



MARCH SERVICES

Services are held at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 3870 Millville-Oxford Road, Oxford, Ohio and available on Zoom.

March 1 @ 11:00 a.m – UUSC Service: What Hope Looks Like in Practice

March 1 @ 10:30 a.m. – Hopedale Cookie Contest (See *Congregational Life*)

This service is part of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Weekend. Presenters the Rev. Laura Randall and Cassandra Ryan from the UUSC staff will speak at St. John's UU Church, Cincinnati. Hopedale will stream the service at our building, and you may watch at home via the YouTube link <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsUU-Live>. See more details in *Beyond Hopedale*.

March 8 – Paying Attention

The journalist Oliver Burkeman wrote, “Your experience of being alive consists of nothing other than the sum of everything to which you pay attention.” Join Diane Wright as we consider the ways our attention has become a commodity, and ways to reclaim it.

Presenter: Diane Wright; Service Leader: Patty Klingenberg

Social Justice Second-Sunday Collection

Remember to Spring Forward to Daylight Saving Time

March 15 – The 17th Century Life and UU-like Philosophy of Baruch Spinoza

Albert Einstein was asked, probably many times, if he believed in god. His reply was “I believe in Spinoza’s god, who reveals himself in the lawful harmony of the world, not in a god who concerns himself with fate and the doings of mankind.” Spinoza’s life as a lens maker and his freedom to be a philosopher to propose “heresy” will be summarized.

Presenter: Neil Danielson; Service Leader: Celia Ellison

Monthly Potluck Follows Service

March 22 – The Art of Magic and the Magic of Art

A famed occultist has defined magic as “causing change in conformity with will.” That definition works as a goal for the arts, too. Especially now, we need art to cause change, and to keep us hopeful in the face of oppression.

Presenter: Kevin Rose; Service Leader: Jennifer Blue

March 29 – Finding Hope in Choppy Waters

The Rev. Dennis McCarty will return to our pulpit to explore ways to navigate difficult times. Anyone who engages the national news may feel as though religious liberals face more defeats than victories these days. But might it help to look at success and failure in a different way? The Rev. McCarty will look at success, failure, and some lessons of history as we sort out these trying times.

Presenter: Rev. Dennis McCarty; Service leader: Patty Klingenberg

See *RE Connection* for information about children’s RE activities.

Happenings at Hopedale

MARCH

March 1 – Best Cookie Contest at 10:30 am. See *Congregational Life*.

March 5 – Social Justice Committee meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.

March 8 – Second Sunday Craft Circle following Sunday service. See *Congregational Life*.

March 11 – Wednesday Wine or Something Else, 5 p.m. Location TBA.

March 15 – Potluck dinner following Sunday service.

March 15 – Piano recital by Ee Ning Chong, 7 p.m. The program will feature selections from Bach, Schubert and Schumann. Also accessible via Zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85362149966?pwd=9277eoLWqfH5G26U9XAUWBQhnhQFo7.1>

March 17 – HUUC Board meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Hymn Sing Coming Up

We'll have a hymn sing service later this spring – and so that Ee Ning has plenty of time to prepare, please get your requests in by March 22 via email or text to Jennifer Blue (bluejm@miamioh.edu, 513-593-3220), or write your request on a slip of paper and put it in the box near the hospitality table during social hour. We'll do our best to honor as many requests as possible – which will be easier if hymns requested are in one of our hymnals.



Sunday Evening Recital

Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community

March 15, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ee Ning Chong, Piano

selections by

J. S. Bach, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann

Reception Follows

View on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85362149966?pwd=9277eoLWqfH5G26U9XAUWBQhnhQFo7.1>

Meeting ID: 853 6214 9966

Passcode: 955823

Notes From Board President Libby Earle

Mearle1945@gmail.com

513-319-1540

What makes you feel hopeful? These days I want something concrete that I can hold in my hand. It is March, so that would be the arrival of the seed catalogues. But it is also the voices of the nation's faith leaders who are challenging the false narrative of the Christian nationalists. It is the awakening to the call to defend democracy by ordinary citizens of this country who have been doing what was needed to just live their lives and now are organizing. They are organizing community by community – and we know it is in community that we make a difference.

I had the opportunity to join (along with 6,000 others) an online training by SURJ, Standing Up for Racial Justice. I am sharing a link to ICE Resources from that training which you can download to your phone. The resource contains instructions on how to document ICE activity in a way that provides important information. It also includes Know Your Rights and other resources concerning safety and organizing.

https://linktr.ee/icewatchresources?utm_source=linktree_profile_share

In preparation for an Adult Religious Education program on April 12, please see the information in *RE Connections* in this newsletter about how to access the Imara Jones's Ware Lecture from the UUA General Assembly (GA). This is a rare opportunity to hear a Ware Lecture at a time that suits you without attending GA. In April we will have a lively discussion on "Defending Trans Lives and Democracy: Linking the Imara Jones 2025 Ware Lecture to the Attack on Democracy."

