

# Hopedale News



# Community

*Hopedale Unitarian  
Universalist Community*

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## January Sunday Services

**January 3-"Lincoln and Darwin, Kindred Spirits."** They lived in different worlds, with different careers, but had similar aspirations leading to great accomplishments. Lincoln championed freedom for all with responsibility and Darwin established a rational view of an evolving universe. Our speaker is Hopedale member, John H. Eicher, Miami Professor Emeritus of Chemistry. Service Leader: Mort Meier.

**January 10 -"Deeds Not Creeds."** Our liberal religion has attended to what we do more than what we say. Whether it is our covenanting which asks how we shall be together, our focus on social justice, or our celebration of diversity of belief, our spirituality is about our actions. And if scholars such as Karen Armstrong and Harvey Cox are right, mainstream religions are catching up with this way in spirituality. Rev. Frank Carpenter will be our guest speaker.

**January 17-"They Will Know We Are Unitarian Universalists (UU) by Our . . ."** What? As I remember a verse from a Christian hymn from my childhood, "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love," I wonder what Hopedale UU's are known for? It's the year 2010. The 20th birthday of the congregation is fast approaching. Rev. Linda Eppert, our Consulting Minister, will encourage us to take a look at our congregation's mission. (This is the second part in a series of sermons on Covenant, Mission and Vision. The final sermon, on Vision, will take place on the Sunday following the congregational Appreciative Inquiry in February.) Service Leader: Patty Klingenberg.  
***Potluck and Gathering to Give meeting to follow service.***

**January 24-"Turn It, Turn It: The Rabbinic Interpretative Tradition."** Come and meet Rabbi Rachel Gartner, Executive Director of the Hillel Foundation at Miami, as she shares with us the development of Jewish thought. Service Leader: Judi Hetrick.

**January 31-"Why the Kentucky Creation Museum is Senseless and Dangerous."** Nik Money, Miami Professor of Botany, will provide a brief outline of the development of the Creation Museum and explain why he thinks that the museum's success reflects a wider trend toward national self-destruction. Service Leader: Patty Klingenberg.

## Consulting Minister's Meanderings



The year 2010. I wonder what the year will bring us? What will happen in the next decade? Some would say they would like to have a crystal ball and foresee the future. Not me. I believe a community, as well as individuals, can create their future. Sure there will be unforeseen bumps in the road, maybe even a few major hurtles, but I truly believe if we speak and act in specific ways, if we plan the journey we want to take, it will, most likely, be so. If we, "act as if . . ." it will come to fruition.

As a faith community we will have the opportunity to map out a bit of the future together during the Appreciative Inquiry on Saturday, February 6. If you wish to gather early for fellowship and a light breakfast, come at 8:30 am. The Appreciative Inquiry will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.(for those who want to get an extra half hour of sleep!)

For those unmapped times, when you just want to talk, or have questions, I am available by e-mail [eppert@fuse.net](mailto:eppert@fuse.net) or telephone (513-378-5769) I welcome calls between 9:00 am. and 8:00 p.m. any day.

Several years ago a very wise minister, whose name is now lost to history, wrote a newsletter column citing the situations that merit a call to the minister. In recent years I've read several versions. However, here is my version:

### Call the minister if...

- life has delivered a difficult blow, & you need to share it with an understanding person
- your child just won the spelling championship (or Player of the Year, or a role in the civic theater, or a gold star for good behavior)
- you lost your job, or think its going to happen soon
- someone in your family is in the hospital
- you just got engaged
- the seasonal depression from which you suffer is looming
- the seasonal depression from which you suffer is beginning to lift
- you just received a scary diagnosis
- the operation was a success
- a loved one has just died
- a beloved pet has just died

If you are wondering whether your situation merits a call, please refer to the first item.

*Happy 2010!  
In Faith,  
Rev. Linda*

## Prez Message

"When patterns are broken, new worlds emerge." –Tuli Kupferberg

I've endured some unexpected changes in my life during the last few years. After becoming quite comfortable with things as they were, I've found that change of any kind is not easy. Even positive change pushes the norm out of kilter. As new challenges arise, learning and adjusting help cope with unexpected transitions.

