julie Becker for Helping Hands at (631) 512-1034 or Jean Hawkes for Care Team at (321) 243-5287.

Trustees

This past two months have been active for us with the main areas of focus being the air conditioning in the Social Hall and the update of the Memorial Garden.

Both were big projects, but the a/c work is complete. Big thanks to Mark and Katy Miller for their donation on this project. The garden is an-going project.

The a/c was an eye opener for us as we found that the breaker box in the hall between the bathrooms was wired incorrectly and the social hall should have burned down a long time ago. But God watched over us again!!

Julie Becker took a lead on the memorial garden and, with the help of Ron Holmes who donated two days and pieces/parts for the irrigation system, it is back up and running.

Plus, I would like to thank the trustees for keeping the lights on at Hope during my time of working on my health.

We at Hope have a been blessed to have such a wonderful building in which to worship!

Blessings,
Karen Lehr





HOPE Book Club Reading List 2022 - 2023

September	<u>The Daughters of Yalta: the Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans</u> - Catherine Grace Katz
October	<u>The Ministry for the Future</u> - Kim Stanley Robinson
November	<u>Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship</u> - Catherine Raven
January	<u>All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake</u> - Tiya Miles
February	<u>The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing The World</u> - Janice Kaplan
March	<u>Joan Is Okay</u> - Weike Wang
April	<u>The Taking of Jemima Boone</u> - Matthew Pearl
May	<u>Taste: My Life Through Food</u> - Stanley Tucci



Pastoral Relations Committee

Dear Members of Hope UCC,

The Pastoral Relations Committee has been meeting regularly with Rev. Karen in support of the new challenges that have been placed on her over the last two years. As you can imagine, our pastor's responsibilities have changed a bit and some priorities have shifted. When our church closed in 2020 due to the pandemic, a whole new way of worship presented itself to all of us. We discovered that Zoom allowed us to stay connected in various ways. The use of technology and AV equipment stretched the creativity of the pastor, our church committees and our members.

PRC thought that you would be interested in how Rev. Karen is "budgeting" her time each week at this point in time. Although she may not always be physically present at the church building, she continues to work to meet new expectations. The following is an hourly breakdown of how her time is allocated during a typical week. This is based on Rev. Karen's $\frac{3}{4}$ time status as our settled pastor. The major shift in time is in increased time spent preparing for worship post-Covid.

If you have any questions regarding Rev. Karen's allocation of time during the week, feel free to ask any member of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Blessings,

PRC: Betty Capaldo, chair; Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley; Peggy Hayes; Tonia Patterson; Ray Rood; and Shelle Waller



Hope UCC

Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley

Hourly breakdown: % of how the pastor's time is allocated weekly
¾ time Pastor: 30hrs/week

% of 30 hours

hours per week

Responsibilities

60% (18 hrs.)

Sunday morning worship, spiritual preparation, sermon preparation, Christian Ed (adult/children), interfacing with Tech Team and Music Director for in-person and Zoom worship

20% (6 hrs.)

Administration:

Virtual meetings, coordinate with church secretary: slides for Sunday service, music, etc.

Virtual committee meetings, other general administrative duties, Tech Team collaboration

17% (5 hrs.)

Pastoral Care:

primarily by phone/text during certain hours or by appointment; also available in person in an emergency situation

3% (1 hr.)

Floating time to be used where and when the need arises

Weekly Schedule (Sunday - Monday)

Sunday- Monday: Responsibilities as described above

Friday: Sabbath rest

Saturday: Day off

Notes:

*PRC respectfully requests that the pastor's designated days off (Friday and Saturday) be respected. The pastor is, of course, always available for emergencies.

* Hours that are not specified in the above sample are at the discretion of the pastor.

*The above schedule is based on an average of hours committed to specific tasks that equal 30 hours per week. There will be weeks when more hours will be spent and times when fewer hours are spent.

**This revision is meant to accommodate the pastor's hours post Covid-19, which has altered the "normal" routine of the church.



- 8/7 - Communion Worship
- 8/14 - Sunday Worship
- 8/21 - Sunday Worship
- 8/28 - Sunday Worship

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
321 636 0250

Drive Through Food Drop-Off
for Central Brevard Sharing Center
August 6th - 9 am to 11 am

Ongoing Events at Hope

Happy Seekers

Fridays at 10:00 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 875 1767 3994

Coffee Hour

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 am
Zoom Mtg. No. 425 599 5598



- 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 and Elaine Flynn's Anniversary
- 8/20 - Betty & Paul Capaldo's Anniversary
- 8/21 - Norman Elam Jr's Birthday
- 8/23 - Davaughn 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 June we collected 180 items and \$20 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center. In July we collected 386 items and \$75 in cash. There will be another drive through food drop-off on August 6th from 9 am to 11 am.

