



Tidings of Hope



HOPE

United Church of Christ
February 2023



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

The Pastor's Ponderings . . .

My muscles are still sore from lifting the Christmas decorations into storage as we begin preparations for Lent. Ash Wednesday on February 22nd begins the season of Lent. Has the calendar always advanced so quickly or is it the perspective of my advancing age? Whatever the reason, the season of Lent is nigh. I am excited to introduce another worship series from Worship Design Studios by Marcia McFee.

Lent is a time for pondering the meaning of the Christian story, the meaning of faith and the meaning of love. We hear the stories that lead Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross and we experience his suffering, death and resurrection. We reflect on our own lives and how we respond to God's call in our lives.

We are all looking for love...love in our own life, love for others and love in the world. The Lenten worship series is called, ***Looking for Love***. Here is how Worship Design Studios introduces the series:

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We'll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

Join us during Lent and Easter as we look for love in all the RIGHT places!

Namaste,
Pastor Karen



February Festivities

Here is what Rev. Karen is up to:

Rev. Karen continues to focus on creating meaningful, hybrid worship services that deepen faith and inspire us to fill the world with more peace, more justice, and more love. She has begun planning Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter services in coordination with the Music Director and Deacons Committee. The Lent theme is “Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places”. Theology on Tap has resumed with a video series from Tripp Fuller, Homebrewed Christianity with John Dominic Crossan. The series provokes lively conversation among the 9 people in attendance on Zoom. Rev. Karen also continues to meet with people for pastoral care needs in person and remotely as needed. She has had 10 Pastoral Care meetings in January.

January 17th was the National Day of Racial Healing. “On this day, individuals, organizations and communities across the U.S. come together to explore their common humanity and build the relationships necessary to create a more just and equitable world” (from National League of Cities). Rev. Karen joined Peggy Hayes at an event sponsored by the Humanity Task Force for Racial Justice. The gathering was a diverse group of people engaging in conversation about what racial healing means to them. It was an enriching experience that will hopefully be the beginning of many more conversations in the future.

January ended with the sad news of the death of a beloved patriarch of the church, Lee Keillor. The memorial service was held in Hope UCC’s sanctuary with a reception in the Social Hall.

Rev. Karen continues to participate in several groups connected with the Florida Conference including Community of Practice for Clergywomen, Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER) and the Antiracist ministry team. Rev. Karen also serves on the Board of Directors as chair of the Nominating Committee for the Florida Conference and has been newly appointed to the Committee on Ministry and the Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting. Rev. Karen also participates in an ecumenical weekly Lectionary Group through Faith Lead at Luther Seminary. Rev. Karen is beginning to make plans for a Church wide conversation about the future of Hope UCC with the Florida Conference Staff.

Moderator's Moment

As this new year begins I am traveling a new road accepting this position. I keep telling Melanie Goff that I will have her on speed dial! I know I have big shoes to fill! She has been so gracious in guiding me as I learn how to be the person she believes I can be. I have had many people say that I have their support and I believe with God's grace and love from my church family that this will be a year of growth for all of us. A big thank you to all the folks who stepped up to share their time and talents accepting positions as officers and committee members. We still have a few openings if you want to help out. Christian Education 1 opening, Church Growth and Development 2 openings, Stewardship 2 openings. Please talk to me if you think you could fill one of these openings. Our Care team and Prayer Chain can always use more people. Pray about it, I did and God whispered in my ear, "if not you, who?"

Please reach out to me if you have thoughts or concerns about anything. I have already been networking with the committees and plan to attend all the meetings for the first two months and then rotate attending as time allows.

I'm so happy that we were able to present a balanced budget and the giving for January seems to be right on target. If you haven't been able to do a pledge card, it's not too late. I like to say we are a small church that does great things in a big way.

Our new thrift store Hope 'n Heart is already looking like a beautiful thrift store. Our faithful unboxing, sorting, and pricing team has been hard at work. Donations are still needed so clean out those closets, drawers, and storage areas. If you haven't had a chance to stop by and check it out come and see and maybe do some shopping. Karen Lehr is inviting us to come 30 minutes before and after church to see our progress.

