

JULY SERVICES

Activities and outings are being planned instead. Stay Tuned.
Hopedale will not hold regular Sunday Services in July:<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://m.vuuf.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.

August 17th – Presenter: Diane Wright
Children's RE: Activity in lower level during the service.

August 24th – "Rock and Water" Hopedale Ingathering Service
Service presenter: Patty Klingenberg. Intergenerational Service.

August 31st – Presenter: Allen McGrew – "Acting Locally AND Globally: A Spirited Vision Connecting Earthcare at Home and Across Continents"
Children's RE: Activity in lower level during the service.

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How to Attend a UUA or Local UU Congregation Sunday Service

UUA Church of the Larger Fellowship. 6:00 p.m. every Sunday evening.

Congregational Life

By Linda Amspaugh, VP

Mearle1945@gmail.com 513-319-1540

We are living in a rapidly changing world and that was the focus of this year's UUA General Assembly that Sylvia Blackwood and I attended as virtual delegates. This year's theme was "Meet the Moment" where new tools and process were introduced to help us meet the moment. The *UU World* gives an excellent summary of the assembly (clicking on "summary" will take you to the article).

One of these new tools comes from the UUA Common Read this year: *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection* by Deepa Iyer (Skinner House). This is a process guide for organizers that focuses on our interdependence and the inherent worth and dignity of everyone. It identifies roles of persons engaged in social change. Link to a 30-min introductory video.

In July I will be participating in a resource webinar explaining how this process can be used in organizing faith communities. We all have skills that can help to address the pressing needs of communities. We can't do it all and we can't do it alone; but we can do some of it, together.

Wave Cohorts were another tool. Wave Cohorts are simply that: groups of people who are working on the same "issue" to develop a shared analysis and understanding that, in turn, leads to taking strategic action together. These cohorts will be using the process introduced in the Common Read. The process begins with asking "What is the Moment We are In?"

> Characteristics, realities, and trends that are shaping the world around us: What are the Most Urgent and Important Needs of this Moment?

> Opportunities, challenges, and barriers that are created by the moment we're in: What do our Values Call us to do in Response to this Moment?

> Defining our lane and our charge:
What are we most compelled, equipped, and/or positioned to do?

The Wave process will also be used for the bylaws rewrite [You thought we were done with bylaws. We just did Article II.] There are 15 Articles in the UUA Bylaws that will be grouped into areas. Each area will go through a four-year process (study, develop, voting and implementing. Each area will proceed in an overlapping progression: area one begins the process, then area two begins the process the next year, etc.

When we regroup in the Fall, Sylvia and I will give you the details on the Actions of Immediate Witness and Congregational Study Action Issues . . . and they all deal with the growing authoritarian threat.

If you have an interest in organizing a Hopedale event this summer, please contact Linda Amspaugh. Stay cool and stay safe.

Congregational Life

By Linda Amspaugh, VP

amsapaula@ucmail.uc.edu 513-454-4533


Carol Hennessey's memorial service was held at Hopedale on May 31st. Many Hopedale members and her friends from the community attended. Many thanks to her family for being so organized and to everyone who contributed time and energy to honor Carol.

Although there have been few HUUC sponsored events at this time, Hopedale members have been very active participants in community events. Probably, percentage wise, Hopedale had the highest number of people participating in the June 14th "No Kings Day" event. The signs made by some members were extremely creative. We just hope that we made some small difference.

Kelsey Lovelace and Aloe Schnitz are hosting a dinner July 23 to celebrate Aloe's visit to Oxford. Please come and greet Aloe and have dinner together. See the invitation below!

Kevin Rose is interested in helping to plan an event(s?) for July or August. Please contact him, or me, so we can start planning and organizing our next gathering.

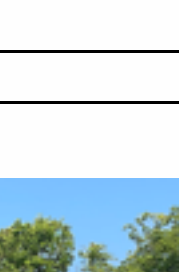
Dinner Party Invitation !!



Aloe Schnitz will be visiting Kelsey Lovelace this month and they are inviting us all to a dinner party at Hopedale!

WHEN: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
WHAT: Italian pasta bar with salad and dessert
WHERE: Hopedale – 3870 Millville Oxford Rd., Oxford
RSVP: Kelsey at 513-596-2123 or rockinglitterbarbie@gmail.com

What a lovely idea – hope many of us will be able to attend!!





THE YARD SALE – AUGUST 8, 9, and 10

The lower level of Hopedale is full to the brim of items people will be lining up to purchase from until! You may already be identifying items to add! In addition to stuff, we need YOU to help with this event!! If you can't wait for your invitation to sign up to help, go ahead and contact Celia Ellison now!! knightcm@miamioh.edu or 513-461-1204.

HOPEDALE'S NEW BOARD YEAR

July 1 marks the beginning of the new year for our Board officers, who serve staggered two-year terms. Continuing for 2025-26 are Libby Earle, President; Linda Amspaugh, Congregational Life VP; and Celia Ellison, Stewardship VP. Holly Willson begins her second (and final) two-year term as Treasurer. Neil Danielson's term as Secretary is over and he is continuing on the Board as Facilities VP.

Joining the Board are Rob Schorman as Secretary; and Adriane Ruth as Religious Services VP (Adriane filled this role for a few months at the end of last year). Welcome!

