



Sunday Services (via Zoom) – Service 10:30 am; Open 10:20 am

Sept. 6th -- Throughout history, the stories of women's lives have inspired us. Many of these were compiled by Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, in a book entitled *Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resistance*. Using some of their ideas as a guide, we will share a few women's stories. This Sunday the focus will be on Eleanor Roosevelt, Ida B. Wells, and a local writer, Helen Hoover Santmyer. The "story for all ages" will feature Ada Lovelace, early inventor of the computer. Service leader: Susan Thrasher. (This topic will be covered in two parts; part two on November 29.)

Sept. 13th -- Pick Perfect Pictures: Remembering Roald Dahl." September 13 is the birthday of Roald Dahl, the British author best known for children's books such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. Roald Dahl led an extraordinary life, marked by early tragedies, but filled with creativity and service. Join Diane Wright as we review Dahl's legacy.

Sept. 20th – September 20 -- At the June 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association delegates voted on an Action of Immediate Witness "**Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action.**" The AIW reflects both the Principles of our UU faith and the issues of Black Lives Matter movement to end State-sanctioned violence, liberate Black people, and end white supremacy forever. How might such a commitment present challenges to Hopedale and our larger Community? Organizer: Liz Woedl, Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh.

Sept. 27th – "Play Groups as Contexts for Moral Development (throughout life!) Part I." The play of children has often been considered important for their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. However, their self-chosen play in groups, especially when it occurs with children of various ages and backgrounds, is also important for their moral development. The speakers (Darrel Davis and Doris Bergen) will discuss how such play forms a context for addressing and resolving moral issues, and how playful interactions throughout life continue to help adults face and deal with moral issues. (Part II on October 4.) Service Leader: Doris Bergen

A Note About this Newsletter

By co-editors Neil Danielson and Celia Ellison

The HUUC Board has heard a desire from many in our community to make our newsletter a more robust communication vehicle and the Board agrees! We will include more information from the Vice Presidents and Committees in addition to our typical articles. We have plans to publish member/friend bios in the future, too. Newsletter entries with no bylines have been authored by the co-editors. If you have any ideas for additional newsletter enhancements, send those to Neil Danielson or Celia Ellison.

Notes from Hopedale President Curt Ellison

It's encouraging to see how energetically Hopedale leadership, members and friends are taking on the challenge to build our community, embrace our liberal religion, and maintain our commitment to social justice during physical separation. Virtual Sunday services have been stimulating and well attended; committees are busy; workdays at our property are regular; and we're exploring improvements to our *Newsletter*. We're also aiding those who seek assistance, and finding new strategies for informal fun. All good!

Among other duties, board members are now working on revitalizing both our ongoing committees and some that have been dormant. In September the board will confirm our committee members and chairs, as well as those who will represent Hopedale to other groups. All names will be shared so you may know who is taking on particular responsibilities this year.

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Two recent pop music events have been in the news. One was a performance of the National Anthem by a country vocal band of three women from Texas who once had a stage name they discarded immediately after the murder of George Floyd. Earlier in their career, they paid a heavy price in business promotion for denouncing the Iraq War from the concert stage. Today, The Chicks are back. Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66SAuVMwpQ4>.

And then, Dolly. Known for philanthropy, her *Imagination Library* has donated over 140 million books to children from birth to age five, and she recently gave \$1 million to Vanderbilt for COVID-19 research. On August 15, *Billboard* published a story documenting her unequivocal support for the Black Lives Matter movement. "I understand people having to make themselves known and felt and seen," she said. "And of course Black lives matter. Do we think our little white asses are the only ones that matter? No!"

Because such better angels of our nature inhabiting these exemplary women can fly from unexpected corners of even the most established pop culture, I have more hope for a future recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Some religions might say that's a leap of faith. That's all right with me.

RE CONNECTION

Genevieve O'Malley Knight, RE Co-ordinator, 513-593-3275, [Genevieveaok \(at\) yahoo \(dot\) com](mailto:Genevieveaok@yahoo.com)

Religious Education Committee: Peggy Branstrator, Valerie Elliot, Jessica Kopp (on leave), and Adriane Ruther (seriously, do not e-mail a teacher right now if you do not have to).

