



Hopedale Community News

Volume 34, Number 10

May 2023

May Sunday Services

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

Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from hucoffice@gmail.com

May 7th @ 10:30 a.m. – Choosing Barabbas: Reflections in the Weeks After Easter

Christian scriptures tell the story of a prisoner named Barrabas, who was imprisoned with Jesus. There was a tradition of releasing a prisoner on the day before Passover, and when the guards asked the crowd who they desired to release, they chose Barabbas. Join Diane Wright as we explore this story and its implications for us today. Service leader: Patty Klingenberg. Children's RE: Activity in lower level during the service.

May 7th @ Noon – Revising UUA *Principles and Sources*

Join a discussion of proposed changes to the UUA *Seven Principles and Sources* that will inform Hopedale's General Assembly delegates, who vote on proposed changes in June, about Hopedale perspectives. Curt Ellison will moderate, Libby Earle will present changes, and comments and questions will be welcome.

May 7th @ 6:00 p.m. – Sunday Evening Concert

Evan Danielson and James Lukenda, Piano and Violin.

May 14th – Our Whole Lives – Faith-Based Sexuality Education

Join Jennifer Blue, Darrel Davis and our youth as they celebrate the first time that this important program has been offered at Hopedale. Children's RE: Class/Activity in lower level during the service. *Second Sunday Collection* for Reproductive Rights.

May 21st – RE Service/Recognition/Bridging

This intergenerational service will recognize and feature those in our Religious Education program. Service leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight.

May 28th @ 10:30 – Flower Communion

Join Hopedale and other UU congregations as we celebrate the *100th Anniversary of the Flower Service*, typically held on the final Sunday before congregations break for the summer. Presenter and service leader: Celia Ellison. Intergenerational Service.

May 28th @ 11:30 – Thank You Evan!

Plan to stay after the service as we have a thank-you social hour for our pianist, Evan Danielson, as he graduates from Miami and heads to graduate school in Minnesota.

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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

Spring 2023 Congregational Meeting

Twenty-two members with four proxies and four guests met via multi-platform April 23 for the Spring Congregational Meeting. Lively presentations and comments lasted two hours!

Finance Committee Chair Liz Woedl reported that the canvass was quite successful, and the Congregation unanimously approved next year's operating budget. Thank you to canvass chairs Peter Carels and Celia Ellison for their leadership, and to all those who pledged!

Neil Danielson, Secretary, and Darrel Davis, Vice President for Religious Services, were elected to two-year Board terms for 2023-2025. Holly Wilson was elected to a first term as Treasurer, 2023-2025. Continuing Board members for 2023-2024 are Drew Ruther, Vice President for Stewardship; Celia Ellison, Vice President for Congregational Life; and Curt Ellison, President. Congratulations to the newly elected members and thank you for agreeing to serve Hopedale. Linda Amspauagh, Nominating Committee Chair, completed her 19th year in this role!

Thank you to Treasurers Judy and Richard Schlub, who worked with diligence, care, constant attention and good spirit to shepherd our finances during the past four years, a period marked by pandemic transitions on many fronts and by substantial facilities improvement projects on the home front. Three former Treasurers rose to testify at the Congregational Meeting that this job is a challenging one, to share their thanks to the Schlubs, and to wish them well.

Ann Fuehrer, Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force Lead, reported on work completed this year with Libby Earle and Genevieve O'Malley Knight to prepare a report to UUA seeking renewal of Hopedale's Welcoming Congregation status. This year Hopedale offered Welcoming Congregation worship services, recognized LBGTQ+ days and weeks of observance identified by UUA, provided Welcoming Congregation religious education programs on *Transgender Inclusion* and *Our Whole Lives*, and supported the Transforming Hearts Collective and PFLAG of Oxford. A final report will be reviewed by the Board in May and submitted to UUA. We appreciate the fine job done by Ann and this Task Force. The Social Justice Committee gave Hopedale a new Inclusive Rainbow Flag for display.