And a sincere bow to our outgoing Facilities VP, Drew Ruther. If anyone's work supporting Hopedale is obvious, it's his. During his time on the Board we rehabbed our building, installed a new playground, surfaced driveways and parking lots, created accessible parking, installed outdoor lighting, transformed our landscape and garden, and more. Drew worked closely with many folks to make these great improvements happen. Thank you, Drew!



HOPEDALE'S NEW FISCAL YEAR

July 1 is the beginning of our new fiscal year. Payments of pledges for the 2025-26 year can commence!!

If you missed fulfilling your 2024-25 pledge and need to know that amount or the amount of your 2025-26 pledge, contact Treasurer Holly Wilson at hollypogo@gmail.com.

A little bit about how our finances work. We are supported 100% by our Hopedale Community. The great majority of our funding comes from annual pledges made during our winter pledge drive (to be paid either throughout the year or by a one-time payment or by whatever means works for you). Sunday Service offerings add to this, and some are designated for particular Social Justice commitments. Our recent special fundraising has been via the annual Hopedale Yard Sale in August. We also welcome donations to honor or in remembrance of someone.

Your annual pledges are the key to our ongoing financial viability. If you are new to Hopedale and have not made a pledge for this fiscal year, and you would like to do so, or if you would like to increase your pledge to support/expand our programming and facilities that would be wonderful. Please contact Holly.

See "Supporting Hopedale" later in this newsletter for other ways to contribute.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Hopedale Directory will be updated and ready by the end of the summer. The directory lists our members and friends and their mailing address, email and phone number (and names/birthdates of minor kids). Please look now at your own entry to see if an update is needed. New members and friends will be contacted for their information.

To provide an update to your listing (or if you don't know what yours is) contact our Administrator, Amy West Poley, at hhucoffice@gmail.com.

Environmental Corner

(and gardening news!)

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net 937-733-7327

Gardening News

The warm-season plants are loving the heat and recent rains! Everything is growing well and starting to produce. We are currently picking green beans, Swiss chard and the last of the lettuce. And there's a lot of sage, oregano, basil, parsley and thyme! The tomatoes, peppers, okra, winter and summer squash, cucumbers and lima beans are growing well, too. I'll let you know when they are ready to be picked. The completion of the fence has allowed us to plant ground-level beds on two sides of the raised beds so we have more space for a greater variety and quantity of veggies this year!

Garden Help Still Needed

The green beans need to be picked every other day. Because of the torn meniscus in my knee, I cannot bend to weed the ground-level beds, so your help would be much appreciated! The flower beds have really been neglected, and they show it! Let me know when you have some time; I can meet you almost any day and help you get started.

TOPPS

Don't forget that the food supply for the Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS) has been greatly reduced. They need lots of help and support this summer! It's something you CAN do.

Environmental News

Keep sending emails and making phone calls to politicians. Everything helps even if it doesn't look like it right now! For example: A controversial solar project in Knox County received approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board, which oversees the development of energy projects in the state. Frasier Solar will put solar panels on swaths of disconnected farmland in Miller and Clinton townships and in Mount Vernon. The total project is about 600 acres in size and will involve some 250,000 solar panels. "We're proud to be a part of Knox County's future and excited to help meet Ohio's rapidly growing energy needs with reliable, homegrown power," said Craig Adair, Open Road Renewables' vice president of development.

Open Road Renewables submitted an application for Frasier Solar to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in October of 2023. The project became the subject of serious debate among residents and a flashpoint in a 2024 Republican Knox County Commissioners' primary race. Drenda Keessee and Barry Lester won nominations, and later seats, running on anti-solar platforms (WOSC media). But local solar supporters went door to door and explained the advantages to the community and local citizens showed up in large numbers at the required public meetings to support the project and counter misinformation. Now they will receive an estimated \$1 million in taxes a year for the local schools, the public library and community. Your voice can count!

Happenings at Hopedale

July and August

July 9 Wednesday Wine or Something Else, 5:00 p.m. at Cru in Oxford.

July 15 Hopedale Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

July 23 5:00 p.m. at Hopedale -- Dinner Party -- Invitation in this newsletter.

Aug 8-10 Hopedale Yard Sale.

August 17 First Sunday Service of the 2025-26 program year.

Supporting Hopedale

By Celia Ellison, Stewardship VP

513-461-1204 knightcm@miamioh.edu

We know that the spirit of our sacred community runs on volunteers, and we are all grateful daily for numerous and deep 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 other 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
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: **HXS33**. 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: **HXS33**

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, OH 45056 or P. O. Box 625, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

THE HOPEDALE FACILITIES FUND

This fund is used exclusively to improve facilities. In recent years we renovated our lower level for Religious Education, corrected longstanding water issues affecting our building and grounds, installed accessible parking, repaired our sidewalk, rehabilitated gravel drives and parking, paved our North parking lot and main driveway, and installed new outside lighting.

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 memorialize or honor someone.

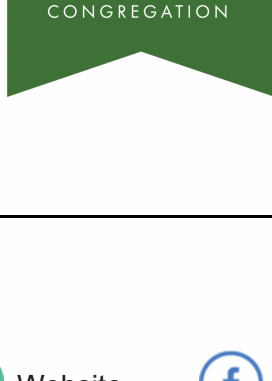
Make out donation checks to the "Hopedale Facilities Fund" and mail them to Holly Wilson -- or donate by one of the methods below. Your questions, comments and suggestions about potential facilities improvements are always welcome.


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.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS?

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

GREEN SANCTUARY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

LGBTQ
Welcoming Congregation