



Hopedale Community News

Volume 34, Number 9

April 2023

April Sunday Services
Multi-platform (Both In-person *and* via Zoom)
Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from huucoffice@gmail.com

April 2nd – “What is a Death Doula?” Associated throughout her professional life with death and dying, Kim Ogle has experienced and studied the subject of death from many perspectives and will share how her recent training as a death doula provides compassionate and intimate understanding and insights to families and friends who surround someone living with dying. Service leader: Kathleen Carels. Children’s RE: Activity in lower level during the service. **Note:** Hopedale’s “Plan Your Own Funeral/Write Your Own Obituary” materials will be available to pick up and to review.

April 9th – “Easter, Large Cycles and Consilience in Broad-Scope Yeshu Theory” Leigh Waltz, Unitarian Universalist seminarian and ministerial aspirant, will discuss symbolic and literal returning to life. Through a cross-cultural lens, he will briefly look at commonalities in the theme of “life’s broader proportions” represented in various historic sacrifice events and other public challenges to mortality as they may relate to the Jesus event. Considering physical evidence, again cross-culturally (while struggling to remain rational) a new picture of an old story emerges. Happy Easter! Service leader: Doris Bergen. Children’s RE: Class/Activity in lower level during the service. Second Sunday Collection for Ohio Environmental Council. ***There will be an Egg Hunt after the service.***

April 16th – “Hope in Unexpected Places on World Semicolon Day” April 16 is World Semicolon Day. Project Semicolon was founded in 2013 by Amy Bleuel when, after the death of her father, she posted a picture of her new semicolon tattoo and wrote, “A semicolon is used when an author could’ve chosen to end their sentence but chose not to. The author is you, and the sentence is your life.” Join Diane Wright as we share stories of hope and support from Project Semicolon and other organizations that work to build connection and hope and prevent suicide. Service leader: Patty Klingenberg. Children’s RE: Class/Activity in lower level during the service.

April 23rd – “The ‘Greening’ of Oxford” Oxford should be greener as a result of several projects that are in the works. Some are City efforts and others are the result of citizen actions. Peggy Branstrator will share what is planned and how you can be part of the fun!! Service leader: Bethany Smith. Intergenerational Service.

April 30th – "Connections that Heal: Partnering for a Just Transition" Greater Cincinnati Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) visits the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati with a Sunday-morning service at First Unitarian Church in Cincinnati. You are invited to attend at First Church or Hopedale, where the service will be livestreamed. How do we stop systems based in relentless extraction and move toward ways of being that heal and restore? Communities in the front lines of the climate crisis are leading the way toward transformations necessary for our collective survival and flourishing. The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President of the UUSC, will share stories of the remarkable work UUSC partners are engaging in around the world with our support. *See more details in "Notes from Board President."* An Internet link will be distributed when available that you may use anywhere to view this service. Children's RE: Class/Activity in lower level during service.

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A reminder about the **weekly Zoom link** to the service: it's the **same** every week. Write down the meeting ID and passcode and, if you can't find the link, simply log in to zoom.us, join a meeting, then enter the meeting ID and passcode!

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

ellisocw@miamioh.edu

513-461-1131

Happy Birthday!

On March 5 the Hopedale UU Community celebrated our 33rd birthday during the social hour after Sunday service. A nice turnout enjoyed tasty snacks and viewed a new picture display of Hopedale folks. Thanks to Jay Murdock for taking our pictures and to Celia Ellison for designing a new display of them. As an anniversary gift, everyone who had a new picture taken received a framed one to take home. Happy birthday to us!

Our Annual Canvass

Co-chairs Peter Carels and Celia Ellison report a successful conclusion to our annual canvass. The Finance Committee is now preparing a proposed operating budget for our next fiscal year, which will be reviewed by the Board at its April meeting and considered for approval at the April 23 Congregational Meeting. A sincere thank you to all for timely pledges!

Greater Cincinnati Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Weekend

On Saturday, April 29 at St. John's UU Church, a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner with the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, will be sponsored by the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati (First Unitarian Church; The Gathering at Northern Hills; Harmony UU Community; Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church; Hopedale UU Community; St. John's UU Church).

On Sunday morning, April 30 at First Unitarian Church, a 10:30 a.m. UUCGC Sunday Service, "*Connections that Heal: Partnering for a Just Transition*," will feature the Rev.

Morn. You are invited to participate in this in-person Sunday worship service, which will also be live-streamed to our Hopedale building as well as available to those who wish to view it online. This is an opportunity to hear stories of the remarkable work UUSC partners are engaging in around the world with our support.

