



Hopedale Community News

Volume 35 Number 8

March 2024

**Sunday Services are Multi-platform (Both In-person *and* via Zoom) at 10:30 A.M.
Zoom Invitation Sent by Email from hucoffice@gmail.com**

March 3rd – “Visual Arts as a Spiritual Practice”

Join Kathleen Carels and others from our community who will say a few words about their creative process and share examples of things designed and created by them. Our worship space will be filled with the creative spirits of many among us.

Service Leader: Kathleen Carels.

Children’s RE: Class Day during the service.

March 10th – “Going Home Like a Shooting Star: The Feast Day of Sojourner Truth”

March 10 is the Lutheran Feast Day of Sojourner Truth, the woman who was born Isabella Bomfree, a slave in Dutch-speaking Ulster County, New York in 1797. After escaping to freedom in 1827 Truth became a charismatic speaker, traveling the country orating for the abolition of slavery and advocating the rights of women. Join Diane Wright as we explore her life and her connections to our UU history.

Service leader: TBA.

Children’s RE: Activity Day during the service.

Social Justice Second-Sunday Collection: Oxford Literacy Team’s Super Summer Program

Daylight Savings Time Begins, so Spring Ahead!

March 17th – “CASA”

Tonya Buchanan is Executive Director of Butler County Parachute, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Parachute is a nonprofit agency dedicated to providing trained volunteers to work with children in the Juvenile Court system due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Last year nearly 3,000 Butler County children were identified as victims of abuse or neglect. Volunteers spend time with these children, talk to adults in their lives, and go to court hearings to provide information and insight about the children’s future placements. Both Charles Ganelin (a current volunteer) and Linda Amspaugh (a "retired" volunteer) would be happy to talk with anyone about this organization. Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh.

Children’s RE: Class Day during the service.

POTLUCK following the service.

March 24th - "Eclipse"

Did you know that the word "eclipse" comes from the Greek word for abandonment? Join Jennifer Blue for an intergenerational service about eclipses in plenty of time for the total eclipse that we'll be able to see on April 8. Why do eclipses happen? What have their explanations by other religions been throughout history? What do eclipses mean to us?

Presenter and Service Leader: Jennifer Blue

Children's RE: Intergenerational Service

March 31st - "The Healing of the Green"

On this Easter Sunday Kelsey Lovelace will talk about the pagan sabbat Ostara and the promise of spring renewal.

Presenter: Kelsey Lovelace

Service Leader: TBA

RE: Class Day during the service.

EGG HUNT for kids following the service, rain or shine.

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

ellisocw@miamioh.edu

513-461-1131

Our Canvass

"Imagine a place where a five-year-old can speak into a microphone and tell a room full of adults about something important; where someone living far from a failing loved one can share some of that sadness; where a person can share feelings of anxiety over an upcoming operation or express appreciation for the loving attention paid by a friend; where the joy of a personal achievement is made sweeter by sharing. What an amazing and special place."

from "Here for Each Other"

2024 Hopedale Canvass

Our pledges for Hopedale's 2024 canvass are due March 10. This is so our Finance Committee and Board can put together next year's proposed operating budget for all of us to review and vote on at the April 28 Congregational Meeting. Please join in being *here for each other* by returning your pledge card to Treasurer Holly Wilson @ P.O. Box 625, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

Hopedale Facilities

Responding to concerns expressed in recent congregational discussions, the Board has begun identifying relatively modest physical changes we can make to improve Hopedale's functionality and character. Here is one of them:



Joy!

On Sunday, February 18 I placed a rock in our pond in honor of the long service, faithfulness, and generosity of three of our founding members who have recently passed and left bequests or estate gifts to Hopedale.

I read from a letter we received from Ted Loucks on behalf of himself and his siblings, Eric and Kimberly. They have committed make to a substantial gift to Hopedale from their mother's estate in honor of their parents, Orie and Elinor Loucks, "with the intent that it be used for improvements planned to the current church building and grounds." Elinor attended Hopedale *via* Zoom while living in Wisconsin, and her children had been with her during our congregational discussion of plans for facilities improvements. "We believe," they said, "that such use is consistent with my parents' wishes to support the continued growth of a vibrant community." While hoping to support ongoing Hopedale initiatives they feel would appeal to their parents, their gift will be made with no specific restrictions.