After a brief time without professional leadership, the Hopedale Board hired a part-time Consulting Minister to help us reach our goals of increased membership and programmatic growth that would eventually sustain full-time professional ministry. In the consulting role, Rev. Linda Eppert is here to question and to challenge the norm of Hopedale, something that quite reflects our own UU Principles. We should expect some thought-provoking dialogue along with liberating epiphanies as we go along. Rev. Linda is at work assisting us in discovering "new" best practices that will help develop the skills needed to thrive as a congregation

Rev. Linda is in the pulpit once a month as part her role as a congregation minister. Her role as Hopedale minister includes a four-day stay in the Oxford area and monthly scheduled office hours. She is available for consultation and pastoral care by telephone or email at other times while away from our locale. Most of her sermon writing is done at home. She can perform rites of passage for members including child dedications, marriage, memorial services, and services of union. And as our professional leader, she is an ex-officio non-voting member of our Board and is expected to work closely with many of our committees.

As we begin to form the future of our Congregation consider the role we, as members and friends of Hopedale will have in our own lay ministry. Please hold the date, Saturday, February 6, for the Appreciative Inquiry Retreat and become a shaper of HUUC history.

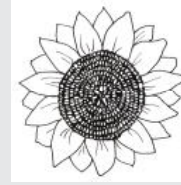
In community-  
Liz Woedl, President

### "PUUL" Party!

Join hosts Kansas Mary and Gary Fox at their home for pool, cards, table tennis and board games. A light dinner of hot soup and homemade bread will be served. \$split-the-Pot drawing at 8:00 PM. \$15 donation suggested (yup, it's a fundraiser). Campus students are welcome. BRING A FRIEND! Let us know if you need a ride.

**Saturday, January 9, 6-9 p.m., 5397 Booth Road, Oxford.** RSVP by Wed., Jan. 6 to [hucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hucoffice@gmail.com) or call Mary Fox at 523-6478. This is grownups-only event so parents of small frisky children should call Liz Woedl for babysitting options, 513-280-1044.

# GREEN CORNER



from Gisela Bahr

## Your Green Calendar

To help you plan for a green year 2010; fill in what you are going to do.

### JANUARY: ENERGY SAVING ACTIVITIES

Examples: Turn down the heat & wear more clothes; Drive less; Take shorter showers ...

### FEBRUARY: ALTERNATIVES TO TELEVISION

Reading; Playing games; Arts & Crafts ...

### MARCH: GARDENING ACTIVITIES

Plan/Plant a garden; Composting ....

### APRIL: NON-TOXIC WAYS TO CLEAN

Vinegar; Baking Soda; Citrus Cleaner; Boric Acid...

### MAY: UNCLUTTER YOUR HOME (OFFICE)

Get rid of junk mail; Have an exchange day at church...

### JUNE: GREEN TRAVEL/ VACATION ACTIVITIES

Vacation near home; take bikes to use once you're there ....

### JULY: SUSTAINABLE FOOD ACTIVITIES

Farmers Market; Eat less meat; Learn to can vegetables ...

### AUGUST: REDUCING, REUSING, RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

Take your own bags when shopping; Buy in bulk; ....

### SEPTEMBER: EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

Educate by example; Use courses; Show films....

### OCTOBER: BUILD COMMUNITY

Clean up church grounds; Socialize with potluck dinners ....

### NOVEMBER: ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS

Home made soups, breads, cookies; Charity gifts in some ones name...

### DECEMBER: CELEBRATION & SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Celebrate anniversary of Declaration of Human Rights (Dec 10) ....

**Have the kind of year that makes you happy and content!**



## JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ⌘ It was wonderful to meet Berit Churchwright, age 5 weeks, when she attended Hopedale with her mother, Kelly Church, Sunday, December 13.
- ⌘ Our sympathy goes to Linda Amspaugh, whose husband, Jim Corson, died December 9. Many of us knew Jim from the Corsons' stall at the Talawanda Farmers' Market.
- ⌘ Our sympathy goes also to Rob Schorman and Judi Hetrick. Rob's father died recently.
- ⌘ We rejoice with Annette Orzechowski that her friend Anthony escaped serious injury in a frightening auto accident.
- ⌘ Best wishes to Benjamin Walker as he goes to Chicago for an urban student-teaching experience. He will teach middle- or high school mathematics.

**The Congregational  
Appreciative Inquiry has  
been  
rescheduled for  
Saturday, February 6th**

from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided. An online (and snail mail) invite will be coming in the new year.

### **Rev. Linda's January Office Hours**

Rev. Linda will be at the Hopedale Office on **Monday, January 18th and Wednesday, January 20th** 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](mailto:eppert@fuse.net)

## Gathering to Give

After Brett Smith spoke to our congregation in October about social entrepreneurship, he returned his honorarium with the proviso that we invest it in a Kiva micro-lending project.

This could be seed money for a small, church-based Kiva Lending Team - or similar philanthropic investment group - that could also start to meet socially to collect small donations and decide where to send our pooled resources.

