



# *Tidings of Hope*



## *HOPE* *United Church of Christ* *October 2023*

*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](http://www.hopeucc.com) † [hopeuccfl@att.net](mailto:hopeuccfl@att.net) † [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

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

## ***Reflections from Reverend Karen Finding God***

*During a Children's Message the pastor asked the children where the candle was. The children looked around. One sharp-eyed boy said, "There it is!" "Would you go get it?" the pastor asked. The boy retrieved the candle and handed it to her. "Where is the white bowl?" she then asked. It was located and retrieved. "Where are the silver and gold beads?" Same thing again. "Where is something that reminds you of Christmas?" Also gotten. Finally, she asked, "Where is God?"*

*The children looked about—up, down, all around. There were a few bewildered looks, some shrugged shoulders. Then a small boy in a plaid shirt, about there years old, said, "I know!"*

*The pastor said, "You do?"*

*The little boy looked excited, insisting, "Yes! Yes!"*

*"Where?" asked the pastor.*

*And the little boy replied, "I'll go get God!"*

*He jumped up from the chancel stairs and ran down the center aisle. ...the little boy returned holding the hand of a kind-looking woman in her sixties or seventies, literally pulling her down the aisle. "Here!" He cried, "Here's God! She's here!"*

*The pastor looked puzzled. "Miss Jean?"*

*The boy pointed at her, "There she is! God! God!"*

*She was his Sunday school teacher.*

*At the time, there was not a dry eye in the congregation. Since then, I have wondered if this was how people responded to Jesus—pointing at their beloved teacher, the one who instructed them in a way of love, and crying out, "Here! Here's God! God!"*

*We so often forget how beautiful that is, until the mystery of it overtakes us again. Jesus the Teacher. (From *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass page 63, 64)*

*Where do you see God?*

*In a world that is full of conflict, chaos, and contention may we all be teachers of the way of love.*

## *Fall Festival*

**Fall Festival October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 2 pm**

We are still accepting vendors. They may register at:

<https://bit.ly/HopeVendorSignUp>

### *Current Vendors*

**Man Cave Originals**—Handmade crafts and art

**Bumble Brothers**—Honey and branded merchandise

[www. Bumblebrothers.net](http://www.Bumblebrothers.net)

**Kingdom Jewelez** –Paparazzi jewelry

**Sonia Brown**—Sweet treats, cupcakes, cake slices, cake jars

**Megs Custom Crafts**—Iced coffee cups, wristlets, lanyards, baby items and more <https://megscustomcraft.etsy.com>

**Scentsy**—Buddy, wax, warmer

[Jmulrenan.scentsy.us](http://Jmulrenan.scentsy.us)

**Amazing Wreaths and Home Décor**—Wreaths, Faux food items, Wood poseable scarecrows

**Tracy's Tier Tray Treasures**—Wooden houses, phrase blocks and small signs

**Rhonda Dietz**—Crochet items

**Manifest Energy LLC**—Crochet items and Crystals

[Manifestenergy.myshopify.com](http://Manifestenergy.myshopify.com)

**Hopefully Ever After Designs**—personalized items such as cups, shirts and many other gift items.

[www.Hopefullyeverafterdesigns.com](http://www.Hopefullyeverafterdesigns.com)

**Mardia Designs** - Custom created glassware, crafts.

<https://bit.ly/MardiaDesigns>

### *Food Trucks*

MK Famous Italian Ice

The B.A.W House

Real Jamaican Jerk Center LLC



## New Member Luncheon

Would you like to know more about the United Church of Christ and our wonderful Hope church? We are planning a gathering next month, and all are welcome. Is this the church you would like to join? Anyone can attend and there is no commitment to join. It will just be a chance to gather, have a light lunch, meet the leaders of our church, and ask questions. So, join us on *October 22nd after worship*. Please sign up in the narthex so we will have enough food to share. If you do decide to join Hope UCC, there will be a New Member Reception during worship the following Sunday on October 29<sup>th</sup>.



## **Bakers Needed**

Attention Hope Bakers

The Christian Ed committee is looking for Bakers to assist in providing baked good items to be sold on

**Saturday October 28,2023** during the Fall Festival.

We are looking for a variety of items; Cookies, breads, hand pies, brownies, or other fall goodies. Please contact Denise King via email at [djoanking@aol.com](mailto:djoanking@aol.com) or

Cyndi Leonard via at [cyn.leonard@yahoo.com](mailto:cyn.leonard@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. Details for dropping off items will be discussed with Bakers on an individual basis.



### ***Greeting from Hope N' Heart Thrift Store!***

The store is growing so fast it's hard to keep up!

Diana Short purchased 4 new feather flags for advertising the store being open!

3 new Z racks were purchased for the store in September to use for displaying clothes.

And in October in the backroom of the store we are opening the Christmas room. Christmas items that have been donated for months will be displayed for sale.

So come on out and shop your thrift store!

Karen & Melanie



People have asked for a better explanation of RaiseRight and how the program works. **Raiseright** is a program that earns our church some money for every purchase made from its website and contributes to the upkeep of Hope Church.

There are 2 types of fundraising that we participate in.

The first is buying physical gift cards that are offered 3 times during the year. Once in the spring, summer, and late fall right before the Christmas Holidays. The gift cards can be used for yourself or family and friends. There is a wide variety of cards to choose from and each has a percentage of 2.5 to 16% given back. These cards are ordered through our representative and handed out personally, after received. Our next gift card offer will begin on **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and orders taken for the following 2 weeks, ending **November 12<sup>th</sup>**. The cards will be in by Thanksgiving, so plenty of time to send out as gifts for Christmas.

