



Hopedale Community News

Volume 35 Number 6

January 2024

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

January 7th – “Grief and Loss”

Our society tends to think that good times are the norm, but trials and tribulations are part of the fabric of everyone’s life. As we enter the darkness of winter following all our celebrations of light, let us think together about strategies for getting through those difficult times and ways we can help each other.

Service Leader and Presenter: Patty Klingenberg.

Children’s RE: Class Day during the service.

January 14th – “The Syntax of Things on World Logic Day”

The proclamation of World Logic Day was proposed to the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Executive Board in the middle of 2019, and in November of 2019, the 40th General Congress proclaimed January 14 to be World Logic Day. Join Diane Wright as we look at this newly recognized day. The date was chosen because it is the date of birth of Alfred Tarski, and the date of death of Kurt Godel, two of the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century. What role does logic play for us as UUs?

Service Leader: Jennifer Blue. Presenter: Diane Wright.

Children’s RE: Activity Day during the service.

Second-Sunday collection: Oxford NAACP to support their Martin Luther King Day event.

January 21st – “Faith, Religion and Community”

Hopedale member Darrel Davis will share his story about searching for faith, finding religion, and deciding community. His journey spans his youthful days in Belize and continues through to Hopedale here in Oxford.

Service Leader and Presenter: Darrel Davis.

Children’s RE: Class Day during the service.

POTLUCK following the service.

January 28th – “Beyond Joys & Concerns”

Each Sunday members of our community step forward to the microphone to share with us an event from their particular lives in that past week. For some of us this is the most powerful part of our hour that knits us together as Hopedalians. What are the sources that sustain the speakers and kindle the inner strength and courage to go on? Join Kathleen Carels and other from our community as they share even more.

Service Leader: Kathleen Carels.

RE: Activity Day during the service.

Notes From Board President Curt Ellison

ellisocw@miamioh.edu

513-461-1131

Merry Christmas *and* Happy New Year!

It's the climax of an Old Year and the beginning of a New Year. I hope your holiday season is blessed, hopeful, and one of receiving and giving as well as appreciating loved ones, families, communities and traditions. Our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, includes thirty-one Christmas tunes, some of them featured on Christmas Eve at a morning Sunday Service and followed by . . . cookies! This is a time to celebrate, to be generous, and to look forward with expectation. English writer and poet Eleanor Farjeon, who also wrote lyrics for "Morning Has Broken," gave us alerting words for the first Christmas song in our hymnal:

People look east.

The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People look east.

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Fall Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, November 26 there was a good turnout for a Congregational Meeting held at Hopedale and via Zoom. Board members reported that post-pandemic Hopedale continues to thrive with strong lay-led Sunday Services, fine improvements to our grounds and landscaping, a solid financial posture, and good community outreach. For much of the meeting Robert Bell facilitated ongoing discussion about facilities improvements, focusing on space needs for doing better what we already do well, ideas about what we might do better, how to make our property more welcoming, ways to fund the changes we may wish to make, and when we may wish to make them. Thoughtful questions were raised about our vision of the future and Hopedale's visibility to the community. A congregational survey may be next in this process.

Religious Education

We are searching for a new Religious Education Coordinator. An announcement of this opening follows the RE Connection in this *Newsletter*. Consider applying for it or encourage others to do so!

Thank You, Genevieve

I hope you join me in appreciating Genevieve O'Malley Knight for ten years of service as Hopedale's Coordinator of Religious Education. Our RE programming thrived over this decade, even devising online and remote activities for children and adults when we could not gather in person during the pandemic. Beyond that, she partnered with others to organize and deliver intergenerational outdoor picnics, "Blessing of the Backpacks" at the startup of recent school years, the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) curriculum (offered at Hopedale for the first time) and Bridging ceremonies to mark passages to adulthood. In 2022-2023, the first post-pandemic year, Hopedale's RE curricula served 21 children with an average in-person weekly attendance of six to eight from ages five to fifteen. They had classes, activity days and a

science lab. They made Valentine's cards for elders and explored an Easter Egg Hunt. Adult RE featured online "Hopedale Explores" lay-led programs, a Transforming Hearts Collective class, a UUA *Lectio Divina* and a UU Wellspring program about Article II bylaw revisions. That's a lot, and Genevieve's full decade featured more. We're grateful for her passionate dedication to the welfare of children and all of us, and for that we thank you, Genevieve.

Spring Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Business Meeting will occur between March 1 and April 30. Prior to that we will conduct the Annual Canvass for a new fiscal-year operating budget. We'll elect new Board officers this spring, a new President, a Vice president for Congregational Life, and a Vice President for Stewardship. These are important roles that offer opportunities to significantly affect Hopedale's future, so consider getting involved or encouraging appropriate candidates. Linda Amspaugh chairs the Nominating Committee and welcomes suggestions.

A Sunday Evening Hopedale Recital

Our excellent pianist, Yi Yun (Janny) Chin, offered a recital of works by Bach, Mozart, Liszt and Ravel on Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. About thirty attended, most at Hopedale and a few via Zoom. A Zoom recording is available. Many thanks to Janny!

January Board Meeting

Hopedale Board meets *via* multi-platform on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hopedale building. Let me know if you would like the agenda and Zoom link.



Hopedale Mitten Tree '23
Fill It!!

Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

Our hope is to construct new vegetable garden beds beginning in January. The two Saturdays chosen for construction are **Saturday, January 6** and **Saturday, January 20**. If you are interested in assisting please reach out so we can finalize times. There are additional jobs for all ability levels if you are interested in helping out in other ways.

