



Hopedale Community News

Volume 35 Number 3

October 2023

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

Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from huuoffice@gmail.com

October 1st – Thread Up.

Come and hear from Shana Rosenberg how Thread Up is benefitting our community.

Service Leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight.

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

October 8th – A Visit from the Quakers

Oxford Friends' Meeting (Quakers) will worship with us and bring a message about sources of their intention to be an affirming and welcoming presence in the Oxford Community. They will speak out of the silence of Quaker worship as part of our order of service, in keeping with the traditional Quaker practice of listening to the leading of the Spirit.

Service leader: Ann Fuehrer.

Children's RE: Class time during the service.

October 15th – Disability in our Daily (and Church) Lives

How do we define disability? Are any of us not disabled in some way? Join Jennifer Blue as we tackle these questions and join in conversations about how we can design our spaces and services to be welcoming to everyone.

Service Leader: Jennifer Blue.

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

October 22nd – Blue Moons & Smoke Plumes: Lessons from Chinchaga Firestorm

In 1950, the Chinchaga Fire burned through British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, and eventually was the largest forest fire ever recorded in North America. In late September, as a result of that fire, towns across the eastern seaboard of the United States experienced darkness in midday from the smoke. Join Diane Wright as we explore the history of this event and consider its resonance for us today.

Service leader: Darrel Davis.

Children's RE: Class time during the service.

October 29th – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church as Welcoming and Affirming

We welcome the Rev. Kip Colegrove, a retired Episcopalian priest, to share with us the spirit of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Oxford as a Welcoming and Affirming faith community.

Service Leader: Ann Fuehrer

Children's RE: Hallowe'en-themed activity in lower level during the service.

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

ellisocw@miamioh.edu

513-461-1131

Gifts

Doris Bergen's gifts to Hopedale have been ordered. In November Shademakers Nursery will plant a disease-resistance Princeton Elm south of the playground. It's expected to be 50 ft. tall x 40 ft. wide at maturity. Playground Equipment Services of Cincinnati will install new playground equipment in spring 2024. It will be accessible to young and older children, durable, colorful, and properly spaced. These are fine and generous gifts from a founding member of the congregation who loved Hopedale.

Princeton Elm Tree and New Playground Equipment



**Gift of Doris Bergen
2023**

To Be Installed by Spring 2024

Congregational Discussion of Facilities Improvements

On Sunday, September 24, with support of the Board President, Hopedale Needs & Feasibility Committee Chair Robert Bell facilitated a multi-platform discussion of ongoing Hopedale facilities improvements. This discussion revived an ongoing effort to clarify the congregation's priorities and to identify funding to meet them. Twenty-seven people attended this multi-platform gathering, which reviewed how the Facilities Improvement Plan (FIP) was developed, progress toward its goals, and possible next steps for improving our worship space and building accessibility.

Completed FIP goals include finishing the lower level for Religious Education; installing interior and exterior drainage systems for our building and property; creating accessible parking pads and repairing sidewalks; and rehabilitating our parking areas and driveways. These improvements have been fully paid for by generous donations to Hopedale's Facilities Improvement Fund. Yet to come are FIP goals of creating multi-level building access via a lift or elevator; improving restrooms for accessibility; and creating a dedicated worship space separate from our social

space. Potential sources of external funding were discussed, as well as prospects for taking a new mortgage upon pending retirement of the present one.

A March 2021 Congregational Meeting endorsed the concept of adding new worship space to the west of our present building, building a connector to the new structure, expanding social space in the existing building, enlarging the existing kitchen, improving restroom accessibility, and adding an elevator to the building's upper and lower levels. This approach, and others that were considered in 2021 but not endorsed, were reviewed and discussed. Several benefits that may result from this approach were expressed. Questions were raised about whether the purpose of such improvements would be to grow the congregation or to increase functionality of what we do now, as well as about a future congregation's ability to sustain a mortgage.

The discussion was recorded. The Board will review it with Robert Bell at its October meeting, and consider what next steps seem appropriate. These could include gathering more information for a spring Congregational Meeting where perhaps specific decisions can be made about the character, scale and timing of desired facilities improvements. Such information could include details about funding sources (e.g., financing, grants, congregational donations); drawings of building plans that allow cost prediction; contractor advice regarding cost and timing; bids for installing a lift or elevator; other information.

Coordinator of Religious Education

After more than ten years as Hopedale's Coordinator of Religious Education, Genevieve O'Malley Knight resigned the position effective October 12, 2023. The Board, Religious Education Committee, and especially our families and children extend warm gratitude to Genevieve for her effective service in this important position. The RE Committee will oversee implementation of the RE curriculum while the Board, the Committee, and the VP for Religious Services undertake the process of identifying a new RE Coordinator.

Hopedale Committees & Beyond Fair

On Sunday, September 17, this inaugural event took place alongside a fine potluck lunch. Organized by Congregational Life VP Celia Ellison, the fair offered information about what Hopedale committees and other groups or activities such as Choir, Circle Dinners, and Wednesday Wine actually do, and about opportunities to get involved. Representatives of committees and groups were on hand to talk with people and sign up new volunteers. Thanks to all for making the initial version of this event a success!

Next Board Meeting

Hopedale Board will meet *via* multi-platform on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to have the Zoom link, let me know.



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

Fall is a great time to garden. Lucky for you, there will be two opportunities in October to join other Hopedale gardeners in helping to beautify our outdoor areas. We'll hold outdoor work sessions Saturday, October 7th (Time TBD) and also Saturday, October 28th from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. Please join us if you are willing and able.

