



# *Tidings of Hope*



*"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19*



## *HOPE* *United Church of Christ* *June 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 Reverends Reflection

### **Making All Things New**

One of the many wonderful things about the UCC is the autonomous nature of our congregations. In other words, the national office cannot dictate how our congregation behaves. Our polity comes from the congregation up to the national church instead of from the top down. The people do that at General Synod. Every two years the people bring resolutions to the floor at General Synod.

General Synod will be held this summer in Indianapolis, IN. One of our own congregants, Jonah Garcia, has been elected by the Florida Conference as a delegate. Rev. Karen will also be attending Synod but not as a delegate (therefore she cannot vote).

The proposed resolutions address some of the big issues in our country such as attempts to censor the history that educators can teach and threats to abortion rights. Many seek to extend and continue the UCC's commitments to key justice issues – responding to gun violence, working for reparations in multiple contexts, addressing mass incarceration and environmental justice – and more. These are the issues that our delegates will be wrestling with this summer.

*(from Kayla Berkey's article published on February 13, 2023 at ucc.org)*

#### **Prudential Resolutions** *(relate to policy, structure, and procedure)*

- Living into God's Economy: Celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF)
- Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ

#### **Resolutions of Witness** *(relate to moral, ethical or religious matters)*

- Denouncing the Dobbs Decision and Proclaiming Abortion as Healthcare
- A Resolution Calling for a New Study by our Church on our Relationship with the Indian Boarding Schools and the Boarding Schools in Hawai'i
- Closing the Digital Divide: Calling on the United Church of Christ to Seek Digital Justice and Inclusion
- A Resolution Urging Planning for and Implementing Electrification
- Faithful Advocacy for Intersectional and Transformational Healing in Harm Reduction
- Affirming Guns to Gardens and Other Gun Violence Prevention Ministries

## The Reverend's Reflection (cont'd)

### **Resolutions of Witness (cont'd)**

- A Resolution to Urge All Responsible Entities to Join in Reparations to Fund Christian Hawaiian Language Education Programs to Undo a Century of Extinction. Americanization and Indoctrination Policies Extinguished the Original Christian Hawaiian Alphabet
- Encouraging a Plant-based Life
- Free from Plastic Pollution
- A Resolution Supporting Public School Educators, Academic Freedom, and Equity Efforts in Schools
- A Resolution to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans
- A Resolution Condemning Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture
- Actively Affirming the Human Dignity of Transgender and Nonbinary Persons
- A Resolution Calling on United Church of Christ Local Churches to Witness "A White Supremacy Free Zone" & Confronting White Supremacy

If you want to read the entire resolution you will find them at <https://generalsynod.org/>

Delegates will also be voting on a new candidate for General Minister and President, The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. There will also be a proposed bylaw change about the frequency of General Synod (from every 2 years to every 3 years).

The keynote speaker is Nadia Bolz-Weber. Many of you will remember her from her videos at Theology on Tap. She is always heartfelt, bold and a little irreverent (which makes her all the more enjoyable and memorable)! Author Ibram X. Kendi will also speak. His insights on racism are groundbreaking and life changing. You can get involved by participating in the all-church read of his book, How to Be an Anti-Racist. We will also be discussing the book at Theology on Tap this summer.

General Synod is sure to be an exciting event!

This is the church in action!

## Moderator's Moment

### Be The Church

We have heard the message that the building is not the church. The people are the church. I think this is so true about Hope UCC. It was so obvious during the pandemic how the people became so dedicated and creative to make the church a reality for our spiritual family and our community. The building was closed but we found ways to be spiritually fed and serve our community.

Thanks to technology we were able to worship online and continue to send out God's love in so many creative ways. We continued to serve our community with drop off food collections, drive in trick or treat celebrations, and a birthday parade for our oldest member. These are just a few things we accomplished.

We gathered together recently to talk about how we can continue to **Be the Church** going forward. What does the future hold for us and how do we make a difference? What can we do as a congregation? How can we continue to share with our community that we are a safe place to worship, connect, and serve our neighbors?

Some wonderful and creative ideas came out of this gathering. Many of us felt that our social activities were the most important. Refreshments after service, potlucks, and cookouts were mentioned around the tables. The music during service, bringing the choir back, a variety of music and the inclusion of different instruments was another discussion topic for many. Social Justice and being a welcoming church family to all were important topics of our discussions. We continue to seek ways to make this known with our technology and our witness to all that come to our church. The recent opening of our thrift store has been not only a way to help our budget but a witness to our surrounding neighborhood. This gathering was a wonderful start to looking at our future and where we go as a church.