Lots of ideas for fund raising are still floating around so there will be many opportunities for folks to share their talent and time. There are many ways you can help out if you have the time. All ideas are welcome, so let's get creative! I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Blessings, Tonia Patterson

Contact information- toniabandit@aol.com - Call or text-321-394-6287

Hope 'n Heart Beat

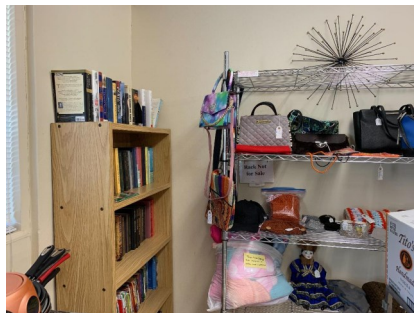
In case you haven't heard, HOPE is involved in a new and exciting venture of opening the Hope 'n Heart Thrift. We are located in the "old" Multi-Purpose room in the church building. Sunday, January 29th was the official "soft" opening – just for our congregation. The congregation was invited to come check us out, purchase items and talk with Karen and Mell about Hope 'n Heart, sharing their ideas and good wishes for success. Our Grand Opening will be February 10th. Volunteers will be present to assist customers.

Hope 'n Heart will be open to the public the second and third Friday & Saturday of each month, from 10:00am till 2:00pm. We will offer for purchase a cookie of the month each month – cookies will be baked and donated by our delicious bakers from Hope.

Hope 'n Heart is filled with all sorts of items. We have clothing, furniture, household items, books, deco's – big and small, artwork, purses, and lots more. Hope 'n Heart welcomes donations of all sorts. Clothing must be clean and in good condition. Please, no smoking, pet, or strong fabric softener odors due to customer sensitivities.

We are seeking volunteers to work in the thrift store on days open. (It's really more fun than work) And, we are seeking volunteers to provide a cookie of the month, for example: Julie Johnson has volunteered to make the cookies for March. We hope to be known by our customers as having a special cookie each month that they can look forward to. Please talk with Melanie to volunteer to work in Hope 'n Heart or to choose a month to bake cookies.

Hope 'n Heart is being created to be a financial help Hope UCC and to serve our local community. We have lots of ideas and plans yet to come, so look forward to Hope 'n Heart's monthly updates.



Sharing Our Best in 2023

In Matthew 22:39 Jesus says, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In addition to collecting 89 non-perishable food items for the Central Brevard Sharing Center in January, the Hope UCC family donated 47 coats, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, and hoodies to the Central Brevard Sharing Center in honor of the MLK Day of Service initiative for the warm coat project. The CBSC is handing the clothing to anyone in need.



Logo Shirt Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. Julie Johnson is taking orders after worship until the middle of February. Wear your shirts wherever you go, and start a conversation about our Hope UCC community. Plant those seeds whenever you can to help us grow!

Speaking of growth, if you want to be part of a team working to make Hope UCC grow, our Growth and Development Committee could use 3 team members. For more information on what we do, check out the 2022 Annual Report.

Please contact the new Chairman of Growth and Development, Julie Becker, if you are interested.

God is good...all the time. All the time...God is good!



United
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Christ

Sunshine Call Program

The Hope UCC Care Team would like to remind the congregation that we have initiated a Sunshine Call program.

If you live alone or are concerned about being isolated by your circumstances, we encourage you to sign up for a Sunshine Call. Someone from the Team, or another volunteer in the congregation, will contact you to determine when you would like to be contacted - daily, or some other interval, and at what time. Then a caller will be assigned to reach you by phone at your convenience.

If you want to be included in this program, please call the church office or Jean Hawkes, 321-243-5387.



Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. - Romans 12:12

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope.

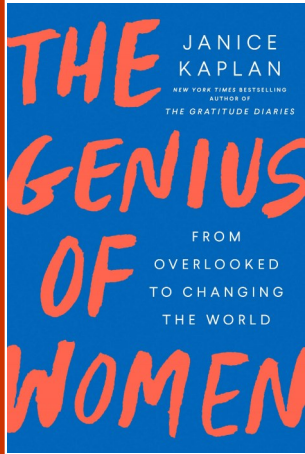
Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassion, we can--and will--change lives.

