



Hopedale Community News

Volume 33, Number 11

June 2022

June & July

Hopedale will not hold regular Sunday services during June. Activities and Outings are being planned instead – see Congregational Life for June 5th outing.

July 10 – August 7 Social Justice will present the series on Transgender Inclusion for members and friends of Hopedale – see Social Justice article for details

On **Sunday, June 26** the building will be open at **noon** for those who want to meet to livestream the **Sunday Service from General Assembly, which will be at 12:30 pm EDT** (since GA is on the West Coast this year).

Options for those who want to attend a service on Sunday morning during June:

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati: Live and on YouTube at 10:00 am.

<https://www.firstuu.com/>

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church: In person at 11:00 am.

<https://stjohnsuu.org/upcoming-worship-services/>

The Gathering at Northern Hills, a Unitarian Universalist Community: In person or Zoom at 10:45 am: <https://www.gnhuu.org/>

Heritage Universalist Church: In person and Zoom at 10:30 am: <https://huuc.net/>

Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: In person and Zoom at 11:00 am:

<https://mvuuf.org/>

Congregations led by our former student ministers:

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (Rev. Chris Buice)

<https://tvuuc.org/calendar/upcoming-worship-services/>. Stream live on Facebook and on their website at 11:00 am.

All Peoples, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Louisville (Rev. Bruce Beisner)

<https://www.allpeoplesuu.com/worship/upcoming-worship-services/>. Zoom at 11:00 am.

Congregations previously attended by Jennifer Blue:

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville: on Zoom at 10:30 am.

https://www.uucr.org/multiplatform#Sunday_Morning

Eno river UU Fellowship: 10:45 am YouTube and Facebook

<https://www.eruf.org/worship/upcoming-services/>

8:00 pm on any Sunday Evening – UUA Church of the Larger Fellowship

<https://www.questformeaning.org/worship>

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

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Ways We Gather

Our in-person Sunday Services, RE programs, and congregational outreach thrived throughout the spring. Members and friends returned to our building on Sunday mornings, the choir performed, and during the pandemic the number of children we are serving has *increased*. These are very positive indicators. Let's work to sustain and build upon them.

We intend to continue multi-platform Sunday services as well. Even though at current risk levels our pandemic guidelines allow many to be in the building, the multi-platform option allows active participation by anyone with access to the Internet. Hopedale's way of doing this invites remote participants to make announcements, share joys and concerns, offer congregational feedback, and take part in a discussion after services. The Social Justice Committee also expects to offer multi-platform options for a special series this summer.

Facilities Improvements

I've reported on progress toward realizing Hopedale's facilities planning priorities in this *Newsletter*, and the priorities for physical improvements established by the congregation remain intact. With generous support of the congregation and a Chalice Lighter grant, our lower level has been rehabilitated for RE and is now being enjoyed.

Our property has long-term drainage issues. During recent construction, when we were in the building daily, we saw clear evidence that groundwater has been entering the building at the foundation. To address this maintenance problem properly the Construction Task Force and the Board reviewed professional recommendations and cost estimates by two companies specializing in water control. This summer we plan to address water entering the building, improve roof drainage, and install new drainage for the south lawn.

The approved approach is installing an interior drain at north, west and east perimeter walls of the building beneath the lower-level floor. This requires removing a section of the floor to install a drain, replacing the floor, and repairing any drywall affected during installation. The full scope of work also includes installing a drain outside the east wall; adding a downspout to the south gutter; installing a new field line to drain the south lawn; and directing all drains, downspouts, and field lines into an exit drain line east of the building that empties to the north beyond the driveway.

The Construction Task Force discussed this project in detail and recommended doing it as basic maintenance important to the long-term use and value of our property. At its May meeting the Board deliberated at length and voted unanimously to proceed this summer with

the project described here. Initial work is scheduled for *July 18 to 22*. Once the drainage system is installed, our contractor will repair any drywall or stairsteps needing attention.

The Hopedale Facilities Fund may partly defray this project's cost, but we will need to reserve in it the amounts needed to rehabilitate driveways, install accessible parking, and purchase room separators for the RE area. Operating budget, savings, and donor funds will be drawn upon to complete this work. The Finance Committee Chair supports the approach.

Members and friends of Hopedale have proven to be generous when helping meet our needs. New donations earmarked for this project will be gratefully received and put to good use right away. Let me know if you would like more information about what's ahead for us.

General Assembly

UUA General Assembly will convene in multi-platform format from Portland, Oregon between June 22 and 26. Liz Woedl and Libby Earle are Hopedale's voting delegates, and Genevieve O'Malley Knight will attend as Religious Educator. They will attend from Oxford via multi-platform registration. Anyone may register, and some appealing GA events are open to anyone. See UUA.org for more information about GA and how to register. On June 26 at noon, you may join with others at Hopedale to view the special GA Sunday Morning Service that begins at 12:30.