The next step is our survey. If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey online, please take the time to fill it out. If you need a hard copy, contact our church secretary Sandy and we will send it out.

Blessings  
Tonia Patterson

## **Your Church Needs You!**

How can you help? Serving in leadership or on a committee is not the only way to serve your church family. Yes, there are openings on our committees but there are other ways to help. When committees plan activities, you can sign up to help for a specific event.

You can offer to participate on Sundays in a variety of ways. You could be the liturgist (read scripture and help the pastor lead the service) for one Sunday or a few weeks. You could help take the collection, be a greeter, or help with technology. You can help with refreshments (either baking ahead of time or serving after worship).

Our thrift store always needs lots of volunteers. You could volunteer at Hope and Heart Thrift Store while it's open by helping customers and being a church ambassador. The thrift store has behind-the-scenes volunteer opportunities too. We have a really fun group that helps with unpacking, sorting, and pricing. We also have some wonderful, strong people who will pick up items and they can always use help.

We have an amazing group of people that serve on the Care Team. We send out greeting cards, provide meals for folks during times of need, and provide rides for people who may need that help.

We have a prayer chain that goes out on a regular basis. All you need to do to join this group is to be willing to pray for others and keep confidentiality.

Another wonderful opportunity to serve is with **Hope's Helping Hands**. Sometimes people just need an extra hand changing light bulbs, getting down stuff from the attic or hanging a picture. If you like being handy around the house and helping others, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! It's another great way to volunteer and *be the church* (no committee meeting required).

If any of these opportunities sound like a fit for you, just let me know and I will send you to the right people.

My contact information is below.

Tonia Patterson

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[toniabandit@aol.com](mailto:toniabandit@aol.com)

Thanks for being you!

## The Deacons Corner (deacon- (n) a servant)

Happy Pentecost, the official birthday of the Christian church when we celebrate the joy of the gift of the Holy Spirit!

As part of the Pentecost celebration, we welcomed new members and hosted refreshments after worship in their honor on May 28.

We thank everyone for contributing to the flowering of the cross for Easter Sunday. We also thank our Growth and Development Committee for hosting a Mother's Day brunch after worship on May 14.



If anyone has a desire to serve during worship, we have open dates for liturgists and ushers to take up the collection. You can sign up for any Sunday or for an entire month. We are grateful for your talents and encourage you to sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex (greeting hall outside the sanctuary). You can contact any of our deacons for instructions. We'll gladly walk you through the practice and protocols. Try it! You might like it!

Deacons meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings are open to the congregation. Julie Johnson, who chairs the committee, is also the Zoom administrator for these meetings, so please contact her if you wish to attend a meeting and learn more about our committee.

Deacons work collaboratively with our Sanctuary Enhancement Team (SET), and our Tech Team, who always look for helping hands. If these are areas that interest you, please contact deacons, and we'll direct you accordingly.

## **Safe Conduct Committee**

On June 11, our Safe Church Committee, which is led by the Chairman of Deacons, will meet after worship in the choir room to review our church safe conduct policies and protocols. Our church has drafted guidelines and procedures dealing with any form of exploitation on the part of authorized pastoral staff, paid church staff, church volunteers, or church attendees with persons under 18 or adults.

The Safe Church Committee is charged with providing an avenue for an appropriate response should problems arise. We have invited representatives from Christian Ed., Growth and Development, and Justice and Witness committees to attend.

Our committee members are Julie Johnson-Chairman of Deacons; Melanie Goff-Chairman of Pastoral Relations; Rebecca Carroll-Deacon's representative; Edward Hamilton-Trustees Representative, and Tonia Patterson-Moderator. Digital copies of our policies and procedures are available through the church secretary.

## **Christian Education News**

Christian Ed. would like to cordially invite the congregation to come and join us Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> after church to celebrate our 2023 Graduates and all of the other children who are advancing to the next grade level with a family picnic style potluck. There will be indoor/outdoor games: horse shoes, corn hole, tug of war, bingo and playing cards. We hope you will join us to let our youth know how proud we are of their accomplishments.

In other Christian Ed. news, we are planning to have another Prayer Bead class for the summer. If anyone is interested, please let someone on the committee know. Coming in the near future will be a Family Fun Day where there will be indoor/outdoor activities, water activities and a light lunch opened to the community. More details coming soon! Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Cotton

## Growth & Development

May has been a busy month. Some of the recent May events included hosting Mother's day breakfast, new members luncheon, and congregation new members celebration!

