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## Hopedale Community News

Volume 29, Number 2

October 2017

### Sunday Services

**October 1: The Journey to Political Involvement.** Edna Southard, a member of Oxford City Council, will share with us how it came to be that she became politically active. She will also discuss some of the issues that are facing all of us and are being discussed in Council. There will be time for feedback and conversation after her presentation. Service leader: Linda Amspaugh.

**October 8: Caring for the Land so the Land Will Care for Us:**

**What You Should Know about the Three Valley Conservation Trust** This illustrated presentation will briefly discuss some of the origins of a land conservation ethic in the United States, especially in the Midwest and Cincinnati area, and how a group of concerned Miami professors in the early 1990s banded together to establish the area's first land trust. Re-named in 2001, the Three Valley Conservation Trust's Mission today is to conserve natural habitats, waterways and agricultural lands in Southwestern Ohio, for the benefit of present and future generations, through partnerships with people and communities. The Core Values, Goals and Vision of the Trust will be briefly highlighted, along with selected examples of key projects and conservation easements. The importance of the Trust's Mission to the overall quality of all biotic life and our need to be supporters of the Trust's Mission will conclude the presentation.

Steve Gordon is a subcontractor for the Three Valley Trust and a former board member. Service leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight.

**October 15: As Time Goes By: A Unitarian Take on the Gregorian Calendar** On October 15, 1582, Pope Gregory XIII implemented the Gregorian Calendar. October 4 of that year was followed directly by October 15 to implement the new calendar system. The Gregorian Calendar has become the most widely used civil calendar system in the world. Come join Diane Wright to reflect on the ways human beings track time, and what it means for the way we understand our place in the world. Service Leader: Patty Klingenberg.

**October 22: White Supremacy Teach-In 2.** Unitarian Universalists are responding with

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communities-- held UU White Supremacy Teach-ins. Through public witness, education, and introspection, our faith is coming to understand that fighting white supremacy means both resisting its most blatant forms "out there," and disrupting its systemic manifestations within.

The Teach-In team again calls our siblings in faith to action to continue the work of growth and learning. On Sunday, October 22nd, we will join together with UU communities nationwide in Part Two of the UU White Supremacy Teach-in. Our power and reach are magnified when we come together.

Combating overt white supremacy and white supremacy culture is a theological endeavor for our faith-- from the top of the UUA, to each individual in every congregation and community. We treat it as such-- and on October 22nd, and every day between now and then, we call on you to join us. Service leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight, Hopedale's Co-ordinator for Religious Education.

**October 29: Halloween like a child.** Bring your favorite costume, ghost story and Halloween memory as we celebrate and honor the many trick-or-treaters who came before us. Although we may not summon real spirits, we'll definitely conjure up some fond memories of Halloweens past. If you wish, bring a favorite treat that reminds you of past loved ones. This is an intergenerational service.

### Message from the President, Doris Bergen



We had good attendance and an interesting variety of programs during September, given by some of our members and by Hopedale friends. It was great to see all our children back for Religious Education activities, and we appreciate all of those people

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Genevieve O'Malley Knight. Also, thanks go to Judi Hetrick, Russ Vie Brooks, and Jessica Kopp arranging the great after-service potluck picnic in September. Although the unusual hot weather has not been enjoyable in general, it has allowed us to use our UU outdoor environment more fully.

In regard to upgrades of the outdoors, Russ also coordinated a Saturday work session that involved the participation of members of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity (all women this time!) helping us get our buildings and grounds in better shape by painting a number of our storage buildings and the playground climbers. They also helped with other outdoor tasks. Joining in the work, in addition to Russ, were Libby Earle and Peggy Branstrator. They gave the students high praise for their great work ethic and excellent help. Many Hopedale members have commented on how lovely our outdoor areas look now.

On Saturday, Sept. 9, Hopedale hosted the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati, and our thanks go to Judi and to Mary Fox who helped provide food for the breakfast held before the meeting. Liz Woedl, our representative to the Council, was elected president of the group at this meeting so she will be providing leadership during the next few years. Congratulations, Liz!

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held after the service on October 22. Materials will be sent to you before that time so please plan to attend to hear about activities and plans and to vote on a few minor changes to bylaws.

