



Hopedale Community News

Volume 35 Number 7

February 2024

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

February 4th – “Luminescence: A Holiday UU’s Can Call Their Own”

UU’s celebrate and/or recognize several religious holidays from other faith traditions. On this Sunday, February 4, 2024, we will celebrate Luminescence, which represents the light we generate as members of the Unitarian Universalist faith.

Service Leaders and Presenters: Linda Amspaugh and Kathleen Carels.

Children’s RE: Intergenerational Service

February 11th – “Circles of Sexuality”

When people think about “sex” they could be thinking nearly anything, from the sublime to the biological to the harmful. Join Darrel Davis and Jennifer Blue, both trained to teach sexuality education to middle schoolers, as they talk about the circles of sexuality as defined in the Our Whole Lives curriculum.

Service Leaders and Presenters: Darrel Davis and Jennifer Blue.

Children’s RE: Activity Day during the service.

Second-Sunday collection: Hamilton YMCA to support anti-racism programming.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT NOON, following the service. Same Zoom link.

February 18th – “Marie Kondo Revisited”

As the earth sleeps in winter dormancy, it has traditionally been a time for adjusting life’s balance whether with fasting (Lent, Ramadan) or spring cleaning. What do we need to change? What are we putting off? What can be let go? What do we need to learn? We come together in community to share these questions, to find help from each other. Needs and priorities change, and we need to change with them. Marie Kondo’s “decluttering” technique can help us get started. Patty Klingenberg service leader and presenter.

Children’s RE: Class Day during the service.

POTLUCK following the service.

February 25th – “Considering the Legacy of John Roberts”

February 25 is the Episcopal Feast Day of the Missionary John Roberts. Roberts was born in England and made his way to the Bahamas, and then to Wyoming, where he worked with the Arapahoe and the Shoshone tribes for 66 years. Join Diane Wright as we consider the different lenses through which we can view his work, and what it means for us as Unitarian Universalists.

Service Leader: TBD.

RE: Activity Day during the service.

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

ellisocw@miamioh.edu

513-461-1131

Please Support the Religious Education Coordinator Search

We are now searching for a new Religious Education Coordinator. Darrel Davis is managing this search and I hope everyone will actively support it. The RE Committee is contacting members of the congregation who might be interested in an interim position or may know someone who could be. The continuing position description has been revised, approved by the Board, and may be found at the Hopedale website, www.huuc.org. Announcements of openings for interim and continuing coordinators are posted there and have been sent to Greater Cincinnati UU congregations. If they are to thrive, our children's programming as well as our adult offerings need our best efforts to make this search process successful.

Facilities Improvements

The Needs & Feasibility Committee, led by Robert Bell, was created in 2019 to consider the congregation's satisfaction with our physical facilities. Documents produced then include a congregational survey, a report to the Fall 2019 Congregational Meeting, and reports of 2019 Action Groups that cleaned and organized key spaces. The Board is reviewing these materials and at the January meeting began identifying low-cost improvements we might make to our building in response to concerns voiced in recent congregational discussions. We also continue to discuss desirable improvements that will require new sources of funding, and what those sources might be. We are thinking about another congregational survey that might help focus prospects and possibilities, and we welcome your suggestions.

Congregational Meeting at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, February 11, 2024

Linda Amspaugh, Chair of the HUUC Leadership and Nominating Committee, has proposed a revision to Hopedale *Bylaws* that would divide the Vice President for Stewardship position into a Vice President for Stewardship and a Vice President for Facilities. This proposal has the support of the Leadership and Nominating Committee and was endorsed by the Board on January 9. Proposed wording changes for the *Bylaws* were distributed *via* email on January 10. These changes will be discussed and voted upon at a Congregational Meeting to be held at noon on Sunday, February 11. The meeting will be multiplatform. Participants *via* Zoom may use the Sunday Service link which will remain open for the meeting. Per *Bylaws*, proxy votes will be accepted, and absentee votes will also be accepted if submitted to Secretary Neil Danielson prior to the meeting at danielnd@miamioh.edu.

