



Tidings of Hope



HOPE *United Church of Christ* *April 2023*

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

Lent and Holly Week are a time for reflection and contemplation. Our worship series has encouraged us to think about what really matters as we look for love in all the right places. The news of war, gun violence, and hate has also led me to wonder about life, justice and love.

Recently I read The Invitation by poet and inspirational speaker, Oriah Mountain Dreamer. She writes about how on the 1-year anniversary of her best friend's death, searching for connection, she decided to go to a party. The evening was full of mindless small talk and shallow, empty conversation. When she got home, she wrote this:

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain. I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic, to remember the limitations of being human.

I want to know if you can see beauty, even when it's not pretty, every day, and if you can source your own life from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you, from the inside, when all else falls away. I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

The Reverend's Reflection (continued)

Reflections from *Prelude to the Dance* by Oriah Mountain Dreamer:

What if it truly doesn't matter what you do but how you do whatever you do?

How would this change what you choose to do with your life?

What if you could be more present and openhearted with each person you met if you were working as a cashier in a corner store, or as a parking lot attendant, than you could if you were doing a job you think is more important?

How would this change how you spend your precious time on this earth?

What if your contribution to the world and the fulfillment of your own happiness is not dependent upon discovering a better method of prayer or technique of meditation, not dependent upon reading the right book or attending the right seminar, but upon really seeing and deeply appreciating yourself and the world as they are right now?

How would this affect your search for spiritual development?

What if there is no need to change, no need to try to transform yourself into someone who is more compassionate, more present, more loving or wise?

How would this affect all the places in your life where you are endlessly trying to be better?

What if the task is simply to unfold, to become who you already are in your essential nature — gentle, compassionate, and capable of living fully and passionately present?

How would this affect how you feel when you wake up in the morning?

What if who you essentially are right now is all that you are ever going to be?

What if the essence of who you are and always have been is enough?

What if becoming who and what we truly are happens not through striving and trying but by recognizing and receiving the people and places and practices that offer us the warmth of encouragement we need to unfold?

How would this shape the choices you make about how to spend today?

Soon it will be Good Friday which leads to Easter morning. As we contemplate life and death, the crucifixion and resurrection, may our days bloom with new life and love. Happy Easter.

The Deacons Corner

Spring has sprung, and church calendar activities are flourishing!

Don't forget to sign up to attend the Maundy Thursday service, a modern version of the meal in the upper room, Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 in the social hall. Deacons are serving vegetable soups, bread (regular and gluten free), dessert, and beverages. Please contact the church if you have not already signed up, or contact Julie Johnson. The sign-up sheet is in the church narthex. We want to be able to serve all who attend.

April 9, Easter Sunday, please bring fresh flowers to decorate the cross.

We always need lectors and people to volunteer to take up the collection and pass out bulletins, so please look at the sign-up sheet in the narthex to see where you can serve.

We wish you blessings and peace as we celebrate the resurrection of life and our risen Savior.

Your Hope UCC Deacons

Prayer Bead Class...back by popular demand!

The last prayer bead class was so successful there have been many requests to do it again! The Christian Education Team is listening and is planning a class for May. The class is based on the book, A Bead and a Prayer by Kristen E. Vincent. It begins with creating your own set of prayer beads and continues with 4 weeks of exploration, technique and well...prayer.

The beads and tools will be provided, and there is no charge for the class however, donations are appreciated. Once the Christian Education Team has an idea of how many people are interested, the dates and times for the class will be selected.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you may email the church office (hopeuccfl@att.net).

Hope 'N Heart Thrift Shop

Hope 'N Heart Thrift Store will be open April 14 & 15 and April 21 & 22. Hours are 10-2. Join us for lunch on Saturdays.

Hope 'N Heart has lots of new items. Household items, clothing, great books/novels and so much more.

If you would like to volunteer to work at the thrift store, there are lots of jobs available. Contact Melanie at Mellgoff@aol.com, we'd love to have you join us.

We will again be featuring a "cookie of the month" by Julie Johnson.



Thrift Shop

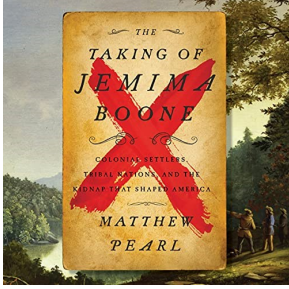
Open the 2nd & 3rd
Friday and Saturday of each month
Hours are 10am-2pm

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Book Club April 2023



In April, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss The Taking of Jemima Boone: The True Story of the Kidnap and Rescue that Shaped America, by Matthew Pearl.

On a quiet midsummer day in 1776, weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, thirteen-year-old Jemima Boone and her friends Betsy and Fanny Callaway disappear near the Kentucky settlement of Boonesboro, the echoes of their faraway screams lingering on the air. A Cherokee-Shawnee raiding party has taken the girls as the latest salvo in the blood feud between American Indians and the colonial settlers who have decimated native lands and resources. Hanging Maw, the raiders' leader, recognizes one of the captives as Jemima Boone, daughter of Kentucky's most influential pioneers, and realizes she could be a valuable pawn in the battle to drive the colonists out of the contested Kentucky territory for good. With Daniel Boone and his posse in pursuit, Hanging Maw devises a plan that could ultimately bring greater peace both to the tribes and the colonists. But after the girls find clever ways to create a trail of clues, the raiding party is ambushed by Boone and the rescuers in a battle with reverberations that nobody could predict.