## RE Connection

Co-ordinator for Religious Education, Genevieve O'Malley Knight

genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com -- 593-3275

### Children's Religious Education

Our classes are off to a great start! A big thank you to returning teachers Patrick O'Malley (Middle School class) and Adriane Ruther (Pre-K/Kindergarten class), and a huge thank you and welcome to our new teaching team for the Elementary class, Liz Woedl and Lauren Marsh. One more big thank you to Matt Nelson, for his three-year rotation teaching the Elementary group. Hopedale's programming, especially the children's education and faith development programming, only work with support and effort from many people, each taking our turns and giving in the way that fits each of us best. Thank you for strengthening our community!

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### **Activity Day Long-term Art Project**

On our next Activity Day, October 1, we'll be discussing and choosing an activity to focus on over several months. My favorite idea so far is murals in the downstairs classrooms. We'll see what the kids come up with as a way to be creative together and beautify our church home!

### **SPECIAL EVENT: Family Math and Science, Saturday, October 7**

Peggy Branstrator, Member and educator, is offering a unique afternoon of all-ages hands-on activities exploring math and science ideas. See "Family Math and Science" article below for more information.

### **Adult Religious Education**

There are lots of ideas brewing for Adult Religious Education events and classes. Let us know what you're interested in, and stay tuned to the weekly bulletins and e-mails for scheduling notices!

- UU World discussion group: Like a book discussion group for each new issue of the UU World magazine (published quarterly). Our first discussion will be October 8, during Coffee Hour.
- Voluntary Simplicity: A five-session discussion group from the NorthWest Earth Institute. From the website (nwei.org):

Our decisions on how we live and consume are not made in a vacuum. We are affected by the consumer culture and society around us. Voluntary Simplicity helps participants examine how modern society can interfere with caring for the planet. Together, you explore how consumption patterns have an impact on you and your relationships, as well as the environment. Discover ways to slow down and live simply.

- Chalice Circles: Small-group ministry, conversation, and spiritual development. A chance to go deeper with your beliefs, making connections in a respectful and caring group structure.

### **Religious Education Committee**

Genevieve is particularly thrilled to announce that we have an active R.E. Committee! Welcome committee members Peggy Branstrator and Jessica Kopp! If you have thoughts, suggestions, or feedback on any aspect of Religious Education/ Lifespan Faith Development at Hopedale, feel free to contact any of us.

### **October Religious Education Schedule**

Oct 1 – Activity Day – Choose a long-term group art project.

Oct 7 – Saturday – Family Math & Science 3:00-5:00pm

Oct 8 – Class Day

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Oct 15 – Activity Day (TBD by RUS on Oct 1)

Oct 22 – Class Day

Oct 29 – Hallowe'en Service

2017-2018 Children's Religious Education Class Days

Please note, in bold are dates that do not follow the "every other week" pattern.

Adjusted to avoid holiday Intergenerational services or school vacations.

10 September

24 September

8 October

22 October

5 November

**12 November**

(19 November is Thanksgiving Service)

3 December

**10 December**

(17 December is a Unitarian Nativity Celebration)

(24 December will have a small morning service, AND Christmas Eve evening service)

7 January

21 January

4 February

**11 February**(18 February is Luminescence – a Unitarian Universalist winter holiday, check it out here: <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/luminescence>)

4 March

**11 March**

(18 March is start of Spring Break – both Talawanda and Miami)

1 April (EASTER)

15 April

29 April

13 May

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## Congregational Life News

by Judi Hetrick,  
v.p. for congregational life

### Two groups forming

Two new ways to engage with Hopedale friends and friends-to-be are ready for sign-up in October. Look for sheets on the buffet (near the children's seating area) to take part in a women's group or a chalice circle. The women's group will define itself, so take part to help decide its activities. The chalice circle – also sometimes called a covenant group – is a form of UU small group ministry. Groups meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. (Learn more at <http://www.uua.org/small-group>.) Both groups were requested in the latest congregational poll.

### Directory is on its way

Amy reports that as soon as proofreading is completed, the directory will be off to the printer and then on its way to us.

### New members are more than welcome!

You don't have to be a Hopedale member to participate in our groups or be in the directory. However, we welcome everyone who chooses to make the commitment to formally be a part of our congregation. We will be greeting new members in a Sunday service soon, so please let me know if you're ready to sign the membership book – or if you'd like to know more.

