



## Hopedale Community News

Volume 35 Number 4

November 2023

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

Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from [huucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:huucoffice@gmail.com)

**November 5<sup>th</sup> – “The Judge and Susan B. Anthony: Important Echoes from 151 Years Ago.”** On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony and 14 other women attempted to vote in Rochester, New York. Join Diane Wright and our congregation as we get ready for Election Day in the United States. We will consider our 5<sup>th</sup> Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large, and we’ll review the power and preciousness of suffrage.

Service Leader: Kathleen Carels.

Children’s RE: Class time during the service.

**November 12<sup>th</sup> – Climate Crisis and Homelessness: Bringing the Global Local.”**

Ann Fuehrer, currently a member of the planning team of OASH, Oxford Area Solutions for Housing, will address an example of what commitment to being a Green Sanctuary means. Ann will make a link between the climate crisis and homelessness, talk about how the link manifests globally and locally, suggest local actions, and prepare us for the November 19 message from Ruth Holton-Hodson about Solar Cookers International.

Second-Sunday Collection, sponsored by our Social Justice Committee, will be for Solar Cookers International.

Presenter and service leader: Ann Fuehrer.

Children’s RE: Activity in lower level during the service.

**November 19<sup>th</sup> – Solar Cookers International (SCI)** Ruth Holton-Hodson, Vice President of SCI, will discuss solar cooker basics, SCI's project in one of the world's largest refugee camps, its renown solar cooking database, and how SCI is advocating for the adoption of solar cookers to improve the lives of vulnerable populations worldwide.

Service Leader: Peggy Branstrator

Children’s RE: Class time during the service.

**November 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Leftovers.** This intergenerational service will feature some of the messages and themes from our Thanksgiving services from past years, including the tossing around of our Gratitude Ball of Yarn.

Presenter and service leader: Celia Ellison

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE.** You might bring some actual leftovers to augment social hour!

## **Notes From Board President Curt Ellison**

*ellisocw@miamioh.edu*

*513-461-1131*

### **Happy Thanksgiving Season**

It's again the time of year when we express gratitude for our blessings. At Hopedale we have many. As a lay-led congregation we rely on volunteers to make our community happen, and for another year -- Hopedale's 34th -- we thrive! You know the folks who teach our children, those who garden and tend our grounds, those who take care of our building, those who plan our services from August to June and those who make them happen on Sundays, our engaging Sunday speakers, those who make beautiful music for us, those who feed us at social hours, our multi-platform experts, the careful caretakers of our money, our generous financial supporters, leaders who aim us to the future with prudence and zeal, and our faithful weekly attenders! You know them and let's show them during this Thanksgiving season that we are grateful. Let them know you know them!

### **Congregational Meeting November 26**

Our fall meeting will be Sunday, November 26 at Noon, held in person in the Hopedale building and available by Zoom. Plan on staying after the Thanksgiving Service for an efficient yet engaging meeting. We'll hear reports from board members about what's happening at Hopedale and continue the congregation's discussion of facilities improvements with Robert Bell facilitating. A recent discussion reminded us of Facilities Improvement Plan agendas to improve our building's access by installing a lift or elevator and upgrading restrooms; to find a way to separate our upper-level worship space more effectively from the space we use for social and other activities; and how we may fund the improvements we desire to make. We recently thought together about these matters, and after some reflection, let's learn where we are now. The Congregational Meeting agenda is below, and I hope you will plan to join us because your voice matters.

### **Next Board Meeting November 14**

Hopedale Board will meet *via* multi-platform on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale and via Zoom. You are welcome to attend, so contact me for the Zoom link.





**Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community**  
**Oxford, Ohio**

**FALL 2023 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 26, 2023 @ Noon**  
**In Person & Multi-platform, Hopedale Building**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order – Curt Ellison, President**
- 2. April 23, 2023 Spring Congregational Meeting Minutes – Neil Danielson, Secretary**
- 3. Board Member Reports**
  - a. President – Curt Ellison**
  - b. Treasurer – Holly Wilson**
  - c. Vice President for Religious Services – Darrel Davis**
  - d. Vice President for Congregational Life – Celia Ellison**
  - e. Vice President for Stewardship – Drew Ruther**
  - f. Questions and Suggestions for Board Members**
- 4. Facilities Improvement Planning – Robert Bell, Needs & Feasibility Committee Chair**
  - a. Review and Next Steps**
  - b. Congregational Comments, Questions, Suggestions**
- 5. Adjourn**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85063522724?pwd=MzFqbjdCSWEhVzBTb0orakZyeVdCZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 6352 2724

Passcode: 380305

Dial +1 646 558 8656 US

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## Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

[andrew.ruther@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.ruther@gmail.com)

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

It's time to put our outdoor spaces to rest for the coming winter and prepared for some exiting additions happening next spring. We are certainly excited about the new playset that will be installed where the current playset now resides. We also have plans to redesign the vegetable gardens with all new raised beds. The plans are still in the works, but the new beds will hopefully be growing vegetables next year.

Let's plan on two work days in November. The first will be Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 11-12:30 pm; the second will be on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 12:30 pm. Remember, there are jobs for all ability levels!