The Annual Canvass

It's time for our annual canvass, which seeks financial pledges to help sustain Hopedale's operating budget. The operating budget pays for all our programming, staff salaries, and property maintenance. Your contribution is needed. A mailing will come to your home soon explaining this year's timetable, with cards to return to our treasurer indicating your pledge for the coming year. When all cards are received, the Canvass chairs, Finance Committee,

and Board will draft a budget for next year. Then you will have the opportunity to vote on it at the Spring Congregational Meeting. Please give this matter your serious attention, and contact the canvass co-chairs, Peter Carels and Celia Ellison, with any questions.

Spring Congregational Meeting

The Spring Congregational Business Meeting will be held between March 1 and April 30. Before this meeting the Annual Canvass will be completed, and a new fiscal-year budget proposed for adoption at the meeting. Since current holders of three Board positions are term limited, at the spring meeting we will elect a new President, Vice president for Congregational Life, and Vice President for Stewardship. If *Bylaws* are amended in February, we will also elect a new Vice President for Facilities. These important jobs offer direct opportunities to influence our Community's future, so please encourage good candidates. This year's Leadership and Nominating Committee is chaired by Linda Amspaugh with Jane Flueckiger and Russ VieBrooks as members. They will welcome your suggestions.

February Board Meeting

Hopedale Board meets at our building *via* multi-platform on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. Please note the new start time and let me know if you want the Zoom link.



Message from Treasurer Holly Wilson

513-470-4331

hollygopogo@gmail.com

Check your HUUC directory email for your **2023 giving summary!** I only mailed via U.S. Mail it if you had no email listed.

Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

Not much happening at Hopedale during the cold months – just general maintenance and upkeep. There will be two workdays for February – **Saturday, February 10th** and **Saturday, February 24th**. The activities for these days are highly weather dependent so please reach out if you'd like to join me on either of those days. If the weather doesn't cooperate, there might be some indoor project that we can work on.

Contact Drew Ruther with questions or comments.

Religious Education CONNECTION

RE Committee: Adriane Ruther; Holly Wilson, Celia Ellison, Darrel Davis (VP, Religious Services)
Elementary RE Teacher: Celia Ellison; Youth Leaders: Adriane & Drew Ruther, Holly Wilson
Darrel Davis – davisdr@miamioh.edu

Children's Religious Education Elementary Class

February 4th –Intergenerational Service

February 11th –Activity Day

February 18th – Class Day

February 25th – Activity Day

Hopedale Youth (6th grade and up) See details below

February 9th –Volunteer opportunity

February 25th – Neighboring Faiths

Drew, Holly and I (Adriane) had a positive experience Sunday morning, January 21st with five Hopedale youth who joined us for the service at Oxford Presbyterian Church. During our discussion (over pastries from “Tous les Jours” Uptown) we all agreed that while there were definitely obvious differences compared to Hopedale services, we noticed more similarities than we had anticipated. ☺ We will be volunteering at Talawanda Oxford Panty & Social Services (TOPSS) on Saturday, January 27th from noon to 2:00 pm.

Hopedale Youth (6th grade & up) are invited to join these activities in February:

Volunteer Opportunity – Friday, February 9: Zion Lutheran Church Community Meal Center – Meet at 22 S. Front St. in Hamilton at 4:00 p.m. They need our help prepping take-out meals, which are distributed until 6:30 pm. Youth should be done between 6:30-7:00 pm after cleaning up.

“Neighboring Faiths” Service – Sunday, February 25: Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church – Meet at 14 S. Beech St. in Oxford at 10:45 a.m. We plan to have a snack after the service to debrief, so we’ll be done around 1:00 p.m.

An email to families of Youth, including a signup form, is coming soon.

Youth are encouraged to come to one of both activities and bring a friend!!

Please contact Adriane Ruther (adrianeruther@gmail.com or 513-289-3673) if you have questions or your youth needs a ride.

Remember – *volunteers are needed* to provide an **activity** for elementary kids on non-class day Sunday mornings!! Please contact a member of the RE Committee to plan *your* Activity Day!!



Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community Oxford, Ohio

January 11, 2024

To: Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community Congregation

Re: Notice of a Congregational Meeting at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, February 11, 2024

Linda Amspaugh, Chair of the HUUC Leadership and Nominating Committee, has proposed a revision to Hopedale *Bylaws* that would divide the Vice President for Stewardship position into a Vice President for Stewardship and a Vice President for Facilities. This proposal has the support of the Leadership and Nominating Committee and was endorsed by the Board on January 9.

