

# Hopedale News



# Community

*Hopedale Unitarian  
Universalist Community*

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Volume 21

Number 3

November 2009

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## **November Sunday Services**

**November 1-**"A Worm's Eye View of Organic Farming." Longtime member and pioneer in recycling and organic farming, Steve Edwards, will discuss why he farms organically and what it is like to be an organic farmer. Service Leader: Carol Sroczyński.

**November 8-**"Dissent, Unitarian Preaching, Radical Politics." The 18th century British feminist Mary Wollstonecraft attended the church of Unitarian Rev. Richard Price. Rev. Price, a friend and ministerial colleague of Rev. Joseph Priestley, was an influential supporter of the "rights of man" and an early supporter of the American and French revolutions. This sermon will explore Price's Unitarian theology and how it might have influenced, and even radicalized Wollstonecraft, who went on to write a spirited defense of Price's support of the French revolution, and then extended those rights of man arguments to women. Speaker: Kim Jacobs- Beck; Service leader: Patty Klingenberg.

**November 15-**"Love and Joy, The Simple Gifts of the Holidays." As we prepare to enter the holiday season commercialism can saturate our senses. Come and reflect on what you really want for Christmas. Rev. Linda's message will draw from a few of the stories in the book, "Unplug The Christmas Machine" by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. Following the service, and during the potluck, you are invited to join Rev. Linda in further study of this book. Service Leader: Mort Meier.

**November 22-**"Giving Thanks." We will share good wishes, meditation, music and song while we reflect on themes of Thanksgiving and service to others. Guest at your Table boxes will be distributed. Intergenerational. Service Leader: Celia Ellison.

**November 29-**"Bearing the Beams of Love: Ethical Dimensions of Community." All questions of ethics and morality require relationship: an isolated human being cannot be ethical or unethical, moral or immoral, because ethics deals with how we treat others—whether those others are humans, animals, or the environment. Our greatest tests of love, compassion and courage come in our relationships with other human beings. Our speaker, Donne Hayden, now minister at Cincinnati Friends Meeting, will be a familiar face to most. Service leader: Patty Klingenberg.

## Consulting Minister's Meanderings



"Tis the season . . ." I will let you fill in the rest. Halloween is here. Thanksgiving can't be far away and that means you know what is fast approaching.

In October I celebrated my first year with you as your quarter-time Consulting Minister. I also grieved that I had to cancel the Appreciative Inquiry because I had an infection and didn't want to share. I have seen how Appreciative Inquiry can transform congregations and it has been my goal to do an Appreciative Inquiry with you ever since I was hired by the Board in 2008. If you haven't yet please respond by email, either through MeetingWizard or directly to the church office [hucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hucoffice@gmail.com), to let us know your availability for the following possible Appreciative Inquiry dates: Saturday, January 9 or Saturday, February 6.

I was intrigued by some of the ideas that you brought forth at the recent Congregational Meeting. Among them, the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof of the church building to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to heat the building more efficiently. Another person suggested a study group to discuss topics presented in the, "UU World." So here is what I propose.

On Sunday November 15 the topic of the Sunday Service will be based on the book, [Unplug The Christmas Machine](#) by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. (Please read the Sunday Service description.) After the Sunday Service (and during the potluck) I will meet with any adults who would like to go deeper into this topic. It's a perfect book to study right before the you know what season hits its stride. I will be sending a MeetingWizard announcement soon, so watch your inbox and reply if you are interested and available to meet after the service on Nov. 15. The meeting will also include a "what's next," portion to decide how and when additional adult forum/religious education classes might be offered.

Joyfully awaiting the holiday season,

Rev. Linda

# Unplugging the Christmas Machine

Rev. Linda Eppert

Have you ever tried to give up Christmas? Or at least downsize your celebration? Family traditions can run deep during the holiday season. Expectations for the perfect holiday experience can leave us feeling empty and joyless. On Sunday, November 15, following the Sunday Service, you are invited to join me to discuss the book, Unplug the Christmas Machine by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. Grab a plate for the potluck and join in the discussion of this helpful book. We will also discuss the possibilities of "what's next" for adult forum/religious education classes.



Our Second Sunday collection in October was for Association Sunday, and we collected \$68. Thanks.