### And speaking of knowing more, we offer New UU!

If you are new to Hopedale and/or Unitarian Universalism, you may want to join a New UU class. We offer these sessions whenever we have enough interest. Please speak to me or Genevieve.

### An invitation from Native American Student Association

We met Lydia Yellow Hawk, a convener of Miami Hamilton's Native America Student Association, when she spoke to us last year. She and her group have now invited us to a showing of the film *More Than A Word*, about Native American-based sports mascots. It

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Oxford observes the 500th anniversary of the Reformation  
On Sunday October 29 at 4 p.m., Father Jeffery Silver of St. Mary's and Pastor Logan Dysart of Faith Lutheran will lead a joint prayer service. Then on Nov. 2 and 3, a conference called Reformations of the 16th Century: Martin Luther and His World 500 Years Later convenes at the Miami University Art Museum. Details about both are on the Hopedale bulletin board.

### **Only YOU can help the schmoozers schmooz**

Sign up on the clipboard in the Hopedale kitchen to help with Sunday morning hospitality. Please. Please. PLEASE!

### **Wednesday Wine**

You're also welcome at Wednesday Wine, 5 p.m. Oct. 11 at Cru. Imbibing of actual wine is optional.

## **Social Justice Thank You!**

Thank you, Hopedale, members and friends, for your contributions to the UU Service Committee's Harvey Relief Fund. The congregation contributed \$258 through special collections and our Social Justice Committee added funds to round Hopedale's check up to \$500. We will make a difference in people's lives.

## **Social Justice Committee**

**Social Justice Committee** The Social Justice Committee members look forward to a lively engaged year of putting social justice into action. We have identified projects to support and promote the UUA Study Action Issues of Corruption of Our Democracy and Escalating Inequality as well as building on this community's commitment to the environment and being a welcoming community.

**1. How to Be an Ally to People of Color** In order to achieve this, we need to acknowledge our position of white privilege. This includes understanding white supremacy, the racist history of America, and our own racial identity. It includes working for change and building positive anti-racist white identities. In the coming weeks we will offer ways to engage in this work using the UUA's Examining Whiteness curriculum.

We are working to build connections to Miami University and to the student Black Lives Matter group and to Oxford and the "Not in Our Town" initiative.

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Columbus! Social Justice is in the planning stages to attend, hopefully with the BLM students at Miami. More to come, but clear your calendar...it's at an awkward time of day.

We are trying to coordinate with black student groups at Miami and in the community to charter a 56 passenger bus to Earlham.

Please be alert for more information and check your schedules! Suggested reading: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*.

**2. Being a Green Sanctuary and follow-up From the Ashes documentary film on coal.** How can Hopedale be a part of transitioning to clean, renewable energy? Can our green sanctuary be a role model for the greater community? Last summer we visited the Friends Meeting in Clifton to see their conversion to solar roof panels. Solar technology is now feasible as well as efficient low tower wind turbines. SJ plans to begin a feasibility study of solar/wind power options possible for Hopedale. Persons with interest and expertise are encouraged to contact the SJ committee.

**3. Supporting racial justice as it intersects with environmental justice.** We will continue to follow and support the native people of Standing Rock. We will maintain our connection to the Water Walkers and Native American students at Miami University.

**Next meeting: October 29 after the service.**

**Libby Earle**

## **Family Math and Science Special Event**

**Saturday, October 7, 3-5 pm**

Peggy Branstrator, Member and educator, is offering a unique afternoon of all-ages hands-on activities exploring math and science ideas. These activities are meant to help families have fun with these subjects together and show parents and caregivers how to support their children's future studies.

From the brochure:

"Family Math is about... Using buttons, beads and pennies to solve math problems, and sorting things, exploring shapes, learning about logic, and developing number sense.

Family Science is about...Asking questions, solving problems and talking with others about science, and Testing, tinkering, and using everyday experiences and materials to explore science."



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Genevieve ([genevieveaok@yahoo.com](mailto:genevieveaok@yahoo.com), or **513-593-3275**). If the day comes, and you haven't RSVP'd, but want to come, join us ! We just need a good ballpark number to have the right amount of supplies ready.