Contact Drew Ruther (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)

Spring Semester RE Teacher: Celia Ellison

Darrel Davis – davisdr@miamioh.edu

Children's Religious Education

January 7th – Class Day

January 14th -- Activity Day

January 21st – Class Day

January 28th – Activity Day

February 4th -- Class Day

The RE Committee is inviting the adults of our Hopedale Community to spend 40 minutes on a Sunday morning with our kids by leading an **Activity Day**. Do you have a hobby or a special interest you'd like to share with the kids? Examples: Cynthia Kelley provided origami lessons and Darrel Davis plans to show the kids some soccer moves this spring. Please contact a member of the committee to plan *your* Activity Day!!!

Middle/High School Youth Programming Coming Soon

Opportunities may include service activities and visits to other congregations.

Stay tuned!



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.



Notes from the Social Justice Committee

Liz Woedl, Libby Earle, Peggy Branstrator, Russ VieBrooks

What is the Status of the UUA's 2023 Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW)?

Stop Cop City

Citizens of Atlanta for two years have opposed this police and firefighter training center which includes a mock city to train police in urban policing (also described as urban warfare). The concern is that it will lead to greater police militarization and that its construction in the South River Forest will worsen environmental damage in a poor, majority-Black area. Recent activity: Over 400 peaceful protesters gathered to march and plant trees November 13. They were met by riot police, snipers, heavy equipment, teargas, flash grenades and rubber bullets. Although organizers have collected over 100,000 signatures for a referendum to stop construction, counting and validating petition signatures have been delayed.

Organizing for Health Equity

Attacks against abortion rights, against gender affirming health care programs, and against the very young and the very old, combined with the impact of systemic racism, pandemics, poverty, and other problems, have raised awareness about the need for health equity and mutual aid. This AIW calls for new partnerships to secure personal and social wellness, with justice for all people, in all nations. Activity: Locally, Ohio, with collaboration of a number of reproductive rights organizations, successfully supported the passage of Issue I. However, the legislature continues to threaten health equity with the passage of HB 68, the Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act that prohibits doctors from providing gender-affirming care to trans youth. It also blocks transgender female student athletes from participating in girls' sports. It is now up to the governor to veto this bill. Nationally, there continues to be a push to privatize Medicare. For more information read the links to reports from Physicians for a Nation Health Program and an article in *The Hill* which describes the overpayment of \$88 billion and possibly as much as \$140 billion that Medicare has made to private Medicare Advantage insurance plans.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/4315313-medicare-advantage-is-giving-away-billions-to-corporate-insurers-its-time-we-put-a-stop-to-it/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=27ebcb4f-ab23-47a0-a4a8-f82d9a5d5b7f>
https://pnhp.org/system/assets/uploads/2023/09/MAOverpaymentReport_Final.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=27ebcb4f-ab23-47a0-a4a8-f82d9a5d5b7f

Protect the Dreamers

Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence. This AIW expresses UUA support for Dreamers and calls on Congress to pass legislation giving them a pathway to permanent residence. It also calls on UUs to support the Dreamers in their communities and contact their members of Congress to advocate for their protection. News: A regulation to make DACA recipients eligible for coverage under Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has been proposed. Congress is tying funding for support of Ukraine to concessions in immigration policy.

Rumpke Waste & Recycling and the Hefty ReNew Program are joining forces, giving hard-to-recycle plastics a place to go other than the landfill. This program is being offered in Butler County!

The Way it Works is Simple

Purchase the Hefty ReNew orange bags at Kroger (currently out of stock) or online (I found them at Target; I ordered several boxes, so I have a supply available!) and fill the bag with accepted items. **All items must be clean, dry and free of foil lining.** Once the orange bag is full, toss the bag into your Rumpke recycling bin for pickup day! Rumpke says the bags will be sent to specialized recyclers to create new and useful products.

The [list](#) of Acceptable Items

Kitchen & Pantry: candy wrappers, cereal box liners, chip bags, cookie/cracker box liners, dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes), foam egg cartons, fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags, granola & energy bar wrappers, plastic pet food bags, salad bags, shredded cheese packages, snack food bags, stand-up pouches.

Storage & Cleaning: dry and wet disposable cleaning cloths, food storage bags, plastic food wrap, plastic grocery bags, plastic wraps on paper towels & toilet paper.

Office & shipping: bubble wrap, clear plastic overwraps, foam block packaging, foam peanuts, plastic air pillow packs.

Dining & Eating: foam cups, foam to-go boxes, plastic colored cups, plastic or foam plates & bowls, plastic straws & stirrers, plastic utensils.

All items must be clean, dry and free of foil lining.

Bags will be sold in boxes of 20. You can [request](#) a free starter kit, which includes one bag and instructions.

Full list of acceptable items:

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

[Link](#) to poster of acceptable (and not) items:

<https://www.hefty.com/sites/default/files/2023-11/10162023HeftyReNewWhatGoesInBag.pdf>

Free starter kit:

<https://www.hefty.com/products/hefty-renew/renew-communities/ohio/cincinnati-program>

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204, knightcm@miamioh.edu

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

January 6 – Vegetable bed building

January 9 – Hopedale Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Hopedale and *via* Zoom.

January 20 – Vegetable bed building

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

Beyond Hopedale

Guest at Your Table donation information: To donate online, please use this **secure donation page**. To donate by mail, make check payable to UUSC with "Guest" or "GAYT" in the memo field, and send to: UUSC, P.O. Box 808, Newark, NJ. 07101-0808.

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.

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

Hopedale Pledge Payments

Your pledge payments fund our operating budget. Please make out 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 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

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!