The Rev. Morn joined UUSC as President and Lead Executive Officer in 2018. She worked for economic, racial, and social justice in Macon, Georgia at the Economic Opportunity Council/Headstart with the NAACP, and for reproductive justice. She collaborated with the Interfaith Alliance and Industrial Areas Foundation of Nashville, and in Fairfax, Virginia worked with interfaith ministries addressing hunger and homelessness, collaborated with LGBTQI+ advocacy organizations, and served on the county's homelessness task force. She was a volunteer leader with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association and has served as UUA Director of Stewardship and Development.

Spring Congregational Meeting April 23

On Sunday, April 23 our multi-platform Congregational Meeting will begin at 12:00 noon. Board members will give oral reports about activities in their areas. The congregation will vote on the 2023-2024 operating budget; hear from the Nominating Committee; elect a Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President for Religious Services; and hear reports from Task Forces. The Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force will offer a report about its year of productive work.

Opportunities to Learn About the Proposed Revision of UUA *Principles and Sources*

UUA *Bylaws* Article II, "Principles and Purposes," states common beliefs Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote and the "Sources of the Living Tradition" from which they come. This wording may be amended at GA2023, and final consideration will occur at GA2024. Check out the announcement below about ways you can learn more about this proposal and prepare for Congregational Discussion of it Sunday, May 7 at 12:00 Noon.

Next Board Meetings

Hopedale Board meets via multi-platform Tuesdays April 4, and May 9 at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to join either of these meetings I'll be glad to send the agenda and Zoom invitation.



Check out *Happenings at Hopedale* -- a lot of things are going on in April. Details for some of the events can be found in articles throughout the newsletter!

Happenings at Hopedale

April 4 – *Hopedale Board* meets in person at Hopedale, 7:00 p.m. Email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513-461-1131 for a Zoom link to join online.

April 9 – *Easter Egg Hunt* after the service. Rain or shine (rain = inside hunt!)

April 12 – *Wednesday Wine* (or something else), 5:00 p.m. or so at Cru in Oxford.

April 13 – *HUUC Social Justice Committee Meeting* via Zoom, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Contact Liz Woedl at liz.woedl@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

April 16 – *POTLUCK* after the service to honor Eunice Meadows – per her request!
AND another *photo shoot opportunity* if you missed the one in December.
AND *Lecto Divina* at noon (*see announcement of Article II opportunities*).

April 20 – *Lecto Divina* Zoom link will be available in weekly email.

April 21 – *Outdoor Work Day* – 6:00 – 7:30 pm

April 22 – *Social Justice at EarthFest Uptown Oxford* 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

April 22 – 4:00 p.m. – *Celebration of the Life of Eunice Meadows*, Hopedale

April 23 – Noon (after the service) *Spring Congregational Meeting*, multi-platform

May 7 – Noon *Congregational Discussion* about proposed changes to UUA Bylaws.

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, Jessica Kopp, Adriane Ruther; Darrel Davis (VP, Religious Services)

April Events in Children's Religious Education – note no “early” classes!

April 2 Children's RE activity in lower level during the service.

April 9 Children's RE class/activity in lower level during the service.

April 16 Children's RE class/activity in lower level during the service.
OWL 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

April 23 Intergenerational Service today.

April 30 Children's RE class/activity in lower level during the service.
OWL 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

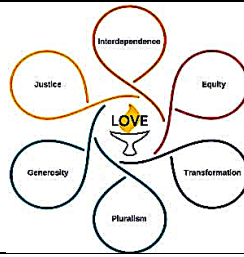
April Events in Adult Religious Education

UU Wellspring Contact Genevieve genevieveaok@yahoo.com to sign up

Lectio Divina Sunday, April 16, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m. (after potluck)
Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

YouTube Videos *Article II:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQmvlMBUOg>
Reading: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL2t8wnV0h4>

HUUC Discussion At Hopedale and via Zoom Sunday, May 7 @ Noon



Hopedale

What About the Proposed Revision of UUA *Principles and Sources*?

Want to know more about a proposed UUA Study Commission revision of Article II *Bylaws* stating Unitarian Universalism's *Seven Principles*? Hopedale has opportunities to learn!

UU Wellspring A group of religious educators who study faith topics developed a series to explore, rather than react to, Study Commission proposals in four 90-minute sessions. Readings and reflection questions about covenant statements within each new Article II value are included. Hopedale Board has covered the fee for RE Coordinator Genevieve O'Malley Knight to facilitate this series for any Hopedale member or friend. To learn your best times to enroll, contact her at genevieveaok@yahoo.com or 513-593-3275, and sign up!