## Outdoor Work Day

**Saturday, October 21, 2017** is planed as another outdoor workday to work on the trails and finish any garden work needed before winter sets in. Primary tasks will be clearing overgrowth and debris from the trails, spreading them with wood chips, and hauling out usable wood where possible. Secondary tasks will be to finish any mulching left on the flower and memorial gardens, pull out old plants from the raised beds and small vegetable garden and put away the bunny fence. I am also going to put this out to the students of Alpha Phi Omega in the hope that some additional volunteers will be available to help. Hours will be **10am-2pm**, and if the weather is hostile, we'll postpone until the following Saturday, October 28 to try again.

Thanks in advance for all you do,  
Russ VieBrooks, Stewardship VP

## Habitat for Humanity Faith Build in Oxford

Oxford area churches are joining together with Miami Students and other community organizations to fund and build the 9th and 10th Habitat houses in the development of Reckford Woods. These last two houses provide an opportunity for the faith community to serve alongside and partner with a Habitat Home Buyer Family. Each family must contribute over 500 hours of "sweat equity" in the building of the house. The foundation ia going to be poured and work on the structure will begin in November 4 and continue throughout the fall and winter finishing up in the spring.

In addition to Hopedale, the Oxford Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Mary Catholic Church, Oxford United Methodist Church, and Faith Lutheran Church have all banded together for this venture. Each church will provide build teams of volunteers for Saturday through Thursday workdays. A typical build schedule is approximately 16-20 weeks with volunteers working each Saturday. No experience is necessary and all supervision, tools and equipment are provided. The churches participating in the Faith Build will share the cost of the home with other donor sources.

You can contribute in so many ways, work on the house, prepare lunch for the volunteers, make individual contributions and support fundraisers to raise the funds for Habitat. Our

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effort.



## Oxford Empty Bowls

The Oxford Empty Bowls event is a benefit soup luncheon dedicated to hungry people in our community, held in conjunction with Miami University's Hunger + Homelessness Awareness Week and the City of Oxford/Miami University's Veterans Appreciation Day. Purpose: To join other Empty Bowls projects worldwide to raise awareness and money to combat hunger. All proceeds will be donated to the Oxford Community Choice Pantry to support its efforts to provide food to local families in need.

When: **Saturday November 11, 2017, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Where: Oxford Community Arts Center, **10 S College Ave, Oxford, OH 45056, USA**

How it Works: At the luncheon, guests choose from amongst a collection of beautiful bowls created, decorated and donated by Miami University and Talawanda students and Oxford-area potters. Their bowls are then filled with their choice of soups made by local cooks. Luncheon guests then keep their bowls to use or display at home and to serve as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. Homemade bread and desserts, and beverages donated by area businesses will also be served.

Cost: \$10 adults; children 10 and under may eat for free (bowl not included).

*For more information on Oxford Empty Bowls, please contact Connie Malone, **513-330-1273***

*For information on Hunger + Homelessness Awareness Week, contact Leigh Ackerman, **ackerm1@miamioh.edu***

*Co-sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement & Service, Miami University*

## UUJO Justice Assembly 2017

**"Strength for the Journey: Expanding Our Skills, Engaging Our**

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(check in and on-site registration at 9:30 am)  
Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO)

**3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware OH 43015**

(once on campus, follow signs to "The Centrum")

Registration is on a sliding scale from \$25 to \$60, and includes lunch. (A sliding scale is being used to increase accessibility for all.) Childcare is available. For more information and registration go to: <https://www.uujo.org/annual-justice-assembly>

See Liz Woedl for more information.

**Happening at Hopedale**

Family Math and Science Special Event at HUUC on **Saturday, October 7th** from 3-5pm.

**ADULT RE: UU World Discussion Group** will start on **Sunday, October, 8th** after Sunday Service.

Wednesday Wine will meet at Cru on **October 11th** at 5:00pm.

**HUUC Board** will meet on Wednesday, **October 11th** at 6:30pm at HUUC.

**Habitat for Humanity meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 12th** at 101 N Main St in Oxford at 5:30pm

**Monthly Potluck** will be held on **October 15th** after Sunday Service.

**Newsletter deadline** is Sunday, **October 15th**. Email items: [hucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hucoffice@gmail.com)

**Outdoor Work Day** at HUUC will be held Saturday, **October 21st** from 10am to 2pm. Please join us if you can!

**Fall Congregational meeting** will be held after Sunday Service on **October 22nd**.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** will be held after Sunday Service on **October 29th**.

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