



## JUNE SERVICES

**Hopedale will not hold regular Sunday Services during June and July.  
Activities and Outings are being planned instead. Stay Tuned.**

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**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Service from General Assembly, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 pm**

Join us in the building to watch a livestream of the culminating GA worship service.

**Picnic potluck after the service, 12:30 p.m.**

Bring your brunch and maybe a chair and any fun outdoor game you've got!

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## How to Attend a UUA or Local UU Congregation Sunday Service

**UUA Church of the Larger Fellowship.** 8:00 p.m. every Sunday evening.

<https://www.questformeaning.org/worship>

**First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati.** In person and live on YouTube at 10:00 a.m.

<https://www.firstuu.com/>

**St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church.** In person at 11:00 a.m.

<https://stjohnsuu.org/upcoming-worship-services/>

**The Gathering at Northern Hills, a Unitarian Universalist Community.** In person and on Zoom at 10:45 a.m. <https://www.gnhuu.org/>

**Heritage Universalist Church.** In person and on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. <https://huuc.net/>

**Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.** In person and on Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

<https://mvuuf.org/>

## How to Attend a Congregation Led by a Former Hopedale Student Minister

**Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, The Rev. Chris Buice**

<https://tvuuc.org/calendar/upcoming-worship-services/>. Stream live on Facebook or on their website at 11:00 a.m.

**All Peoples Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Louisville, The Rev. Bruce Beisner**

<https://www.allpeoplesuu.com/worship/upcoming-worship-services/>. Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

## **Notes From Board President Libby Earle**

***Mearle1945@gmail.com***

***513-319-1540***

I was thinking about what kind of poster message to bring to the Indivisible Power to the People protest in Hamilton Saturday May 24. In my mind, I said, "The list is too long." I think that is going to be my poster . . . maybe I'll try to make that list on the back, but I'll probably run out of room.

My dear Hopedale family, the list of attacks on democracy is overwhelming, but we will keep standing up for justice. We do this best by doing the work together. That's why I'm grateful to our members and friends who are working with the greater community. One way Hopedale collaborates with the community is by hosting Stakeholder for Justice meetings.

The Construction Task Force met and selected City Studio architectural firm to help us with options to improve function and access for our building. Their work will include two preliminary floor plans and a 3D masking diagram that includes an option for an addition.

Please consider participating in Pride events. I will be at the PFLAG table in Hamilton June 7 between 11AM and 2PM.

I hope that we can make space in our busy summer to connect with each other at activities that are planned at Hopedale. Please let Linda Amspaugh know of activities you might like to participate in.

## **Congregational Life**

**By Linda Amspaugh, VP**

***[amspaula@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:amspaula@ucmail.uc.edu)***

***513-454-4533***

### **Summertime at Hopedale**

Ideas for activities, outings, get-togethers are welcome. Please contact Linda!

## **Facilities**

**Drew Ruther, VP**

**513-265-1538**

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

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

June is usually a quiet month around Hopedale. Although there are no official services in the summer, the Hopedale gardens and grounds continue to need stewardship. Therefore, I'd like to invite all our friends and members to a special work session at Hopedale on the morning of Saturday, June 21st. To celebrate and honor the first day of Summer I propose we begin our work session with a light community breakfast at 8:30 A.M. Any interested attendees should bring continental-style breakfast items to share. I'll provide the tableware and utensils. After our meal we will commence with our gardening tasks. Also know that you are welcome to join us for breakfast even if gardening is not your forte. If you'd rather simply enjoy food, company, and the peaceful setting that Hopedale offers, that would be fine as well. No need to RSVP, just show up. We'll likely work until 10:30 or so.

As always, 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: Adriane Ruther (Interim VP, Religious Services); Celia Ellison; Holly Wilson**  
**Elementary RE Teacher: Celia Ellison; Youth Leaders: Adriane & Drew Ruther; Holly Wilson**  
**Adriane Ruther -- [ruthercrew@gmail.com](mailto:ruthercrew@gmail.com)**

## **CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **Hopedale Youth Group**

Hopedale Youth volunteered to help set up Hopedale's vegetable garden and do general maintenance of flower gardens on April 27th. We then spent time together after the May 4th service synthesizing our 12 Neighboring Faiths experiences into each individual's "ideal faith," which was presented during the May 18th R.E. Recognition Day. Thanks to participating Youth and their parents who supported our efforts to form a cohesive group with a focus this past year.

Adriane & Drew Ruther, Holly Wilson

## Notes from the Social Justice Committee

Liz Woedl (Chair) Libby Earle, Peggy Branstrator, Russ VieBrooks, Linda Amspaugh

### We Did This Together!

Our Second Sunday collection raised approximately \$1,500 for a variety of projects, near and far. Among the organizations our congregation has supported are:

- Pink Haven
- Ohio Environmental Council (OEC)
- California Fires (UUA)
- Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS)
- Water Walkers
- Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

### Reading and Exploring

Ann Fuehrer and Libby Earle finished leading a four-session group discussion about the book *He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters* by Schuyler Bailar (he/him/his), as part of Hopedale's Adult Religious Education programming.

We are discussing the possible next reading, "How to be a Young Anti-Racist" by Ibram X. Kendi and co-author Nic Stone. These sessions will be multi-generational.

### Community Outreach

The non-profit Ukrainian Action is raising funds to supply the Dubno Ukraine ambulance with medical supplies. This entity was founded by Miami alumni and Oxford's mayor, Bill Snavelly, has traveled to Ukraine to assist them. Anyone interested in supporting them could look on the Internet for "Ukrainian Action" to donate to the Dubno Ukraine Ambulance.