Notes from the Annual Canvass Co-chairs

Peter Carels and Celia Ellison

On Sunday mornings and as evidenced by the items in this newsletter, Hopedale members and friends **gather the spirit** of Hopedale.

Our Hopedale existence is made possible by *all* of you contributing to the annual pledge drive that provides funds to support our physical space and our programming. In this community we are 100% funded by one another.

Pledge drive materials for the 2026-2027 annual budget year were sent to Hopedale members and a few Hopedale friends asking for a response (completed pledge card) by March 1. We hope to hear from you. The Finance Committee will review the responses and present a proposed budget to the board at its March 17 meeting. All members will be able to vote on next year's budget at the April 26 Spring Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Life

Jessica Drew

drewjn88@gmail.com

513-594-2691

Membership

On Feb. 1, Hopedale welcomed three new members to our congregation: Tom Cooke, Margaret Smith, and Daisy Quan. We are delighted to welcome them and to celebrate the gifts and perspectives they bring to our community. With their addition our total membership now stands at 70 individuals. HUUC Bylaws say, “Any person sixteen years old or older who is in sympathy with the goals and purposes of this congregation may become a voting member by signing the official Membership Book.” If you are interested in becoming a Hopedale member please contact Jessica Drew, drewjn88@gmail.com.

Events – Cookies and Crafting

Second Annual Cookie Contest is scheduled for March 1. Bakers are invited to enter *one dozen* of their favorite cookies and *set them up at 10:20 a.m.* that morning. Coffee, cookies, and community will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the service will start at 11 a.m. Hopedale youth will sample entries and vote for their favorites, with winners announced following the service. We look forward to a delicious and joyful morning together.

We are excited to announce the launch of our **Second Sunday Craft Circle**, which will meet on the second Sunday of each month from 12–1 p.m. This gathering offers an opportunity for crafters to come together in community while working on their favorite projects. Please bring your current work in progress. If you do not have a project underway, materials will be available so you can participate in a collaborative community art project.

Hospitality

Our services rely on many helping hands to run smoothly. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen for those who would like to volunteer in the following ways:

- Serve as a greeter, welcoming people into our building on Sunday morning, handing out the order of service, and passing the offertory baskets.
- Bring a snack to share during community social hour time after the service,
- Assist with clean-up and dishes following the social hour.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our Sundays warm and welcoming.

You can contact Jessica at drewjn88@gmail.com if you are interested in membership, planning an event, or anything else concerning Congregational Life.

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

Liz Woedl, (Acting Chair), Libby Earle, Peggy Branstrator, Russ Vie Brooks,
Linda Amspaugh, Kevin Rose, Jessica Drew

“Meet the Moment with Love: Non-Violence as a Spiritual Discipline and Change Maker” is an all-day workshop on March 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m, at St. John’s UU, Clifton. Leading the workshop is Ignite Peace which is highly respected for its non-cooperation trainings. Registration deadline is March 14. *Details will be sent via a separate email.*

Add To Your Calendar

Saturday, May 8 – The Oxford Branch of the NAACP’s Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, 4:30 p.m., at Shriver Center, East Spring Street, Miami Oxford Campus. All are welcome to attend. More details to come.

Religious Education Connection

RE Committee: Adriane Ruther (VP, Religious Services); Celia Ellison, Holly Wilson

RE Coordinator: Krystal McKinney

Adriane ruthercrew@gmail.com

Krystal ksmckinney25@gmail.com

Children’s RE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be an RE teacher. Your involvement helps nurture curiosity, compassion, and connection among our young UUs. This month, our young UUs will continue exploring the UU values through engaging lessons and activities.

Sunday, March 22 – Youth Group meeting during Sunday service This is open to 7-12 graders and led by Jessica Drew.

Adult RE

Sunday, April 12 – “Defending Trans Lives and Democracy: Linking the Imara Jones 2025 Ware Lecture to the Attack on Democracy.” At noon following the service, Libby Earle will lead a discussion that uses the framework of Unitarian Universalist values of love, interdependence, equity and justice, caring as sacred resistance, faith, transformation and spiritual resilience, to examine five broad themes raised by Imara Jones.

Prior to gathering April 12 at Hopedale or via Zoom, participants may view the Ware lecture using the following link. The lecture begins at minute 29:00. The lecture is 1 hour and 20 minutes. <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

A study guide developed by UUA for this program will form the general structure of our group discussion. The guide will be helpful, but not necessary to join our group discussion. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TdJvCBwt1nbp89KMgXdHfNKuE4cosuYa/view>

Environmental Corner

(Gardening News . . . later)

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

937-733-7327

The Oxford League of Women Voters had a public meeting Jan. 20 to update the Oxford Community on the status of local recycling programs. Representatives from Rumpke, the City of Oxford, and the Butler County Solid Waste District explained their programs and answered questions from attendees. Everyone learned something new, even us old-timers!