## Rev. Linda Eppert's November Office Hours

Sunday, November 15- Wednesday, November 18. Office hours are Monday, Nov. 16, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wed. 3-5 p.m. You can reach Rev. Eppert at 513-378-5769 (cell.) During the rest of the month, you can reach Rev. Eppert at her Cincinnati number 513-683-2113 or via email: [eppert@fuse.net](mailto:eppert@fuse.net)

## Church Women United of Oxford is celebrating World Community Day 2009

on Sun., November 8, 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Center.

The topic, "Piecing Earth Together" deals with the environment and how we can be good stewards of our Earth.

Everyone is invited.

The **Deadline** to submit items for the December 2009 issue of the *Hopedale Community News* is **Sunday, November 15th.**

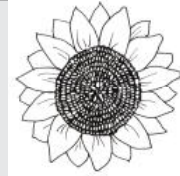
Please email: [hucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hucoffice@gmail.com)



# GREEN CORNER

Encouraging News From Earth Policy Institute

from Gisela Bahr



According to a recent update from Lester Brown, President of Earth Policy Institute, the US is “headed for a massive decline in carbon emissions.” For years many members of Congress have insisted that cutting carbon emissions was difficult, if not impossible. Now Lester reports that during the two years since 2007 carbon emissions have dropped 9%, partly because of the recession and partly from efficiency gains and from replacing coal with natural gas, wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

In 2008, oil use dropped 5%, coal 1%. Estimates for 2009 show oil use down another 5%, coal to drop 10%. Carbon emissions from burning all fossil fuels dropped 9% over the two years. Beyond these cuts further reductions are coming: from stronger automobile fuel-economy standards, higher appliance efficiency standards, as well as financial incentives to support large-scale development of wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

Efforts to reduce fossil fuel use are under way at every level of government – national, state, and city – also in corporations, utilities, and universities. In addition, there are millions of climate-conscious, cost-cutting Americans who are altering their life-styles in order to reduce energy use.

The carbon-cutting movement is gaining momentum on many fronts. In July, the Sierra Club, coordinator of the national anti-coal campaign, announced the hundredth cancellation of a proposed plant since 2001. This battle is leading to a de facto moratorium on new coal plants. Increasingly utilities are giving up on coal – in spite of the coal industry’s “clean coal” campaign – and beginning to close plants. Some 22 coal-fired power plants in twelve states are being replaced by wind farms, natural gas plants, wood chip plants, or efficiency gains. Many more are likely to close as public pressure to clean up the air and to cut carbon emissions intensifies.

Shifting from coal to natural gas cuts carbon emissions by roughly half. Shifting to wind, solar, and geothermal energy drops them to zero. (To be continued next month.)

Earth Policy Release (by e-mail). October 14, 2009



## JOYS & CONCERNS

Let us know your joys and concerns. Call Caring Committee: **Jane Flueckiger**, 523-2289 or **Susan Thrasher**, 523-5860.

☘ It was a joy to have Eunice Meadows with us for the potluck and congregational meeting, so soon after recent surgery. We wish her a good recovery.

☘ Our thoughts are with other members and friends who are experiencing illness. Please do not hesitate to call the minister, the Caring Committee, or anyone else at Hopedale if you need help or would like a visit (in person or by telephone).

☘ At Bob Karrow's memorial gathering, the family shared with us a reading they had used at a dinner chalice lighting. Mary had heard it on NPR some time ago, quickly wrote it down as best she could remember, and doesn't know its origin. If anyone does know, she'd be happy to hear: 523-1125.

*Light a candle  
In celebration of life  
as light in the darkness  
as hope at a time of despair  
as a symbol of precious memory.*

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## 10 Good Ideas for Small UU Congregations

by Kim Jacobs-Beck



A goal of mine for this year is to start us thinking about how Hopedale's challenges and opportunities are in large part caused by our size. Many other congregations under 100 members have similar issues. I thought it might provide us a broader context for positive change. I participated in a teleconference called "10 Good Ideas for Small UU Congregations," moderated by Dori Davenport Thexton. I will be posting one idea a month in the coming year. First, though, here are some broad positives for smaller congregations:

\* Strength is not related to size. Strength or vitality has more to do with positive energy, the ability of a congregation to care for one another and serve others beyond the congregation.

\* Small congregations may have the potential to be more intergenerational.