The Growth & Development team is excited to announce the following upcoming activities:

June 8 - Game Night 7:00 PM

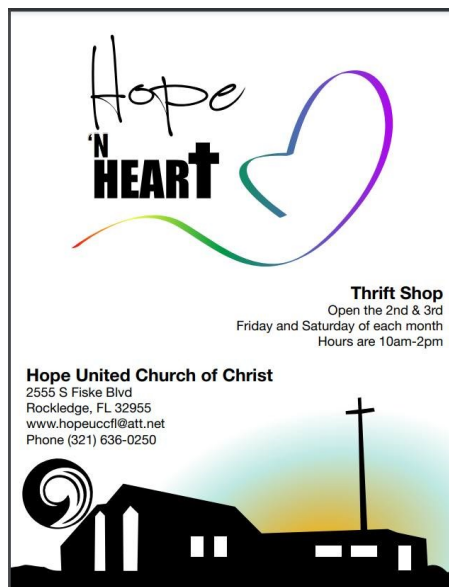
June 10 - Hope & Heart Thrift Store Cook-Out 10:00 - 2:00 PM

June 17 - Hope & Heart Thrift Store Cook-Out 10:00 - 2:00 PM

June 18 - Pop for Pops - Father's Day Lunch after Sunday service

June 22 - Game Night 7:00 PM

Additional ideas that the team is bouncing around include potentially hosting a concert and starting up community bingo. All ideas and feedback are welcome!







Zoom Mtg. ID. for Worship Services  
**321 636 0250**

- 6/1 - Christian Education Meeting
- 6/2 - Happy Seekers
- 6/3 - Justice & Witness Meeting
- 6/4 - Communion Worship  
 - Graduates Pot Luck Picnic
- 6/6 - Trustees Meeting
- 6/8 - Game Night
- 6/9 - Happy Seekers  
 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 6/10 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 6/11 - Worship
- 6/13 - Church Council
- 6/14 - Care Team Meeting
- 6/15 - Stewardship Meeting
- 6/16 - Happy Seekers  
 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 6/17 - Hope 'n Heart Thrift Shop
- 6/18 - Worship  
 - Father's Day Luncheon
- 6/22 - Deacons Meeting  
 - Game Night
- 6/27 - Growth & Development Mtg.
- 6/30 - Happy Seekers



- 6/5 - Mark Johnson's Birthday
- 6/5 - Diane Schnellhammer's Birthday
- 6/9 - Lizzet Ruiz's Birthday
- 6/18 - Rev. Bill Flynn's Birthday
- 6/19 - Barbara Smith's Birthday
- 6/20 - Pat & Bob Munchbach's  
 Anniversary
- 6/20 - Julie Becker's Birthday
- 6/20 - Kari Scheirer's Birthday
- 6/25 - Karen Lehr's Birthday
- 6/27 - Shelle & Michael Waller's  
 Anniversary

### **Ongoing Events at Hope**

#### **Happy Seekers**

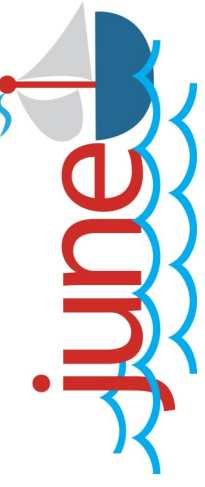
Fridays at 10:00 am  
 Zoom Mtg. No. 875 1767 3994

#### **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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7 pm- Christian Ed	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Happy Seekers	<b>3</b> 10 am Justice & Witness
<b>4</b> 10am Communion Worship 11am- Pot Luck Picnic	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7 pm Trustees	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7pm Game Night	<b>9</b> 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am-2 pm Thrift Store	<b>10</b> 10 am-2 pm Thrift Store
<b>11</b> 10am Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:45pm Council	<b>14</b> 10:30 am Care Team	<b>15</b> 7 pm Stewardship	<b>16</b> 10:30am Happy Seekers 10 am-2 pm Thrift Store	<b>17</b> 10 am-2 pm Thrift Store
<b>18</b> 10am Worship 11a, Father's Day Lunch	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7 pm Deacons 7pm Game Night	<b>23</b> 10:30am Happy Seekers	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10am Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 pm Growth & Dev	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30am Happy Seekers	