



## Hopedale Community News

Volume 32, Number 3

November 2020

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

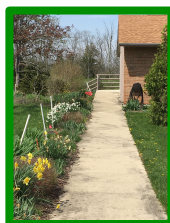
**Nov. 1st -- CASA Volunteering in the Time of COVID** Charles Ganelin, who works as a CASA volunteer (CASA=Court Appointed Special Advocate) involved with children in "the system" because they've been removed from their home, finds this is a rewarding experience, especially since he works with Spanish-speaking families. Being a CASA in the time of COVID presents special challenges: being with the children and parents (biological, custodial, foster) is crucial, yet we must keep our distance for everyone's health. How is it possible to develop those necessary relationships to represent the child when contact is limited? Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh

**Nov. 8th -- A Path Forward** Join the congregation and Diane Wright as we come together and consider our path forward, reflecting on the ways our UU principles guide us in the cultural and political environment in which we find ourselves.  
Service Leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight

**Nov. 15th – Truth that Goes Higher than Airships and Deeper than Submarines**  
One hundred years ago, on November 15, 1920, the first General Assembly of the League of Nations was held in Geneva. Join Diane Wright as we reflect on the history of the League of Nations, and the lessons we might learn from its birth and its end.  
Service leader: Patty Klingenberg

**Nov. 22nd – Thanksgiving 2020 – New Traditions** Many of us will likely experience a Thanksgiving very different from previous ones. Together let's share ideas of how we can make this one special. Service leader: Celia Ellison

**Nov. 29th – Gutsy Women, Part II** The road to women's right to vote was a rocky one with many "unsung heroines." Miami Professor Emerita Kathy McMahon Klosterman has been teaching a class on this subject and will share her research with us.  
Service leader: Susan Trasher



## Notes from Hopedale President Curt Ellison

**Thanks!** While we are not meeting in person, Hopedale has stepped up to create and deliver memorable Sunday Services that have been engaging, thoughtful, and had good turnouts. This is an impressive achievement, an essential contribution to keeping Hopedale spirit alive! Sincere thanks to the Sunday Services Committee, chair Linda Amspaugh, Religious Services VP Valerie Elliott, all the service leaders and Sunday speakers who have done a seriously good job, Evan Danielson for fine music thoughtfully selected, Evan (and sometimes stand-ins for Zoom hosting), and all who have engaged so thoughtfully on Sunday mornings in our community's ongoing spiritual, intellectual and personal community. We have much for which to be thankful.

**Online Newsletter.** Read our *Newsletter*. It's been updated and has a lot to say about what's going on beyond Sunday mornings in our Community – children and adult activities, caring initiatives, social justice engagements, outdoor work at our property, and more! The *Newsletter* is emailed monthly, and you can find it at <http://huuc.org/> under the “News” tab.

**Needs & Feasibility Committee Recommendations.** The board is developing a facilities improvement plan drawn from expectations of a successful Chalice Lighter grant in 2018, engagement and enthusiasm of the congregation in naming and prioritizing needs last year, initial recommendations of the Needs & Feasibility Committee who have deliberated about this matter for some time, funding recommendations of the Finance Committee, and contractor estimates obtained by Stewardship VP Drew Ruther and the Building Committee. The board's goal is to move forward with prudence, timely efficiency, and transparency. We hope to have increased clarity about possible improvements by the end of the calendar year or sooner, but you'll hear more before then.

**Fall Congregational Meeting.** Hopedale *Bylaws* require a Congregational Meeting in October or November. While a formal announcement of the meeting date and agenda is yet to come, be alerted that we expect to hold this event as a Zoom gathering on Monday evening, November 30. The board and others will report on the facilities improvement process and other matters, and invite suggestions. Watch for a forthcoming Zoom invitation and plan to be part of this discussion.

**Next Board Meeting.** Hopedale Board meets *via* Zoom November 9 at 7:00 p.m. Let me know if you wish to attend this meeting @ [ellisocw@miamioh.edu](mailto:ellisocw@miamioh.edu) or 513/461-1131.

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*Martin Luther King didn't know he was about to make history when he drove with a friend, Elliott Finley, to the first bus rally in Montgomery. The traffic got worse and worse until the two men ditched their car and started walking. Then it dawned on them: the meeting had caused the traffic jam. "You know something, Finley," King said, "this could turn into something big."*

*From James West Davidson, "The Past Asks More" in A Little History of the United States, 2015*

## RE CONNECTION

**Genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com Genevieve O'Malley Knight, RE Co-ordinator 513-593-3275**

**Religious Education Committee:** Jennifer Blue, Peggy Branstrator, Valerie Elliot (ex officio), Jessica Kopp (on leave), and Adriane Ruther

### ***Virtual Scavenger Hunt***

THANKS to Adriane Ruther for sponsoring an enjoyable virtual scavenger hunt. Seven teams had a great time! Word is that there will be seasonal hunts planned for the future – be sure to join in!

