



Hopedale Community News

Volume 34, Number 8

March 2023

March Sunday Services

Multi-platform (Both In-person *and* via Zoom)

Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from huucoffice@gmail.com

March 5th – “A Little History: The Unitarian Universalist Flaming Chalice and the Hopedale Community’s Mission Statement and Covenant.” Presenter and service leader: Celia Ellison. Please note that Hopedale will be celebrating its 33rd birthday with a birthday party social hour. Please come! Children’s RE: Class from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., then they will join their families for the service.

March 12th – “Something Good Will Come of All Things Yet: Reflections on the Birthday of Jack Kerouac.” March 12 marks the 101st birthday of Jack Kerouac, the writer who became a symbol of cultural change in the United States. Join Diane Wright as we look at the details of his life and the themes of his writings. Service leader: Doris Bergen. Children’s RE: Activity in lower level during the service. **Note** that Daylight Saving Time starts today. Spend that lost hour at HUUC!

March 19th – “Nature Is Enough.” Continuing our exploration of UU sources, the Reverend Alix Klingenberg will help us trace the connections between our origins in Transcendentalism and today’s religious naturalism, with a nod to pagan traditions surrounding the spring equinox. Spring is just around the corner, so come get ready. Rev Alix will join us via the magic of Zoom. In-person service leader: Patty Klingenberg. Children’s RE: Class from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., then they will join their families for the service.

March 26th – “Exploring Cincinnati’s Forgotten Religious Landscape.” Join Dr. Matthew Smith (Miami University Hamilton), author of *The Spires Still Point to Heaven: Cincinnati’s Religious Landscape, 1788-1873*, for an illustrated tour of the forgotten Queen City. Discover how immigrants made Cincinnati the sixth-largest city in America by the eve of the Civil War, how Cincinnati earned its nickname Porkopolis, how religion shaped civic life, and how Cincinnatians coped with recurring outbreaks of pandemic cholera in 1832 and 1849. Service leader: Jennifer Blue. Children’s RE: Activity in lower level during the service.

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. She 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:** following the service, Hopedale’s “Plan Your Own Funeral/Write Your Own Obituary” materials will be available to pick up, and tables will be set up if you want to take some time to review them or ask questions.

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If Inclement weather causes **cancellation** of an in-person service, Zoom **continues!** A notification will be sent to the Hopedale email list by Saturday preceding the service. If you know someone who doesn't monitor their email, please call them with the update!

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

Lighting Hopedale's Flame

Our canvass is under way. It asks each of us to help make all of us happen. Our appeal says "We are Unitarian Universalists, and we do not believe our future is already written. We will help write it by keeping our faith in our community strong and bringing our individual lights to the common flame. Your pledge now of financial resources will sustain and build our treasured community. Out of the gifts of many comes one Hopedale."

Please be sure to review the canvass packet you received, and return your pledge card by Saturday, March 11. If you have questions about Hopedale activities or plans, speak with any Board member or committee chair. Share your questions about our proposed budget for next year with canvass co-chairs Peter Carels or Celia Ellison.

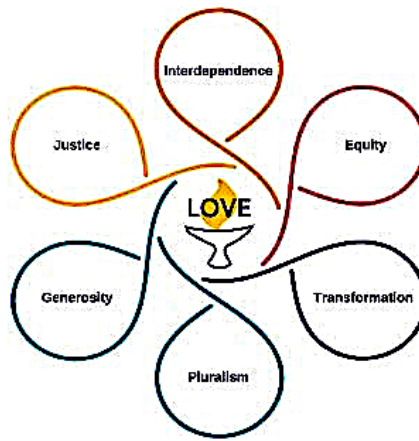
The canvass supports our annual operating budget, which by definition, is Hopedale's top financial priority. If you have questions about optional ways to contribute, or other Hopedale needs, you may speak with me or with our treasurers. Thank you!

Revision of UUA *Principles and Sources*

The UUA *Bylaws* Article II, "Principles and Purposes," states the common beliefs that Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote, and the "Sources of the Living Tradition" from which they come. Their wording was adopted in 1987, and since 2020 a Study Commission has been revising it. New wording was proposed in January that may be amended at the 2023 General Assembly, and final consideration will occur at GA in 2024.

We are planning a Sunday afternoon multiplatform congregational discussion of the proposed changes, with the goal of informing our GA delegates about Hopedale's perspectives. The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati (UUCGC) recently reviewed the proposed revision, and we will draw upon their discussion to help frame ours. Watch for announcement of our discussion date soon.