"As you know," Ted wrote, "my parents were founding members of the church in 1990, contributing untold hours of their time along with their talents and treasure over twenty-five years as part of the community. Their dedication to Unitarian Universalist congregations and causes wherever they lived set an example for us, their children, that has carried through to our own work in our own home churches. You may be aware that in addition to Hopedale, my parents were founding members of UU churches in Fredericton, New Brunswick in the 1950s and in Madison, Wisconsin in the late 1960s."

"We recognize that we are fortunate as a family to be in a position to make such a gift, and that our fortune is a result of privilege combined with the hard work and sacrifice of both our parents over their lifetimes. Please accept this gift in the spirit it is intended, to help further the mission of Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community, especially promoting 'human worth and dignity in continuity with the Earth and the Universe.'"

Bylaws Revision

At a special Congregational Meeting held Sunday, February 11, Linda Amspaugh, Leadership and Nominating Committee Chair, proposed a revision to Hopedale *Bylaws* that divided the Vice President for Stewardship position into a Vice President for Stewardship and a Vice President for Facilities. This proposal was endorsed by the Board. Wording changes to the *Bylaws* that enable it were unanimously adopted on the 11th and will go into effect with the election of new officers at our Spring Congregational Meeting.

Annual Spring Congregational Meeting

The Spring Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28 at noon, in person and multiplatform. Board officers and Task Force leads will make reports, general comments will be welcome, and new business will include adoption of the 2024-2025 fiscal-year budget and the election of a new President, Vice president for Congregational Life, Vice President for Stewardship, and Vice President for Facilities. Plan to attend!

March Board Meeting

Hopedale Board meets *via* multi-platform on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. Note the earlier meeting time. Let me know if you wish to have the Zoom link.



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

For better or worse the weather forecast for the last few days of February has highs in the 60s. Also for better or worse, I feel a calling to be outside gardening when the weather cooperates. Which is all just a long-winded way of saying that I'm excited for March and Spring.

Work on the new raised beds in the vegetable garden has begun. By the time this goes to press there should be new raised beds in place. These beds will still need to be filled, and a six-foot fence around the entire vegetable garden will be built afterward. There's also discussion about installing a water spigot near the garden to give the summertime watering crew a break.

It's time to begin the Spring Cleanup of our flowerbeds so I'd like to propose two workdays in March. On Sunday, March 3rd, Hopedale Youth will contribute their time and energy to the new vegetable raised beds. Any other members or friends are certainly invited to join us that day, as well as help with beds or other gardening tasks. We'll begin around 12:00 noon and work until 2:00 p.m. Our second March workday will be on Saturday, March 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

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

March 3rd – Class Day

March 10th – Activity Day

March 17th – Class Day

March 24th – Intergenerational Service

March 31st – Class Day – and **Egg Hunt** following the service

Hopedale Youth – 6th Grade and Up

March 3rd – Volunteer opportunity @ Hopedale from noon – 2:00 p.m. in the **Garden**

March 17th – Neighboring Faiths – **St. Mary's** Catholic Church in Oxford

Five Hopedale Youth and three accompanying adults volunteered at **TOPSS** at the end of January. They put us to work, gathering and packing requested groceries for people then loading them in their cars. In February five of us had a blast volunteering at the **Community Meal Center** in Hamilton. We helped serve food and drinks, then cleaned and prepped tables. Lauren Marsh runs a wonderful program! :)

We're looking forward to a church service at **Bethel A.M.E.** Church on February 25.

Hopedale Youth are invited to participate in the following activities in March:

Volunteering Opportunity – Sunday, March 3, 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Hopedale! We will be helping build and fill the new raised beds going into the Hopedale garden. Please wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty, and work gloves if you have them; we will have extras if not.

"Neighboring Faiths" Service – Sunday, March 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oxford, 111 East High Street. We'll meet in front of the main church on High Street at 11:15 a.m. for Mass, then go out for a light lunch afterwards to debrief. We will be done around 1:30 p.m.

An email to families of youth, including sign-up forms, has been sent. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend to either or both events. Please forward the appropriate sign-up form to parents or guardians of friends so we will have their contact info.

If you have questions, or if your child needs a ride to or from any of the activities, please contact Adriane Ruther at adrianeruther@gmail.com or 513-289-3673.



Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community Oxford, Ohio

February 26, 2024

To: Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community Congregation

Re: Annual Spring Congregational Meeting at 12:00 Noon on Sunday, April 28, 2024

Mark your calendars now for the Spring Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, April 28 at noon, in person at the Hopedale building and *via* Zoom. At this important meeting current Board officers and Task Force leads will make their year-end reports and comments from the Congregation will be welcome. New business will include adoption of the 2024-2025 fiscal-year budget and the election of new officers to take office in July. These include a new President, Vice president for Congregational Life, Vice President for Stewardship, and Vice President for Facilities.

I hope you will plan to attend. Thank you, and 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: hucoffice@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.



We are entering the spring season of many environmentally themed community events. March and April are often packed. Below are some of the March events that I know of now. If others come up they will be announced in weekly updates or orders of service.

Saturday March 2 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Charlie Stevens, Wild Ones Miami Valley

Oxford Lane Public Library Spring Garden Series. Charlie will provide an overview of the findings of scientists regarding declines in native plants, insects and bird species and offer attractive and biodiverse alternatives to suburban landscaping.

Register [here](#).

Wednesday March 6 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rewilding At Scale, Opportunities and Challenges Workshop

Oxford Presbyterian Church Seminary Building, 104 E Church Street.

Large-scale rewilding projects of an acre or more provide both tremendous opportunity and tremendous challenges here in the Miami Valley. Some techniques and approaches (solarization, spot invasives removal) that are feasible at a small scale become challenging or impossible to implement at large scale. Join two local property owners who will discuss their site-specific challenges in larger-scale re-wilding with MetroParks of Butler County Senior Resource Manager Joe Dumyahn. This conversation that will include management by mowing, selective seed mix selection, reforestation, and more. Co-hosted by Wild Ones Miami Valley, Oxford Presbyterian Church Caring for Creation Team, and the Hefner Museum of Natural History.

Saturday March 16 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Audubon Annual Children's Bird Art Show

Oxford Community Art Center. See the Audubon Miami Valley web page for information about entering your child's art work.

Tuesday March 19 – 5:00 p.m.

Climate Justice as Freedom -- The Altman Lecture

Shriver Center Heritage Room. Julie Sze, Professor of American Studies and Director of the Environmental Justice Project at the University of California, Davis.

Here at Hopedale

Work has been going on behind the scenes on new garden beds. Look for changes to show up soon! Thanks to Drew Ruther for organizing and working, to Curtis Mortimore for the use of his workspace, trailer and labor, to Jon Branstrator for cutting the wire, and Peggy Branstrator for Cheerleading!

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

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 and 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. You can organize food offerings!

Hopedale Explores is a series of one-hour Sunday afternoon presentations and discussions that were first initiated during the pandemic to stay connected with one another. We had a few presentations *via* Zoom that were well received. **Let's try it again!** You may volunteer to present in-person or *via* Zoom or both. Thinking about a topic? Have you read a book you'd like to share? Is there a question or a topic that you would like to explore with one another? Suggest something else – after all, this is an exploration, so let's see what we can do! Volunteers and/or bright ideas to Celia.

Happenings at Hopedale

March 3 (Sunday) Outdoor Workday - Noon to 2:00 p.m. Join Hopedale Youth to work on new vegetable raised beds or other gardening tasks.

March 9 (Saturday) Outdoor Workday - 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

March 12 – Hopedale Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. at Hopedale and *via* Zoom.

March 13 – Wednesday Wine or Something Else - 5:00 p.m. at Cru in Oxford.

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 via Zoom

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

ANNUAL PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Your pledge payments *entirely* 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 or P. O. Box 625, Oxford, Ohio 45056. You may also contribute by one the methods suggested below.

THE HOPEDALE FACILITIES FUND

This is the fund that collected generous donations to enable the renovation of our lower level for Religious Education, to correct longstanding water issues affecting our building and grounds, to install accessible parking, repair our sidewalk, rehabilitate our gravel drives and parking, and to pave our North parking lot and main driveway. We want to continue sound stewardship of our property, and all donations to this fund are devoted *entirely* to facilities improvement. All expenditures from this fund are reviewed and approved by the Board after discussion with the Congregation. Your contributions may memorialize or honor someone if you wish. Make out donation checks to the "Hopedale Facilities Fund" and mail them to Holly Wilson or donate by a method indicated below.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO HOPEDALE ?

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

ANY QUESTIONS?

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