Lectio Divina A "Divine Reading" developed by UU religious educators will help UUs consider the proposed revision reflectively. This session will be offered twice and facilitated by RE Coordinator Genevieve O'Malley Knight. Plan on joining us for one hour on either:

- Sunday, April 16, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m. (after potluck) at Hopedale
- Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale or via Zoom (link will be announced)

YouTube Videos Two videos are available where the Article II Study Commission summarizes its report (30 minutes) and reads its recommendations (7 minutes):

- *Commission Reports*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQmvlMBUOg>
- *Commission Reads*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL2t8wnV0h4>

Hopedale Congregational Discussion At Hopedale and via Zoom Sunday, May 7 @ Noon. Curt Ellison will moderate, and Libby Earle will show a PowerPoint about proposed changes to the UUA *Seven Principles and Sources*. Hopedale's General Assembly Delegates, Libby Earle and Liz Woedl, will vote on these proposed changes in June, and this discussion is a time for members and friends to share perspectives with them. Take advantage of Hopedale's opportunities to learn about what's afoot and come to this discussion to hear from one another and reflect upon the future of our UUA covenant.



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

April is upon us, and I know many gardeners are eager to get outside. We had a small turnout on Saturday, March 11th and are holding two work days in April. The first will be on Saturday, April 1st and the second will be on Friday, April 21st, both from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

One of the goals on April 1st will be to prep the south lawn for grass seed, so bring a garden rake if you're willing to help out. There's plenty of other tasks as well, like weeding, edging, trimming, etc. Plus there's great conversation.

Another goal this year is to make improvements to the foundation plantings on both the northern and southern sides of the building. Our goal is to find plants that are easy to maintain and fit the space appropriately, all while adding color and interest. If you'd like to be part of this endeavor or if you have ideas or favorites, please reach out. There is no firm date for this project but will likely take place over a series of workdays.

We've also embarked upon an investigation into the ceiling insulation at Hopedale, in the hope of creating a more sustainable building and congregation. We're also receiving bids to install a water softener and an on-demand water heater - reducing the requirement to heat water when nobody is at Hopedale. In an ideal world, I would also like to install a geothermal heating/cooling system in the next 5-7 years. Perhaps when we pay off the mortgage we can save for some long-term investments like that.

Finally, and once again, I'd like to thank all those elusive garden gnomes out there who do the little things around Hopedale. They might think nobody notices, but we notice all right, and we are thankful for all the efforts.

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

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

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

Our Second Sunday collection on April 9: Ohio Environmental Council

The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. For more information about OEC, please visit: <https://theoec.org/about/>. To donate make checks out to "HUUC" and put "OEC" in the memo line. Donor participants can give to the "rainbow basket" at the April 9 service or send to Hopedale Treasurer. Peggy Branstrator will tell us more about OEC at the service.

OEC's Advocacy Toolkit is a great resource to explore the ways you can reach out to elected officials and decision-makers. Go to <https://theoec.org/advocacy-toolkit/>.

Join Hopedale's Social Justice activity at **EarthFest** April 22 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Oxford Memorial Park, Uptown. Environmental Guardians (our youth) will be decorating their Super Guardian Masks. This was a big hit several years ago. The message they can share with family and friends is all about the danger of fracking brine-produced water that is being transported and stored in injection wells. Libby is looking for helpers.

A Welcoming Congregation Since 2007!

The Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force has recently completed their work and will submit a draft of the final report at the Congregational Meeting April 23rd. First certified as a Welcoming Congregation in 2007, Hopedale 2022-23 has continued support of a LGBTQ+ presence through Sunday services, days of remembrance, religious education, visible social witness, participation in Oxford Area PFLAG events, and funding.

Abortion on the Ballot

The Ohio Ballot Board approved the validity of a constitutional amendment proposal that would protect abortion rights in the State Constitution. A lawsuit has been filed with the Ohio Supreme Court by anti-choice advocates who want the Ballot board to change their decision. Pro-choice activists, however, are poised to gather signatures by July 5 in support placing the petition on the ballot in November. Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/4y9mm6fe>.

Upcoming Social Justice Dates (denominational events in bold)

Thursday, April 13 – HUUC Social Justice Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m. Newcomers can contact Liz at liz.woedl@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Saturday, April 22 – Visit PFLAG booth at Fresh Air Fair -- Talawanda High School.

Saturday, April 22 – EarthFest 11 am – 2 pm – Oxford Memorial Park – uptown

Saturday, April 29 – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Potluck at St. John's UU Church, 6:00 p.m., 320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati.

Sunday, April 30 – Joint Greater Cincinnati UU Sunday Morning Service @ First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati. Service will be streamed live at Hopedale.