Religious Education Survey Results

Thank you to all the families who responded to our Children's Religious Education survey so far! If you haven't yet, please still respond, we're happy to have more input.

We asked:

1. What families want most while we are meeting remotely
2. How often they want (or are likely to really participate in) an R.E. activity
3. What activities they'd like
4. What time of the week to meet

You answered:

1. There was a three-way tie for what we want most this year:
 - Unitarian Universalist Identity Development
 - Connection with the Hopedale Community
 - Service Projects and Justice Work
2. Most people said every-other week would be a good frequency, with a few people asking for more often, and a few for only once a month
3. This question had many possible answers, and a wide variety of responses. The activities that the most families seem to be excited to do are: Social Justice actions and service projects, R.E. classes via Zoom, and a collaborative art project.
4. The favorite time for meeting is Sunday mornings before Services.

What Comes Next

The Religious Education Committee and volunteers will work with Hopedale's Congregational Life and Social Justice volunteers to plan activities that co-ordinate across all our groups.

My (Genevieve's) first guess is that we'll have one of each type of activity per month: One Sunday morning Zoom R.E. class, one Sunday morning youth group chat, one packet of Social Justice activities (likely focusing on *UU the Vote* until November), one collaborative art project.

We'll look to start Sunday morning R.E. events the week after Labor Day, so (tentatively) look for Zoom room info for September 13th and 27th.

If there's anything you really want or have a great idea for, please let Genevieve know.

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

By Libby Earle

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this summer's services. It felt good to be connected. A great way for us to stay abreast of what's going on in the social justice world is to subscribe to the Social Justice webpage huucsj.org.

The next two months are going to be focused on how we as a community and as individuals can preserve our democracy and address systemic injustices. While some of the larger UU communities are engaged in group projects to get out the vote, the HUUC Social Justice committee supports the postcard-writing activities of *UU the Vote* (www.uuthevote.org) and encourages our community to participate.

National organizations like the Sierra Club also have letter writing campaigns. Additionally, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO) (www.uujo.org) makes daily suggestions for action. If you are like me and can't make cold phone calls, use the power of the pen! (I got over fear of calling Congress.)

The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati shares fall events that may interest Hopedale friends:

1. The first fall UU Council of Greater Cincinnati meeting will be on Zoom. Please mark your calendars for **Sat. Sept. 12, from 9:30 - 11:30** for this meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the UUJO staff will give us an update on how the *UU the Vote* campaign is going around the state. You do not need to stay for the business portion. Contact Libby Earle or Liz Woedl for the Zoom link.

2. The November UUCGC meeting will return to offering a special topic: *"How our churches are serving families with children in these challenging times."*

3. Festival of Faiths will be virtual.



Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

A large component of an individual's personal carbon footprint is food. It makes up about 25% of the average person's carbon emissions. One way to reduce that is to eat less meat, since producing each pound of meat releases about 10 times the amount of carbon dioxide as producing each pound of edible plant material. In the book *Drawdown* by Paul Hawken, the author estimates that we could realistically reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 60 gigatons between now and 2050 by switching to a plant-rich diet.

However, all meat is not equal. Beef production releases 60 Kilograms of carbon dioxide per kilogram of slaughtered meat. That compares to 7 kg carbon dioxide per kg for pork, and 6 kg carbon dioxide per kg for chicken (*Time*, July 20, 2020).

I attended a lecture where the speaker said one hamburger releases as many “carbon dioxide equivalents” as driving from Oxford to Chicago and back! Much of this is actually in the form of methane but, for purposes of comparison, methane and other greenhouse gases are usually translated into “carbon dioxide equivalents.”

Researchers also tell us that 40% of all food produced is wasted. Some waste is inevitable. All parts of plants and animals are not edible. But a realistic estimate for reducing food waste could lower carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80 gigatons by 2050 (*Drawdown*).