\* Small congregations can be quite well known in their communities; being able to build relationships with other community organizations and having a presence or influence in their community that is larger than their actual size.

\* Small congregations can provide many opportunities and practice for leadership development and faith development for members (some members in large congregations do not get that opportunity – especially for preaching).

## Caroline Soule Sisters

-Carol Sroczyński

"Simple Pleasures" is the theme for the Caroline Soule Sisters for this year. This can include fellowship (primary purpose), community volunteering, craft activities, short trips, ways of living simply, learning, books, movies, community activism, and more. All women are invited to all activities.



Sunday, November 1st after the social hour we will be making soap. We can create our own unique, good smelling, handmade soaps. (A way to make some "simple gifts" for the holidays.) There will be a moderate cost for supplies. We will decide if we want to a service activity for Thanksgiving.

Carol Hennessey has agreed to host our Annual Hillary Clinton Cookie Exchange Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm at her home, 6026 Vereker Drive in Oxford. This annual Holiday event is one of our holiday traditions. It started out when Hillary Clinton was asked to provide a cookie recipe to a magazine. Since Ms. Clinton has never had baking as one of her noted accomplishments, it came as no surprise when the recipe she provided resulted in, well, let's just say that they will not be on anyone's list of favorite treats. Bring one dozen cookies if you want to exchange one dozen, two if you want to exchange two, etc. If you don't have cookies to exchange, come anyway. Our cookies usually range from favored family recipes to store-bought Pecan Sandies or Oreos. If you can, bring something to snack on.

After the first of the year we're looking forward to a train trip, a showing of a special movie and perhaps a "Croning" ceremony.

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### FREE NOON CONCERT

The next free concert of the Midday Music in Oxford series will be performed at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 by the Jim Connerley Jazz Trio at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main street. Information: Jack Daugherty at 513-523-6969.

### Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska

This environmental TV series will continue on Sunday, November 22, at 1:30 p.m. with Episode 11: The Sunflower House, Part 1 and Episode 12: The Sunflower House, Part 2 At Gisela Bahr's House, 102 E Central Avenue, Oxford.

*Everyone is invited.*

## Happening at Hopedale this month...

**Potluck supper with Rev. Chris Buice on Monday, November 2 at 6 p.m.**

**POTLUCK and Newsletter deadline are Sunday, November 15th.**

**Sunday Service Committee meeting** will be held on **Monday, November 16th** at 6 p.m.

**Board meeting Wednesday, November 18th** from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

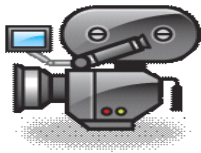
**Community Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, November 28** at 5:30 p.m.

**Community Movie Night** will be held on **Saturday, November 28** at 7:00 p.m.

### **Community Dinner Saturday, November 28, 5:30 p.m.**

-Carol Sroczyński

Relax on a holiday weekend. If you have company, bring them. Bring some leftovers and join others for some good conversation and good food. If you're inclined, stay for a classic movie.



### **Movie Night Saturday, November 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Hopedale Meeting House.**

"On the Waterfront" - Winner of eight Oscars, director Elia Kazan's classic morality tale stars Marlon Brando as Terry Malloy, a has-been boxer who experiences a crisis of conscience while working for mobbed-up union boss Johnny Friendly (Lee J. Cobb). Terry turns a blind eye when Friendly's thugs kill a fellow dockworker to keep him from testifying in a corruption case, but he has second thoughts when the victim's sister (Eva Marie Saint) urges him to take a stand. A treat for a holiday weekend. Grab a couple of beers, come as you are and take your shoes off and enjoy.

### **Come Visit With an Old Friend**

Rev. Chris Buice is coming to town. Please plan to join us Monday, November 2nd at 7 p.m. for a light reception with Chris at our building. Feel free to bring finger-foods to share.



I wish for you the willingness  
-at least sometimes-  
just to be with your sorrow,  
to look deeply into it  
and get to know its face,  
its voice, what it has to tell you.  
Don't turn too quickly away from it  
-from yourself-  
or it will only haunt you that much longer.  
Listen to it. Talk to it. Write to it.  
Find out its name.  
Then figure out if you can heal it  
or rename it or give it up  
or let it be.



from Wishes for the Weary, the Despairing, the Broken-Hearted,  
and for All Those Who Are Simply Having a Hard Time  
by Lynn Robbins

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