Thursday, May 11 – HUUC Social Justice Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m. Newcomers can contact Liz at liz.woedl@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Saturday, May 13 - UU Council of Greater Cincinnati Meeting, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.

Thursday, May 17 – PFLAG Community Meeting, 6:00 pm at Lane Library (Legal Takes with Scott Knox, attorney)

Wednesday, June 21-Sunday, June 25, 2023 - UUA General Assembly. Participants can attend either in Pittsburgh, PA or virtually via the Internet.

Environmental Corner

by **Peggy Branstrator**

jonwb@earthlink.net

Save April 6, 6:00 - 7:30, for public "unveiling" of the Draft **Oxford Climate Action Plan**. This is the culmination of months of work by the city's Climate Action Task Force on a strategy to reach zero carbon emissions by 2045. Your feedback will be helpful in developing the final version of the plan to be voted on by Oxford City Council.

Toward a Sustainable, Resilient Oxford: Help Shape a Climate Action Plan for Oxford, Ohio

Public Input Session, Thursday, April 6, 2023

6:00-7:30 p.m. at Oxford Senior Center

**Co-hosted by the City of Oxford, League of Women Voters
and Oxford Seniors Ecology Club**

April 22, 11-2 is **Earthfest** at the Uptown Park. Many organizations will have a table, including Hopedale. There will be lots of activities for all ages.

In the News Larry Householder and Matt Borges were recently found guilty of racketeering in the House Bill 6 scandal. Maybe now we can get the rest of HB 6 repealed and stop enriching large utilities by subsidizing the obsolete OVEC coal plants at the electricity customers' expense. That would allow the return of the energy efficiency and renewable power programs that really do save customers money.

The **Inflation Reduction Act** has lots of programs available to homeowners and others for offsetting the cost of energy-saving retrofits. If you are replacing a major appliance, installing more insulation, replacing a leaky window or door, it's worth checking out. Many programs offer a tax credit of up to 30% of purchase price! Two of the best places to check are *Rewiring America* and the *EPA Energy Star* websites.

Garden work will begin in earnest this month. If you like to dig in the dirt or weed let Drew, Peggy or Mary know and we will hook you up with a project or two. We can accommodate any schedule! And if you have a favorite veggie speak up and we will try to grow some!



Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP, 513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

Events with Eunice Meadows in Mind

One day when I was delivering dinner to Eunice she said: "You know I love potlucks. Have a potluck for me when I'm gone." Please join us for the **Potluck after the service on Sunday, April 16th** in memory of Eunice.

Eunice's "funeral box" contained her wish that her family have a **Celebration of Life at Hopedale**. That event will take place on **Saturday, April 22 at 4:00 pm**.

Helping Hopedale Happen

Big *thank-yous* to all those who brought snacks for February *hospitality* and washed dishes!

You, too, can join in this fun – a month-long commitment is not required, **and** you can be part of a **hospitality team**. Please contact Celia Ellison with the dates you'd like to help or sign up at the clipboard in the kitchen.

Plan Your Own Funeral – Write Your Own Obituary

In conjunction with the April 2nd Sunday service, materials we have shared at previous workshops will be available: checklists; forms for wills, power of attorney and advance care directives; ideas for an obituary, for your own funeral, and more! If you missed these, contact Celia to get some of the resources.

We Alone Support Hopedale ! ! !

How to Make Your Pledge Payments

Your pledge payments are the only source of funding for our annual operating budget that is approved by the Congregation. Please make out your pledge payment check to "Hopedale UU Community" and place it in the Sunday service collection plate, hand it directly to our Treasurers, or deposit it in the U.S. Mail in an envelope addressed to "Treasurers Judy & Richard Schlub, 2849 Stone Mill Way, Hamilton, OH 45011."

How to Donate to the Hopedale Facilities Fund

Facilities Fund donations are devoted entirely to physical improvements envisioned in the *Hopedale Facilities Improvement Plan* endorsed by the Congregation. All expenditures are reviewed by the Board. Please make out your checks to the "Hopedale Facilities Fund" and give them to the treasurers in one of the same ways indicated for your pledge payments.

Payment Options

Your pledge payments to Hopedale may be made by check, cash, stock transfer, IRA distribution, or another means resulting in annual operating funds. Whether paid in installments or entirely at one time, annual pledges should be contributed in full by June 30.

Donations to the Hopedale Facilities Fund may be made at any time in any of these ways, or by designating Hopedale as your beneficiary in a will, trust, or insurance program.

Questions? Contact Curt Ellison, Board President, or Judy & Richard Schlub, Treasurers.

Thank You!

The entire Hopedale Community is sincerely grateful for your affection and generosity.
It makes Hopedale come true.