Next Board Meeting

The Hopedale Board will meet Thursday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the RE area of our building. Let me know if you would like to access this meeting via Zoom.



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

As the summer season kicks off, I'm excited about the many projects we have planned at Hopedale. Major projects like indoor/outdoor drainage and concrete parking pads we'll leave to the professionals, but others we hope to accomplish on our own. We can certainly do some driveway and parking lot renovations, clear a short section of trail, build some new picnic tables, and keep our property looking beautiful and inviting.

At this point, the only definitive date we have is for the final stage of the lower-level renovation is July 18-22. To accommodate the July construction, there will be a need to move some objects upstairs and out of the way.

There will also be an evening outdoor work session on Friday, June 17th from 7-8:30 p.m. We are always looking for help during our work sessions and there are jobs for all skill levels. Fresh watermelon provided.

As always, contact Drew Ruther (Andrew.ruther@gmail.com or 513-265-1558) with questions or comments.

Religious Education CONNECTION

Genevieve O'Malley Knight, RE Coordinator 513-593-3275

[Genevieveaok \(at\) yahoo \(dot\) com](mailto:Genevieveaok@yahoo.com)

RE Committee: Jennifer Blue, Valerie Elliott, Adriane Ruther; Darrel Davis (VP, Religious Services)

It was so nice to end the program year with a service presented by our children and to recognize Kiefer Bell as he bridges from youth to young adult.

Provided that pandemic conditions allow, regular RE classes and weekly activities will resume in late August, including offering the Our Whole Lives (OWL) faith-based sexuality education curriculum to our 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. Invitations have gone out to the families of our kids in this age range.

Summertime activities are being planned – watch for details via email.

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

Liz Woedl, Libby Earle, Mary Fox, Peggy Branstrator, Bethany Smith, Russ VieBrooks

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations

A six-session online course by the Transforming Hearts Collective

<https://www.transformingheartscollective.org/online-courses>

Facilitated by Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community Social Justice Committee

July 10, 17, 24, 31, Saturday Aug 6, and Sunday Aug 7.

What to Expect

This is a six-session course designed for all skill levels to expand friends and members of Hopedale's knowledge of *trans* identity, and to build skills to help our congregation create a place that is fully inclusive and affirming of the entire breadth of gender diversity.

Through deep introspection and discussion, we will examine how to counter the dominant narratives about who *trans* people are and widen the circle of welcome to become a radically welcoming community.

Why on Sundays

Throughout the Pandemic we have continued to support and care for one another virtually, binding us in right relationship and holding each other as we build Beloved Community. Fulfilling our commitment to Widening the Circle through responding to the Actions of Immediate Witness to *Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities* and *Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action* is *sacred work* that we choose to ground as part of worship.

Why Now

As a Welcoming Congregation, it is important that our Beloved Community understand the increasingly violent forms of oppression that are threatening individuals who identify as transgender, and that everything we do on our Community's journey toward spiritual wholeness reflect Right Relations. One of the components of our Covenant for Right Relations is to "Consistently work to stand on the side of love and approach any potentially difficult situation with both respect for human dignity and actions for community safety."

Course Expectations

At your convenience prior to attending the Sunday meeting, you will view a video presentation [using the transcript option is recommended] of about 50 minutes, plus supplemental resources that are very informative. Questions and prompts for reflection are given. Following the worship portion on Sunday, we will discuss the material in person or via Zoom. You are encouraged to keep a journal of your reflections. The goal is to plan ways we can take action to be *radically welcoming*.

How to Participate

Registration materials will be sent to Hopedale members and friends via email (or mail). Registration will enable sharing the link to materials weekly, and other weekly communications.

Other Social Justice News

The Committee has about 200 of the League of Women Voters' Government Directories. The directories are a great "off-line" resource for contact information about elected officials and local commissions and government offices. There are copies available at Hopedale and we can make sure you get one if you request a copy.

We welcome new participants! The Social Justice Committee of HUUC meets monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Liz Woedl for the Zoom link if you'd like to attend. Liz.woedl@gmail.com.

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Hopedale UU Community's Members and Friends contributed to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Emergency Response Fund to send humanitarian aid and comfort to the people in Ukraine. With a \$200 match from the Social Justice Committee, HUUC, that brings the total to \$564. Thank you so much for your generosity and concern!

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Coming up:

- Thu, Jun 9 – Social Justice Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed, Jun 22 – Sunday, June 26, 2022 – UUA General Assembly, Portland, Oregon
- Sat, Jun 25 – Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival

Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

This week: Solarize Oxford is holding a meeting with Matt Kolbinsky of Prolighting Solar and a representative of Duke on Thursday, June 2 at 5 p.m. in the Havighurst room at the library. It is for people who already have solar, and for people interested in solar to see how much money they can save.