Neil Danielson, Lead of the In-Person Gatherings Task Force, reported that Hopedale's *COVID Pandemic Risk Factors and Event Guidelines for In-Person Gatherings* adopted in November 2021 and often updated since have served us well during the pandemic, which appears to be subsiding. President Biden has ended the official national emergency, and according to our weekly rubric score, Hopedale has been at low risk for some time. Thank you Neil, and Task Force members Jennifer Blue, Genevieve O'Malley Knight, Drew Ruther

and Liz Woedl for keeping Hopedale safe and respecting our commitment to the UU value of supporting and acting upon scientific understanding.

Board reports were given by President Curt Ellison, Treasurers Judy & Richard Schlub, Vice President for Religious Services Darrel Davis, Vice President for Congregational Life Celia Ellison, and Vice President for Stewardship Drew Ruther. A variety of comments and questions were discussed by attendees and Board members. The meeting concluded with a review by Drew Ruther of Hopedale's updated *Safety and Security Procedures and Policies*. After the meeting formally adjourned, Drew conducted a fire drill.

Congregational Discussion of UUA *Principles and Sources*

UUA *Bylaws* Article II, "Principles and Purposes," states the commitments Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote, and the "Sources of the Living Tradition" from which they come. A proposed revision of this wording will be voted upon at General Assembly 2023 in June. A Congregational Discussion of the proposed changes will occur at Hopedale on May 7 at noon. See the announcement below for more detail and join us!

Facilities Improvement

In November 2020, after much discussion led by a Needs and Feasibility Assessment Committee, the Congregation adopted a formal Facilities Improvement Plan. Its goals are:

- Improve the lower level of Hopedale's building for Religious Education
- Improve accessible parking
- Rehabilitate driveways and parking areas
- Create a dedicated worship area
- Improve the kitchen and restrooms
- Explore adding an elevator
- Pursue fundraising to enable these improvements
- Consider refinancing within UUA guidelines

By April 2023 all these improvements have been made -- and paid for -- except those to the kitchen, restrooms and possibly adding an elevator and creating dedicated worship space. During construction we learned that we needed to waterproof the interior of our building and add field drains to our property, requiring more fundraising. These improvements have also been completed.

In fall 2023 we'll look again at Hopedale's facilities improvement plans. We already have a Congregationally endorsed concept for improving the worship area. We will review it, consider prospects for funding our preferences, and update plans and priorities as needed.

Next Board Meetings

Hopedale Board meets via multi-platform Tuesdays May 9 and June 13 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.





Sunday Congregational Discussion, May 7, 12:00 Noon **Revising UUA *Principles and Sources***

Join a discussion of proposed changes to the UUA *Seven Principles and Sources* that will inform Hopedale's General Assembly delegates, who vote on proposed changes in June, about Hopedale perspectives. Curt Ellison will moderate, Libby Earle will present changes, and comments and questions will be welcome. The UUA Article II Study Commission discusses proposed changes in a brief YouTube video found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQmvlMBUOg>.

Our May 7 discussion will be multi-platform, and the Zoom link is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85802530591?pwd=L1JkM05tK0VVbUhQRVBvdTVYZ2Q0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 0253 0591

Passcode: 513016

Dial +1 646 558 8656 US



Sunday Evening Concert, May 7, 6:00 p.m.