See https://www.uua.org/files/documents/coa/articleii/articleii_present.pdf for present language of UUA Article II, and https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf for the proposed revisions, which are visualized below.



Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 23 at Noon

Save the date for our Spring Congregational Meeting where we approve the 2023-2024 operating budget based on results of our canvass. We will elect our Board Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President for Religious Services, and hear reports from Board members and Task Forces. The agenda and materials will be distributed ahead of the meeting.

Next Board Meetings

Hopedale Board meets via multi-platform Tuesdays March 14, April 4, and May 9 at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to join us I can send you the agenda and Zoom invitation. It may be fun!



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

I know it's not quite Spring, but the sun is beckoning me to be outside. I'm excited for the upcoming outdoor season at Hopedale and want to begin our outdoor work sessions this month. I'd like to schedule the first for Saturday, March 11th from 10:00 to 11:30 AND the second for Saturday, April 1st from 10:00 to 11:30.

It looks like the lower level is back in business after the burst pipe. The drywall has been repaired and the plumbing situation improved. As soon as the weather warms we will schedule blacktopping of the entry drive and north parking lot. Additionally, we should continue our discussion of long- and short-term improvements to be made at Hopedale.

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

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

March Events in Children's Religious Education—time change and Spring Breaks!

March 5 Children's RE Classes 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

March 12 Activity in lower level during the service
OWL 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

March 19 Children's RE Classes 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

March 26 Activity in lower level during the service

April 2 Activity in lower level during the service

Upcoming Family Fun Event is being planned!!!

Stay tuned for details via email.

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

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

Our Second Sunday collection on March 12: Oxford Area PFLAG

The Oxford Area PFLAG serves the community through education, support and advocacy for families, allies, and people LGBTQ+. Visit: <https://oxfordareapflag.org/> for more information. To donate, please make checks payable to "HUUC" (with "PFLAG" in the memo line), and place contributions in the "rainbow basket" on March 12 or send them to the Hopedale Treasurers.

Upcoming Dates: *Denominational events in BOLD*

• **Thursday, March 9 – HUUC Social Justice Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.** Newcomers can contact Liz at liz.woedl@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

• **Wednesday, March 15 – PFLAG Community Meeting** at Miami's Shriver Center "Tough Love" with Josh Abraham from Miami's Student Counseling Center, and others.

• **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 29 – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)-Focused Potluck** at St. John's UU Church, 6:00 pm, 320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati.

- **Sunday, April 30 – Joint UU Sunday Morning Service @** First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati. Service will be streamed live at Hopedale.
- **Saturday, May 13 - UU Council of Greater Cincinnati Meeting**, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, June 21-Sunday, June 25, 2023 - UUA General Assembly**. Participants can attend either in Pittsburgh, PA or virtually via the Internet.

Update on Issues Relating to Actions of Immediate Witness by Libby Earle

We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion

Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom and Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights recently announced that they are putting final touches on a ballot issue in 2023 that would enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. They have described it as similar to the abortion rights measure voters approved in Michigan last November.

There will be opposition, and the threat of the legislature adopting the 60-percent-in-every-county rule for citizen ballot initiatives. Get your clip boards ready! For more information about the proposed amendment go to <https://tinyurl.com/256d82ah>.

Stop the Privatization of Medicare

Previously we have written of the threat to traditional Medicare posed by the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health (REACH) program, acting as administrators of Medicare funds. Physicians for a National Health Plan announced that REACH is capping the number of participating entities. But organizations with histories of dubious insurance practices already have been accepted as intermediaries. For more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3cp2ask5>.

Environmental Corner

by Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Several newer federal laws (especially the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA) include programs to help homeowners and others reduce their own carbon dioxide emissions in response to the climate crisis. If you are considering even smaller household changes, such as getting new appliances, new windows, insulation, as well as my favorite, roof-top solar, it is worth your time to look at these. Some of the tax rebates are for 30% of the purchase price – a significant amount of money. In addition to rebates for individuals there are also block grants to states and local governments and non-profits. Some of these are still in the process of being rolled out.

Here are some resources to help get you started:

[From the New York Times, an interactive guide to the IRA](#)

[From Rewiring America, a downloadable guide to everything IRA](#)

[From Natural Resources Defense Council, a Consumer Guide to the IRA](#)

https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits

The House Bill 6 Trial

There have been very interesting reports in some local papers about the ongoing trial in Cincinnati of Larry Householder, former speaker of the Ohio House, who is charged with racketeering involving a \$60 million bribe for pushing through House Bill 6 in 2018. HB 6 is the law that collects \$80,000 every day in electric surcharges on consumers' bills to subsidize two obsolete coal-fired power plants left over from the 1950s. The nuclear bail-out portion was repealed but the rest is still in effect.

