



March Sunday Services

March 7: "To Everything There Is a Season: Pete Seeger and the Power of Song." Allan Winkler, Distinguished Professor of History, will offer a brief examination of Seeger's life and role in every major reform movement of the past 7 or 8 decades. It will include a verse from 7 or 8 of his songs.

March 14: "The Practice of Reconciliation in the Lenten Season." Rev. Linda Eppert Lent?! (You say with a puzzled look on your face). What does the Christian season of Lent have to do with Unitarian Universalism? It can be a time of introspection and a time of letting go of pain and suffering. We will celebrate a Humanist Communion in this Intergenerational Service. (Children and Youth are invited to stay for the service.) Service Leader: Jennifer Blue.

March 21: "You Too Can Fly." Rev. Joan Schneider. In the late 1970's British Industrialist Henry Kremer offered a large prize to anyone who could - by human power-pilot a plane over a figure eight flight pattern, reaching an altitude of at least ten feet. And so the Gossamer Condor was born. So, what does that have to do with church? Nothing. And everything. Service Leader: Liz Woedl. **Third Sunday Potluck after service.**

March 28: "Leap of Faith." Mr. Kriss Gang, member of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the UUA Annual Program Fund representative to the Heartland District. Successful stewardship requires commitment, planning and follow through. But even the best laid plans can fall short--sometimes you need to trust your faith community and take "A Leap Of Faith"--you might be surprised where you land... Generosity has consequences. Service Leader: Doris Bergen.

Consulting Minister's Meanderings



Looking forward: That pretty much describes my outlook on life. I was so looking forward to the Appreciative Inquiry in February. And then we had a big snow and the event got postponed. Disappointment hit me like a rock. I am not often disappointed. But this time was different.

After working with you for fourteen months, and having the October date postponed, I was more than ready for the February Appreciative Inquiry (AI). I know how congregations can be transformed by AI. It is different from any other thing I have ever experienced.

Once the disappointment faded and I was centered again I found a new energy. The Board is ready to move forward with a couple of programs, while continuing their own AI Provocative Proposals. Peter Carels will be hosting a "Fun Raising" event for Hopedale and the Sunday Service calendar from now through May looks spectacular! (Thanks Patty Klingenberg, the Sunday Service Committee and the Sunday Service Leaders!) Looking forward.

The Christian season of Lent is here as well. Many of you may have family members and friends who celebrate Lent. On Sunday, March 14 (springing ahead to daylight-saving time) we will gather together for an intergenerational service which will include a Humanist Communion. (Yes, I used both of those words together and in one sentence.)

As the winter comes to a close, we will gather together to reflect on what it means to be reconciled to one another, and our community. We will remember, "all who have lived and died and shared this world with us," and we will offer each other peace, through the sharing of apple juice and wheat/gluten free crackers.

Until then-

"May you grant us a sign-
a ray of sunshine . . .
the call of a bird returning home . . .
the unfolding of a delicate blossom . . .
a throb of life from above or below . . .
to mark the arrival of spring."

In hope and peace,

Rev. Linda

Taz Tagore

Prez Message

This current lay leadership of the Hopedale Board has served for nearly 2 years. Gretchen, Pete, Ann, Genevieve, Mary, Kim and I have enjoyed working together sharing the responsibility of guiding the congregation through a time of transition. This last year, or so, we have welcomed Rev. Linda Eppert, Consulting Minister, and we are exploring new pathways and practices that will help us nurture a vibrant congregational life.

This year Gretchen, Kim and Mary are leaving the board. Gretchen is our Secretary and her attention to her charge is matched by her clear-headed decision-making and compassion for the needs of others. Kim, Religious Services VP, brings enthusiastic energy and an inclusive spirit to our meetings, stepping in as an excellent wordsmith whenever needed. Mary, Member Services chair, has become a wonderful gardener always looking after the care and feeding of our congregation and our vegetable garden. In three months, they will move on to new adventures and responsibilities. The rest of us will miss them greatly, accept the transition, and then welcome new people to our midst.

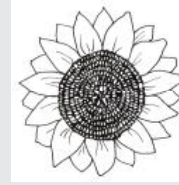
I do hope that some of you will follow their example and serve for a time on the Board or consider a leadership position on a committee or task force. Please talk to our retiring Boardfolk and ask them about their experiences. You'll find them knowledgeable and earnest. We have news of a candidate for Secretary and we continue our search for VPs of Religious and Member Services. Consider your leadership as a valued gift of time and talent.

In Community-

Liz Woedl

GREEN CORNER

An Interview with Frances Beinecke from Gisela Bahr



Frances Beinecke is the President of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). She recently published a book entitled *Clean Energy Common Sense*. In an interview published in *Nature's Voice* (Jan/Feb 2010) Beinecke was challenged why would we need still another book on climate change, and why now? Her answer: Never before did she see the kind of momentum calling for action on global warming that she sees now. "We have reached a tipping point, and we have to act." With her book she wants to speak to the widest possible audience so that they support the actions that will be necessary.