The “rules” about recycling change from location to location, and from time to time at the same location, because recycling depends on having markets for the collected items. Recyclers must be able to sell their materials to companies that use them in products. If consumers look for and buy products with recycled content that really helps the process.

Plastics: One of the new things we learned from the Rumpke representative is that the little numbers on plastics are no longer very useful. A more important thing for them is the SHAPE of the item. The sorting machinery has an optical scanner that recognizes shapes. Rumpke can recycle plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, and cups. Their website has pictures to help with this. They prefer that you leave caps on. All materials should be reasonably clean.

There are many other kinds of plastics that can be recycled through other programs. One of these is a voluntary “orange bag” program sponsored by Hefty bags in cooperation with Rumpke. This requires you to purchase a box of special orange Hefty bags (available at Kroger, Meijer, MOON). The kinds of plastics that can be put in this bag are listed on the side of the box. In general, they are soft plastics like Ziploc bags, the plastic bags lining cereal boxes and cake mixes, plastic grocery bags, and Styrofoam of any kind. When you fill your orange bag you put it inside your regular recycling container and Rumpke sends it to Hefty. Hefty uses those materials to make plastic “lumber” and other weatherproof products. Hefty has several locations that receive these materials and the Rumpke representative at the meeting has visited a nearby facility and assured us that these “hard-to-recycle” plastics are being used to make products.

Note: Right now, no one recycles the large plastic “clamshells” that veggies, fruit and lettuce come in. The best you can do is to reuse these for something else.

Metals: Rumpke also recycles steel and aluminum food and drink containers. But their sorting equipment cannot handle aluminum foil or foil pans, hangers, or other kinds of metal. There may be other places to recycle these items but please do *not* place them in the Rumpke recycling container that gets picked up with your regular trash.

Glass: Glass food containers can also be placed in the Rumpke recycling container. Please remove lids and place them in the container separately. Again, reasonably clean. Other kinds of glass – light bulbs, window glass – jam up the machinery.

Paper: Most kinds of paper, junk mail, and cardboard can be recycled. You should put it loose in the container (no plastic bags, please). Pizza boxes with a few spots of grease are OK but ones with lots of grease or stuck-on food should not be recycled in Rumpke containers. These can be composted in GoZERO containers, however. More about GoZero in a future newsletter.

Beyond Hopedale

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Weekend is February 28-March 1 and will feature the Rev. Laura Randall, UUSC Director of Congregational Relations, and Cassandra Ryan from UUSC staff. All UUs in southwestern Ohio are invited to attend a potluck on Saturday evening and the worship service on Sunday morning. The Sunday service, “What Hope Looks Like in Practice,” will also be broadcast via YouTube for those who cannot attend in person.

Saturday, February 28 – Potluck dinner, 6 p.m. – Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church, 2710 Newtown Road, Cincinnati. Laura and Cassandra will be on hand to discuss current UUSC projects and how they are moving forward in these times of political and social crises.

Sunday, March 1 – Sunday Morning UUSC Worship Service, 11 a.m., at St. John’s Unitarian Universalist Church, 3210 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati. Accessible via YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsUU-Live>, and streamed live at Hopedale on Sunday morning. There will be time for informal discussion after the worship service on Sunday morning at the social hour for those who attend in person

Hopedale please note: The Sunday morning service will be streamed at Hopedale for us to watch together. If you stay home to watch, please use the YouTube link above instead of our weekly Zoom link.

Heart and Hand Concert – 1 p.m., Sunday, March 29. First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati. A music and video narration of Charley Harper’s works. Tickets are \$20 (kids are free) and will be available at Will Call the day of the concert.

Graduate piano recital by Ee Ning Chong – 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 30, Souers Recital Hall, Center for Performing Arts, Miami campus. Open to the public



Ee Ning Chong Graduate Recital

Monday, March 30, 2026

7:30 p.m. at Souers Recital Hall

Center for Performing Arts, Miami Campus

Open to the Public!

Supporting Hopedale

By Celia Ellison, Stewardship VP

knightcm@miamioh.edu

513-461-1204

Numerous personal contributions by volunteers make Hopedale happen. We depend upon one another to sustain this tradition. Hopedale also needs your financial support. The congregation approves an annual operating budget and authorizes all capital improvements. We encourage you to support our commitments, and here are some ways you may do so.

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

Your Annual Pledge

Your annual pledge payments are the only regular 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.

Financial 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!

