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# Hopedale Community News

Volume 29, Number 4

December 2017

## Sunday Services

**December 3: What Are You Waiting For?** On this first Sunday in Advent, we will explore the meaning of Advent from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. Through the imagery of darkness and light, and of waiting in patience, faith, hope, love, and joy, we will make an Advent wreath of Social Justice. The history of the evolution of Advent and mythology of birthing help us reconcile a Christian perspective with UU beliefs. Through the poetry of Wendell Berry we are made aware of the urgency to hold on to hope and light.

Following the service, the congregation is invited to make their own advent wreath and to construct their own Advent ritual.

Service Leaders: Libby Earle and Russ VieBrooks

**December 10: An Explosive Legacy: Reflections on Nobel Day** Alfred Nobel's family fortune came from new innovations with arms manufacturing and explosives. When his brother died, a French newspaper published Alfred's obituary by mistake, and in their obituary they noted that he was responsible for finding ways of killing people faster than ever before. Distressed, Alfred changed his will to create and fund the Nobel Prize, which continues to this day, and is still presented on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. Come join Diane Wright as we consider the idea of "legacy," and the lenses through which we see our own lives. Service leader: Jennifer Blue

**December 17: A UU Nativity Celebration** In the Christian tradition, people celebrate the birth of Jesus, Son of God, at this time of year. What other religions acknowledge God--or messengers sent from God--in human form, particularly as infants or children? Join us in exploring this question with children from our R.E. Program. Service leader: Drew Ruther

**December 24 Christmas Eve I (10:30am)** On this Christmas Eve **Sunday morning** we

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intimate exploration of the season. Service leader: Patty Klingenberg

**December 24 Christmas Eve II (7:00pm)** On this Christmas Eve **evening**, come celebrate Christmas with songs, readings, and more songs. This is an intergenerational service. Service Leaders: Genevieve O'Malley Knight and Jennifer Blue

**All are welcome to bring cookies to share afterward.**

**December 31 The Way it Was: Good Things Did Happen!!** Instead of looking forward to 2018, we will spend time on New Year's Eve morning looking back at the things we were grateful for in 2017. We might learn some strategies for making the new year even better!! Join Susan Thrasher and Linda Amspaugh as we gather for this circle worship.

### Message from the President, Doris Bergen



Hopedale's activities have proceeded well during the past month, although I was not there to be involved in them all the time. My daughter and I spent ten days in Europe on a river cruise. I found it very interesting to see many places I had read about but not ever seen, such as the Berlin Wall (what is left of it), Prague's medieval town buildings, Wittenberg's statue of Martin Luther, and many other historic sites. That experience has reminded me of Jerome Bruner's discussion of the importance of "enactive representation," which asserts that intellectual growth has its primary basis in our physical experiencing of the world. (This is sometimes called "embodied cognition".) While we get much information from pictures, reading, the internet, and other sources, nothing can quite compare with "real world" experiences. Thus, our UU strong advocacy for involvement in active social justice causes benefits not only those we help but also ourselves because we gain deeper understanding of social

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of our Hopedale property (or being in our yoga class!). There are always projects in the Oxford and broader Butler County community needing our participation and it is useful to remember that this participation benefits not only the agency or group needing help but also it enables us to have greater understanding of the issues and needs of our communities. That is, we learn deeply not only from reading, discussing, and hearing talks about issues and theories but also by our active physical engagement in the world! If you want to become more involved in such issues, contact our **Social Justice Committee Chair, Libby Earle**. My wish for us all during the coming holiday season is to have our real-world actions enable us both to better understand and to positively affect the world!

At our last board meeting, we approved the establishment of the HUUC History Committee, with members Valerie Elliott, Curt Ellison, Genevieve O'Malley-Knight, and Susan Thrasher. These people have been working informally for a while sorting and storing historical records and library materials and deciding on archival practices and we realized that this is an ongoing task that should be supervised by this type of committee. If you have a box of Hopedale information (newsletters, photographs, newspaper items, bulletins, or other potential archival materials), please let the committee members know and they will "take it off your hands" and decide what to archive and what to discard. The board is very appreciative of the initiative being taken by this group and are pleased to have a formal method of taking care of Hopedale historical information.

Our choir is busy preparing music for the regular and special services and thanks go especially to our choir director, Patty Klingenberg, as well as to our pianist, Wayne Copenhaver, for the extra time and effort that is needed at this time of year. We appreciate all our choir members, too, since practicing takes their time as well. While I am in the thanking mode, let me also thank the members of the Religious Services Committee who plan and lead our Sunday Services. This committee is chaired by Linda Amspaugh. In a congregation without a minister, this is an especially important task, and the consistently interesting and meaningful services they plan and provide are much appreciated by the Hopedale congregation.

Reminder that our Circle Dinners, which are held almost every month, are open both to members and to interested friends. If you have not attended any dinners but would like to be on the list of people notified about the dates of the dinners, just let me know.