The Hopedale vegetable garden is starting to produce results and yummy things may be available if you are interested. Since we will not be in the building regularly, text Peggy (937-733-7327) or Mary (513-284-8105) if you want to be notified of availability. Right now, we have “green garlic,” rhubarb and lettuce. We have planted beans, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, zucchini, okra, and cucumbers for later. Garlic scapes will come soon.

Butler County Commissioners have notified residents of their intent to bar large-scale wind and solar development from most of Butler County (outside of incorporated areas). Senate Bill 52, which recently went into effect, allows counties to do this. A public hearing will be held June 13, 2022, 9:30 AM at the Government Administration Center 315 High Street, Hamilton. A group from Oxford is planning to attend and testify.

Redistricting is still pending. The Redistricting Commission declined to meet for 20 days, despite efforts by the minority members. The day before the 5th set of maps was due they finally held a meeting. The Senate president and the Speaker of the House designated other politicians to take their places and left the meeting. Then the commission declined to rehire the independent mapmakers to finish their mostly-completed maps, declined another map proposed by the minority members, and adopted the exact same map (Map#3 – now also Map#5) previously thrown out by the Ohio Supreme Court. It appears we will hold the August General Assembly Primary using unconstitutional maps just as we used unconstitutional maps for the Congressional Primary in May. Contempt of court charges are still pending.

Since the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court will retire in December that election in November may determine what happens to the idea of ending gerrymandering going forward. Since the Governor, Auditor and Secretary of State are automatically Commission Members, those elections also take on increased significance!

Remember and tell others: The League of Conservation Voters Scorecard < <https://scorecard.lcv.org/> > for voters to find out legislators’ records on national legislation about environmental issues.

Ways to stay informed: the Ohio Environmental Council link [OEC Action Fund](#); a scorecard for Ohio's 134th General Assembly on key state environmental issues in 2021 and to review Governor DeWine in the third year of his term: [scorecard here](#). The website for this 3-page document is < <http://www.theoecactionfund.org/134ga>>.

And there is always the *OpenSecrets* webpage to track where politicians are getting money.

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

Summertime activities and outings are being planned! Watch email/mail for details.
Contact Celia if you have an **idea for an activity** – we'll get it planned and advertised.

Sunday, June 5 – Nature Walk

Let's meet at 10:00 am at Peffer Park (on US-27 just south of Chestnut Street in Oxford) to walk, roll or run the paved trails. **Peggy Branstrator** will focus our attention on trees and wildflowers. Maybe someone knowledgeable about birds will join us to help with those identifications.

MealTrain needs have and will be sent out via email to support members of our community. We are currently providing meals for Eunice Meadows on Wednesdays. If you didn't receive that information and would like to participate, contact Celia or Amy West Poley (hucoffice@gmail.com) for MealTrain details.

Directory update:

Carol Hennessey's address should be in Sun City **Center**, FL 33573

A CHALLENGE

At the Spring Congregational meeting VP of Religious Services Darrel Davis challenged all of us to *grow* our congregation. Think about what our community has to offer and **invite** someone you know to visit us. Start by including a friend in some of our summertime activities to get to know us.

Beyond Hopedale

- Wed, Jun 22 - Sunday, June 26, 2022 - **General Assembly**, Portland, Oregon – See the link in *Notes from the Board President* in this *Newsletter*.
- Sat, Jun 25 - **Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival**

Happenings at Hopedale

Watch your email for announcements of summertime gatherings!

June 8 – Wednesday Wine (or something else), 5:00 p.m. or so at Cru in Oxford.

June 9 – Social Justice Committee Zoom Meeting, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Contact Liz Woedl at liz.woedl@gmail.com if you would like the link to attend.

June 16 – Hopedale Board meets at Hopedale at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to join this meeting, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513-461-1131 for a Zoom invitation.

June 17th – Evening Outdoor Workday, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Jobs for any, and all skill levels. **Fresh watermelon provided!**

Support Hopedale

Hopedale's Happy New Fiscal Year

We'll be saying "Happy New Year!" to another operating budget year on July 1, and we want to enter the new year as solvent as possible. Now is a good time to pay the remainder of your pledge for the current year. Contact our treasurers Richard & Judy Schlub at 513-895-0272 if you need to know where you stand. Payments can be mailed to the treasurers at 2849 Stone Mill Way, Hamilton, Ohio 45011, or to HUUC at P.O. Box 628, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

Thanks!



Contributions to the Hopedale Facilities Fund are devoted entirely to Hopedale physical improvements. These may be mailed to the Treasurers along with the donor commitment form distributed earlier. If you need the form, or if you have questions about either facilities improvement plans or ways to contribute to the Fund, contact the Treasurers at 513-895-0272 or Curt Ellison at 513-461-1131.

Members and friends have been generous and that is much appreciated, for it has allowed us to begin improving our building and grounds. Please remember that if we are to meet the Congregation's prioritized facilities goals, we need your donor support.

All contributions to Hopedale are tax deductible.