The changes to Hopedale *Bylaws* that would implement this proposal have been distributed. They will be discussed and voted upon at a Congregational Meeting at noon on Sunday, February 11, 2024. The meeting will be multiplatform, and participants via Zoom may use the Sunday Service link, which will remain open for the meeting. Per *Bylaws*, proxy votes will be accepted, and absentee votes will be accepted if submitted to Neil Danielson prior to the meeting at danielnd@miamioh.edu.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions.

Curtis W. Ellison, Board President

513-461-1131

ellisocw@miamioh.edu





Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community

Oxford, Ohio

3870 Millville Oxford Road., Oxford, Ohio

One Mile South of Chestnut Street on U.S. 27

Sunday Services & Children's Religious Education Classes

10:30 a.m. September Through May

Immediate Job Opening

Interim Coordinator of Religious Education

Hopedale Board seeks candidates for Interim Coordinator of Religious Education to serve until a Coordinator is appointed. This is a compensated position at fewer hours than would be expected of a continuing coordinator, whose duties are stated in a position description found at the Hopedale website: www.huuc.org.

The Interim Coordinator will work with the Religious Education Committee to carry out minimum essential responsibilities that require immediate attention. These are:

- (1) Chair the Religious Education Committee;
- (2) With the committee, create, schedule and support Children's Religious Education;
- (3) Recruit and oversee volunteer Children's Religious Education teachers.

For more information or to be considered for this appointment contact:

Darrel Davis

Vice President for Religious Services

Telephone: (513) 593-3317

Email: huucoffice@gmail.com

U. S. Mail: c/o Hopedale UU Community, P. O. Box 625, Oxford, Ohio 45056

Hopedale is a sanctuary of worship, learning, and sharing. We encourage the free and responsible search for truth, meaning, and spiritual growth. As Unitarian Universalists we affirm the worth and dignity of every person and seek justice, equity, and compassion in all our relationships. We are a Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary, embracing people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, working to sit more lightly on the planet, and committed to ongoing improvement in these intentions.



Environmental Corner

Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

ReNew Recycling

Did you get your orange bag yet for the **Hefty ReNew Recycling Program**? The special orange bags are available at Hopedale to recycle hard-to-recycle items like #3,4,5 plastics, Styrofoam and bubble wrap! Full list of acceptable items:

<https://www.hefty.com/products/hefty-renew/hefty-renew-accepted-items>

With regular recycling, GoZero composting and this new program, a significant portion of your waste can be diverted out of the landfill. Landfills are a significant source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Do you know what the three circling arrows of the recycling symbol stand for? It is NOT reduce, reuse, recycle!! The arrows stand for the three parts of the recycling process:

1. Consumers put recyclable materials in a recycling program.
2. Manufacturers take the materials and make a product from them.
3. Consumers buy the new product.

In some ways the third step is the most important because if consumers don't buy things made from recycled materials there is no market for them and the whole cycle stops. It's called "Closing the loop!" Do you look for things with recycled content when shopping?

The Canadian boreal forest is the world's largest intact forest and clear-cutting releases 26 million metric tons of carbon per year. Sixty five percent of the paper pulp goes to US companies like Georgia-Pacific, Kimberly Clark and Proctor and Gamble. One of the places where your purchasing decisions can have a major effect is toilet tissue, paper towels and facial tissue. The major brands you see advertised (Charmin, Scott, Bounty, Kleenex, Puffs, etc.) are made from virgin tree pulp using toxic bleaching chemicals. Most of that pulp comes from clear-cutting the Canadian boreal forest. These brands get an F grade on the NRDC website. There are other brands made from 100% recycled paper (Simple Truth, Seventh Generation). Check them out at nrdc.org/stories/best-worst-tissue-brands

So where does the slogan reduce reuse and recycle come from? It used to be the 3 Rs of waste reduction. It's now the **5 Rs** of waste reduction!

1. refuse
2. reduce
3. reuse
4. repurpose
5. recycle

Recycling is our last resort. It's the final solution when we have failed to do the first four! ZERO WASTE is the ultimate goal.