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

Children's Religious Education

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

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**.

October 1st – Activity Day

October 8th – Class time

October 15th -- Activity Day

October 22nd – Class time

October 29th -- Activity Day with a **Hallowe'en** theme

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

Committee Fair

At the September 17th Committee Fair we were offered opportunities to sign up to:

- ** attend a lively, conversation-filled Circle Dinner
- ** take a turn as an RE teacher
- ** engage with the children by helping them with an activity
- ** sing in the choir
- ** participate in a Sunday-morning service (present a service or be a service leader)
- ** join a hospitality team: bring snacks and get to know people by washing dishes together
- ** greet people at the front door
- ** participate in social justice activities and outreach
- ** learn more about our denomination
- ** conduct or participate in a book discussion or other educational **or fun** opportunity
- ** enhance our property (weeding, gardening, mowing, all that **fun** stuff)
- ** **make suggestions for services, activities, events, etc.!!!**

Happily, we spread the word about all that Hopedale offers and got some new participants for various activities. **But if you didn't attend or missed signing up for something, never fear, opportunities still exist.** You can check with any committee chair or with Celia for more information, or to sign up!

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

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

Our Second Sunday Collection on Oct 10: Reproductive Rights

We are certainly looking forward to voting on November 7 to support ISSUE 1, a constitutional amendment to protect women's reproductive rights. Many state legislators and anti-abortion rights groups are trying hard to disrupt the process and are planning deceptive advertising to urge voters to vote "no." The coalition of organizations in favor of the amendment plans to counter their efforts and Hopedale can give them a boost! The Social Justice committee will match up to \$100 of the congregation's contribution to:

<https://ohioansforreproductivefreedom.org/about-us/>.

To donate to the Second Sunday collection, make checks payable to "HUUC" and put

"Women's Health" in the memo space. Donations can be placed in the rainbow basket on October 10 or sent to the Hopedale Treasurer.

The Business of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, June 2023, (Part 1) by Libby Earle

Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly is where we all come together to do the business of the UUA and for community and renewal. There may be two GA experiences. One is like attending our Hopedale: community, nourishment, restorative. The other is more like a contentious staff meeting, dearly held opinions, pressure to get work done, and not much time for community building (although they try).

Unitarian Universalists have slogged through merger, expanding women's place in UU, acknowledging in-house systemic racism, ableism, gender identity support, and a lot of other issues, and we keep on getting better at building Beloved Community . . . but golly, it is work. The Article II Commission was charged with some heavy work, as were the moderators and all the supporting staff and volunteers. We lift them up, for they were weary from the effort.

To learn more about the UUA General Assembly 2023 experience, go to:
<https://wordpress.com/post/huucs.org/1609>.

Subscribe and Participate

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

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 and she can send you the meeting link.

Social Justice Calendar

October 12 – 7:00 – 8:30 pm -- Social Justice Zoom meeting

October 24 – 6:00 – 8:30 pm – Anti-Racism Open Discussion with Ignite – First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yvjc4p5f>

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

November 11 – 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. UU Council of Greater Cincinnati meeting

Climate Action

The Oxford City Council recently approved a Climate Action Plan and added it to the Comprehensive Plan. The CAP commits the city to ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2045. The six guiding principles behind the plan include: Reducing Environmental Inequality; Protecting Natural Resources; Ensuring Government Transparency; Centering Vulnerable Populations; Maintaining Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility; and Fostering Collaborative Growth.

Reducing carbon emissions from households will be an important part of reducing overall carbon emissions in Oxford. To aid citizens in preparing for this, Oxford is holding an ELECTRIFICATION AND EFFICIENCY FAIR Wednesday November 15 at Kramer School – time TBA. Presentations will include information about how to qualify for tax rebates and funding available as a result of recent Federal laws such as the IRA. Local businesses that provide products and services associated with reducing household carbon emissions will be available to talk to people one-on-one. One station will explain electric aggregation and Ohio's CHOICE program. It's an opportunity to get answers to some of your questions!

Gardens

Because of the diligence of our volunteer waterers the Hopedale gardens continue to produce some veggies, although the cucumbers have all died. Extra produce is given out on Sunday or sent to TOPSS. Sometime in October we will put the garden to bed. That involves lifting and sweeping the landscape cloth and pulling up dead plants and weeds. Look for a weather-dependent announcement. We will need a number of volunteers for this. Fall is also a good time to weed and tidy the flower gardens and shrubs. A little care now saves lots in the spring!

Fracking the Parks!

Fracking contracts for two large state parks east of Columbus, Salt Fork and Wolf Run, are still being considered. Salt Fork east is Ohio's largest state park. The lease application indicates fracking the entire park – 20,000 acres! Fracking uses large quantities of groundwater which is too contaminated to be used again (it's radioactive). It releases air and water pollution, causes localized earthquakes and is noisy. Would your family want to vacation next to that? *Now* is the time to speak up!

Citizens can register comments with the committee hearing proposals. 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.

October 7 – Outdoor Work Day time TBD.

October 10 -- Hopedale Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale and multiplatform.

October 28 – Outdoor Work Day from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

October 29 – Hallowe'en activity for kids during the service



Supporting Hopedale

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER?
WOULD YOU LIKE KROGER TO DONATE \$\$\$ TO HOPEDALE?
IF SO,
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

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 Avenue
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.

Thank You!

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