Beinecke was also asked about facts in her book that we might not yet know. Among them

1. in September the CIA created a new research center to assess the national security risks presented by climate change;
2. we are losing 8 million acres a year to wildfires, twice the amount of a decade ago;
3. right now, whenever an American puts 10 gallon of gas in the tank, 6 of those gallons are imported from places like Venezuela, Russia, Saudi Arabia;
4. last year we sent nearly half a trillion dollars overseas to buy oil.

Producing and using greener technologies can help put Americans back to work. All of this is documented in her book, and Beinecke feels very strongly that people need to know these facts and many more.

Another challenging question presented to Beinecke was about the effectiveness of the "cap-and-trade" system. According to her, this system has been used twice before with success. First against acid rain, reducing sulfur emissions better than expected and at a cost lower than expected. The other problem was lead in gasoline. This was also phased out through a cap-and-trade system. Hence, it works and is now needed to stop the carbon pollution that is ravaging our planet.

In his foreword to *Clean Energy Common Sense*, NRDC Trustee Robert Redford says: "Frances Beinecke has penned a modern version of Paine's revolutionary classic, calling on us, as a nation, to rise to the challenge of global climate change...and she calls on each of us to...urge Congress to act....But in order to succeed, we must raise our voices loudly and fully."

NRDC Nature's Voice, Jan/Feb 2010




JOYS & CONCERNS

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

⌘ Congratulations to Aaron Kawamura and Zoe Caswell! Their McGuffey Foundation School "stock market team" did well and was pictured in the Oxford Press recently. Maybe they'd like to apply their skills to Hopedale's finances!

⌘ It's good to see Doris Bergen's Tree column in the Hamilton Journal-News again. It's always informative.

⌘ On Sunday, February 14 our community lost a beloved member. After a fall in her home, and while in the hospital, Lynn Roark died of complications from pneumonia. A faithful member of Hopedale, Lynn will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Lynn is survived by her son, John, and his wife, Amy, and their three children. During our Sunday service on February 21 we included a time of remembrance of Lynn.



**The
Congregational
Appreciative
Inquiry will be
held on
Saturday,
March 20th**

from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing or calling the Hopedale office.

Rev. Linda's March Office Hours

Rev. Linda will be at the Hopedale Office on **Monday, March 15th** and **Wednesday, March 17th** from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. During the rest of the month, you can reach Rev. Eppert at 513-378-5769 (cell.) or via email: eppert@fuse.net

FAITH, PLANET, AND CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY

Hopedale 's members in the Interfaith Climate Change Work Group are pleased to announce three upcoming events that bring Oxford area congregations together on climate protection plans and actions. The three events are coming up on March 26th and 27th, on the Miami Campus, at St. Mary's, and at Holy Trinity as described on the next page. Many other faith traditions will be represented as well, and we all look forward to hearing how much is going on in our Oxford community and across the country. We hope you will put these events on your calendar.



Best,

Orie and Elinor Loucks, Ann Geddes, Gisela Bahr

Friday, March 26th

Environmental Stewardship; the Religious Response to Climate Change-Dr. Greg Hitzhusen (executive director of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light) speaks on the fastest growing component of the American Environmental movement; faith community action. Hear how the major denominations approach the environmental crises as a social justice issue. Learn about the practical steps being taken by churches locally and nationally to address these issues.

Location: The McNiff Room - 269 Upham Hall, Miami University

Time: 1:00 - 2:30

Pastoral Care/Earth Care: film screening and discussion

The award winning film "RENEWAL" outlines the efforts of faith communities across the country to approach environmental issues from a faith perspective. The screening will be followed by an informal discussion with Dr. Greg Hitzhusen (executive director of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light) and Oxford area faith community leaders and members.

Location: St. Mary's Parish Center, 15 South Poplar St. Oxford, OH.

Time: 7:30 - 9:30

Saturday, March 27th

Our Faith, Our Planet, Our Responsibility: a stewardship workshop

An inspirational and practical presentation by Dr. Greg Hitzhusen (executive director of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light) on how to integrate justice and environmental stewardship concerns into our daily lives. At this workshop we'll explore the moral/ethical basis for a response to the climate crises as well as receive practical instruction in energy efficiency and conservation for homes and churches. We will learn about:

- * Religious traditions of Earth Stewardship
- * Interpreting, prioritizing and implementing energy saving measures
- * Ohio Interfaith Power and Light's Cool Congregation and House of Worship energy audit programs
- * Energy Star's Portfolio Manager energy performance rating system
- * Activities and resources to help congregations take the next steps

Location: The Undercroft at Holy Trinity Church, 25 E. Walnut (enter from Poplar St.) Time: 9:30 - 2:00 (lunch provided)

All presentations free and open to the public. Presented by Oxford Interfaith Climate Change Work Group - oxfordiccwg@gmail.com <<http://oxfordiccwg@gmail.com>> or 513-523-2855.

Help Hopedale Raise Money



House Concert at Pete's "Drum Barn"

Sunday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.
6385 Contreras Rd., (one mile west
of the Shell station in "Uptown" Oxford)

Widely known Cincinnati musician
TRACY WALKER, backed by LIZ WU,
offers songs in a mix of Jazz, Blues & Latin
styles that will start off your week
in just the right frame of mind.