Sincerely,

Rick Santos
President and CEO
Church World Service

*To stay informed on how you're helping people in need, at home and around the world, visit cwsglobal.org and follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**.*

Book Club February 2023



In February, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss “The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing the World” by Janice Kaplan.

We tell girls that they can be anything, so why do 90 percent of Americans believe that geniuses are almost always men? New York Times bestselling journalist and creator and host of the podcast The Gratitude Diaries, Janice Kaplan explores the powerful forces that have rigged the system - and celebrates the women

geniuses, past and present, who have triumphed anyway. Even in this time of rethinking women’s roles, we define genius almost exclusively through male achievement. When asked to name a genius, people mention Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, and Steve Jobs. As for great women? In one survey, the only female genius anyone listed was Marie Curie. Janice Kaplan sets out to determine why the extraordinary work of so many women has been brushed aside. She makes surprising discoveries about women geniuses now and throughout history, in fields from music to robotics. Through interviews with neuroscientists, psychologists, and dozens of women geniuses at work in the world today - including Nobel Prize winner Frances Arnold and AI expert Fei-Fei Li - she proves that genius isn't just about talent. It's about having that talent recognized, nurtured, and celebrated. Across the generations, even when they face less-than-perfect circumstances, women geniuses have created brilliant and original work.

In “The Genius of Women,” you’ll learn how they ignored obstacles and broke down seemingly unshakable barriers.

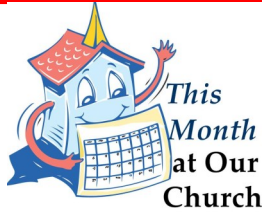
Please join us on Tuesday, February 28th at 1:30 to share your responses to “The Genius of Women.”

Our group continues to meet on zoom. Meeting ID is 845 6868 2100.

HOPE Book Club Reading List 2022 - 2023

September	<u>The Daughters of Yalta: the Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans</u> - Catherine Grace Katz
October	<u>All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake</u> - Tiya Miles
November	<u>Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship</u> - Catherine Raven
December	Christmas Break
January	<u>The Ministry for the Future</u> - Kim Stanley Robinson
February	<u><i>The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing The World</i></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





Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services
321 636 0250

- 2/2 - Christian Ed. Meeting
- 2/3 - Happy Seekers
- 2/4 - Justice & Witness Meeting
- 2/5 - Communion Worship
- 2/7 - Trustees Meeting
- 2/8 - Deacons Meeting
- 2/10 - Happy Seekers
- 2/12 - Worship
 - Souper Bowl Sunday
 - Growth & Dev. Meeting
- 2/16 - Stewardship Meeting
- 2/17 - Happy Seekers
- 2/19 - Worship
- 2/21 - Church Council Meeting
- 2/22 - Ash Wednesday
- 2/24 - Happy Seekers
- 2/26 - Worship
 - Pastoral Relations Meeting



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

- 2/2 - Eddie Hamilton's Birthday
- 2/5 - Denise Valdez-King's Birthday
- 2/13 - Angela Hamilton's Birthday
- 2/18 - Christi Scheirer's Birthday
- 2/21 - Jeannie Robert's Birthday
- 2/22 - Heavan Elam's Birthday
- 2/27 - Joyce Gordon's Birthday

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

Theology on Tap

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Zoom Mtg. No. 321 636 0250

**Hope UCC Ministry
for the Sharing Center**

In January we collected 89 food items and 47 jackets, coats, sweat-shirts and hoodies for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7pm Christian Ed.	3 10:00a m Happy Seekers	4 10:00am Justice & Witness
5 10am Communion Worship	6	7 7 pm Trustees	8 7 pm Deacons	9	10 10:00am Happy Seekers	11
12 10am Worship 11pm Growth & Dev.	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 7pm Stewardship	17 10:00am Happy Seekers	18
19 10am Worship	20 President's Day	21 6:30pm Council	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 10:00am Happy Seekers	25
26 10am Worship 11:00 am Pastoral Relations	27	28 1:30pm Book Club				