If you're interested in participating, or have experience with similar activities, please plan to stay **after the service on Jan. 17** to discuss the possibilities. Or you can contact Judi Hetrick at juhetric@yahoo.com or 513.523.4298.

## Family Ministry Exploratory Task Force

At the November meeting, the Board voted to form a task force to consider the revamping of our religious education program into a family ministry approach, with the possibility of hiring a part-time coordinator, perhaps a graduate student. We will be calling some people to volunteer, but if you are interested, please call or e-mail Kim Jacobs-Beck, VP Religious Services, who will be gathering this task force.

## MLK Commemoration

Rev. Linda Eppert invites you to join her for the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration on Monday January 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Oxford Uptown Park. Along with other area clergy, (and you!) Rev. Linda will be reading a portion of Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize speech. This annual event is sponsored by the Miami University Office of Diversity Affairs. Free hot chocolate and coffee will be provided for this 30-40 minute program, which will be followed by a Miami campus march to Hall Auditorium where the commemoration will continue until 12:30 p.m. Dress warmly and please let Linda know you will be in attendance.

## The green TV series, Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska, resumes with episodes from an earlier season.

The first showing is on January 24 (the 4th Sunday) at 1:30 p.m at Gisela Bahr's house, 102 E. Central Avenue, Oxford. The program:  
**Episode 1:** Simplicity & Health, Simple & Green Cleaning, Moving To A Small Town.  
**Episode 2:** Pay As You Go, Creating A Soothing Soundscape, The Art Of Conversation.

Everybody is welcome!

## Happening at Hopedale this month...

**PUUL Party-Saturday, January 9, 6-9 p.m., 5397 Booth Road, Oxford.**  
RSVP by Wed., Jan. 6 to [huucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:huucoffice@gmail.com) or call Mary Fox at 523-6478.

**POTLUCK is Sunday, January 17th** after Sunday Service; immediately followed by the **Gathering to Give meeting.**

**Newsletter** deadline is **Sunday, January 17th.**

**Board meeting Wednesday, January 20th** (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

**Community Dinner 5:30 p.m / Movie 7:00 p.m. January 30th.**

### 10 Good Ideas for Small Congregations continued

By Kim Jacobs-Beck

2. Mission, Vision, Purpose.

<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/visionmissioncovenant.pdf>

The congregation will be more powerful when it clearly states its hopes and dreams in the form of mission, vision, and purpose. Without these or a clear understanding of its reason for being, decisions can be made out of fear, based on what has always been done, or by the strongest personalities. Having a clearly stated mission, vision and/or purpose will help the congregation make decisions based on its best intentions rather than its habits.

Getting into a new habit of using the statement might take practice.

- \* Print the statement(s) in the order of worship
- \* Make it available at Board meetings
- \* Read it out loud at the start of meetings
- \* Ask one person to make it their job to help the group remember to focus on it when they are working on a problem
- \* When a decision has been made check to make sure it supports the stated mission or dream.

The Deadline to submit items for the February 2010 issue of the *Hopedale Community News* is **Sunday, January 17th.** Please email: [huucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:huucoffice@gmail.com)

## THE NEW YEAR

THE DAYS OF THE YEAR HAVE STIFFENED IN  
ICE, AND DARKNESS HAS GROWN UPON  
THE LAND.

THE SEASON OF EARLY COLD AND DUSK IS  
UPON US.

\*\*\*\*\*

IN THE MIDST OF WINTER THE PROM-  
ISE IS GIVEN OF THE SUMMER SEASON, AND  
IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS THERE COMES  
THE ASSURANCE OF LIGHT.

IN THE MIDST OF COLD COMES A  
MESSENGER OF WARMTH, AND IN THE DAYS  
OF DEATH THERE IS HEARD THE GOOD  
NEWS OF LIFE.

FROM KENNETH L. PATTON,  
*MAN IS THE MEANING*, 1956

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## January's Last Saturday Movie

This month's movie is "Food, Inc".  
This is a full length, comprehen-  
sive documentary of all aspects  
of the food industry in the U.S.  
From small farmers to Monsanto.  
From traditional farming methods  
to the rapidly growing sustainable  
movement. The movie was shown  
earlier this year at the University  
of Cincinnati. After you watch  
this, you'll be able to vote three  
times a day for your future.

As usual, the movie will be  
shown at Hopedale at 7:00 p.m.  
and, as usual, will be preceded by  
a potluck at 5:30 p.m.. Feel free  
to attend one or both events on  
January 26th, the last Saturday  
of the month.