The other way to participate is through the website directly and purchase Ecards. These are electronic gift cards that are received within minutes of purchase. Go to the **Raiseright** app and download to your phone. Sign up by joining Hope Church using the following enrollment code 5CLADL9436683. Then, while out shopping, purchase **E cards** to use as payment and the church receives a portion of each purchase. There is a .29 charge when purchasing. So while in line, I pull up the app, sign in, and then purchase an e-card close to the anticipated amount or go over and have some funds towards a future purchase available.

A few of the local stores include: Walmart, Target, Starbucks, Dominos, IHOP, L.L. Bean, Bass Pro Shop, AMC & Regal theaters, HULU, or VUDU.

If there are further questions, please reach out to Susan Vincent about the physical cards and Cyndi Leonard for the E cards.

Book Club  
October 2023

During October, the Hope Book Club will read and discuss Iuliia Mendel's book, *The Fight of Our Lives: My Time With Zelensky, Ukraine's Battle for Democracy, and What It Means for the World*.

Inspired by the Ukrainian people: There are already enough stories of heroic resilience to last a lifetime. The Ukrainian novelist Andrey Kurkov even urged his fellow countrymen and women on social media to keep diaries during this challenging time as a future testament to what they lived through. Some of those testimonies are starting to reach a Western audience.

Iuliia Mendel's "The Fight of Our Lives: My Time With Zelensky, Ukraine's Battle for Democracy, and What It Means for the World" is advertised on the back cover as being "written with the sound of Russian bombs and exploding shells in the background." The Ukrainian president's former press secretary recounts how her upbringing in Kherson eventually led her to one of the country's most sought-after positions for journalists, what she witnessed during the beginning of Volodymyr Zelensky's presidency and how Ukraine came together in the face of all-out war. Zelensky was subject to much criticism by the Ukrainian public before the Russian invasion. As Mendel describes, the former comedian and actor was unlike any other president in Ukraine's history. Unsurprisingly, the public was unsure what to make of him once he came to power.. The coronavirus pandemic and the Russian invasion forced Zelensky to mature quickly and become a true statesman.

According to *The Washington Post*, Mendel's memoir is best read as a subjective account of the Zelensky administration rather than an authoritative history. Hopefully, the main takeaway for readers is that their interest in Ukraine endures and they will search out the many quality books from Ukraine scheduled to be released in the near future, including from authors currently serving in the Ukrainian military or working tirelessly as volunteers.

We hope you will read this account and join our discussion on Tuesday, October 24th at 1:30 pm. We meet on Zoom. The meeting ID is 845 6868 2100.



## **HOPE Book Club Reading List 2023 - 2024**

October	<u>The Fight of Our Lives: My time with Zelensky, Ukraine's Battle for Democracy and what it means for the world</u> Iuliia Mendel
November	<u>Dusk, Night, Dawn</u> - Anne Lamott
December	<u>You Don't Know What War Is: a diary of a young girl from Ukraine</u> - Yeva Skalietska
January	<u>Master Slave Husband Wife: an epic journey from slavery to freedom</u> - Ilyon Woo
February	<u>The Daughters of Madurai</u> - Rajasree Variyar
March	<u>Learning to Pray: a guide for everyone</u> - James Martin
April	<u>While Time Remains: a North Korean defector's search for freedom in America</u> - Yeonmi Park
May	<u>The Water Dancer</u> - Ta-Nehisi Coates





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

- 10/1 Communion Worship
- 10/3 Trustees
- 10/5 Christian Ed
- 10/8 Worship Service
- 10/9 Justice & Witness
- 10/10 Council
- 10/11 Care Team
- 10/15 Worship Service
- 10/19 Stewardship
- 10/22 Worship Service
- 10/24 Book Club
- 10/26 Deacons
- 10/28 Fall Festival
- 10/29 Worship Service
- 10/31 Growth & Dev



- 10/3 Yolanda Apodaca & Kelly Rogers Anniversary/
- 10/5 Robert Munchbach's Birthday
- 10/8 Declan Holmes' Birthday
- 10/18 Isaiah Elam's Birthday
- 10/20 Jamie Lees' Birthday
- 10/23 Della Jensen's Birthday
- 10/29 Matthew & Elizabeth Smith Anniversary
- 10/29 Sharon Keefe's Birthday

### **Ongoing Events at Hope**

#### **Coffee Hour**

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

#### **Theology on Tap**

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm on Zoom I.D.  
#321 636 0250

## Growth & Development

Happy Fall. After an extremely hot summer, it feels like the weather is finally cooling off. For the Hope G&D committee and friends, things are heating up this fall.

Hope church participation in Space Coast Pride 2023 was a huge success! We participated by marching in the parade and hosting a Hope booth. The booth was packed all day! The booth included a selfie picture frame, a prize wheel, and free raffle baskets. Here are just some of the pictures. Everyone had a good time and it was a great day to spread the Hope message.

The G&D team will be hosting after-service refreshments on **October 8!**

On **October 28**, the G&D team will be hosting a Fall Festival. The Fall Festival will include Food Trucks, Vendor Booths, Unique Crafts, Baked Goods, Carnival Games, Live Music, a prize wheel, and a selfie photo frame. Please come share your ideas and talents. All ideas are welcome! Also want to give a special shout out to both Michele Wood and Michelle Fuller. Michelle Fuller is working hard to help us organize this event, and Michele Wood volunteered to be our event emcee and provide live music!



## Gift Wrappers needed!

We are looking for people who like to wrap presents! Our Advent worship series is called “The Gift of Being Present.” We will cover the altar area with these wrapped gifts.

If this is something you like to do, we need you! Grab an empty box and do your magic, be creative, and have some fun. We have some empty boxes at church if you need one.

Please let me know if you would like to help with this important project. Our sanctuary will be beautiful



## October Book Club