Contact Drew Ruther ([andrew.ruther@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.ruther@gmail.com) or 513-265-1558) with questions or comments.

## Religious Education CONNECTION

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

### *Children's Religious Education*

This year classes will be held during Sunday services on an every-other-week schedule. Courses will depend on registration, so let us know ASAP if your kids will be joining in. **Adults can also join the fun** by volunteering to join a **teaching team** or to lead an **activity**.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Class time

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Activity Day

**November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Class time

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** – Intergenerational Service

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Class time

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Activity Day

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** – Class time

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Intergenerational

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE  
TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN FOR RE  
if you haven't done so already!

## Notes from the Social Justice Committee

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

### **Our Second Sunday Collection on Nov 12: Solar Cookers International (SCI).**

One in three people worldwide are cooking over open fires, posing a direct danger to their health, the health of their children and their environment. Many of these people live in sun-rich countries where a simple, easy to construct solar cooker could help improve health, build resilient families, break the cycle of poverty, boost local economies, empower women and children, and help achieve all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. To donate to the Second Sunday collection, make checks payable to “HUUC” and put “SOLAR” in the memo space. Donations can be placed in the rainbow basket on November 12 or send to the Hopedale Treasurer.

### **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati**

The UUCGC is having a quarterly meeting via Zoom on November 11 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. You will meet other UUs in the SW Ohio area. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Liz Woedl closer to the date for the meeting link.

**Gun Violence in the US – Interfaith Perspectives** on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 pm at the Interfaith Center, 16 S. Campus Avenue, Oxford sponsored by the Interfaith Center and Students Demand Action with speakers from Holy Trinity Episcopal, Oxford Friends and Hopedale UU Community. At Oxford’s “Streets & Eats” event in early September, members of Students Demand Action stopped by our Hopedale tent to make a connection! An RSVP to this event is requested: <https://forms.everytown.org/a/gun-violence-us-interfaith-perspectives>

### **Subscribe and Participate**

You can sign up to subscribe to the Social Justice Committee’s News Blog at <https://huucsj.org/>. If you want to be more involved in Committee planning and advocacy, join us at to our Zoom meetings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Please contact Liz Woedl by email, [liz.woedl@gmail.com](mailto:liz.woedl@gmail.com) or 513-280-1044 to learn more.

### **Social Justice Calendar**

**November 9** – 7:00 – 8:30 pm -- Social Justice Zoom meeting

**November 11** – 9:00 – 11:30 am -- UU Council of Greater Cincinnati meeting

**November 16** – 6:30 pm – Gun Violence in the US – Interfaith Perspectives

**November 12** – 10:30 am – Second Sunday collection for Solar Cookers International

**November 19** – 10:30 am – Sunday Service, ruth Holton-Hodson, VP SCI

## Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

[jonwb@earthlink.net](mailto:jonwb@earthlink.net)

**Hopedale Gardens** The gardens are mostly finished for the year. Clean-up has begun and will continue through November. Help will be gratefully accepted! Look for workday announcements (Nov 11 and 25).

The portable greenhouse cover is installed, and a few winter crops have been started. Maybe these will be more successful than last year!

There has been discussion about redoing the raised beds. The repair of a few years ago bought us some time but we need to revisit the issue soon because they are falling apart again. Also, the current arrangement makes mowing very difficult!

**Statewide issues** Hearings continue on fracking leases in Public Parks at the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission. Citizens can register comments. Comments MUST include the “nomination number” of the project in the subject line. See the Ohio Environmental Council website or [Save Ohio's State Parks team](#) for current information.

### Upcoming environmental events in November!

November 3 Friday 5PM Tri field Pumpkin Catapult Bring your jack-o-lantern and fling it!

November 9 Thursday 7:30 in Laws room 100. The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Hefner Lecture. The topic is coral reefs. The presenter, James Porter, was the consultant on the movie “Chasing Coral” which is available for free on YouTube. If you haven’t yet seen this movie, you should! It includes footage of the 2016 world-wide coral bleaching event.

November 13 Monday 7:30 pm Audubon ZOOM meeting. Ruth Holton-Hudson will be discussing the activities of Solar Cooker International in reducing deforestation and improving women and children’s health through solar cooking. This will be a longer version of what Ruth will be discussing at the November 19 Sunday service.

November 14 Tuesday 5 pm Armstrong Student Center. Sandra Steingraber will talk about “Sin by Silence: The Legacy of Rachel Carson in an Age of Climate Emergency.” Her book, *Living Downstream*, explores the links between chemicals in the environment, cancer and reproductive health.

November 15 Wednesday 6:30 – 8:00 pm Kramer School Cafeteria. **Electrification and Efficiency Fair** - a joint project by the League of Women Voters and the City of Oxford. Presentations on financial incentives available through the CHIPS Act and the Inflation Reduction Act and opportunities to talk one-on-one to vendors of low-carbon products. You can also sign the Oxford Citizens Climate Pledge and learn how to help Oxford reach ZERO CARBON by 2045!