### ***Adult RE Coming with the Cold***

Plans are underway for adult RE “Book Reports” to be scheduled. Do you have a book you’ve read that you’d like to share with a brief presentation (via Zoom) and conversation – in the hopes that others might then read it? Please contact Genevieve to get on the schedule!

### ***UU World Discussion***

Look for an upcoming email announcement of discussions of topics from our *UUWorld*.

### ***Connecting with the Kids***

We are scheming an arts project to connect our kids to the rest of our community members – reveal in December!

## Notes from the Social Justice Committee

**By Liz Woedl and Libby Earle**

### ***UUtheVote***

Many thanks to all of you that have been active with UUTHEVOTE! and partner non-partisan activities that helped to register new voters and motivate others to participate in the 2020 Elections. We sent text messages, wrote postcards and letters, made phone calls and knocked on doors. Some of you have even volunteered to be poll workers! Many have also been working to support candidates and local issues. It's all for the greater good.

Please let me (Liz Woedl) know what you are doing in non-partisan efforts to help get out the vote through UUtheVote! and our partners NAACP and LWV by October 28 to help with UU Justice Ohio's grant reporting. See [huucsj.org](http://huucsj.org) for the full report and instructions for making postcards.

### ***November Thoughts on the Action for Immediate Witness***

The UUA challenges us to “Research, identify, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples historically and/or currently connected with the land occupied by congregations, and find ways to act in solidarity with or even partner with those Indigenous peoples; and examine practices relative to Indigenous peoples, particularly the narratives regarding UU origins and US holidays including Thanksgiving.” October and November bring into focus the

colonial origins of the United States. The Hopedale Community exists geographically in an area of major importance in the history of indigenous peoples—areas designated as the Ohio Country (the territory roughly west of the Appalachian Mountains and north of the Ohio River and including modern-day Ohio, eastern Indiana, western Pennsylvania, and northwestern West Virginia). We also are part of the Oxford-Miami University community, the ancestral home of the Myaamia. The University has been engaged in relationship building with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

As we reflect on Hopedale's relationships with indigenous peoples, we can begin by reviewing our past actions. We have supported the Sioux at Standing Rock and the Lummi Nation in their stands against intrusion by fossil fuel interests. We have supported the Water Walkers and Water Protectors and have a relationship with the Water Walkers through Miami University. The pandemic interrupted plans to participate locally in a water walk this summer.

How do we as a community continue to support indigenous peoples? This is an important question, not only because of the many injustices faced by indigenous peoples, but because the environmental degradation happening nationally and globally is linked to the exploitation of native lands. Assaults on Native American sovereignty affect us all.

### ***The History of Civil Rights in Oxford***

Liz Woedl reports that the students at Miami University are working on local signage for the Peace and Justice Memorial project.

### ***Climate Justice***

Peggy Branstrator shares important information from Citizens Climate Lobby. First is a request for volunteers to make virtual postcards calling for climate action and support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. These virtual cards will be gathered into a single document to be delivered to Congressman Davidson's office in mid November. Second is a detailed report with graphs showing the financial impact of Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act for District Ohio 8. The study shows that two-thirds of Americans will enjoy a net benefit.

## **Environmental Corner**

**By Peggy Branstrator**

### ***Solutions to Climate Change - Strength in Numbers***

Many of my previous "columns" have focused on individual or family changes that Hopedale members and friends can make to reduce carbon footprints. But, as most of you already realize, as valuable as these are, they are never going to be enough to reduce carbon emissions as much as required to keep temperature changes below targeted levels. That is going to require systemic change and that means politics. Climate change is the overriding environmental issue right now although many of the things required to reduce atmospheric carbon will also help in other areas of environmental concern.

So, we need to look beyond ourselves and join with other concerned individuals to have a greater effect. Many Hopedale members and friends are involved with other individuals and groups with similar concerns. The Social Justice Committee has created a "blog,"

accessible from the Hopedale website, for sharing information concerning climate change and similar social justice topics. You can sign up to receive notifications when new information gets posted there.

### ***Religious-based Environmental Groups***

UUA also has many resources on climate change and environmental concerns. These are already well known to Hopedale members and friends. An Oxford newsletter coordinated by Carla Blackmar for Oxford area churches focuses on environmental education and local action. A national interfaith religious group, Interfaith Power and Light, has many educational programs focusing on climate change, at [interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://interfaithpowerandlight.org).