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

Celebration of Life for Elinor Loucks

The Celebration of Life for Elinor Loucks, a Charter Member of Hopedale, will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 3:00 EST. The in-person service is at the Prairie UU Society in Madison, Wisconsin and they will be sharing the service over Zoom. The family specifically invited participation from Hopedale and Jennifer Blue will share memories of Elinor. We will gather at Hopedale to watch the service together with light refreshments following. You can also join by Zoom from home:

Join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85244424808>

If you have **Questions about Hopedale or about Unitarian Universalism**, we have answers! Join Linda Amspaugh and Celia Ellison on **February 4th after the service** for an opportunity to find out answers to these questions and others you might have.

*What do UUs believe? Or what do they not believe?
How does a church function without a paid minister?
Why would anyone consider becoming a UU?
How can a person become a member of Hopedale?
How can I get information about HUUC events?*

Hospitality Teams, Circle Dinners, Hopedale Explores

These are ways to come together with others in our Hopedale Community to make snacks, enjoy dinner and conversation, and explore topics of mutual interest.

A **hospitality team** is responsible for snacks, beverages and clean-up on a Sunday morning. Take a week or a month with a few others to share the enjoyment. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen or contact Celia.

Circle Dinners are potluck events hosted/coordinated by one person. Often a topic for discussion will be suggested. Step one: Who would like to host the next Circle Dinner? Let Celia know and she will spread the word and you can organize the food offerings!

Hopedale Explores was initiated during the pandemic to stay connected. We had a few presentations *via* Zoom that were well received. **Let's try it again!** Either in-person or *via* Zoom or both. Have you read a book that you'd like to share? Is there a topic you would like to explore and discuss with one another? Suggest something – let's see what we can do! Volunteers, suggestions and bright ideas to Celia.

Happenings at Hopedale

February 3 – Celebration of Life for Elinor Loucks

February 4 – Get to Know Hopedale information session after the service.

February 10 – Workday

February 11 – Congregational Meeting at noon

February 13 – Hopedale Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hopedale and *via* Zoom.

February 14 – Wednesday Wine or Something Else at 5:00 pm at Cru in Oxford.

February 24 – Workday

Beyond Hopedale

Sunday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. Joint Worship Service with Cincinnati-area UU congregations at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati OH 45219.

Saturday, May 4 The day before this service the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati (UUCGC) is sponsoring “**Deeper than the Skin: a Musical Presentation on Race**” with Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway. Two friends, one Black, one white. Musicians, storytellers, students of history and world travelers, born 3 days apart. Two separate narratives forged into one powerful friendship aimed at finding common ground and helping others to do the same. An experience of singing and listening, of experiencing a connection so deep that it makes you laugh, smile, cry and reconsider what you know about our history. It’s an invitation to open your heart and mind to a story of shared humanity that resonates with your own.

Saturday, May 4, 3:00 p.m. Workshop at St. John’s Unitarian Universalist Church, 320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220

Saturday, May 11, 9:30 a.m. - UUCGC Meeting

Thursday June 20 - Sunday, June 23, 2024 - General Assembly Online

Saturday, June 22 - Pride Parade and Festival, Downtown Cincinnati

Sunday, August 25 - Festival of Faiths, Cintas Center, Xavier University

Supporting Hopedale

WOULD YOU LIKE KROGER TO DONATE \$\$\$ TO HOPEDALE? Connect your Kroger Plus Card to Hopedale through Kroger's *Community Rewards Program*

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.

Create an Account. Once in your account: Left-hand navigation: Choose "Community Rewards." Organization code for Hopedale is: HX533. Enter that and finish up!!

Use 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 out your pledge check to "Hopedale UU Community" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or send it via U.S. Mail to: Holly Wilson, HUUC Treasurer, 721 South College Ave., Oxford, OH 45056

HOPEDALE FACILITIES FUN

Donations to this fund are devoted entirely to Hopedale facilities improvement, and your contribution may memorialize or 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

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 or by naming Hopedale as beneficiary in your will, trust, or insurance program.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Curt Ellison, Board President, or Holly Wilson, Hopedale Treasurer. Hopedale depends entirely upon your devotion and generosity, and all will be grateful for it!