### Social Justice Dates / Calendar Notes / Upcoming Events

- June 7--noon-7pm: Pride Hamilton, Marcum Park [hamiltonohiopride@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonohiopride@gmail.com).
- June 7--11 am-5 pm: Dayton Pride Festival and Parade, Greater, Dayton LGBT Center, 136 N. St Clair St.
- June 14--No King event, details to be announced.
- June 19 (times vary), In Oxford, several Juneteenth events sponsored by NAACP and Oxford Seniors, and a local resident, Brian Revere; more details to follow. Bus/van tour of History of African Americans at Western College, Valerie Elliott is one of the guides, Thursday 1-2:30 pm, followed by reception at Oxford Seniors.
- June 20--5-9 p.m., Middletown Pride, Central Ave & South Broad St., Middletown.
- June 21--Noon-11 PM Pride Festival, Roberts Park Amphitheater. Connersville, IN.
- June 28--9am-8pm: Cincinnati Pridefest 2025, Sawyer Point, 705 East Pete Rose Way, Sawyer Point, Cincinnati. Booth staffed in shifts. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. at 7th and Plum Streets downtown; be there by 10:00 to find parking.
- August 1--Oxford Friday Books on the Bricks. OCPJ will have a display on Banned Books again this year.
- No word yet about Oxford Pride. Hopedale routinely partners with the local PFLAG, so we know there will be Oxford Pride.

## **One More Note from the Social Justice Committee**

### **ESCAPE To FREEDOM -- Personal Stories of Oxford Refugees**

Monday, June 23, 2025 – 7-9 PM Free  
LCNB National Bank Community Room  
30 West Park Place, Uptown Park, Oxford

**Dr. Edna Southard:** From Cairo to New York City, End of the Holocaust 1945.

**Dr. Andrew Kerek:** From Budapest to Austria to Michigan, The Hungarian Revolution 1956.

**Daniel Kudus:** From Xinjiang to Dubai to Istanbul to Boston, Uighur Internment Camps in China 2016.

## **Environmental Corner**

(And Gardening News!)

**By Peggy Branstrator**

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

937-733-7327

### **Gardening news**

The garden is getting a good start in spite of the recent goofy weather! We are expanding the space from last summer by adding ground-level beds along the east and south fence. The grass and weeds have been killed but the area still needs to be dug up and raked smooth. Peggy could use help with that ASAP. Then we can plant cucumbers, pole beans, and okra!

The garden can also use weekly help over the summer like last year. Can you volunteer a week to help with watering and picking? It only takes a couple of hours. Detailed instructions are provided and times during the week are flexible. (depending on the weather). There is a sign-up sheet or email Peggy at <[jonwb@earthlink.net](mailto:jonwb@earthlink.net)> or text at 937-733-7327. You don't need any special skills or knowledge! Just a couple of hours you can spare.

So far we have planted tomatoes (3 kinds), peppers (2 kinds), yellow summer squash, zucchini, beets, turnips, radishes, parsley, basil, lettuce (several kinds), kale, broccoli, garlic, oregano, rhubarb, thyme, rosemary, sage, spinach, green beans. We are trying to get a couple of corners ready for hubbard and butternut winter squash.

## Happenings at Hopedale

### June

- June 11<sup>th</sup>** Wednesday Wine or Something Else, 5:00 p.m. at Cru in Oxford.
- June 12<sup>th</sup>** Social Justice Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. *via* Zoom.  
Contact Liz Woedl for link
- June 21<sup>st</sup>** **(Saturday)** 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. -- Outdoor Gardening Event.  
See Facilities section for details!! **NOTE:** Potluck Continental Breakfast available – even if you don’t help in the garden!!
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>** **(Sunday)** 11:0 – 12:30 Livestreaming of GA Sunday Service, with Picnic to follow.
- June 24<sup>th</sup>** Hopedale Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. – at the home of President Libby Earle

### A Yard Sale Note

We expect to have another fabulous Hopedale Yard Sale in August. You may already be identifying items to add to it. That's good, but please keep them at your place until we let you know when in August to bring to them to Hopedale. Thank you!!

### Supporting Hopedale

By Celia Ellison, Stewardship VP

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

We know that the spirit of our community runs on volunteers, and we are all grateful daily for numerous contributions of personal time, talent, innovation, resiliency, and wisdom that make Hopedale happen. We depend on you to sustain our volunteer tradition, and we invite support of Hopedale in a variety of ways. Here are some to consider.

**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](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.

**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 ≡  
Select "Rewards" from the next list; then select "Community Rewards"  
Hopedale's code is: **HX533**

### **PLEDGE PAYMENTS**

Your annual pledge payments are the sole source of funding for our operating budget. Please make 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, Ohio 45056 or P. O. Box 625, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

### **THE HOPEDALE FACILITIES FUND**

This fund is used exclusively to improve facilities. In recent years, thanks to your generous donations, we were able to renovate our lower level for Religious Education, correct longstanding water issues affecting our building and grounds, install accessible parking, repair our sidewalk, rehabilitate gravel drives and parking, pave our North parking lot and main driveway, and install outside lighting and handrails along our south and east sidewalks.

We want to continue the sound stewardship of our property, and we also want to improve it -- both for us *and* for future generations. You can help. Donations to this dedicated fund are devoted *entirely* to facilities improvement. All expenditures from this fund are reviewed and approved by the Board, following guidelines developed with the Congregation and in cooperation with donor wishes. Your contribution can also memorialize or honor someone.

Make out donation checks to the "Hopedale Facilities Fund" and mail them to Holly Wilson or donate by one of the methods below. Questions, comments and suggestions are welcome!

### **HOW CAN I DONATE TO HOPEDALE ??**

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

### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Stewardship VP Celia Ellison or Treasurer Holly Wilson. The Hopedale Spirit remains alive because of your devotion and generosity, and our entire Community benefits!