November 18 Saturday 9 am – 2 pm Uptown Park. Farm and Flea Red Brick Event. Local Farmer's Market vendors will have produce and food and local Craftspeople will be offering their crafts. There will be live music and food trucks!

December 3 Sunday 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Lane Library. Wild Ones Seed Exchange. Start saving your seeds!

## **Congregational Life**

**By Celia Ellison, VP**

**513-461-1204, [knightcm@miamioh.edu](mailto:knightcm@miamioh.edu)**

Opening and closing words written by Darrel Davis, with inspiration as noted, for the October 22, 2023 service with a theme of finding light and direction in sudden darkness.

Opening Words are courtesy of Jack, Kaila, Mira, and Sierra

These words are true you will agree.  
They come from minds wild and free.  
Full of life and hope, completely unmoored.  
Places where impossible, we can explore.  
They have the time give them the space.  
A million pounds of energy, they're off on their race.

And thus, to them a challenge I offer:  
To think about self, all serious, no laughter.  
What do you do when darkness comes?  
Where do you find the light when it's dark?  
Which direction do you turn when you cannot see the way forward?

And like the morning sun, answers rise,  
Simple, random, but nonetheless wise.  
When the darkness comes, I go to bed,  
I hide in my room, no tears shall I shed.  
When I need the light, I'll buy a torch,  
I'll turn on the lights! I yell Moon Beam on my porch!  
And when I need direction, Right I'll go,  
Or maybe left, no straight, straight forward, fast not slow.

So, there it is, truth clear to see:  
Simple, random, wise as thee.  
Seek the comfort in our home around,  
things familiar, safe and sound.  
But when direction is what you need:  
Right, left, straight, all good,  
All good indeed.

Closing Words are courtesy of Elise, Lexi, and Martha.

These words are true you will agree.  
They come from minds slightly wild and somewhat free.  
Still full of life and hope, but slight moored.  
Places where mostly possible, we can still explore.  
They barely have time, trying to create the space.  
Just a pound of energy, they are still in the race.

And thus, to them a challenge I offer:  
To think about self, all serious, no laughter.  
What do you do when darkness comes?  
Where do you find the light when it's dark?  
Which direction do you turn when you cannot see the way forward?

And like the phoenix, answers rise,  
Simple, complex, profound, and wise.  
When the darkness comes, and I need the light,  
I say a prayer, talk to my friends, yes, that all seems right.  
And when I need direction, where do I turn?  
I seek the ones I love, to my family I return.

So, there it is, truth clear to see.  
Simple, complex, profound, wise as could be.  
Seek comfort in those around,  
People familiar safe and sound.  
But when direction to you seems unclear,  
Turn to the spirits, turn to your prayer,  
And turn to ones you hold most dear.

**Upcoming:** Cookie Exchange: Saturday, December 9, 2023, 7:00 pm at Jennifer Blue's house, 6089 Joseph Dr., Oxford. We bring cookies (homemade or not) and take home an approximately equal number of cookies. We also package and send some for our friends who won't be able to come. All ages welcome.

## Happenings at Hopedale

**November 11 – Saturday Outdoor workday** from 1:00 – 12:30 pm.  
**November 14 – Hopedale Board Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale and Zoom.  
**November 25 – Saturday Outdoor workday** from 1:00 – 12:30 pm.  
**November 26 – Fall Congregational Meeting** after the service at Noon



## Supporting Hopedale

### DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER?

### WOULD YOU LIKE KROGER TO DONATE \$\$\$ TO HOPEDALE?

Connect your Kroger Plus Card to Hopedale through Kroger's *Community Rewards Program*

#### Instructions to Enroll in *Kroger Community Rewards*

On the web: [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)

Upper-right-hand corner "Sign In." My Account – will ask you to verify your email by replying to an email from Kroger. Or Create an Account.

Once in your account: Left-hand navigation: Choose "Community Rewards."

Organization code for Hopedale is: HX533. Enter that and finish up!!

#### Using the Kroger app

The "menu" is in the upper-right-hand corner: three stacked hyphens ≡

Then select "Rewards" from the next list

Then select "Community Rewards"

Hopedale's code is: HX533

### *Pledge Payments*

Your pledge payments fund our operating budget. Please make your pledge check to "Hopedale UU Community" and place in the Sunday offering plate or send U.S. Mail to: Holly Wilson, HUUC Treasurer, 721 South College Ave., Oxford, OH 45056

### *Hopedale Facilities Fund*

Donations to this fund are devoted entirely to the Hopedale's *Facilities Improvement Plan*. Your contribution may honor someone. All expenditures from this fund are reviewed by the Board. Make donation checks to the "Hopedale Facilities Fund" and mail to Holly Wilson. Contact Curt Ellison for information about facilities plans.

### *Contributing to Hopedale*

Either pledges or donations may be paid by check, cash, stock transfer, IRA distribution, or any means resulting in operating or designated funds. Donations to the Facilities Fund may be made in these ways also, or by naming Hopedale as your beneficiary in a will, trust, or insurance program.

### *Questions?*

Contact Curt Ellison, Board President, or Holly Wilson, Hopedale Treasurer.

Hopedale depends entirely upon your devotion and generosity. All are grateful for it!