**RE Connection**

Co-ordinator for Religious Education, Genevieve O'Malley Knight

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Religious Education Committee: Peggy Branstrator, Patty Klingenberg, and Jessica Kopp

## Children's Religious Education

Some of the things our children's classes did in November were: welcomed a grown-up visitor and learned about chemistry, decorated a page of "What I like about being UU," made class covenants, and discussed the big questions of life through the lens of surviving a zombie apocalypse.

We continue with our Art Project Activity Days, melting old crayons to make new ones, working on a mural in the big room, and making pinecone birdfeeders.

We will need children to help with the Nativity Intergenerational Service on December 17! More information will be coming on Class Days in early December.

## Adult Religious Education

[Just Mercy book discussion group](#): Inspired by last spring's guest speaker, Jacov Delaney from the Ohio Policy and Justice Center, as well as by the author's Ware Lecture at GA this summer, Hopedale will be holding a book group to discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This book was a UUA Common Read two years ago. Description from the UUA website:

Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

We will hold three or four meetings in late January and early February. To give input on scheduling, please see an R.E. Committee member sometime in December. We are considering holding this book group at Oxford's Lane Public Library. The library can make copies of the book available for group members to check out and this location might make it easier for members of the larger community to join with Hopedale in this important discussion.

[UU World discussion group](#): Like a book discussion group for each new issue of the UU World magazine (published quarterly). Our first discussion will be **December 17**, during potluck.

All members of the Religious Education Committee are happy to listen to new ideas and suggestions. Let us know what you're interested in, and stay tuned to the weekly bulletins and e-mails for scheduling notices!

## December Religious Education Schedule

Dec 3 – Class Day

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UU World Discussion group during Pot Luck

Dec 24 Morning – Activity Day

Dec 24 Evening – Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service

Dec 31 – Activity Day

Next month's Children's Classes will be January 7 & 21.

## Congregational Life News

by Judi Hetrick,  
v.p. for congregational life

### Many hands make light work

What a delightful discovery it was to look at the hospitality sign-up sheet and see that folks are signed up through the first months of the new year! Thanks to all of you who take a little extra time on Sunday mornings to make sure that members, friends and guests are greeted, coffee-ed and fed every Sunday morning. If you've yet to join a hospitality team, please consider signing up in the new year.

### Please make sure your team has it covered

If your hospitality team does not assign roles ahead of time, please caucus on Sunday mornings to be sure that greeting duties, kitchen work and clean-up are all being covered by your team. Having someone in the foyer before people start streaming in is not only a nice tradition, but it's essential that we welcome any visitors, get them to make a name tag, and ask them to sign the guest book and stay after the service for refreshments.

Things are quieter now! usually sit on the east side of the meeting room, and for some time have been a bit annoyed by the brewing sounds coming from of our ancient pot long after the coffee should have been finished. Image my delight a few weeks ago when silence from the kitchen greeted the start of the service! Many thanks to the coffee pot fairy for supplying new brewers.

### Done with your magazines?

I've started donating my already-read magazines to Liz so she can share them with patients at McCullough-Hyde. We've started a Hopedale magazine donation bag, stationed for now in the corner by the Black Lives Matter sign, so we can pool our efforts to give those stuck in the hospital some reading material. (If, like me, you've been stuck in bed feeling good enough to not just sleep and moan, but ill enough not to go home, you know how welcome this is. Visitors to your bedside also often welcome some distraction.) Please check your magazines before bringing them in. They should not have your mailing information on the cover and should be pretty new.

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winter holiday season and a very happy new year!

## Oxford Habitat for Humanity - Faith Build

### Economic Social Justice

Hopedale is putting together crews of workers to participate in the 2017 Faith Build, a Habitat for Humanity project. Oxford area churches are joining together with Miami Students and other community organizations to fund and build the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Habitat houses in the development of Reckford Woods, Carter Circle, near US 27, west of Oxford. The home buyer family contributes over 500 hours of "sweat equity" in the building of the house.

Oxford Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Mary Catholic Church, Oxford United Methodist Church, Hopedale UUs, and Faith Lutheran Church have banded together for this venture.

Our bit: On each of our three scheduled workdays, 5 Hopedale friends and members will work on the house site with 10 Miami U. students, and 5 Habitat workers. We will also provide a lunch for the 20 worker/volunteers on those days. You don't have to be a skilled house builder to participate! No experience is necessary and all supervision, tools and equipment are provided. The Habitat workers provide the expertise and the MU students provide the oomph.

People, 16 and older, can work on the house and those who are younger can help with making and serving lunch. You can contribute in so many ways, work on the house, prepare lunch for the volunteers, make individual contributions and support fundraisers to raise the funds for Habitat.

Dates needing a Hopedale presence:

- **Saturday**, Dec 9, ALL DAY- onsite Work Day, we provide 5 workers and lunch
- **Saturday**, Feb 3, ALL DAY- onsite Work Day, we provide 5 workers and lunch
- **Saturday**, Mar 17, ALL DAY- onsite Work Day, we provide 5 workers and lunch
- Saturday, Mar 31, SHARED WORK DAY with all the churches.

Please call or email Liz Woedl if you are interested in joining the crew, **513-280-1044** or [liz.woedl@gmail.com](mailto:liz.woedl@gmail.com)!