Evan Danielson and James Lukenda, Piano and Violin

This special concert of lighthearted selections featuring works for violin and piano will be presented live at Hopedale and multi-platform. The Zoom link is:

Join Zoom Meeting

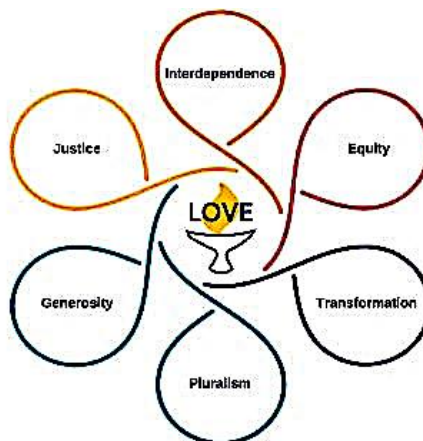
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83224528801?pwd=Y0YzYXQ4YnlBWGN6V2VZVUFpOWZGQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 2452 8801

Passcode: 618202

Dial +1 646 931 3860 US

Dial +1 646 558 8656 US (EDT)



Hopedale

Revision of UUA *Principles* and *Sources*

YouTube Videos The Article II Study Commission discusses and reads its report.

- *Commission Reports*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQmv1MBUOg> (30 minutes)
- *Commission Recommendations*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL2t8wnV0h4> (7 minutes)

Hopedale Congregational Discussion Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 12:00 Noon at Hopedale to discuss proposed changes to UUA *Principles* and *Sources*. General Assembly delegates will vote on these changes in June. Learn about and reflect upon the future of our UUA covenant.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONNECTION

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

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

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

May Events in Children's Religious Education – Notice: No “Early” Classes!

May 7	Children's RE class/activity in lower level during the service.
May 14	Children's RE class/activity in lower level during the service.
May 21	Children's RE recognition – Intergenerational Service today.
May 28	Intergenerational Service today.

May Events in Adult Religious Education

Sunday, May 7 @ Noon -- *Congregational Discussion* at Hopedale and via Zoom

Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

Hopedale is looking amazing! The spring flowers are in bloom, the grass is greening, our sapling trees are waking up from their winter naps, and there is fresh asphalt on the entry drive. To be honest, I never thought I'd appreciate an asphalt drive as much as I do the new one at Hopedale. It takes a lot of effort by many people in order to make Hopedale what it is, and the outdoor areas are no exception. Thanks to all our gardeners and mowers.

April saw work begin on the south lawn and flower beds. Grass seed was sown around the playground and new shrubs were planted next to the south entrance stoop. The playground and RE flowerbed were weeded and mulched as well. There's also a plan in place to plant ferns and coralberry on the north and east sides of the building.

I'm planning **two work sessions** for May: **Friday, May 12th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 27th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.** Per usual, I'd like to extend an invitation to any and all persons who are willing and able to join us.

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 May 14: Reproduction Rights

Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom and Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights are the organizations planning a ballot issue in 2023 that would enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. Now the anti-choice majority in the Ohio legislature is planning to replace the 50% + votes needed to pass a ballot issue with a 60% + requirement! Let's help these organizations beat the extremists in the Statehouse. For more information go to:

<https://ohioansforreproductivfreedom.org/about-us/> & <https://ohioreprorights.org/about-us>.

To donate for the Second Sunday collection, make checks payable to "HUUC" and put "Freedom" in the memo space. Donations can be placed in the rainbow basket on May 14th or sent to the Hopedale Treasurers.

Issues on the Ballot at the Ohio Legislature

The Ohio Representatives and Senators may have a gerrymandered advantage to bully higher education, but college students, university faculty and staff, and advocates are turning out to voice concern over how **SB 83** will force authoritative state laws that threaten freedom and diversity on college campuses. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2bbmvsuu>.

There is so much going on. To better keep an eye on what's going on in the Legislature, set up notifications of your favorite issue at:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/authentication/create-account>.

Upcoming Social Justice Dates (denominational events in bold)

Thursday, May 11 HUUC Social Justice Zoom meeting 7:00 (contact Liz Woedl for link)

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

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

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

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) is observed May 17th. It aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBTQIA+ rights work worldwide. Phobia refers to fear of something. People tend to be more fearful when they lack knowledge, experience, or a relationship with someone or something. Thus, raising awareness of the humanity of all people and the importance of acknowledging everyone's dignity as someone who is straight, homosexual, gay, lesbian, pansexual, asexual, bisexual, cisgender, nonbinary, or transgender is important.