Minimum donation \$10 at the door.
Proceeds from tickets and refreshment
sales will support the work of
Hopedale U. U. Community.

See/hear Tracy on the web at
<http://www.myspace.com/tracywalker>

Street parking on Patrick Drive
One intermission. Show over by 9:30
Please note: Drum Barn is not handicap
accessible.

**B & B Hosts
needed for
graduation
weekend,
May 8 & 9th**

Any volunteers? All
you need to do is
offer a room(s) to
Miami parents and a
light breakfast. In
return, these fami-
lies give a \$75/night
donation to
Hopedale.

If you are willing
and able to help,
please email the
office at
hucoffice@gmail.com

Do you have your **Kroger Gift Card** yet? Misplaced (or worn out) your old one? Hopedale earns 4% of every grocery dollar you spend at any Kroger store if you use one of our gift cards. Please see Pete Carels if you would like to obtain one. He will have them at Hopedale most Sunday mornings. Pursuant to Kroger policy, he has loaded \$5 on each card to get you started. Questions? Call Pete at 523-8614.



Caroline Soule Sisters lunch and planning meeting will be held on Sunday, April 11th at 12:30 pm at Wild Bistro in Oxford. Please come with your ideas, hopes, and goals for our women's group. RSVP Amy Fox at 889-1398. Feel free to send suggestions to her ahead of time if you like.

Can you get away from April 5-13?

Do you have a passport?

Want an inexpensive trip to Jamaica (airfare from CVG, food, lodging, ground transportation) and serve a worthy cause (tutoring/playing with children at the St. John Bosco Boys' Home in Mandeville)? Part of a Sisters of Mercy Mission, this outing is being organized for a second year by Lauren Marsh, visitor to Hopedale and founder of the highly acclaimed Community Meals Center in Hamilton.

Contact Lauren at 513-236-7859 for details.



Denominational Affairs

Heartland District
10th Annual Meeting &
Spring Conference
"Ten Best: Celebrating Ten Years in
the
Heartland 2001 - 2010"
April 9 - 11, 2010

Hosted by:
First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor.
Early bird registration ends March
18th. For more info,
see [heartland uu.org](http://heartland.uu.org)

UUA General Assembly-June 23-27,
Minneapolis, MN.

If anyone is interested in attending
the Midwest UU Leadership School,
please speak to Rev. Linda or a board
member.

UNIVERSALIST CONVOCATION 2010

May 14-16, 2010

First Universalist
Society of Rochester, NY

Keynote: The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed,
"Dragged Kicking and Screaming to
Heaven."

For more information please go to nmuc.org/
Convo



Church Women United of Oxford

will be celebrating the
annual World Day of
Prayer on **Friday,**
March 5 at the Holy
Trinity Episcopal
Church, Walnut & Pop-
lar Sts, Undercroft
11:30 Luncheon
12:30 Worship
Service
Childcare pro-
vided upon request:
Michelle Hughes
255-1078.

The green TV series, Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska.

1) The TV series, Simple Living with
Wanda Urbanska, will be continued
on Sunday, March 28 at 1:30 PM
with
Episode 5: The Farmer & You,
Simplicity on Campus, Simplicity on
Wheels and
Episode 6: Simple H2O, Children &
Money, Choosing to Reuse.
The show will be at Gisela Bahr's,
102 E Central Ave, Oxford. Every-
one is welcome.

Happening at Hopedale this month...

New to Hopedale gathering, Sunday, March 14th (7:00 p.m.)

Board meeting Wednesday, March 17th (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Appreciative Inquiry will be held on Saturday, March 20th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Light breakfast at 8:30 a.m.) See you there.

POTLUCK is Sunday, March 21st after Sunday Service.

Newsletter deadline is Sunday, March 21st.



The new Hopedale Gathering to Give grouping has decided it's time to get going and make our first investment with Kiva, the international microlending organization.

We decided to focus on women in developing countries who show promise as entrepreneurs and will use the investment to better their own lives and the lives of their families. We also are looking for the likelihood they'll repay the loan so we can reinvest the money with another entrepreneur.

We've discovered, though, that many potential recipients are marked "fully funded" within a short time of their appearance of the Kiva.org Web site. Before we could make our first loan, we had missed the opportunity to help the women we had considered.

We've learned we'll have to move faster, but we hope that before the April newsletter is out, we'll be able to tell you who exactly we are working with.

For more information, contact Judi Hetrick at juhetric@yahoo.com or 523.4298.

(Just imagine how much a loan of even \$1,000 can accomplish in a country like Togo in West Africa, where the average annual income is \$1,700!)



The **Deadline** to submit items for the April 2010 issue of the *Hopedale Community News* is **Sunday, March 21st**. Please email: huucoffice@gmail.com

New to
Hopedale?

Want to find out more about Hopedale and/or
Unitarian Universalism? Join us for a friendly
conversation on Sunday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale.
If you are able to join us, please RSVP to the office at
(513) 523-4500.

Hopedale Unitarian
P.O. Box 625



Universalist Community
Oxford, OH 45056