The estimates for other popular environmental actions include decreasing emissions by about 6 gigatons for increased recycling, and about 1 gigaton for increased composting. So, while every bit helps, we should not fool ourselves by thinking that recycling and composting alone are going to have a large effect on reducing climate change. But there are other important reasons for doing those, too.

Suggested action: Commit to one vegetarian meal each week (no meat, egg or cheese).

Congregational Life

knightcm@miamioh.edu

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204

You should have recently received a survey from my email (knightcm@miamioh.edu) to help Congregational Life determine how we can remain connected and support one another this year. We are seeking to connect with all our households, engage in some meaningful activities, and provide learning experiences in addition to Sunday Services. Please take a moment to complete the survey and I hope some fun activities will result!

This summer we started circulating two jigsaw puzzles for your enjoyment. They are:

- *Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water*, a two-sided puzzle with a photo of the house on one side and the floor plans on the other. The Armstrong-Bells set the bar high by completing both sides.
- *Votes for Women* is a puzzle with dozens of leaders of the franchise movement depicted – some of whom Muriel and Cynthia had to look up! If you want a turn working on one or both of these puzzles, just let me know!

Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

Greetings Hopedale members and friends. As your VP of Stewardship, I would like to keep everyone up to date on happenings as far as the building and grounds are concerned. I've been making weekly walk-throughs of the building and am glad to inform everyone that not much has

changed. There are more cobwebs than usual, but it's really the same old Hopedale. Just as an FYI, we do have a cleaning crew coming in monthly to knock down cobwebs and sweep the floors.

The Needs and Feasibility Committee is finalizing its report and will be delivering it to the Hopedale Board in the near future. Although the committee's duties were delayed by circumstances of the last few months, we hope to provide the Board with guidance on the lower level renovation and other tasks around the property. Just as an FYI, nothing has been confirmed or approved as of now.

The outdoor areas of Hopedale look amazing. The Garden Gals (Peggy, Mary, and, I think, sometimes Libby) have the vegetable garden thriving. The mowing crew has been diligently keeping the grass neatly trimmed and various others have been helping remove weeds, clear the leach field, and remove stumps. If you have a moment you should drive through the property, not only to partake of the beautiful scenery but also to reminisce about the good-old-days.

We're hoping to continue our outdoor work sessions at least until the weather turns disagreeable. I personally love working in the cool evenings so I foresee them continuing through December. Plus, there is still much to do. While some of the needed outdoor projects will require funding, there are many small tasks that we hope to accomplish which can be completed with sheer willpower. These are often the tasks that go unnoticed like curving the flowerbeds so the mower doesn't leave grass patches in the corners as well as trimming the tree lines back. Our next work session will be Friday, September 4th from 6:30 - 8:00. No tools or talent required.

Staying Connected

Thanks to those helping with meals for Jessica Kopp as she recovers from rotator-cuff surgery. If you did not get the Meal Train invitation, please contact our Caring Coordinator, Amy West Poley at huucoffice@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

Happenings at Hopedale

- Outdoor workday: Friday, September 4th from 6:30 - 8:00. No tools or talent required.
- Social Justice committee will meet on Sunday, September 13th at 1pm via Zoom.
- The Hopedale Board will meet on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Contact Curt Ellison (ellisocw@miamioh.edu) if you would like to receive the Zoom invitation to attend.

Beyond Hopedale

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) sent all member congregations results of three years of research by the Commission on Institutional Change, which wrapped up its work at General Assembly 2020. They may be downloaded at the UUA website, and the book form, *Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, June 2020*, is available – request HUUC’s copy from Celia Ellison. See the Social Justice Committee article for fall events sponsored by the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati.

Support Hopedale

The results from the pandemic-interrupted canvass for the 2020-2021 program year are in! The total amount pledged is a 12.7% increase from last year. Way to go, Hopedale!! Pledge payments, or donations, can be made to Hopedale UU Community by mailing them to our Treasurers, Richard and Judy Schlub.

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