## Annual Hillary Rodham Clinton Cookie Party

Some of us have time to make cookies, some do not - but many of like to have cookies around during the December holidays. Come to Jennifer Blue's house for a cookie

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whole month making increasingly elaborate holiday cookies, you and your contribution will be welcomed.

**Saturday, December 9, from 7-9 pm.** If you can come, let Jennifer know at [bluejm@miamioh.edu](mailto:bluejm@miamioh.edu) or **513-593-3220**.

PS. This is not just a women's gathering; people of all genders and ages are welcome!

## Yoga

HUUC Yoga group is meeting at **8:00am on Saturday, December 2, and December 16**. Please join us for a session of Kundalini Yoga led by Terri Messman-Moore. Bring a mat, cushion/pillow, and water bottle with a lid. Terri has extra mats and cushions if needed. Dress in comfortable clothing in layers. Sessions last approximately 75 minutes. New to yoga? That's fine! Contact Terri with questions at [messmat@miamioh.edu](mailto:messmat@miamioh.edu) or **513-255-8285**. Hope to see you there!

## Making Social Justice Local

Natural disasters and social crises in our country and around the world can feel overwhelming. Our community responded generously both with compassion and with material support to the events over the past several months. In December we narrow our focus and consider social justice more locally.

The Oxford community and Miami University along with Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice are exploring the "Not In Our Town" movement which inspires and empowers communities to **stop hate, address bullying, and build safe, inclusive communities for all**. **The Social Justice Committee will be exploring ways to participate.**

**Habitat for Humanity Faith Build is a perfect opportunity to effect local change. Please consider joining the effort either as a building crew member or a crew meal provider. Older children are encouraged to get involved by being a meal server. Look for more information.**

**As part of our Welcoming Congregation initiative, we bring home the national need for promoting racial justice and supporting the LGTQIA community by offering a workshop with Danielle West on Sunday November 26 12 – 1:30** following the service at Hopedale. Our facilitator, **danielle marilyn west** [*intentional use of lower case*], is a cultural worker, educator and community organizer. A Midwestern mixed-class queer white woman of trans experience, danni has been organizing for more than 15 years, primarily focusing on two strategies: one is building with white folks to expand antiracist solidarity and the second is to build with queer, trans and gender non-conforming folks, primarily in multiracial organization, against the prison industrial complex. danni was active with TGIJP, the Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project, since she moved to

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representative of UU Justice Ohio and resides in the Bay area of California. danni will talk with us about how to reach out to local resources and strengthen our work with the LGTQIA community.

**RSVP Libby Earle (mearle1945@gmail.com or 513-896-4528) so that she can plan numbers for lunch.**

### **Convocation at Earlham College with Reverend William J. Barber**

Several members of Hopedale traveled to Earlham November 1 to listen to Reverend Barber. For those who heard him at the UUA Assembly in Columbus last summer, you know with what a powerful voice he speaks. His call is to continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign through ***the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival***. The Campaign will build a broad and deep national moral fusion movement — rooted in the leadership of the poor and dispossessed as moral agents and reflecting the great moral teachings — to unite our country from the bottom up. In other words Barber explains, to unravel the Southern Strategy that made poor whites, who should have been allies with poor blacks, think that their problem, their poverty was being caused because black and brown people who were acquiring something or taking something from them.

Our neighboring state of Indiana is one of the states the campaign will be focusing on. The campaign is a serious social justice action begun in the spring of 2017 and culminating next June. *“By engaging in highly publicized civil disobedience and direct action over a 6-week period in at least 25 states and the District of Columbia during the Spring of 2018, the Campaign will force a serious national examination of the enmeshed evils of systemic racism, poverty, militarism and environmental devastation during a key election year while strengthening and connecting informed and committed grassroots leadership in every state, increasing their power to continue this fight long after June 2018.”*

-Libby Earle

## **Circle Dinner**

The next **Circle Dinner will be at 6:00 on Sunday, December 10th** at the Schlub residence. It was changed from Saturday, the 9th due to a conflict with the cookie event. Please call Judy and Richard at 895-0272 if you plan to attend on the 10th.

## **Happening at Hopedale**

**HUUC Yoga group** is meeting at 8:00am on Saturdays, **December 2nd and 16th** at



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**Sunday Service Committee** will meet after Sunday service on **December 3rd**.

**Habitat for Humanity work day** on **Saturday, December 9th** at building site at Reckford Woods.

**Annual Hillary Rodham Clinton Cookie Exchange** on **Saturday, December 9th** at 7:00pm at Jennifer Blue's House.

**Circle Dinner** on **Sunday, December 10th** at 6:00pm at the Schlub residence.

**Wednesday Wine** will meet at Cru on **December 13th** at 5:00pm.

**HUUC Board** will meet on Wednesday, **December 13th** at 6:30pm at HUUC.

**Monthly Potluck** will be held on **December 17th** after Sunday Service.

**Newsletter deadline** is Sunday, **December 17th** . Email items: [hucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hucoffice@gmail.com)



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