Apparently one of the ways that bribery money was used was to buy those sinister ads in the summer of 2019 warning people that China was trying to take over the Ohio Electric grid by circulating ballot petitions. It worked, because the effort to put HB6 on the ballot for voters to decide did not get enough signatures. Signature collectors were also harassed and paid to stop work. So you never got a chance to vote on HB 6.

For more information, Common Cause has a YouTube video. It is worth watching if you have any interest in legislative shenanigans! The recording of the program is [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9L2jL96D_I&t=8s).
{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9L2jL96D_I&t=8s}.

If you are part of the Oxford Electric Aggregation program (as most of us in Oxford are!) it is worth noting that our electricity provider is Energy Harbor. After the bad publicity surrounding the HB 6 scandal, First Energy reorganized and became Energy Harbor! So all this hits very close to home! The contract is up for renewal in the near future.

Congregational Life

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



***COME CELEBRATE HOPEDALE'S 33RD BIRTHDAY AT SOCIAL
On Sunday, March 5, 2023 after the service.***

~ Eunice Meadows ~

Eunice Meadows, founding member of this Hopedale Community, *nee* the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Butler County, and a driving force of our initial organizing, passed away on Monday, February 27, 2023 at age 91. A *Celebration of Life* will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. at Hopedale. Eunice's obituary is available at <https://www.websterfuneralhomes.com/obituaries>.

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, the materials we have shared at previous workshops will be available: checklists; forms for wills, power of attorney, advance care directives; ideas for an obituary, your own funeral, and more! Tables will be set up in case you want to sit down and actually start some of this planning!!

Beyond Hopedale

Special April UU Events

Joint Greater Cincinnati Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Weekend

April 29, 2023 – St. John's UU Church 6:00 p.m.

320 Resor Avenue

Cincinnati OH 45220

Join us for a potluck dinner with the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President of UUSC, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati. UUCGC represents six local UU congregations: First Unitarian Church; The Gathering at Northern Hills; Harmony UU Community; Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church; Hopedale UU Community; St. John's UU Church. This is an opportunity to meet Greater Cincinnati UUs and to learn about the work UUSC is doing with grassroots partners around the world to resist oppressive systems and advance human rights. Come enjoy camaraderie and inspiration with other UU justice lovers!

April 30, 2023 -- First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati 10:30 a.m.

Connections that Heal: Partnering for a Just Transition

The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

536 Linton Street

Cincinnati OH 45219

You are invited to participate in this in-person Sunday morning Greater Cincinnati worship service at First Church, which will also be live-streamed to our Hopedale building.

Join us for a joint service sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati as Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, shares stories of the remarkable work UUSC partners are engaging in around the world with our support. How do we stop systems based in relentless extraction and move toward ways of being that heal and restore? Communities in front lines of the climate crisis are leading the way toward the transformations necessary for our collective survival and flourishing.

The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

After 30 years in faith-based leadership, the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn joined UUSC as President and Lead Executive Officer in 2018. She has helped grow a number of progressive congregations serving their members and the larger community. Mary Katherine contributed to efforts for economic, racial, and social justice in Macon, Georgia at the Economic Opportunity Council/Headstart with the NAACP. She also worked deeply in the reproductive justice movement. In Nashville, Tennessee, she collaborated with the Interfaith Alliance and Industrial Areas Foundation. In Fairfax, Virginia, she worked with interfaith ministries addressing hunger and homelessness, collaborated with LGBTQI+ advocacy organizations, and served on the county's homelessness task force. She also served in volunteer leadership with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association and as Director of Stewardship and Development for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Guest at Your Table

If your family collected coins for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's **Guest at Your Table** project this year, you can send your contribution directly to: UUSC, P.O. Box 808, Newark, NJ. 07101 – with "Guest" in the memo line. You can also donate online at <https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout>.

Happenings at Hopedale

Through March 11 – *Annual Canvass* for the 2023-24 operating budget.

March 5 – *Hopedale's Birthday Party/Social Hour* following the Sunday service.

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

March 9 – *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.

March 11 – *Outdoor Work Day* – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

March 14– *Hopedale Board* meets in person at Hopedale, 7:00 p.m. If you wish to join this meeting online, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513-461-1131 for the Zoom link.

April 1 – *Outdoor Work Day* – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



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.