Commemorations have taken place in over 130 countries. Observance is necessary because as of 2019, 69 countries criminalized same-sex relationships. In 26 countries transgender individuals are subjected to punishments and they are disproportionately at risk of violence across the globe. In 2021, US President Biden used IDAHOBIT to highlight efforts to alleviate LGBTQIA+ discrimination and to call on Congress to pass the Equality Act.

The founders of the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO), as it was originally known, established the IDAHO Committee to coordinate grassroots actions in different countries to promote the day and to lobby for official recognition on May 17. That date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1990.

Environmental Corner

by Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

Several environmental groups have sued to try to overturn HB507 which allowed – and even encouraged – drilling for natural gas (i.e. fracking) on public lands. One of the groups was the Ohio Environmental Council – the recipient of our April Second Sunday Offering. Looks like our money will help this effort!

A group from Sierra Club recently went to a meeting of the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to protest the subsidies of two coal plants that are a legacy from HB 6. They also delivered individually written protest postcards. There was good press coverage and PUCO has finally scheduled a hearing on the long-postponed audit involving the subsidies.

As we went to press the Ohio Senate had voted to hold an August election to try to change the process for amending the Constitution. By the time you read this there may be more details, but it sounds like we need to get prepared to turn out the vote in August!

Gardening has started! Lettuce and spinach are sprouting, rhubarb and garlic are ready for harvesting and several herbs survived the winter. We hope to be able to offer basil, oregano, cilantro, leeks, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme (a new addition so we can sing THAT song!) this summer. Suggestions of what to plant are encouraged!

Help is always needed and very welcome. Someone is usually there at least once during the week and once on the weekend. The timing depends on weather and personal schedules. We will try to work with your availability. Contact Mary Fox or Peggy Branstrator (see directory for contact info). Formal workdays are in the Happenings at Hopedale.

The Oxford Seniors Ecoclub is planning a field trip to Cope Environmental Center on June 14 at 2:30. The trip is open to any interested person. Several Hopedale members went with the Ecoclub on our last field trip (pre-covid). More details in the June newsletter.



Congregational Life

Circle Dinners Return to Hopedale!

Jessica Kopp will host the kick-off return-to-Circle Dinners Saturday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m. This is a “managed potluck,” so please *rsvp* and plan your edible contribution to Jessica by calling 513-523-7441. And **feel free** to volunteer to host the next one. It’s also possible to use the Hopedale building to host this event.

Getting together in the summertime.

Look for announcements about area field trips and picnics at Hopedale to take place this June and July. **Volunteers** to organize events can contact Celia (see above).

Happenings at Hopedale

May 7 – Noon – *Congregational Discussion: Revising UUA Principles and Sources*

In-person and multi-platform -- Zoom link in this *Newsletter*.

May 7 – 6:00 p.m. – Sunday Night Concert

Piano and Violin with Evan Danielson and James Lukenda.

In-person and multi-platform -- Zoom link in this *Newsletter*.

May 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Hopedale Board meets in multi-platform at Hopedale. Email

ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513-461-1131 for the Zoom link.

May 12 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday Outdoor Workday

May 11 – *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.

May 20 – 6:00 p.m. – Circle Dinner @ Jessica Kopp’s home – “managed” potluck.

RSVP to Jessica at 513-523-7441.

May 27 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday Outdoor Workday

May 28 – 11:30 a.m. Thank you, Evan Danielson during social hour.

Pledge Payments

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

Hopedale Facilities Fund

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

Payment Options

Pledges may be paid by check, cash, stock transfer, IRA distribution, or another means resulting in annual operating funds. Donations to the 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, Hopedale Treasurers.

Thank You!

Hopedale UU Community is sincerely grateful for your affection and generosity.