As Matthew Pearl reveals, the exciting story of Jemima Boone's kidnapping vividly illuminates the early days of America's westward expansion, and the violent and tragic clashes across cultural lines that ensue.

We invite you to read and discuss this exciting novel with us on Tuesday, April 25th at 1:30 pm. The 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
<i>December</i>	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January	<u>The Ministry for the Future</u> - Kim Stanley Robinson
February	<u>The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing The World</u> - Janice Kaplan
March	<u>Joan Is Okay</u> - Weike Wang
<i>April</i>	<i>The Taking of Jemima Boone</i> - Matthew Pearl
May	<u>Taste: My Life Through Food</u> - Stanley Tucci



Hope UCC Hosting a Blood Drive

April 15, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Growth & Development Committee has set the first of two 2023 blood drives with the OneBlood organization for Saturday, **April 15** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The Big Red Bus will be parked in the circle in front of the church. You can enjoy the Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop and lunch on the same day!!

There is an urgent need for blood donations at this time. You can sign up on oneblood.org/donate OR you can contact Betty Capaldo at bcapaldo31@gmail.com and let her know your time preference. OneBlood always provides a thank you gift to donors, as well as their wellness check that includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Give the gift of life! Thank you!

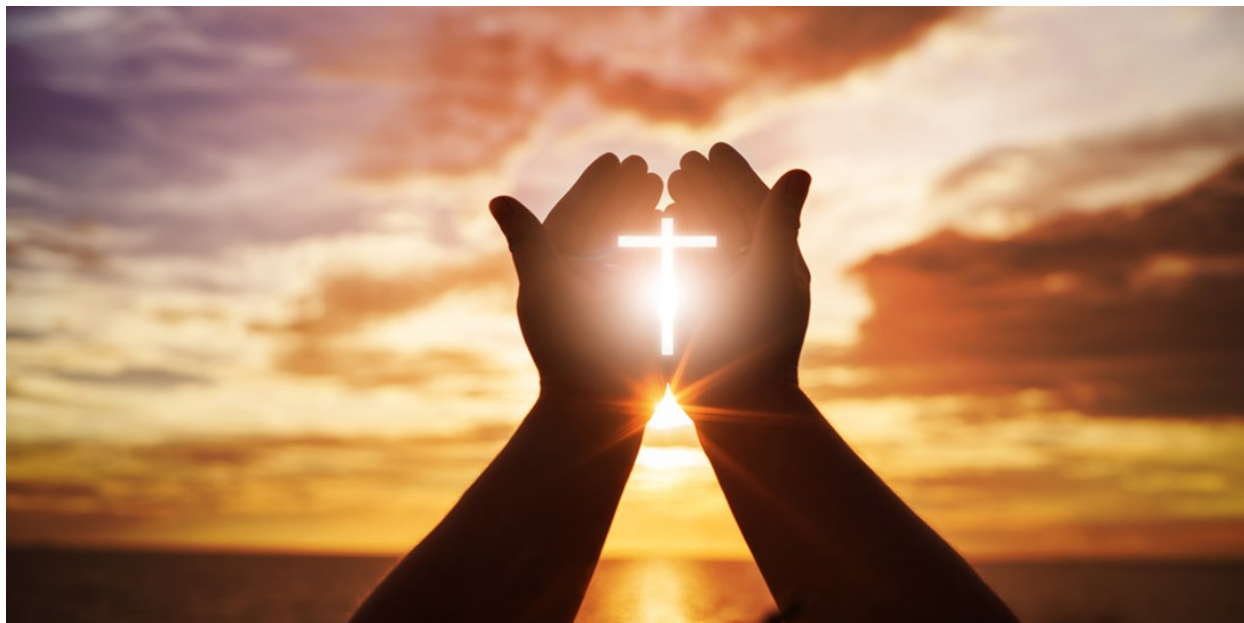
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please Read

Before making any changes to electrical settings – and especially before going into a circuit breaker box—please contact the chair of Trustees before making any changes.

If you are not sure why something is the way it is . . . please consult a Trustee before making changes. Thank you

Paul Capaldo 401-529-9151.





Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services
321 636 0250

- 4/1 - Justice & Witness Meeting
- 4/2 - Palm Sunday
Communion Worship
- 4/4 - Trustees Meeting
- 4/6 - Maundy Thursday Service
- 4/7 - Good Friday
- Happy Seekers
- 4/8 - Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/9 - Easter Sunday Worship
- 4/13 - Church Council
- 4/14 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 4/15 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 4/16 - Worship
- 4/20 - Stewardship Meeting
- Deacons Meeting
- 4/21 - Happy Seekers
- Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 4/22 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 4/23 - Worship
- Pastoral Relations Meeting
- 4/25 - Book Club
- 4/28 - Happy Seekers
- 4/30 - Worship



**Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!**

- 4/3 - Matthew Smith's Birthday
- 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

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





2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 10am Communion Worship	3	4 7 pm Trustees	5	6 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 Good Friday 10:30 am Happy Seekers	8 11 am—12 pm Easter Egg Hunt
9 Easter Sunday 10am Worship	10	11	12	13 6:45pm Council	14 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store	15 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store
16 10am Worship	17	18	19	20 7 pm Stewardship 7 pm Deacons	21 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store	22 10 am—2 pm Thrift Store
23 10am Worship 11am PRC	24	25 1:30 pm Book Club 7 pm Growth & Dev.	26	27	28 10:30am Happy Seekers	29
30 10am Worship						