



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ*



Tidings of Hope published monthly by: **Hope United Church of Christ**
2555 S. Fiske Blvd, Rockledge FL 32955-3901

(321) 636-0250 † www.hopeucc.com † hopeuccfl@att.net † www.ucc.org

Submissions for publication may be sent to the Church Office at the above addresses, either electronically or by paper.

The Reverends Reflection

Lent is a season of contemplation. We reflect on the life and death of Jesus. In our Lenten worship series, Good Enough, we have been reminded that we don't need to be perfect because we are good enough just as we are. In a society that displays power, success and riches, we remember that instead of climbing ladders of success, we can tend gardens and nurture ourselves and others. It's nurturing that helps things grow. God loves us when we achieve greatness and when we are living our ordinary lives. God loves us even in our imperfection.

The cross has become a symbol for followers of Jesus. The cross is a reminder of Jesus' execution by the Roman Empire and points to the empty tomb and resurrection into new life. He is risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter! Let's pause for a moment and remember that before the joy of alleluia comes Holy Week with all the complex emotions the week stirs up in us. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the joy of a parade waving palms and shouting Hosanna! Jesus is here! But there is more to this parade than just announcing Jesus' arrival. This parade is not sanctioned by the local government. No permits were pulled. There is no police escort leading Jesus' donkey. The government sanctioned parade is on the other side of town with a great display of military might. The palm parade is an act of subversion against the oppressive, violent, and cruel Roman rule.

Jesus understands the danger his alternative parade announces. On Thursday he gathers his friends with him, and they eat together. Jesus humbles himself in service and washes the disciples' feet. In an act of great love, service and generosity Jesus communes with his friends.

What if the table became our symbol for what it means to follow Jesus? We nurture each other with love, nourishment, and inclusion. We have dinners of resistance against the powers that threaten injustice. We build community in the face of dangerous violence in the world. In a world of hate, violence and selfishness, we build tables of kindness, justice and love. That sounds like new life to me.

Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Garden of Your Mind

by Kerri Fantelli

What are you growing
in the garden of your mind –
what do you water
nourish, feed?
Do you plant seeds of forgiveness,
of love,
or do you fertilize weeds of anger
resentment, fear?
What are you growing
in the garden of your heart?
Do you allow sunshine to reach dark pain
in the corners of your heart –
Do you allow tears to wash it clean
and nourish it –
Or do you put up fences
to keep out the feelings?
Get on your knees
grow your own food
decide what it is you want in your soil.
Know what you are cultivating
what you are growing –
a lot can grow in the garden of your body
if you let it seed
nourish it
allow it
watch it grow.



Lenten Study



Join the Lenten Study with the authors of 2 great books about Jesus.

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence by Diana Butler Bass

The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Jesus: Lord, Liar, Lunatic . . . Or Awesome? By Tripp Fuller

Each week, for the 6 weeks of Lent, we will hear a mini-lecture and then engage in conversation and question and answer sessions.

If you want to join live, the weekly streaming session will take place on Thursdays at 5pm ET starting 3/3/22. But you can watch it whenever you want.

It's donation based so just give what you can. Sign up by going to www.JesusDeconstructed.com

Hope's Helping Hands

On Sunday March 27th after church, a group of Hope's people gathered at Ethel Osterwise's house to clean out everything so Jean could get the house cleaned to put on the market.

Big thanks to these wonderful people: Angie and Eddie Hamilton, Mark and Julie Johnson, Julie Becker, Paul and Betty Capaldo, Jonah Garcia, Mell and Karen.

I personally would like to thank everyone that came and helped! I am always thankful for the generous time and effort that is put in by Hope's Helping Hands and the Trustees.

Karen Lehr

Lent is a Time for Growing (Scripts for Lent from Worship Design Studio)

During Lent we are using the Worship Design Studio scripts under the title *Good Enough*.

We aren't perfect, but we are "good enough" and life is unpredictable.



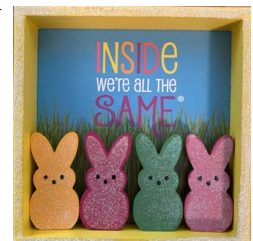
On the second Sunday of Lent, our children learned that "So Much is out of our Control", but we can always learn to adapt, and that is what helps us to grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. When it rains, don't give up on your plans. Get out those umbrellas, raincoats, and rain boots, and cultivate your gardens.



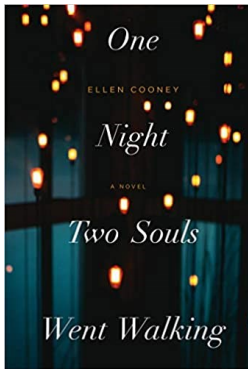
The message was followed by the following responsive reading:

*I look at you
I look at me
I celebrate
What I see
'Cuz God made all
The smooth and the rough
No matter what
You're good enough!*

**I look at you
I look at me
I celebrate
What I see
'Cuz God made all
The smooth and the rough
No matter what
You're good enough!**



Book Club April 2022



During April, the Hope UCC Book Club will read and discuss, “One Night Two Souls Went Walking” by Ellen Cooney.

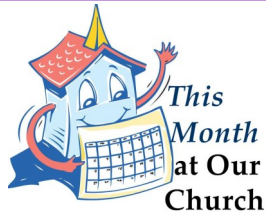
This story is about a young interfaith chaplain who is joined on her hospital rounds one night by an unusual companion: a rough-and-tumble dog who may or may not be a ghost. As she tends to the souls of her patients--young and old, living last moments or navigating fundamentally altered lives--their stories provide unexpected healing for her own heartbreak. Balancing wonder and mystery with pragmatism and humor, Ellen Cooney presents a generous, intelligent novel that grants the most challenging moments of the human experience a shimmer of light and magical possibility.

We hope you will read this book and join our discussion on Tuesday, April 19th at 1:30 pm. The zoom number will be 845 6868 2100.



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
December	<i>Christmas Break</i>
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><i>One Night Two Souls Went Walking</i></u> - <i>Ellen Cooney</i>
May	<u>You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism</u> - Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar



- 4/3 - Communion Worship
- 4/10 - Palm Sunday Worship
- 4/14 - Maundy Thursday Service
- 4/17 - Easter Sunday Worship
- 4/24 - Worship

Zoom Mtg. ID. for Sunday Services
321 636 0250

Ongoing Gatherings via Zoom

Book Club

April 19 - 1:30 pm
Zoom Mtg. No. 845 6868 2100

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



- 4/3 - Jerry Bates' Birthday
- 4/12 - Pat Munchbach's Birthday
- 4/15 - Lissa Curtis Weakley's Birthday
- 4/23 - Kelly Rogers' Birthday
- 4/26 - Jean Hawkes' Birthday

Hope UCC Ministry for the Sharing Center

In March we collected 262 items and \$240 in cash for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

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





He is risen!