### ***Ohio-focused Environmental Groups***

But you may not be as aware of several non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit groups in Ohio. One I want to tell you about in this newsletter is **Ohio Citizen Action** [ohiocitizen.org/](http://ohiocitizen.org/). Started in 1979, this is the group that sends young people out to knock on doors to educate citizens about public policy issues and what is happening at the Statehouse in Columbus. Utility policies and fees has been a central issue since the beginning, but environmental sustainability has been a more recent focus. They are the watchdog group that first sounded the alarm about how bad House Bill 6 was. When the Ohio Supreme Court refused to hear the case about putting HB 6 on the November 2020 ballot, they published a list of First Energy's campaign contributions to Supreme Court members. They closely follow Ohio legislative activity. Their website currently contains interesting info about the committee that is "*supposed*" to be working on repealing HB 6.

Two more Ohio groups worth knowing about are the Ohio Environmental Council and Green Energy Ohio. Both are active in Ohio politics and have informative websites. OEC deals with more general environmental topics while GEO is primarily concerned with transitioning to renewable energy.

### ***Action Item***

Read the website of one of these groups and consider supporting them financially.

## **Congregational Life**

[knightcm@miamioh.edu](mailto:knightcm@miamioh.edu)

**By Celia Ellison, VP**

**513-461-1204**

### ***New Member***

So happy to announce that Kathleen Carels has signed Hopedale's Membership Book. Kathleen has been a presence with us over the years, attending many of our activities with Pete. We are thrilled to have her as a member. Welcome, Kathleen!

### ***Directory Update – There's still time!***

If you have a change to your current directory listing – please contact Celia with the update.

## Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

What's been going on at Hopedale the past month? Not much on the inside. The Oxford Fire Department did an inspection and I can happily report that we passed. The building continues to be cleaned on a regular basis and I do weekly walk-thrus to check for leaks and dispose of pesky rodents. Otherwise, the building is waiting patiently for our return.

On the outside, members and friends continue to meet on occasion to spruce up the grounds and socialize in a safe manner. We recently took down an aging crabapple and pruned some of the larger shrubs and trees along the entry walkway. We continue to maintain the vegetable and flower gardens and have planted many new sapling trees. Although I can't speak for everyone, I always leave happier and more content than when I arrived.

This past Friday we ran out of daylight rather quickly so I think it's time to transition to Saturday afternoon work sessions. I've got two planned for the month of November and these may be the last of the season, but that's up in the air. So please join us on Saturday, Nov. 7th and Saturday, Nov. 21st from 1:00 - 3:00.

On a final note, since I know many people are interested, the Needs and Feasibility Committee is in the process of handing over its final report to the Hopedale Board. Hopefully, in the near future, some of the recommendations from that report can begin to be realized.

## Around Hopedale

### ***The Great Cookie Hostage***

The Social Justice Committee is teaming up with the Hillary Rodham Clinton Cookie Exchange usually hosted by Jennifer Blue. We love traditions and the annual cookie exchange is one we don't want to miss. Details will follow, but cookie bakers get busy! We will collect your cookies at a central location in the morning of the exchange and then pack up a selection for you to pick up later in the day – all social distancing and masked. The catch is the cookies are going to be held hostage—to be released upon a ransom paid for a donation to the Talawanda-Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS)! You decide the ransom.

## Staying Connected

***Send a Card.*** Eunice Meadows is back home after she fell and broke her hip. Her address is in the directory – please send a card!

## Happenings at Hopedale

Next outdoor workday scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7th and Saturday, Nov. 21st from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Hopedale. No tools or talent required.

Social Justice Committee will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6:30 PM.

The HUUC Board will meet on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Contact Curt Ellison ([ellisocw@miamioh.edu](mailto:ellisocw@miamioh.edu)) if you would like to receive the Zoom invitation to attend.

## Beyond Hopedale

### *Message from St. John's about Beloved Community*

As most of you know, UUCGC congregational representatives and others have been discussing options for UU congregations in the Cincinnati area to participate in the Beloved Conversations (BC) program developed by Meadville Lombard Theological School (MLTS). Last winter (pre-COVID) it looked like we had momentum for starting the program together in January 2021.

Now (post-COVID) MLTS has re-created the program for use in our virtual world of zoom, and they are conducting the first iteration of that program this fall. In January they will be signing up individuals and groups of participants for the next 'semester' of the program which will begin in February 2021.

Because the virtual program is structured and priced differently than the original in-person program, Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen (Congregational Coordinator for Beloved Conversations) will meet by zoom with the Cincinnati UU folks who want to learn more.

We have scheduled this meeting for **Monday Nov. 16 @ 7p.m. Eastern.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88155462000?pwd=Vk9lN0lvYURNNVFZWlYyYk1URUwyZz09> Meeting ID: 881 5546 2000 Passcode: 908249

Prior to the meeting we hope that all participants will prepare by reviewing the information about Beloved Conversations available on these two websites:

<https://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/> or <https://bcvirtual.meadville.edu/p/home>.

## Support Hopedale

Pledge payments or donations can be made to Hopedale UU Community by mailing them to our Treasurer: Judy Schlub, 2849 Stone Mill Way, Hamilton, OH 45011.

